

**Minutes of the Caxton Annual Parish Meeting held on
Thursday 12 May 2022 at 7.45 pm in the Village Hall**

Present: 4 parishioners, plus District Cllr Mark Howell, District Councillor Peter Sandford and Mrs A Griffiths (Minutes Secretary, LGS Services).

Cllr Howard presided.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from C Rundell, L Kelly, A Halket and County Cllr Mandy Smith.

2. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 April 2021

The minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting on 22 April 2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman, after an amendment under item 6.5 to change “Thomas” to “Heath”. (Prop Guy Lachlan, 2nd Robert Millard)

3. Matters arising

None.

4. Report of the Parish Council for the year¹

The report of the Parish Council was read by Cllr Howard. The report (appended in full) covered:

- Bi-monthly face to face meetings have taken place since July 2021.
- Appreciation was expressed for the support of the District and County Councillors.
- Parish Council attendance.
- Planning applications and concerns that an appeal by the developer for 8 self-build plots had succeeded despite being outside the village envelope, because Greater Cambridge Planning had not met its own self-build targets.
- The proposed building of a further 1950 houses at Cambourne under the Greater Cambridge Development plan.
- East West Rail – The Parish Council had unanimously supported the proposal for a North Cambourne station with the route running to the north of the A428. Whilst funding might possibly be diverted away from this project, a new Managing Director had been appointed and 17 local consultative forums set up.
- A428 – The Council had written to Highways England to see if funding towards flooding alleviation can be obtained. .
- A Flood Working Group had been formed. Its next meeting will be with the Environment Agency and it is hoped that a monitoring device can be installed at The Moats. The Council had written to the District Councillors asking for flood measures to take a high priority when S106 funding is negotiated.
- The children’s play area off Gransden Road had been re-fenced.
- The Council was funding commemorative mugs for all the children in the village to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, along with additional funding towards the celebrations being organised by the Village Hall Committee. A bench is to be sited at the War Memorial. The Memorial is to be cleaned and repaired, the surrounding area renovated and a new low boundary hedge planted.
- The village entry gateways and posts to move the MVAS around will be installed next week.

5. Presentation of the Parish Council's audited accounts for the previous year and financial report²

The audited accounts for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 were available on the website: <https://caxton-pc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/CAXPC-FY21-AGAR-AND-SUPPORTING-PAPERS.pdf>.

6. Other Reports

6.1 District Councillors (Cllr Mark Howell and Cllr Peter Sandford)

Newly elected District Cllr Peter Sandford introduced himself and outlined his background and experience. He reported:

- No major changes in the Council's programme were anticipated and he expected business would continue as before.
- South Cambridgeshire was the 7th highest area in the country for places offered to Ukrainian refugees. SCDC officers had to inspect homes, disburse funds and provide funds for 300 family groups, but no extra funds had been provided.

Cllr Howell reported.

- Cllr Howell thanked residents for re-electing him and paid tribute to former District Cllr Nick Wright, who had stood down after 18 years as District Councillor. During his term he had been very involved in planning, as Chair of Planning, Portfolio Holder, member of the Planning Committee, and had also been Deputy Leader.

Questions were invited.

A resident asked what the position was regarding unitary housing. Cllr Howell replied that Eric Pickles had said it was possible for the City to merge with South Cambridgeshire, but that there would be no political advantage for the City, so he did not think it would happen.

6.2 County Councillor (Cllr Mandy Smith)

No report available.

County Cllr Mandy Smith had sent her apologies but had encouraged residents to contact her regarding any County Council issues.

6.3 Police

No report available.

6.4 Village Hall Committee³

The report of the Village Hall Committee was read by the Minutes Secretary. The report covered:

- The Village Hall was gradually getting back to normal, with regular hirers returning. The AGM and other meetings had been held during the year and grant support and the hard work of members and hirers enabled the Hall to weather the storm.
- Finance. Booking income was recovering and Covid grants had been received. Energy costs however were rising and might necessitate an increase in hire charges. The 100 Club lottery is currently suspended.
- Committee membership and officers were the same as before.
- Covid safe procedures and risk management – requirements were included in the hirers' agreement.
- Maintenance and improvements including kitchen redecoration and heating repairs.
- Plans for the coming year. It is hoped to resume fundraisers. The porch is being refurbished.

- The Village Hall is involved in the preparations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. There will be a Big Lunch picnic on 5 June.
- Thanks were expressed to committee members and to the Parish Council for their support.

Cllr Howard expressed thanks to the Village Hall for all they do in maintaining a hub for the village which was appreciated by all.

6.5 Newsletter

No report available.

6.6 Speedwatch

There was no longer a Speedwatch group in the village.

6.7 Parochial charities⁴

Mrs Val Gape reported that the Diana Gape Memorial Trust and The Langwith and Barnard Charity had not met during the last year, but both had received funding from investments. Both were solvent and it was hoped to resume distributions again this autumn. Details of the finances are appended to these minutes.

6.8 Any others

None.

7. **Any other parish matters including any resolutions which have been received**

None.

8. **Closure of meeting**

There was no further business and the meeting was declared closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed _____ (Chairman) _____ (Date)

¹ Report of the Parish Council – Cllr Keith Howard

² Report of the RFO – Mrs Gail Stoehr

³ Report of the Village Hall Committee

⁴ Report of the Diana Gape Memorial Trust and The Langwith & Barnard Charity