

# Cllr Lorna Dupré

## MONTHLY REPORT DECEMBER 2024

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### LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

On 28 November the Government published its *Local government finance policy statement 2025 to 2026*. This lays out the principles for the funding of principal local authorities for the financial year starting in April.

There will be no change to the council tax cap, which will remain at three per cent for core council tax, with a two per cent adult social care precept. The cap for the police precept will be £14, and £5 for fire and rescue authorities. There will be no cap for Combined Authorities, or for town and parish councils. There will be a number of changes to grant funding. And in 2026/27 the Government plans to 'radically simplify the local government funding landscape'.

### Local government reorganisation

Proposals to review local government arrangements are coming over the horizon yet again. In particular, all-purpose unitary councils are likely to replace the two tiers of county and district councils; and we are likely to see more directly elected Mayors in parts of the country which currently do not have them. There will be endless debate and consultations, and it is not clear to me that local government will necessarily be better as a consequence.

### Remote meetings consultation

I have submitted my own personal response to the Government's consultation on returning to remote meetings.

My personal view is that I would be very happy if the Government were to permit meetings online, as this is more efficient, and better for the environment too—and it also enables more people, including those with disabilities or caring commitments, to participate in local democracy.

However, I believe that hybrid meetings, with some councillors physically present and others online, are less successful because they disadvantage those who are not in the room. I am confident technology, and training for chairs, will eventually catch up with that, but they have not done so yet.

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### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Special educational needs and disabilities funding update

The County Council's Children & Young People Committee received an update last month on the 'safety valve' agreement it made with the Government in 2023. The agreement was made because of the escalating costs of providing for

children and young people with high levels of need to meet their special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

The agreement included a contribution of £49M from the Government to help repay the council's SEND deficit, with a further £9M to be supplied from the council's reserves. A further £11.3M has been supplied in capital to support new SEND provision in mainstream schools. Two new special schools are to be established in March and Gamlingay delivered directly by the Department of Education.

The intention of the agreement is that children with SEND should be supported to remain in mainstream education wherever possible. However, demand continues to outstrip supply, with an increase of over 46 per cent in the number of requests for Education Health & Care Plans in the last five years. This means that the terms of the agreement have not been met and are being renegotiated. Many 'safety valve' councils elsewhere in the country are in the same situation.

## COMMUNITIES, SOCIAL MOBILITY & INCLUSION

### Post office provision in Little Downham

The Post Office has announced that it will be opening a new Post Office 'drop and collect' branch at Nisa in Main Street, starting on Friday 10 January at 1:00PM. The branch will offer Post Office services from a handheld device.

Operating hours will be Monday to Saturday 7:00AM to 9:00PM, and Sunday 8:00AM to 9:00PM. Services available will be prepaid parcel collect and return, bill payments, and mobile top-up services.

I have asked the Post Office whether this will have any effect on the outreach post office service currently in place in the village, and have been told that the Post Office currently has no plans to change this service.

### Pension Credit

A reminder that anyone wishing to qualify for a 2024/25 Winter Fuel Payment must apply for Pension Credit by 21 December 2024.

Pension Credit information at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/pension-credit)

## ENVIRONMENT & GREEN INVESTMENT

### Booking system for Witchford recycling centre

A new, larger Household Recycling Centre at Milton has been given the go-ahead. The modern, split-level facility will be built on the site of the existing centre, and adjacent land, at Butt Lane, Milton, and will include a purpose-built re-use area and more parking for cars and bikes. It will cover a larger area than

the current facility, already the busiest in the county, and is designed for easier, more accessible recycling for residents.

Work is expected to start on the new facility in autumn 2025 and will take around nine months. This will include the demolition of the existing centre, so while work takes place the site will be temporarily closed and residents directed to their closest alternative sites at Thriplow, Witchford and Bluntisham.

To help manage demand and tonnages at those sites, the council will be introducing a temporary online booking system while Milton recycling centre is closed. This will help reduce queues and waiting times, and aim to ensure residents can visit the three sites at a time convenient to them.

