

Great Shelford Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held in the Memorial Hall, Woollards Lane on Wednesday 3rd March 2022 at 7:15pm

Present: Councillor John Stanton (Chairman) and Clerk to the Council, Libby White.
50 Members of the public including Parish Councillors, Anthony Browne MP, Oliver Hughes from Redmayne Arnold and Harris, County Councillor Brian Milnes, District Councillor Peter Fane, representatives of local sports clubs, local organisations and charities.

1. Refreshments and Open/Informal Discussions

Refreshments were served between 6:30pm and 7:15pm allowing attendees the chance to speak with local clubs and organisations about the work they have been doing since the last meeting in 2019.

2. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr John Stanton welcomed everyone to the meeting stating how wonderful it was to see so many residents in person after a trying couple of years with the Pandemic. Parish Councillors in attendance were asked to introduce themselves to allow residents to see who they were.

3. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Malcolm Watson (Parish Council Chairman), Cllr Barrie Ashurst and Cllr Lyn Disley.

4. Minutes of 17th April 2019

The Clerk noted that she had been unable to find any draft minutes from the last meeting held in 2019, and had contacted the previous clerk for assistance. With no draft minutes available, it was proposed by Cllr Fane, seconded by Cllr Kettel and agreed that the presentation from the meeting on 17th April 2019, as displayed on the website, be recorded as a true record of the content for the meeting held.

5. Presentation from Anthony Browne MP

Anthony Brown MP was in attendance and addressed those attending. He started by saying how impressed he was with residents' response to Covid-19 and the spontaneous response in Houses of Parliament when the Ukrainian Ambassador was in attendance the day before. He then went on to note how he knows that Great Shelford residents feel besieged by transport development in the area and that they want their village to remain a village and not be in a suburb.

He did note that there is a need to improve public transport but there needs to be an understanding of the impact of the pandemic and whether there is a reduction in traffic as more people may choose to work from home. He stated he has been urging relevant bodies to make the most of existing infrastructure including reopening Sawston Station.

With respect to CSET he noted how much he loves the Magog Hills, Wandlebury, etc. and that it should be a very high hurdle to build in this area which would ultimately lead to further development. He stated he has been urging the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) to reconsider and is speaking to campaign groups and parish councils who want to see a cheaper, quicker bus route along the A1307. He urged all to make their feelings known.

When the initial proposals were made for EWR, there was concern over the impact the route would have on communities. It was noted that there would only be 4 tracks after the Shepreth Junction so there are no proposed demolition of homes and the bridge would be able to stay. Though there is some thought there would need to be a junction with one trainline over another which would be visually disturbing and this is not a desired route to take.

It is Anthony Browne's opinion that there is too much house building in South Cambridgeshire and it needs to be kept at sustainable levels. The desire of Cambridge Biomedical Campus to grow would definitely see Great Shelford becoming a suburb. That said, he understands that there is a need for new housing and would like to hear from residents about their thoughts and concerns.

6. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Stanton provided the Chairman's report which is attached as appendix 1.

7. Parish Council Accounts 2020-2021 (audited)

The Clerk presented the completed Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2020/21 which is available on the website. She noted that due to the size of the budget and precept, the reporting process for the accounts has changed from a Receipts and Payments basis, which simply reports money received and money paid, to that of Income and Expenditure which takes into account debtors, creditors, prepayments, accruals, etc. and requires more reporting to the External Auditor who is currently PKF Littlejohn. She also noted that the External Auditor had made some comments which the parish council has to action when completing the paperwork for the Year Ended 31st March 2022 about the Exercising of Public Rights, which is the period of time when residents can ask to inspect the accounts.

