

FEN DRAYTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

15 APRIL 2024



Present

Jackie Isden (chair), Roger Davies, Chris Gray, Sue Gyles, Peter Kiss,
Members of public: 1

PARISH COUNCIL GENERAL MEETING

Opened at 19.30

24/045 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies: Sue Ellington, Paul Goodwin, Sarah Lockwood, Mandy Smith and James Weeden.
No declarations of interest were received.

24/046 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED Council members unanimously approved the March minutes, which were signed by the chair as an accurate record with no amendments.

24/047 PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Opened and closed at 19.40 as one member of the public was observing only.

24/048 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS AND ANY CRIME ISSUES

24/005/1 County councillor's report – none.

24/005/2 District councillor's report – none.

24/005/3 Police/crime reports – see 24/049.

24/049 VILLAGE CRIME

A meeting with residents of Mill Road and Middleton Way was held prior to the PC meeting. PC Smits has agreed to talk about Neighbourhood watch and help set it up. The police also advise using eCops. The Community Cafe can be used for giving advice on how to protect property. Ideas for property protection are welcome before the follow-up meeting, to be held on 13 May (date to be confirmed).

24/050 UPDATES/ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (or see agenda item).

(23/086) Pavilion donations so far = £6727.61.

(23/129) Community warden: Age UK may shut down the community warden scheme due to insufficient money. Grants from councils have also been reduced. SCDC has agreed to fund the warden scheme for another year. A self-funding option with Swavesey and other villages is also being looked into if Age UK are unable to continue their support.

(23/130) Flood meeting chaired by Anthony Browne MP – see 24/052.

(23/013/4) The community charity bank account has not yet been delinked from the PC accounts. C Gray to resolve. **ACTION**

(24/022) Pink Bin: still awaiting approval from village hall committee. Clerk to chase. **ACTION**

(24/023) After school cookery club: still awaiting more information.

(24/025/2) Regrading of gravel section of Holywell ferry road: still awaiting more information.

(24/031) Dog fouling in the Plantation: SCDC has contacted residents to discuss their concerns, signs have been put up and car parking in the area may be increased. A dog bin will be moved to corner of Mill Road and Cootes Lane. The chair will identify which bin will be moved. **ACTION**

(24/037) Pump track: estimates have been obtained and two potential sites identified – by the tennis courts or on the football field. The cost of constructing it on the football field would increase costs by £27k due to flooding on the field. Sue Ellington advised that grants are

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available for rural locations and SCDC had 1.6 million to give out of which £800k is available for businesses and communities. £60k would be needed for VH field, and £87k for football field. Application needs to be in by 5 May. The PC will consult with nearby residents.

(24/040) Creative Arts East: the PC is now a member; councillors to choose a performance to take place in the village hall later in the year. **ACTION**

24/051 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

28/03/24: Documents received from Hemingford Grey PC re flooding and the failure of the sluices on the Great Ouse at Earith. They have been forwarded to Anthony Browne's office.

02/04/24: Street lighting - email from SCDC about energy supply options for parishes with SCDC streetlights. The details will be kept on file for when the current street lighting energy contract nears renewal.

24/052 FLOOD MEETING CHAIRED BY A BROWNE MP

The flood meeting chaired by Anthony Browne MP was very constructive and all attending organisations had interesting ideas. EA, however, was not present and a letter has been sent to them regarding their refusal to attend. Much of the recent flooding was caused by non-working sluice gates on the Great Ouse. Consultants are needed and Hilary will investigate prices. She will also to find out about the one-way valves on the High Street. All houses to be leafleted to let them know that the flood mobile will be at the village hall on 11 May. **ACTION**

24/053 VILLAGE MAINTENANCE

053/1 The village verges were cut in January. Seasonal regular grass cutting has started. Signs will be put up in the village hall car park saying anyone using the car park does so at their own risk. The Chair thanked Roger Davies and Roy Isden for putting logs in place in the car park. The cost of the boulders is to be split three ways between the school, PC and the village hall.

24/054 BEER FESTIVAL

Beer festival on Sunday, 26 May: the football club will manage the bar and barbecue. The PC will take responsibility for selling tickets for the barbecue and comedy night; volunteers are needed to sell the tickets between 1 and 8 pm. All profits will go towards the new pavilion.

24/055 PARISH CHAIRS' FORUM

The chair has been invited to join the Parish Chairs' Forum, which meets quarterly on Teams with local villages to discuss local issues.

24/056 FINANCE

056/1 Year end accounts and 2024-25 budget was presented by R Davies, During the year ended 31 March 2024, the parish council income was £33.5k and costs £30.7k giving a surplus in the year of £2.8k. The budget for 2024-5 is income of £35.6k and costs of £32.8k. The budget costs do not include some significant one-off costs that may arise during the year, such as investment in the new pavilion and pump track. If these costs occur, they will need to be funded from existing reserves and fund raising. The chair and council members thanked R Davies for all his work on the finances.

056/2 **RESOLVED** council members approved the March receipts and payments (Appendix 1) *Bank account balances as of 11/03/24:*

- Business account = £20,868.05
- S106 account = £34,654.01
- Town Lands account = £23,354.93
- Pavilion account = £6,627.61
- Cambridge B/S = £18,600.00

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24/057 PLANNING

23/03537/FUL 29 Cootes Lane: no decision been made yet.

24/01214/OUT 50 Middleton Way: the PC is seeking advice re the application.

24/058 MEETINGS

Next meeting is 20 May. Annual village meeting is 10 June.

Meeting closed at 22:00

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APPENDIX 1

March receipts and payments

	<i>Description</i>	<i>Receipts</i>	<i>Payments</i>	<i>VAT</i>
	Spares for handyman		54.47	Y
	Staff costs		658.18	
	HMRC PAYE		404.58	
	Handyman		581.00	
	Payroll services		46.80	Y
	Grass cutting		266.40	Y