

Draft until signed

Minutes of Madingley Parish Council (MPC) Meeting

Wednesday 13th November at 7.30pm, Madingley Village Hall

Present: R Crichton-Stuart (RCS) (Chair), J Stevenson-Hinde (JSH) (Councillor), F Naughton (FN) (Councillor-nominated to Vice-Chair in meeting)

Attending: S Etherington-Meech (SEM) (Clerk/RFO), Cllr T Bygott (TB) (District Councillor), Cllr L Nieto (LN) (County Councillor), 8 members of the public

1. Election of Vice-Chair

RCS opened the meeting and advised of JSH resignation as Vice-Chair, JSH proposed FN for the position of Vice-Chair, RCS seconded and FN accepted the position.

2. To Accept Apologies for Absence

Cllr Douglas DeLacey (District Councillor)

3. To Accept Parish Councillors Declarations of Interest for Matters on the Agenda

JSH declared an interest in Item 10. a. ii. Planning application for 10 Church Lane

4. To Agree to hold a Public Forum

Firstly, MPC was questioned by the public as to whether the level two response to highways that was previously discussed has been actioned. RCS advised that this was carried out and also a letter written regarding the Girton Interchange in response to the CPCA Local Transport Plan Consultation.

The public raised the poor state of many of the footpaths in Madingley and advised that they have sent pictures to LN. It was recommended by TB that the best way to report this issue would be through the 'Highways Faults' function on the Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) website. LN informed the public that she would chase this matter, although she did warn that repairs can be difficult with the colder weather in the coming months.

5. To co-opt Parish Councillors to fill the vacancies

RCS informed the parish that MPC desperately needs two additional councillors. He explained that if just one of the three current councillors cannot attend a meeting the council would not be quorate and the meeting would have to be cancelled. It is for this reason that MPC have no choice but to meet less frequently, 4-5 times annually, the public highlighted concern that this would not be sufficient and RCS agreed but advised that MPC will have no choice until more councillors join the council.

6. To Approve the Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2019

RCS made an amendment to point 15 from '....do have...' to '.....don't have....' and initialled the change and then signed the minutes as a true and accurate copy of the meeting.

7. Matters Arising from the Minutes, Report of any actions and Resolutions from last meeting

SEM advised that she made contact with Simeon Carroll regarding the Church Lane speedwatch sign being nailed and not securely fixed, he advised this should have been dealt with, the public told the clerk it had not been rectified yet and was still nailed to a wooden post. **Action** – Clerk to advise Simeon Carroll the sign is still not fixed. SEM also chased up the missing noticeboard key and Greenbarnes sent her 3 spare keys which she has given to FN.

JSH gave an updated report from David Aldridge (Head of Aquatic Ecology in the Dept of Zoology) on the Lower Lake at Madingley Hall. Two undergraduates are to carry out a two-term research project. They are currently obtaining permits and risk assessments and will start to collect data within a week or so. David Aldridge is also in contact with Peter Wilderspin and understands that the dates for carp removal are not finalised.

8. To Accept a Report from County and District Councillors

LN Report – see Appendix 2

TB Report – see Appendix 3

Cllr DeLacey Report – see Appendix 4

LN thanked RCS for taking the chair position at MPC and the councillors for the valuable work they do as volunteers for the parish. LN then told MPC and the parish that she shares their frustration of the issues with the Avenue and has supported Madingley for its closure since the beginning and can see the effects that occur for quality of life for residents. She then went on to explain that the main issue has been that an officer has provided wrong advice and expectations were not managed. LN followed advice and was convinced it would happen. However, the position is now that procedure is to be followed. LN advised that she did raise the concerns over resurfacing the Avenue with officers and understands that it is frustrating that it has now taken place. She explained that due to the upgrade of the A14 all the roads that are linked to it have to be up to a certain standard and that is why there was a push to complete the works. However, she hopes that the concerns over the increase in rat running are not realised although it is now a matter of having to wait and see now the Avenue is open. She will work with officers through this time and continue to support Madingley.