### **Flood funding for Internal Drainage Boards**

The government last month announced that £50M will be distributed to internal drainage boards (IDBs). The funding will help projects to improve, repair or replace IDB assets, including flood barriers, embankments, and maintenance of watercourses. The funding will support projects which reduce risks and impacts from flooding to farmers and rural communities across England.

The government has also committed to look at the funding formula for allocating money to proposed flood defences. A consultation will be launched in the new year which will include a review of the existing formula to ensure that the challenges facing businesses and rural and coastal communities are adequately taken into account when delivering flood protection.

I have been advised that the Littleport and Downham IDB has been awarded £744K for temporary pumps and generators in case of issues at its pumping stations.

### **Community Energy Action Plan**

The county council has approved a new Community Energy Action Plan which defines how the council will support communities in developing solutions of local energy supply.

The eleven actions in the Plan are:

1. Facilitate the set-up of a Cambridgeshire community energy co-operative.
2. Provide match funding for feasibility studies.
3. Employ a council community energy development officer.
4. Offer guidance and advice to community energy groups.
5. Broker customer relationships between community energy groups, host sites and customers for community delivered rooftop solar.
6. Search for sites.
7. Promote uptake of domestic energy efficiency grants.

8. Raise awareness of innovative energy tariffs.
9. Support neighbourhood uptake of domestic renewables.
10. Promote domestic retrofit with private landlords.
11. Continue education and awareness raising.

### Packaging fees

The Government has published an update on the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)—the 'polluter pays' scheme whereby those responsible for producing and circulating packaging must pay for the cost of its disposal over the course of its life.

EPR for packaging fees has been deferred for a year. No EPR packaging fees will be payable in 2024. However, businesses must report their packaging data for 2023, and will be required to pay any related fees in 2025 based on 2024 data. They must also continue to pay any fees due under previous regulations.

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## HIGHWAYS & TRANSPORT

### Winter preparations

Preparations for winter are well under way with the county council's fleet of 37 gritters and two quad bikes on stand-by to keep the county's roads, paths and cycleways safe for residents in the colder months.

The team's annual preparatory 'dry runs' are now complete. The council's salt barns are fully stocked with 10,000 tonnes of rock salt ready for the start of the cold season, and grit bins across Cambridgeshire have been refilled. The council maintains over 108,000 drains across the county, and has been clearing and repairing these where necessary before winter sets in.

Crews will be on standby across the council's four winter service depots at Huntingdon, March, Whittlesford and Witchford, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, between now and April 2025. Around seventy community volunteers also go out to help grit paths and pavements to keep them safe for those on foot.

### Link Lane bramble hedge Sutton

Following the cutting back of the bramble hedge along Sutton Footpath 2 at the back of Link Lane, a number of residents asked about the possibility of planning a new hedge along the footpath, and I took this up with the county council's Rights of Way officer.

His response was that Cambridgeshire County Council has a duty to maintain the Surface of Public Rights of Way under Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980. As a reflection of this duty, the council would not give consent for the planting of any form of hedgerow in the surface of the Public Right of Way on the northern side of the ditch.

He suggested seeking permission from the landowner of the field to plant a hedge along the southern side of the ditch. This would then be the landowner's responsibility to maintain.

#### Red Lion Lane Sutton vegetation

Following communication from a resident about overgrown vegetation along the top of Red Lion Lane—a regular issue at this location—I have approached the Local Highways Officer who will attempt to contact the landowner and get the foliage cut back before spring.

#### Street lighting in St Andrew's Close

Following a complaint about a street light out in St Andrew's Close Sutton I have been seeking to clarify ownership of the light. It is of a different design from others in the estate, which suggests it might be a developer installation. I have asked the district council to review the records of planning permissions for St Andrew's Close to see whether these hold information about street lighting plans and requirements.

#### Witchford to Lancaster Way cycle path

The county council has agreed to allocate funding from the 2025/26 Delivering Transport Strategy Aims budget for design and investigation work for this project, and make a future budget allowance in case of overrun if the grant from the district council cannot be extended beyond May 2027.

