



# PERRY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Perry Parish Council Meeting held at 1900 hours on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the Grafham Water Sailability Clubhouse.

## **Present:**

**Parish Councillors:** Chairman Sheila Brighton (SB), Vice Chairman Eleanor Abbs (EA), Kay Darby (KD), Chris Jones (CJ), Nigel Noon (NN), Jo Shirreffs (JS). The meeting was quorate.

**County Councillor:** Ian Gardener (IG).

**District Councillor:** Stephen Cawley (SC).

**Members of the public:** five.

**Clerk to the Council:** Eugene Smith (ES).

## **23/119 Apologies**

Parish Councillor Emma Prew's apologies were **approved** (proposed EA, approved unanimously).

## **23/120 Reports from County and District Councillors**

Attached as appendix one (IG) and two (SC).

## **23/121 Councillors' declarations of interest for items on the agenda**

None (see also item 23/125).

## **23/122 Guest Speaker from Wheatsheaf public house**

No actions.

## **23/123 Open forum for public participation**

No actions.

## **23/124 Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Perry Parish Council meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023 were **approved** as a correct record (prop. EA, app. unanimously) and signed by the Chairman.

**23/125 Planning permission consultation**

(Motion proposed for discussion by SB).For the following application:  
*Proposal: Erection of a detached bedroom dwelling, Site Address: 13 The Drive Perry Huntingdon Reference: 23/02384/FUL* the council voted to **recommend refusal**.

Rationale available to view here:  
<http://publicaccess.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/online-applications/> using the above reference.

**Action:** ES to inform Huntingdonshire District Council.

**23/126 Clerk's report**

Attached as appendix three.

**23/127 Parish / village matters**

a) HMP Littlehey developments  
No updates.

b) Village weeding session  
Following Cambridgeshire County Council's decision to resume weeding this session has been put on hold, pending six-month review of village weeds.

**23/128 Events Working Party**

JS provided a progress report.

**23/129 Highways**

The location of a 20mph zone or zones was discussed, and will be voted on at the next meeting (13<sup>th</sup> March 2024).

**Action:** ES to add to March's agenda.

**23/130 Recycling project**

**Action:** ES to provide a feasibility report for voting on at the next meeting.

**23/131 Update on meetings and training attended**

KD attended the New Councillor course, run in January by Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Association of Local Councils (CAPALC).

ES attended Freedom of Information for Local Councils training in January, also run by CAPALC.

### **23/132 Memberships and subscriptions**

Renewal of Perry Parish Council's membership for 2024-2025 of Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) at a cost of £65.00 was **approved** (prop. SB, approved unanimously).

### **23/133 Finance**

- a) The following authorised and regular payments were **noted**, and the payment schedule signed by SB.

**Eugene Smith** (December and January Clerk's salary): **confidential**

**Eugene Smith** (working from home allowance December and January): **£52.00**

**Eugene Smith** (dog waste bags): **£5.50**

**CAPALC** (Cambridgeshire And Peterborough Association of Local Councils) training (Freedom of Information for Local Councils, 15/01/2024): **£35.00**

**Grafham Water Centre** (room hire 13/12/2023): **£150.00**

**Unity Trust Bank** (quarterly service charge): **£18.00**

- b) The payment of £907.00 made to Glyn Mould (village sign refurbishment) on 06/11/2023 was **noted**.
- c) The credit of £7,500.00 received from Huntingdonshire District Council (precept) on 27/04/2023 was **noted** (N.B. had already been noted on 13/12/2023, minute reference 23/115/i).
- d) The bank reconciliations for quarters two and three were **noted**.

### **23/133 Dates for Perry Parish Council meetings for 2024 – 2025**

The following meeting dates: April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, July 10th, September 11th, October 9th, November 13th, December 11th, February 12th, March 12th (all dates are Wednesdays, all meetings to commence at 1900 hours, except April 10th which will follow the Annual Parish Meeting. May 8th will be the Perry Parish Council Annual Meeting.) were **approved** (prop. SB, app. unanimously).

### **23/135 Agenda items for the next Perry Parish Council meeting**

Items must be received by the clerk no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

### **23/136 Date of next Perry Parish Council meeting**

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 1900 hours.