Next LN informed MPC and the parish that James Palmer is putting together a case to lobby for changes/improvements to be made to the Girton Interchange and hope that this would make a difference to local parishes including Madingley. TB advised that he has had a discussion with an engineer/project manager for the A14 project with regards to how the A428 can be linked to the M11 and when TB requested a right turn to be considered from the A428 onto the M11 he was informed that this is no longer possible because of work that is being carried out on the interchange as part of the current A14 project. However, it was advised that within the statement of common ground there is the concept that it is possible to go the other way from the M11 up to the A428, proposing an eastbound exit from the A428 onto the new roundabout at the A1307 and onto the M11. TB believes this would solve the rat running problems in Madingley and Dry Drayton.

The public asked if it would be possible for Madingley to obtain weight restrictions through the village, LN advised that MPC could make an application and believes the parish are in a strong position for traffic measures. LN is not on the LHI panel but does try to attend so she can highlight parish concerns. RCS advised LN that weight restrictions would be requested for the whole village and not just The Avenue and at the last parish council meeting it was discussed to not only reduce speed but increase buffer zones also. The LHI application feasibility report advised that it would not be possible to put a buffer zone on Dry Drayton Road so RCS is trying to contact David Forbes at the A14 team to request a buffer zone on the Avenue now that it is open and a main risk, RCS requested LN support for this. **Action** – RCS to forward all correspondence to LN for her to discuss with officers and escalate if necessary.

Concern was raised by a member of the public as to a local County Councillors' misinterpretation of the effects that the Avenue closure would have on their parishes. It was raised that the Avenue was closed for two years and it is believed that no impact was had on Girton or Dry Drayton during this time. Madingley funded a traffic survey for a comparison with the Highways England survey that was conducted before the works began. It was demonstrated that there was not an increase in traffic going to and from Dry Drayton as a result of the closure, therefore, the member of the public requested to know where the evidence was of the impact on these villages. The subject was further raised in relation to a report carried out by consultants for CCC during the enquiry into the A14 where inspectors requested particular investigation into this issue and it was found that Madingley would be seriously affected by the connection of the Avenue with the new local access road but the impact on Dry Drayton would only be slight. The full impact on Madingley will not be known until everything is fully open, although, Madingley is already witnessing increasing volumes and speed in traffic particularly in the mornings and cars and trucks are mounting the pavements and footpaths.

The public stated that they want action and not empathy in relation to these issues and the Greenways Vision was well received by the parish and Dry Drayton, Coton and Girton and could be achieved if the Avenue was closed. LN assured the public and MPC that she believes that changes to the Girton Interchange would make a big difference to rat running and she is working strategically as so many parishes are affected by the Girton Interchange and that once the A14 is fully complete and open there will be lots of pressure on highways for changes at the Girton Interchange. LN advised that it is in the Mayors local transport plan to carry out a Girton Interchange study, however, works on this would not start until the A14 works are finished.

a. Cllr Bygott to discuss Girton Footpath Number 8

See Appendix 3 for report from TB. TB advised that an email was sent to the SEM in September with a map showing Footpath Number 8 that had been provided by Hayden Williams the Chair of Girton Parish Council. (Clerk to check for email). TB advised that he and Hayden tried walking the footpath and it could not be found and that no member of the public would have a chance of finding it. A member of the public advised that the path is on the definitive map at CCC and although it has not been used for a few years it could now be possible to reconnect it as they believe a public right of way would not be discontinued through neglect. It is believed by Hayden Williams that maintenance would be the responsibility of the landowner and not the parish. Therefore, MPC now needs to contact the landowner (University Estate Management) and refer to the statutory rights of way on the CCC website. **Action** – Contact to be made with Peter Wilderspin by a member of the Greenways Vision team.

9. Transport & Highways

a. Resurfacing of the Avenue – works carried out beginning of November 19 – concerns and emails received

The public emailed LN with their concerns prior to the meeting and also raised them in Item 4 & 8. RCS advised that he had a meeting with Simeon Carroll before the resurfacing of the Avenue as the drains in the village were blocked, Simeon stated that there is no point showing pictures just of mud in the drain but pictures of water standing over the drain are required and if a puddle is anywhere near a house it will be dealt with as a matter of urgency. Simeon also made it clear to RCS that non-standardised responses will not be dealt with and if a complaint is to be made it will have to be through the online reporting tool and this must be regularly carried out. RCS advised that the police also have a reporting tool where you can upload videos and photos.

b. To discuss footpaths/cycleways and the Greenways Vision following resurfacing works on the Avenue

This was discussed under Items 4 & 8.