I have contacted the district council to investigate the potential to extend the deadline for spending of the grant to the parish council for this scheme; or alternatively for the district council to pay the grant directly to the county council. At the time of writing I am awaiting a response.

#### Prioritising the Highways capital programme

The county council's Highways & Transport Committee on 3 December is asked to approve a new scoring system to set priorities for planned capital highways maintenance schemes.

The total proposed allocation for capital highway maintenance in 2025/26 is subject to the council's business plan being agreed in February, but is expected to total £40.576M. This excludes £5.5M set aside for specific work on the de-trunking of the A14 and reactive capital work throughout the year,

The aim of this new system is to provide a more transparent process for building the programme, based on weighted scoring of a range of factors relevant to each asset type (for example, carriageways, footways, bridges, signing and lining, rights of way, traffic signal replacement).

### Meanwhile on the Combined Authority

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is developing a Fen Roads Economic Impact Assessment for Peat Soil Affected Roads. This is something I have been asking the Combined Authority to get involved in, given how important our peat soil affected roads are to our area.

The Combined Authority has also received an update on the project 'to address existing and future challenges around capacity and road safety' on transport corridor between Ely and Cambridge. The Department for Transport asked the Combined Authority to put forward a preferred option that includes both junction improvements and dualling, and a lower cost alternative option. Further work is in progress or about to begin, and is expected to conclude by the end of January.

The Authority's Best Value Improvement programme is closing down, now that the 'best value notice' improved by the previous government has been lifted.

### MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mark Inskip and I will be in the Sutton school Community Room on Monday 2 December and Monday 6 January at 6:30-7:30PM.

I can also be contacted

- by email at [lorna@lornadupre.org.uk](mailto:lorna@lornadupre.org.uk)
- on Facebook
- by phone on 07930 337596

Wishing all parish council members and residents of the Sutton division a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**Cllr Lorna Dupré**

County Councillor for the Sutton division



# eastern tree surgery

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Katherine Hyett  
Burwell Parish Council  
Jubilee Reading Room  
99 The Causeway  
Burwell  
CB25 0DU

19<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
Our Ref:Burwell PC.11.24

Dear Katherine

**Re – Recreation Ground Car Parking Area, Burwell, Cambridge**

I have inspected the tree works at the above site and have pleasure in quoting the following:

No.	Tree	Specification	Cost
1	Dead Tree as per photograph	Fell to as near ground level as is practicable Clear all brushwood Leave cordwood in handleable sizes stacked in working area for others to collect as agreed	£725.00
		Due to this tree being dead we require a platform to carry out this work Hire of a 17m MEWP for 1 day	£250.00
			£975.00
		VAT @ 20%	£195.00
		Total	£1170.00

All works to be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 *Tree Work Recommendations*.

Public liability insurance held to £10,000,000.

Yours sincerely

Chris Cole  
Dip Arb L6 (ABC), Tech.Cert (Arbor.A), MArborA







**Burwell Parish Council**  
**Community, Leisure, Health, and Sport Meeting of 19.11.24 at 7.30 pm**  
**Jubilee Reading Room**  
**Minutes**

**Present:** Mike Swift (Chair), Jim Perry, Ian Woodroofe, Clive Leach, Paul Webb, Liz Swift and Charlie Milner

**CLH&S/191124/01      Apologies for absences and declarations of interests**

Apologies were received from Geraldine Tate

**CLH&S/191124/02      Approval of the minutes of the 17.09.24**

The minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Paul Webb and seconded by Liz Swift and approved by all.