**Meeting closed at 2035 hours.**

## **END OF MINUTES**

### **APPENDIX ONE – REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GARDENER**

Perry Parish Council Meeting – February 24

The Cambridgeshire County Show will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 24 at the Abbots Ripton Estate, PE28 2PH between 10am and 4pm. Additional information can be obtained by emailing [cambscountyshow@outlook.com](mailto:cambscountyshow@outlook.com)

The Combined authority (Mayor) is proposing a £24.00 per annum increase on its proportion of the Council Tax, ie raising it from £12 to £36 per annum, this increase is to improve Bus services across the County. It looks as if the Ting service will become a rural service, which will mean you can still get to St Neots or Huntingdon, but it will not pick up in St Neots unless you are returning to the Rural area.

The Crime and Police Commissioner is proposing a £12.96 per annum raise in its proportion of the Council Tax. Therefore, a Band D property would go up from £272.52 to £285.48

The County Council is proposing a 4.99% increase in Council tax for 24/25 with a total of 2% of this dedicated to Adult Social Care Services. The Conservative Budget amendment would have seen a 22 million pound investment into Highways. This was rejected by the Joint Administration of Lib Dem/Labour/Independent Councillors. They did however agree to increase members allowances at a time when residents are being confronted with higher costs.

The Supermarket voucher scheme will operate in the coming Half Term Holiday for all eligible families in Cambridgeshire. The County Council is continuing to run the scheme in the February Half Term using the Household Support Fund from the Governments Work & Pensions Department, along with additional funding from the County Council.

Eligible Families will automatically receive a £15 voucher via email or text on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February, at a choice of 11 supermarkets , which must be claimed by 15 March

The County Council has reviewed its policy on not removing weeds from our streets, due to the large number of complaints from Parish Councils, councillors and residents. As a result, the policy will be reversed in the new County Council budget from the new financial year.

The County Council have reopened applications for 20mph zones. Parishes need to apply by 5pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March.

The Fire Authority are proposing the closure of 3 On Call Fire Stations one of which is Kimbolton, the other two being Manea & Sutton. As a result, a meeting is to be held at the Mandeville Hall in Kimbolton on 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm, to which all Parish Councils are invited to attend and give their views on the proposals.

At this meeting Fire Officers will be in attendance.

The Fire Authority proposal is to redistribute the Fire Authorities Operational resources from three low risk areas, ie fewer calls. By doing this the FA would have two additional wholetime fire engines available in the daytime and at weekends.

Across Cambridgeshire & Peterborough, 23 out of 26 fire stations have a fire engine crewed by on call firefighters. Guaranteeing these fire engines are available is becoming more challenging in the daytime and at weekends, despite continual on call firefighter recruit campaigns.

The FA has its current fire stations in locations that matched the County's risk profile decades ago. As society changes and population grows, that risk changes with time and to be able to deliver the best service, with the resources the FA have, the FA must assess where best to locate those resources to meet our changing demands.

As Ely and St Neots both have a second fire engine, when the second fire engine crewed by on call firefighters is available the FA would be able to use the two new wholetime crews at weekends more flexibly. Meaning the crew could roam further afield providing better cover across the whole county, where on call fire engines are not available and carry out crucial community safety and fire protection activities with residents and businesses.

This proposal will mean that the fire station at Kimbolton would no longer be required.

Cllr Ian Gardener

County Councillor for Alconbury & Kimbolton Division

## **APPENDIX TWO – REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR STEPHEN CAWLEY**

Awaits

## **APPENDIX THREE – CLERK'S REPORT**

- The Local Highway Improvement application from December's meeting has been submitted.
- Cambridgeshire County Council is asking for new volunteers for the county council education admission appeals panels, there's a poster on the village noticeboard, or ask me for further details.
- An annual cycle race which goes through Perry takes place on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> March from 1930 to 1530 hours, signage will be displayed as usual.
- Life and Diaries magazine has made a request for input from Perry.
- Chris Flowerdew is standing down as chairman of Grafham Water Sailability on 24<sup>th</sup> February, I'd like to thank him very much for his invaluable help over the past two years.

**END OF APPENDICES**