10. To Discuss Planning Matters

a. Applications received for consideration

i. S/3383/19/FL – Apple Cottage, St Neots Rd CB23 7PH – Single storey rear extension – Comment extension granted to 29/10/19

The application was discussed previously with no objections.

ii. S/3717/19/FL – 10 Church Lane, CB23 8AF – Erection of detached dwelling

No discussion or comments occurred for this item as JSH declared an interest leaving an insufficient number of councillors to be quorate for a decision to be made.

iii. S/3732/19/FL – Belvoir Cottage, The Avenue CB23 8AD – First floor side extension

It was highlighted that this is the third application that has been received for this property so far this year and a unanimous decision was made by all councillors to object to this application under the material consideration of *Layout and Density*. The property is situated in the Green Belt just outside the Madingley Conservation Area and is therefore subject to Green Belt Regulations. In particular to this application, policy NH/9 (1) (b) refers to on the Green Belt '*The extension or alteration of a building provided that it does not result in disproportionate additions over and above the size of the original building*'. As the property was originally built as a small labourer's cottage in 1902, MPC feel overdevelopment of the site is now occurring as in 2014 planning permission was granted to a developer and the property size was increased by 50%. **RESOLVED. Action** – Clerk to advise SCDC of decision made.

b. Decisions received from South Cambs District Council – None received

11. Matters for discussion/correspondence received

a. To discuss current and future maintenance of the play area

FN highlighted that maintenance works are required for the play area. Now that grant funding is received from the Stephen Perse School for this purpose, quotations need to be obtained for the works. FN will source the quotations and send them around to the councillors; it was agreed that the cheapest of the three quotations should be accepted in order for works to commence as soon as possible.

- b. An update on the defibrillator including installation, funding, training and a discussion as to whether Madingley Parish Council can provide a donation for the defibrillator training**
FN advised that the defibrillator has now been installed on the side of the village hall. Training for its use is to be provided by the East Anglian Air Ambulance on Tuesday 26th November 2019 at 10.30am in the village hall, and currently 14 people have confirmed their attendance. As the defibrillator may benefit some or all of the parish CAPALC confirmed that a donation could be made for the training provided on 26th November 2019 so all councillors agreed a donation of £150.00. A cheque was produced in order for it to be presented on the day of the training (*Local Government Act 1972, section 137*). **Action** – Clerk to add the defibrillator and cabinet to the insurance policy and asset register.
- c. To discuss street lighting energy supplier quotations and resolve which supplier to use**
SEM obtained five quotations for streetlight energy for the village and MPC made a unanimous decision to go ahead with the cheapest quotation from SSE. **RESOLVED.** **Action**- Clerk to instruct SSE.
- d. To discuss relocation and options for the use of the adopted telephone kiosk**
FN suggested a questionnaire be circulated to the parish for their ideas for use of the adopted telephone kiosk so that restoration can move forward. **Action** – RCS to incorporate a request for ideas in his next Madingley News report.
- e. To discuss and resolve future meeting dates including day to be held and frequency**
RCS discussed the need to meet less frequency due to the lack of parish councillors and meetings changing to a Wednesday. Three meeting dates were set: Wednesday 22nd January 2020, Wednesday 25th March 2020 and Wednesday 13th May 2020 (to include APCM). **RESOLVED.**
- f. To discuss parish fundraising ideas for the Three Horseshoes**
FN advised that it is now too late for fundraising ideas to be forwarded to the Three Horseshoes.
- g. SCDC email regarding LED upgrade to SC footway lights – planned to be completed by March 2021 to street lights in Madingley (for information)**
An email was received by SEM advising that SCDC are planning on upgrading all footway lights in Madingley to LED by March 2021.
- h. CPCA – bus survey/non user survey – councillor/parish information for circulation**
Action – Clerk to forward email to Madingley News for publication.
- i. Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Against Scams Partnership (CAPASP) – email circulated to Cllrs – discussion and decision to be made whether to become a supporter**
A unanimous decision was made by MPC to support this scheme **RESOLVED.** **Action** – Clerk to advise CAPASP that MPC would like to become a supporter.