**CLH&S/191124/03      Action Sheet Updates on the following and from the previous meeting of items not included on the agenda**

PROJECT	
Recreation Ground and Margaret Field Football Provision and liaison with the Football Club.	The minutes of the football club meeting held on 21/10/24 were noted. As the groundsman couldn't attend there will be a meeting with him on 27 <sup>th</sup> November to discuss the FA report on the condition of the pitches. Ian Woodroofe stated that Simon Gale has offered to look at the Tennis Courts for free to advise on work needed. He is now retired from Cambridge Courts. The Parish Clerk will set this up with the maintenance officer to attend. It was noted that this had already been raised at Assets and Environment and the agreement had been to revisit tennis courts maintenance in Spring.
Spring Close Management Group	There was a working party held on 28 <sup>th</sup> September to do some hand scything and tidying pre-winter New tarmac surface laid under the accessible gate by the Maintenance officer. It was noted that the Vision plan needs updating by Jenny Moss and Paul Webb
Pauline's Swamp	The Vision Plan needs updating by Jenny Moss and Paul Webb. The Chair thanked Richard Jenkins and Jim Perry for their work on site particularly with the CCTV system. He also thanked Paul Pickles for his work clearing the site. Hardcore has been laid where we would put the portacabin. The developer (Lynx Court) of the land adjacent to Pauline's Swamp is now actively supporting us. They will concrete the area and possibly may be able to provide electricity and water. Jim Perry confirmed that the water table is quite shallow and they may be able to use a pump. Ian Woodroofe stated we would need an abstraction licence. The Chair confirmed this should be discussed as Pauline Swamp trustee meetings as this forum was for updates. There are still some issues with accessing the CCTV (power and router) which Richard Jenkins is working to resolve.

	<p>Jim Perry has asked the builders next door to donate any post and rail fencing they no longer need to us.</p>
BAFY	<p>Charlie Milner has now set up a group for 16-18 yr old footballers, paid for by BAFY.</p> <p>They have funding through Lizzie Houghton (CCC), and agreed the use the phoenix room at Burwell Village College through the Governors, however this also needs to be agreed with the Headteacher, Mr Kern who cannot meet until 20<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>The Sports Centre has said the connexions bus can be parked there until a more appropriate location is found.</p> <p>BAFY now has short, medium, and long term plan.</p> <p>There was a public meeting on Oct 14<sup>th</sup>, however only 3 youths turned up. One is going on the panel for EDF funding. They want a pump track, there may be funding available. Options are being explored including transport to Mildenhall pump track.</p>
Community Orchard	Nothing to report
Community Garden	Michael Swift has now asked Helen McMenamin-Smith to send a regular report.
Liaison with Sports Centre	<p>This weekend the astro-turf will be back in use. LED lighting in main hall which is saving money. They are applying for funding: Net-zero grant, one with Burwell Carnival, one with CCF, and other infrastructure funding.</p> <p>Business plan has been updated.</p> <p>Chair is Quentin Cooke and Helen McMenamin-Smith is Vice chair.</p> <p>Keen to have continued support from the Parish Council.</p>
Climate Change Policy	<p>The climate change forum was held recently. Part of this updated on the BEG website which was delayed slightly due to issues with the bank.</p> <p>Solar farms/renewable energy will be a key issue. We have requested a public consultation in Burwell from Kingsway Solar farm.</p> <p>Viv Atkinson from Cambridge Community Funding has requested that EDF organise an open day/tour of the solar farm for funding applicants.</p>
A to B1102 and Public Transport issues	<p>Liz Swift has received an update on the buses from Andrew Highfield. They have now awarded the contracts and will announce launch dates soon. The no 11 will continue until the launch of T4 and T5. We have requested if we can share the news on social media.</p> <p>At the A-B1102 meeting they presented the results from a travel survey – one of main points was people want to get to Cambridge, Newmarket (not Ely). 6 form colleges and Addenbrookes will be catered for with the new routes.</p> <p>Ian Woodroffe asked about £12m funding that has just been allocated to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority. Liz Swift confirmed that she thinks this is new funding, the group are now pushing for evening and Sunday buses.</p>
Westhorpe Play Area	Nothing to report
Repair Café/Swish	Last two have been highly successful, 2 further events planned – 2/3/25 and 16/3/25. Repair and Swish want to direct money