8. Presentation of the Community Awards 2022

The parish council thanked all residents who embraced the first community awards this year, having received over 50 nominations for the residents which the community felt make a difference within the village. Cllr Price read out each award and the recipient and each winner received a trophy, certificate and bottle of champagne (apart from the Young Hero who received a cuddly toy and craft kit) courtesy of Redmayne, Arnold and Harris who sponsored the awards. Oliver Hughes from Redmayne, Arnold and Harris presented the awards as follows:

Young Hero	Eliza Hilliard
Community Action	Chris Smith and Mary Regnier-Wilson
Sports & Leisure	Julia Creed
Environmental Improvement	Eleanor McCrone
Social Wellbeing	Great Shelford Mobile Warden Scheme
Local Hero	Keith Sugden
Unsung Hero	Frances Richardson

Other nominees were:

The Volunteers at Cara Coffee
Charlotte Smith
Claire Schofield
Kirsty Lothian
Paul Ellum
Seamus Fegan
Bridget Hodge
Brie Lury
Lucy Barlow
Mike Paduano
Angela at the Station

9. Questions to Speakers, Parish Council, Clubs & Organisations

Several questions were asked of Anthony Browne MP:

Q: Been looking at Non-Motorised Use and cycle paths – can we get better routes in and out of Cambridge and between villages?

A: Yes, we need to improve cycling.

- Q: *What is the difference between being an MP and wanting to be an MP.*
- A: Job is a privilege but it comes with lots of flack. People invest faith and trust in you to make a difference to their lives. There is more direct access to people with power, which helped when he was able to push for extra testing following the leak about Cambridge Water. It has also helped when looking at other water issues including the abstraction from the aquifer where he has had huge influence.
- Q: *People with 'everyday' jobs cannot afford to buy in the area. Affordable housing is 20% less than going rate – people simply cannot afford.*
- A: Important that all who can/want to buy a home should be able to. This is a real issue for keyworkers and there are proposals where he is speaking to Michael Gove and Addenbrookes to address the issues.
- Q: *Is it Cambridge is too successful for business? Where do we draw a line in expansion and development?*
- A: Cambridge has transformed from a small city and success breeds problems. Very unequal geography across the country and there should not be all the development in the South East. It should be spread out more evenly.
- Q: *In your role as Chairman of the All Parliamentary Group for the Environment, Great Shelford Parish Council has declared a Climate Emergency, do you have any advice for a parish council as to what they can do?*
- A: Make as much electric supply renewable as possible. Important to have a sense of urgency and make the tough decisions now. Encourage and take leadership. Potential electricity charging points, though infrastructure has not kept pace. New housing should have charge points if they have a drive way and adequate insulation.
- Q: *Electric charging points need to be universal. All at the Park & Ride are Tesla. Need positive action from Government to make universal.*
- A: In principle the Government agrees that all should be the same, and users should not need an app to use a charging point. There is a new bill proposed that works towards them all being interoperable.
- Q: *With the busway and new building, what percentage feel do you have the busway will happen?*
- A: Believe the pressure against the busway is strong and there will be legal challenges. The retirement village complicates matters. The barriers are increasing but still do not know the long-term implications after Covid. Does not believe it is inevitable.

10. Refreshments and Informal Discussions

With all main agenda items covered the Chair closed the meeting at 8:47pm.

Signed
Chairman
Great Shelford Parish Council



Date

29th MARCH 2023

Great Shelford Parish Council Chairman's Report 2022



Good evening everyone! It is a pleasure to see you all here after two years of upheaval. Since our last Annual Meeting held in 2019, we have been extremely busy and I am indebted to all our Councillors and Parish Council staff (both past and present) who have put in the time and effort to achieve what we have. This report covers all areas of the parish council including the work of committees and working groups.

This year Councillors will have completed their 4-year term in public office. At present we are unsure which Councillors wish to stand for re-election in the May elections; however we currently have vacancies and would love to see some new faces as we seek to represent better the diversity within our community. If you are interested and wish to know more about becoming a Parish Councillor, please have a chat with Libby later or contact her via the usual methods. Nominations open on 28th March until 4th April.

So what have we done over the last two years?

The village is currently being surrounded by many transport initiatives. One of these is the Cambridge South East Transport Plan (CSET). We have been looking at trying to find an alternative route to the planned CSET busway. Recent developments include the dropping of the previous Mayor's Cambs Autonomous Metro, and the Planning Inspector granting planning permission for a retirement village in Stapleford. We strongly believe that the current CSET plans now need to be reconsidered. We are working with other parish councils, community bodies and individuals to express our concerns over the current plans and highlight the benefits of one of the original proposals to run bus lanes along the A1307. This campaign group is known as 'Better Ways than Bus Ways'.