12. Finance and Policy

- a. To accept account review to date and bank reconciliation**
The finance spreadsheet and bank reconciliation were circulated to councillors before the meeting. MPC did not raise any issues or concerns. See Appendix 1 for bank reconciliation.
- b. To advise of payments received**
 - i. **SCDC – 2nd precept instalment - £4,346.00**
 - ii. **Angliar – Madingley News Advert - £54.00**
 - iii. **The Form Practice – Madingley News Advert - £54.00**
 - iv. **Rothwell’s Cleaning Services Ltd – Madingley News Advert - £45.00**
 - v. **Vintage Travel – Madingley News Advert - £72.00**
- c. To approve the following payments to hand**

- i. **Clerks overtime and expenses - £26.57** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED – Cheque Number 101184 signed by RCS and FN. *Local Government Act 1972, s.112.*
- i. **Roger & Lesley Buckley – Madingley News Expenses (Sept) - £25.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED – Cheque Number 101185 signed by RCS and FN. *Local Government Act 1972, s.142.*
- ii. **VisionICT – Hosted emails (Dec 19- Nov 20)/annual data backup- £86.40/£144.00** – All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED – Cheque Number 101186 signed by RCS and FN. *Local Government Act 1972, s.142.*
- iii. **Stage & Presentation – Defibrillator Installation - £229.92** – All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED. Cheque Number 101187 signed by RCS and FN. *Public Health Act 1936, s.234.*
- iv. **CGM Group – Grass Cutting – Sept 19 - £72.00** - All councillors agreed payment RESOLVED – Cheque Number 101188 signed by RCS and FN. *Public Health Act 1875, s.164 & Public Health Act 1875, s.164.*
- v. **Vernon Print & Design (Cheque 101180 for £344.00 issued in error – amended cheque 101183 issued for £289.00)** - *Local Government Act 1972, s.142.*
- vi. **ADDITIONAL CHEQUE FOR TRAINING SESSION – East Anglian Air Ambulance – Training Donation - £150.00** – All councillors agreed for payment to be made in order to be presented on 26th November 2019 RESOLVED. Cheque Number 101189 signed by RCS and FN. *Local Government Act 1972, s.137*
- d. **To discuss the draft budget for 2020/21 and consideration of precept setting**
The draft budget was reviewed by MPC and some amendments were made to the figures in order for a final budget and precept to be agreed and signed in January.
- e. **To discuss the progress of obtaining online banking for the current account and also the setting up of separate accounts for any grant funding that MPC receives for specific projects**
It was agreed by MPC that there is no need for separate bank accounts to be set up for grant funding, just an additional tab added to the bottom of the finance spreadsheet that shows monies received and monies spent and that the monies are ring fenced.

13. To accept notices and matter for the next agenda

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore, the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for discussion.

14. Date and time of next meeting

The next meeting date was agreed as Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.30pm and the public asked to vacate so that Item 15 could be discussed (confidential minutes)

Confidential Minutes – 13th November 2019

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

15. Pension Regulator letter received regarding re-enrolment and re-declaration – third anniversary of staging date

It was agreed by MPC that re-enrolment and re-declaration should be processed and clerk to discuss pension arrangements further with MPC sometime around the middle of 2020.

Meeting closed at 9.40pm

DRAFT

Appendix 1

Bank reconciliation

Madingley Parish Council

Prepared by Sarah Etherington-Meech – Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Date – 12th November 2019

Balance per bank statements as at 25th October 2019:

Barclays Bank – Current Account	£4,650.50	
Cambridgeshire Building Society – Savings Account	£10,379.03	
Total:		£15,029.53
Petty Cash Float (if applicable)		n/a
Less: any unrepresented cheques as 25 th October 2019		£0.00
None		
Add: any un-banked cheques at 25 th October 2019		£0.00
Net balances as at 25 th October 2019		£15,029.53

Appendix 2

Dear all,

This last month I have been going out with the parliamentary conservative candidate for South Cambridge, Anthony Browne and have been introducing him to residents across my division. I really love going out and talking to people. Making sure their community is what they want it to be. I took the opportunity to report any road maintenance issues when walking around your villages. We are very lucky to have a very efficient local highways officer, Simeon. Footpaths in disrepair or potholes by the road are not acceptable and I make sure they get done as quickly as possible.