	towards environmental projects but will need to come to Council for approval.
Newmarket Road Sports Hub	Meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> December – face to face with This Land, Charlotte Cane and others arranged. Recent negative press about the CEO of Vistry and 2 profit warnings -may explain lack of updates from first stage of housing development.
Trees on the Avenue	Mike raised issue of safety of the trees and ownership. Clerk to continue to investigate and push for funding.
Waterways	Clive Leach and Ian Woodrooffe reported on the issues they have been involved with on the Weirs and that it has become a legal matter. The Clerk advised that nothing had been agreed at Council about progressing this matter. They confirmed that they had been making no decisions, just escalating matters to the relevant authorities.

**CLH&S/191124/04      Collection at Christmas Carol event**

Mike Swift has spoken to Helen McMenamain-Smith, and she would like to organise a collection again for Magpas.

**CLH&S/191124/05      Donations Update including East Anglian Air ambulance correspondence**

Twinning have been informed that they should write in to request a donation. We currently have money left in the donations budget. East Anglian Air Ambulance offering CPR training – Clerk to forward details to the Sports Centre and Football Club.

**CLH&S/191124/06      Affordable Homes**

Parish clerk to arrange for Gary Roffey from Cambridgeshire ACRE to attend a full Council meeting.

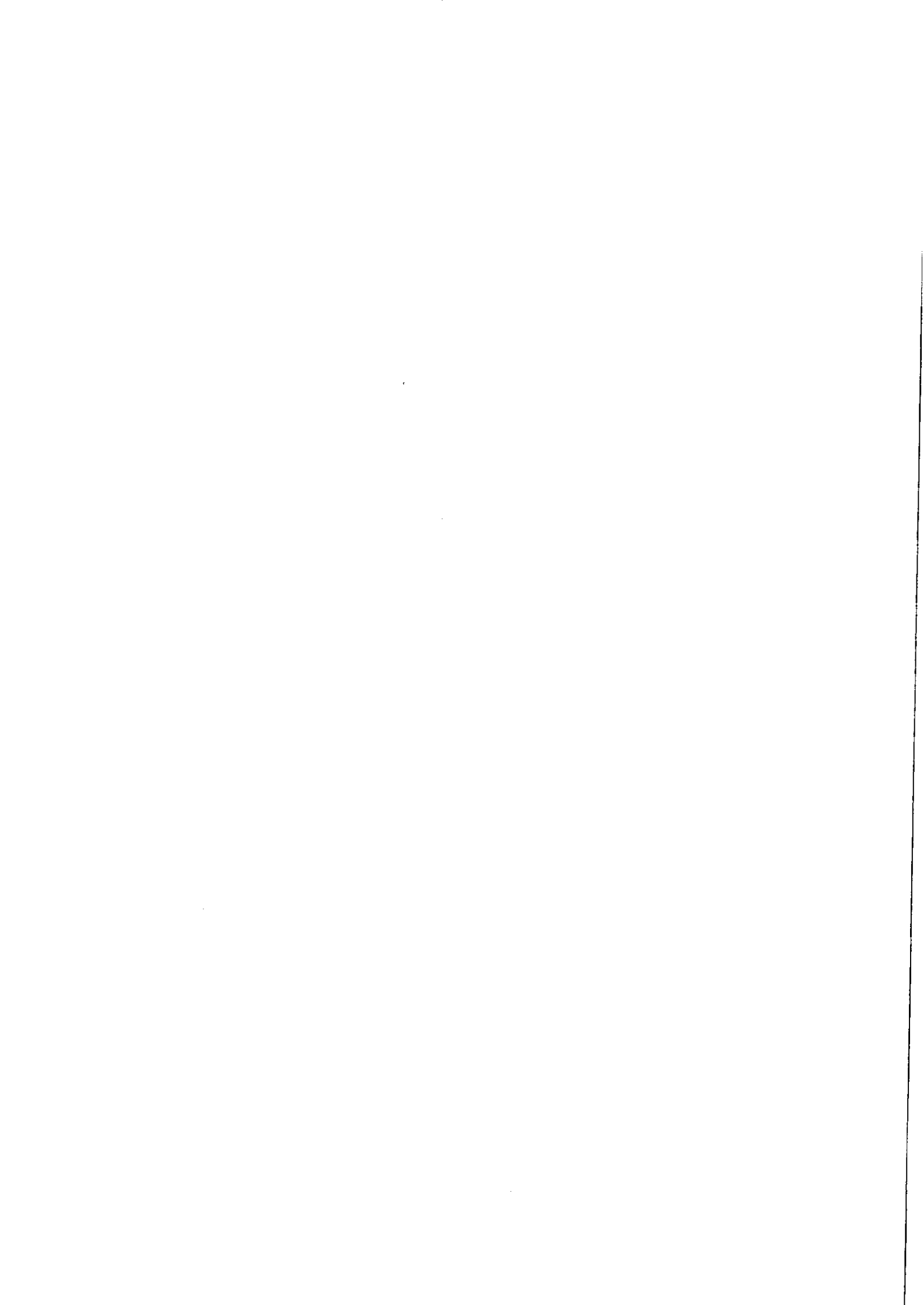
**CLH&S/191124/07      VCAEC (Voluntary & Community Action East Cambridgeshire) AGM**