One other significant area upon which we have been focusing is the East West Railway project linking Oxford to Cambridge. The Parish Council takes issue with the preferred route and believes that proper consideration has not been given to other potential routes.

With so many transport projects in the area, we have set up a Traffic & Transport Infrastructure Working Group comprising Councillors and village residents. Particular thanks go to Councillor Lyn Disley who chairs this group; if anyone is interested in joining the Group please let Lyn know.

Most recently we have had to deal with the issues raised by an article in the Guardian newspaper about the quality of our drinking water. We are chasing Cambridge Water to produce the data and evidence that they promised at our recent meeting.

2020 and 2021 saw two years of severe disruption to all our lives with the Covid pandemic affecting all areas of our society. We are extremely proud of the way our community has worked together to support their fellow residents at a time when many have been unable to spend time with family and friends. To all volunteers who have helped in any way, a massive Thank You.

In June 2021, Libby White joined us as our new Clerk to the Council. She has encouraged us to move forward with new technology including a bright new website, and new accounting and mapping software. We have been able to declare we have the 'General Power of Competence' which allows us as a council to do a little more beyond the confines of the powers and duties given to us. Essentially we are able to do anything an individual can do, as long as it is not prohibited by law. (We hope to be able to keep this after May 2022, but that depends upon enough people standing for election as a Parish Councillor!)

Seamus is by far our longest serving member of staff and in 2021 we celebrated his 20 year anniversary with the Council. We took this opportunity to revamp the Council image. This included the design of a new council logo, a new uniform for Seamus and after consultation with Seamus, a change of job title to

'Ranger'. We hope that this better portrays the role that Seamus does for the village. Moving forward, as well as making sure the village looks as neat and tidy as ever, we have asked Seamus to look after the Cemetery on a regular basis, as we have been concerned that it wasn't at the standard we all wanted.

With Libby joining us, we said goodbye to Mike Winter, our Clerk of six years and a Parish Councillor before that. We thank him for all his hard work and dedication during his time with the Council.

We also said farewell to Simon Talbott who has been with the parish council for around eight years while he was the priest in charge of St Mary's. Not only did he play a large part as Councillor, Simon was on many different community groups and organisations. He will be sorely missed.

Other notable achievements include:

- Opening of the Playscape with much work undertaken by the Playscape Charity;
- Identifying a Traffic Consultant to look at our concerns about the traffic in Woollards Lane, Church Street and High Street;
- Refurbishment of the football club room to create a safe space for the SSYI charity to carry out their work with the younger members of the community; and
- Identifying a new ground care contractor to look after the grass cutting and general maintenance of the village – Brookfield Groundcare.

Moving forward Great Shelford Parish Council will be working towards:

- Working with the Playscape Charity to create a new skate park - Wheelscape;
- Seeking the Foundation level of the Local Council Award Scheme – to recognise that we are working to best practice (we hope to achieve Quality Council by the end of 2022 but this again depends on elections...);
- Recruitment of a Clerical Assistant to work with Libby (information is available on the website and Facebook – please share);
- Construction of a new paved area around the Pavilion to provide a safe clean area for those watching sport;
- Working through our new Business Plan which outlines our objectives as a whole, but specifically for the next year; and
- Continuing to serve our community to improve the quality of life for residents of the village.

Finally, money! Our budget and precept were agreed at the meeting in January. All the information can be found on the parish council website. The precept request of £279,311 was sent to South Cambridgeshire District Council in January. Based on our workings, we believe this is an increase of 11.34% for the Precept as a whole or 10% on a Band D property, which equates to £12.09 per year. We are still awaiting confirmation from South Cambs who have the accurate details to hand. We have attempted to keep the precept as low as practically possible by moving some of our Earmarked Reserves, amounting to £45,000, towards projects we are looking to undertake during the 2022/23 financial year.