In the past few months I have been asking all my parishes to provide me with a list of footpaths and roads that they believe should be done. I want to make sure that parish councils have a stronger voice at County and that they can guide officers on what they think is a priority. I just wanted to update you and Josh has confirmed that next year's works list will be looked at next year. I will put pressure on officers to incorporate your options and make sure they get done.

Planning, although, not a county responsibility per se, has kept me busy this last month. Unfortunately, we are starting to see developers applying to build on the Green Belt. They are also saying that officers in South Cambridgeshire District Council are advising them to apply. This is very disappointing. It is my view that we must do everything we can do avoid losing our precious green belt. This is about the environment, health, air pollution and quality of life. Farm land should be lost to build forests not houses. Our district has one of the lowest number of trees in the country.

Comberton Parish Council rejected one application on the green belt. Residents were up in arms. Let's just hope that the district will listen. I voiced my concerns at the meeting and fully supported the Parish Council.

In Hardwick developers want to change the land use of the green belt in order to build 400 houses. Over 50 residents attended a parish meeting and showed their concerns and disagreement with this. I made sure that the developers knew that I was going to do everything I could to protect the Green Belt and since then have been working with local residents.

Residents have also started a Climate Change action group. I was honoured to be able to join them and will be working very closely with them to see what action their community can take to help tackle Climate Change and improve the environment.

I have also been campaigning with local residents regarding the latest GCP proposal for Hardwick regarding the Cambourne to Cambridge bus way. There was media about it and more initiatives on the pipeline. I believe officers must be more creative and challenge the: we have always done it this way. Losing 30 year old trees is completely unacceptable and they should try to keep as many of them as possible. I will continue to work closely with the local community and lobby on their behalf.

Grantchester has seen their traffic measures put in place. There was a delay because of change of contractors. I have been working closely with the parish and officers to make sure no further delay happened. I hope residents and the community feel more secure due to these measures.

In Coton, the fight continues to get a segregated bus route but on the road. I have been liaising with officers, Ian Bates- chairman for the Economy and Environment committee, Anthony Browne,

James Palmer and local residents. I continue to work behind the scenes to avoid getting the green belt trashed by tarmac. I know that Anthony is supportive of this too. The GCP are utterly a fiasco and should cease as an organisation.

Caldecote has seen another planning application being approved. An application outside the local plan and that residents didn't want. I understand that we need houses, however, it should not be at any cost and even less when there is not the right infrastructure in place. There is no GP, no supermarket, school is packed. This is very frustrating for residents.

I continue to investigate and discuss with developers the adoption of a road in Caldecote. I am having a meeting this month to see how we move this forward.

Madingley has been applying to close their Avenue. One of the roads that links to the A14. There had been many reports regarding HGVs, rat running and unwelcomed traffic. I have been supportive of this initiative from the beginning. However, after an initial assessment more work needs to be done in order to proceed with the closure. I will be keeping a close eye on officers work.

I know that rat running and HGVs is an issue for all my parishes and I know that James Palmer has been in discussions with GPS providers. Once I have an update I will share it with you.

Weight restrictions can be applied to roads. If this is something of your interest, please do let me know and I can work with you and officers to understand how this measure can be implemented in your village.

Toft brought to my attention the latest article re: guidelines for cutting grass verges. This is part of the remit of the Highway committee. I had a discussion with the Chairman and he reassured me that our policy will be align to the national recommendation. Not only we are looking at how we cut the grass but also the type of chemicals we use.

You might already know that we are in a water stressed area. I have been raising the issue of smart meters with Cambridge Water and Anglian Water. It is imperative that water companies invest in technology. They are a bit behind the energy sector and must catch up as quickly as they can. They told me that they are trialling smart meters in some areas and hopefully roll out as from next year.

As I invited James Palmer to have a small session with all my parishes a few months ago. I intend to do the same with Jason Ablewhite, the Police and Crime Commissioner so that you can raise any concerns you might have or simply to learn more about current projects and schemes. Once I have a date confirmed I will share it with you.