Jim Perry provided a brief overview and some documentation. The social car scheme is going well but they are short on volunteers for other areas. Lis Every was re-elected as Chair.

Liz Swift mentioned Burwell at Large could be a good event for them (as well as the Parish Council) to attend – 22/23 March 2025

**CLH&S/191124/08      Date of the next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Meeting closed 20.34pm



Burwell Parish Council  
Finance and General Purposes

26.11.2024

**Minutes**

Present – Paul Webb (Chair), Liz Swift, Linda Kitching, Michael Swift, Charlie Milner, Ian Woodroofe, Brenda Wilson and Yvonne Rix (RFO).

F&GP/26112024/01 Apologies for absences and declarations of interests

Apologies – Gus Jones and Chris O’Neill

Declarations - None

F&GP/26112024/02 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 24.09.2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

Proposed by Liz Swift and seconded by Charlie Milner

F&GP/26112024/03 Consideration of the Action Sheet and updates from previous meeting:

Yvonne Rix reported that changes made to the CCLA mandate have all been complete and that the recently approved Financial Regulations are now available on the website. A letter has also been received from the LGPS regarding the result of the Cessation Assessment and that there is a surplus of £26,000. The Chair, Vice Chair, RFO to compile a response.

The following updates were noted:

PROJECT	INFORMATION AND UPDATES
Local Council Risk System	Still to do: Manual Handling ) Use of electronic devices ) Being dealt with. Code of Conduct ) Working at Height – George has now done this Further Assessments required: Community Garden – Volunteers ) Community Orchard ) Thought to have been completed Social Media ) To be discussed at the next meeting.
CCLA Investment	Funds at 30.10.2024 £111,651.64

F&GP/26112024/04 Consideration of 2025/20256 Precept

Yvonne Rix (RFO) explained that the amount of precept that will be received for every £1.00 charged for a Band D property has reduced this year to £2,464.00 (£2,504.30 2024/2025) this will mean that if the charge for a Band D property remains the same for 2025/2026 as in 2024/2025 then the amount of precept received will be less. The precept received for 2024/2025 is £233,250.00 (£93.14 Band D charge). The Council has set the 2025/2026 budget at £329,345.00 with an anticipated income of £72,770.00 from hall hire, allotment rent and cemetery fees. This will leave a balance of £256,575.00 which needs to be covered by the precept or a combination of precept and reserves. A 12% increase raising the Band D charge from £93.14 to £104.32 per year. This is an increase of £11.18 per year/21.5p per week.

Ian Woodroofe asked how secure the revenue income is, and Yvonne Rix explained that the income is as secure as possible, and allowances have been made for downward variations etc. Paul Webb explained that the Council should have reserves to cover at least a year but if unmarked reserves equate to more than twice the precept, this will need to be justified as part of the external audit. Paul Webb also reminded the group that Burwell has one of the lowest Band D rates in the district and has a higher number of assets in comparison with many of the other parishes. Ian Woodroofe suggested that the Council should consider an increase higher than 12% to allow for unknown circumstances.

Michael Swift proposed the 12% increase, and this was seconded by Liz Swift. A second proposal of 15% was made by Ian Woodroffe, but no seconder came forward. A vote was taken for the 12% increase which will raise a precept of £257,036.60. All were in favour apart from Ian Woodroffe who abstained. Paul Webb expressed that a 12% increase can be justified due to complying with climate change matters, new technology and the need to increase sinking fund.

***A recommendation to be made to Full Council that a precept of £257,036.60 (12% increase) is requested.***

F&GP/26112024/05 Letter from the Internal Auditor

A letter has been received from Moore's stating that they have reviewed the work carried out for the Local Council Internal Audits and that it is necessary to increase the cost of the audits to reflect the work carried out. They have quoted £1500.00 plus VAT compared with between £900 and £1000 in the past two years.

***Michael Swift proposed, seconded by Linda Kitching and agreed by all that a recommendation should be made to Full Council to accept the quotation for the 2024/2025 Financial Year and ask that they will keep the price the same for 2025/2026.***

F&GP/26112024/06 Staff Training

The Clerk had asked the group to consider providing training for those staff who should have Manual Handling training and Substances Hazardous to Health training. The total cost is £120.00, and this is for up to 5 people.

***Ian Woodroffe proposed, seconded by Brenda Wilson and agreed by all that a recommendation to Full Council should be made to carry out the of the training at a cost of £120.00.***

F&GP/26112024/07 Technology costs and way forward

This item to be deferred until further investigation has taken place.

F&GP/26112024/08 CCTV Images and sound recording

This item to be deferred until a later meeting.

F&GP/26112024/09 CIL Receipt of £54,563.67 and other earmarking of reserves

The group noted the receipt of the CIL funding which contains a considerable amount from the Newmarket Road development.

F&GP/26112024/10 Government Consultation on Remote attendance and proxy voting at meetings.

Paul Webb reminded all of the need to take part in the consultation. The Clerk to be asked to resend the email with the details of the consultation to all councillors.

F&GP/26112024/11 Any Other Matters:

It was agreed that following a suggestion by a member of the Council, it was agreed that a discussion should take place next year to consider the option of reducing the number of Full Council meetings to one per calendar month.

Paul Webb asked the group to consider transferring funding earmarked for the Safety Campaign to the next Local Highway Improvements Initiative as the Safety Group intends to submit an application for the school entrances on the Causeway and Buntings Path. A previous LHI/PFI application for Buntings Path had been withdrawn due to the possible implementation of the 20 mph restriction in the village.

***Liz Swift proposed, seconded by Linda Kitching and agreed by all, that the balance of the funding of £1967.62 should be re earmarked for the LHI application.***

F&GP/26112024/12 Date of the next meeting

The Group will next meet on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The meeting ended at 8.37 pm.

Signed

Dated

# Climate Change Forum Minutes

5<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30 pm at Gardiner Memorial Hall, Burwell

**Present:** Clive Leach (Chair), Paul Webb, Geraldine Tate, Ian Woodroofe, Lea Dodds, Alima Adams, Liz Swift, Martin O'Leary, Jim Perry, Nicola Hallows

## **1) Apologies for absence**

None received. The Chair informed the group that Jenny Moss has resigned from the Parish Council.

## **2) Approval of the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.**

The minutes were amended to correct a surname in item 3 and change Environment Group to Climate Change Forum in item 5. Following these changes the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024 were approved as a true and accurate record. This was proposed by Paul Webb and seconded by Jim Perry and agreed by all.

## **3) Updates from previous meeting**

Clive Leach confirmed that the Parish Council had agreed to fund the website for the first year. Development of the website on hold until the bank account is set up which has taken longer than expected. The Chair is keen that payment goes through appropriate routes.