Just to mention that community groups ask me for letters of support when they are applying for grants and sponsorship. I did one for a Hardwick resident last week and another letter I am working on this week is for the Countryside Restoration Trust. I am happy to support local community groups that are trying to get projects of the ground. Please do pass on my details.

Finally, a part from supporting each parish council in my division, I get contacted by residents. For example, if they are moving to the area and their child requires a school placement or if they are going through challenging times because of death, illness or any other circumstance. I support them as well and as best as I can. If you know of someone that is struggling or could do with extra help please do share my details with them too.

Please share and considering fostering: <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/children-and-families/fostering-and-adoption/>

Local Natural Partnership Board

As you may already know I represent the Council in this outside body. You have over 10 organisations represented and it's always active, trying to push the natural agenda forward and upwards.

Recently we have been able to launch a new website, please take a look at it. This is a very exciting milestone. www.naturalcambridgeshire.org.uk

Events

All events can also be found on our webpage at <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/highway-events/>

Funding portal

Please do share this link with community groups that wish to find funding pots.

<http://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/supportcambs>

Highways

A reminder that you can report road maintenance issues here:

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Hedges

If you have an issue with hedges then they would be advised to log their complaint on our website

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/roadworks-and-faults/>

Roadworks

I had calls from residents regarding roadworks. If you would like to know what is happening in your area you can check in this website. www.roadworks.org

**Just to remind you that the public is very welcome to attend committee meetings and Full Council.
You can find all the details [here](#).**

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

Lina

**Representing the villages of: Harlton, Barton, Great and Little Eversden, Caldecote, Kingston,
Madingley, Hardwick, Coton, Grantchester and Comberton.**

Mobile: 07402351821 E-mail: Lina.Nieto@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk Facebook: [Cllr Lina Nieto](#)

Appendix 3

District Councillor's Report - Cllr Tom Bygott Consultation to prepare for the next Local Plan

I have been appointed to a new body called the Joint Local Plan Advisory Group, comprising Cambridgeshire County, South Cambridgeshire District and Cambridge City Councillors. In early October we reviewed the wording of a consultation to be held early in the new year on the Issues and Options for the next Local Plan. When the consultation is complete, the full list of sites that have been suggested will be published. The Plan itself will be drafted next year.

One of the key questions in the consultation will be where new development should be concentrated. The options are:

- **Option 1: Densification.**
- **Option 2: Edge of Cambridge.**
- **Option 3: New settlements.**
- **Option 4: Existing villages.**
- **Option 5: Public transport corridors.**

Building more at the Edge of Cambridge would harm some of our best countryside as well as cutting the City off from its historic semi-rural setting. It also risks building on land that is needed to build new transport infrastructure such as the Metro and railway lines. In the next plan we need to tie transport and development more closely together, and reserve strips of land through the centre of every new settlement for fast transport links. Space for these links should be reserved even if the money can't be found to build the links straight away.

Renewable energy debate

During a recent Council debate about wind farms, a member of the Independent Group made an impassioned speech about why we should be burning more coal. This individual is not affiliated in any way to the Conservative Group, which maintains its commitment to clean energy.

The UK has only six coal-fired power stations remaining, with two scheduled to close next spring. The remaining four, being no longer economically viable, are unlikely to last much longer. The day that the last of our coal-fired power stations shuts down forever is fast approaching and will be the cause of much celebration.

In the third quarter of this year, electricity from on- and off-shore wind farms, solar panels and renewable biomass plants surpassed fossil fuels for the first time since electricity generation began in 1882. The cost of installing off-shore wind turbines has fallen by 30% over the last two years, with one operator offering electricity £40 per MWh at a recent auction, making it more competitive than fossil fuels. These are some very exciting developments on the road to clean energy.

Additional leave for Council staff with premature or unwell babies

All SCDC employees (regardless of gender) will now be entitled to additional paid leave after the birth of a child who requires an extended stay in hospital. The Cabinet agreed the premature birth and neonatal birth policy on Wednesday 4th September 2019 meaning that mothers will

premature or unwell babies will not have to cut short the time they had planned to spend at home with their babies before deciding whether to return to work. The policy will grant mothers employed by the council whose babies are born unwell or before 37 weeks 100% of their salary either until the baby is released from hospital or until 28 days after their expected due date without effecting their normal maternity leave or pay entitlement. This was the initiative of my Conservative colleague, Cllr Heather Williams, who raised it as a motion to Full Council.

New cycle stands installed

The GCP (Greater Cambridge Partnership) has been installing 79 new cycle lockers across the Park and Ride sites and 77 new cycle stands around the city to make it easier for people to securely lock up their bike in the city when they have cycled in from outside. This was done as part of Cycle September: <https://www.greatercambridge.org.uk/news/new-cycle-stands-installed-in-time-for-cycleseptember/>

Brexit preparation update

Following on from my stories earlier this year about preparing for Brexit, in case this occurs without agreement on October 31st, here is a summary of what householders need to check. The government has prepared a check list at:

<https://www.gov.uk/get-ready-brexit-check>

General travel to the EU:

- Passports need to expire at least six months after the date you plan to enter the EU, and be less than ten years old. They can be renewed early if necessary. Ireland does not require this.
- The EU currently places a cap on mobile phone roaming charges. The UK government intends to replicate this cap for UK contract holders, but is legally prevented from doing so until after October 31st. Look carefully at whether your mobile phone operator tries to take advantage of this interval in regulation. This can be avoided by buying a prepaid SIM card.
- Check that your travel insurance provides valid cover.
- There will also be changes to rules about taking pets, see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pettravel-to-europe-after-brexit>
- It will again be possible to buy duty-free items from ports, airports and international train stations and on board ships, planes and trains between the UK and EU.

Driving in the EU:

- Some EU countries require an International Driving Permit to be shown alongside a British driving licence. These can be bought for £5.50 from Histon Post Office. A full list of which countries will require this is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/driving-abroad/internationaldriving-permit>
- A GB sticker will now be required for all cars, even if the licence plate contains an EU flag.

- All motor vehicle insurance policies issued in the UK provide at least third-party cover throughout the EU. UK policy holders will need to carry a Green Card document, as proof of the insurance cover that they already hold. These can be obtained from your insurer.

Cllr Tom Bygott cllr@bygott.net 07765 475 513

DRAFT

Appendix 3

Report from District Councillor Douglas de Lacey
10. 11. 2019

Since I have spent most of the past month quite unwell, though better now, I can be brief. Before being struck down I spent a pleasant morning opening the refurbished kitchen of the Phoenix Trust, a Milton-based charity which helps people with learning difficulties by giving them a meaningful experience of work and helping them into employment outside the Trust. It was humbling to see what they could achieve with the support of willing helpers, and to enjoy the food they were able to produce in their new kitchen.

I have mentioned before our panels of architects who are invited to examine schemes at the pre-application stage, and I have sat in on a couple more of those, including the early proposals for Darwin Green Phases 2 and 3. It gives a valuable insight into the minds of the developers and their teams and will help me as I chair meetings of our JDCC to assess them.

A 600 page Scrutiny agenda made for a very long meeting with some tricky issues. We had been asked to recommend gating Setchel Drove in Cottenham to prevent fly tipping. Local farmers were vehemently against, fearing problems as they had to leave their vehicles to open and close the gate. The Parish Council was for it. The Neighbourhood policing team sent a careful letter outlining the pros and cons and recommending caution. We suggested a number of possible ideas to try before imposing a physical barrier.

The major issue was the Local Plan: the Issues and Options document to go out to public consultation. This is a hugely significant step as the lack of useful public input was a major weakness in the current Plan. But for reasons beyond me the Conservative members staged a walk-out. The rest of us looked carefully through the proposals; highlighting among other things the importance of using plain English; the accessibility of the web-based information; the need to involve people who work but do not live in the District; the vital role of transport (a factor outside our control); and the importance of water, both provision and handling of waste. If approved by Cabinet this will go out to consultation in January. Please have your say!

The meeting ended at 8.30pm, a five-and-a-half-hour marathon. Perhaps I need not feel too guilty that after that I was out of action for the rest of the month.

Douglas de Lacey