Ian Woodroofe and Clive Leach continue to work on resolving issues at the Weirs. They are involved from an environmental, community and to support local residents. It has been raised to County Council level, Martin O'Leary questioned whether it is Climate Change Forum matter and it was confirmed it is not, this was an update.

Lea Dodds explained that he is still working on assessing electricity and gas usage but this is difficult due to changes in meters and suppliers. Ian Woodroofe asked that figures should be fed back into the design model for Gardiner Memorial Hall.

Emma Danielsson from East Cambridgeshire District Council was due to attend a meeting but it was confirmed that she has left the Council. Paul Webb confirmed that Peter Bates will be asked to speak at the January meeting about Earth Cafes.

It was requested that an action plan update be added to the minutes going forward.

## **4) Biodiversity and Pollution Plan**

The Chair thanked Nicky Hallows for sending through a biodiversity plan. Nicky Hallows asked for feedback on content and structure. It was agreed that members would provide feedback to Nicky prior to the next forum. Paul Webb suggested Nicky also looks at the vision plans for Pauline's swamp nature reserve and Spring Close as well as the East Cambridge District Council Website. He is also shared that there was an Imaginarium meeting the following night at Gardiner Memorial Hall. Most attendees were not aware of this.

It was suggested that a request goes out in Clunch for residents to share past animal and plant surveys with the Parish Council.

Nicola Hallows stated that she feels a Pollution plan would be better as a stand alone document.

**5) Climate Change Forum – Possible change of name and constitution to include Environmental matters such as waterways**

There was a brief discussion about names and then it was suggested to go around the table. Paul Webb suggested no name change but can include waterways, agreed by Jim Perry and Geraldine Tate. Jim suggested Climate Change and cultural conditions. Lea Dodd highlighted the terms of reference of Assets and Environment. This group focuses on our properties, more local issues rather than the environmental issues the Climate Change Forum addresses. Lea Dodds suggested: Climate change, Biodiversity and Pollution form. Liz Swift feels Climate change covers everything. Mike Swift agreed but also stated that Burwell Environmental Group should form a pressure group on the Weirs “there is funding available from ECDC”. Ian Woodroffe agreed with Lea Dodds. Clive Leach suggested that he and Vice chair review the terms of reference. Mike Swift is concerned that there are action groups set to progress change. Martin O’Leary highlighted that the groups priority should be on climate matter. Clive Leach highlighted that the inclusion of waterways is about clearing the waterways and improving the area. Geraldine Tate said that swish and repair cafes were not mentioned and could this be added to action points. Nicky Hallows was in agreement with Lea Dodds about the name.

**6) Development of Climate Change/Environment Web Site**

As per previous update, Clive Leach will take this forward when possible. Nicky Hallows raised that there is a new Wild Burwell website.

**7) Net Zero Villages East Cambridgeshire Fund**

Grants available to support rural communities to deliver capital projects that deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. The total funding available is £150,000 and bids will need to be submitted ideally by the 31 December 2024 and can cover 100% of the project.

The Parish Council has submitted an expression of interest for Mandeville hall, up to £30k for solar panels, insulation and air source heat pumps.

**8) Battery energy storage system (BESS) development located off Hightown Drove, Burwell, Cambridgeshire.**

The Parish Council received document about an additional battery storage unit, in addition the whole village received a document about Kingsway solar. It was decided to refer this back to Parish Council to develop a policy regarding our approach to renewable energy projects.

**9) Wildlife corridor between Spring Close and Priory Woods proposed by Nicola Hallows**

It was noted that the relevant farmer had been approached previously about a different parcel of land to create a wildlife corridor between Pauline’s Swamp and Spring Close and refused this. It was discussed that the whole financial landscape has changed, and this is a different parcel of land so it would be worth creating a new proposal to be discussed and presented to the farmer. Jim Perry asked about the land adjacent to Pauline’s Swamp.

**10) Any Other Business**

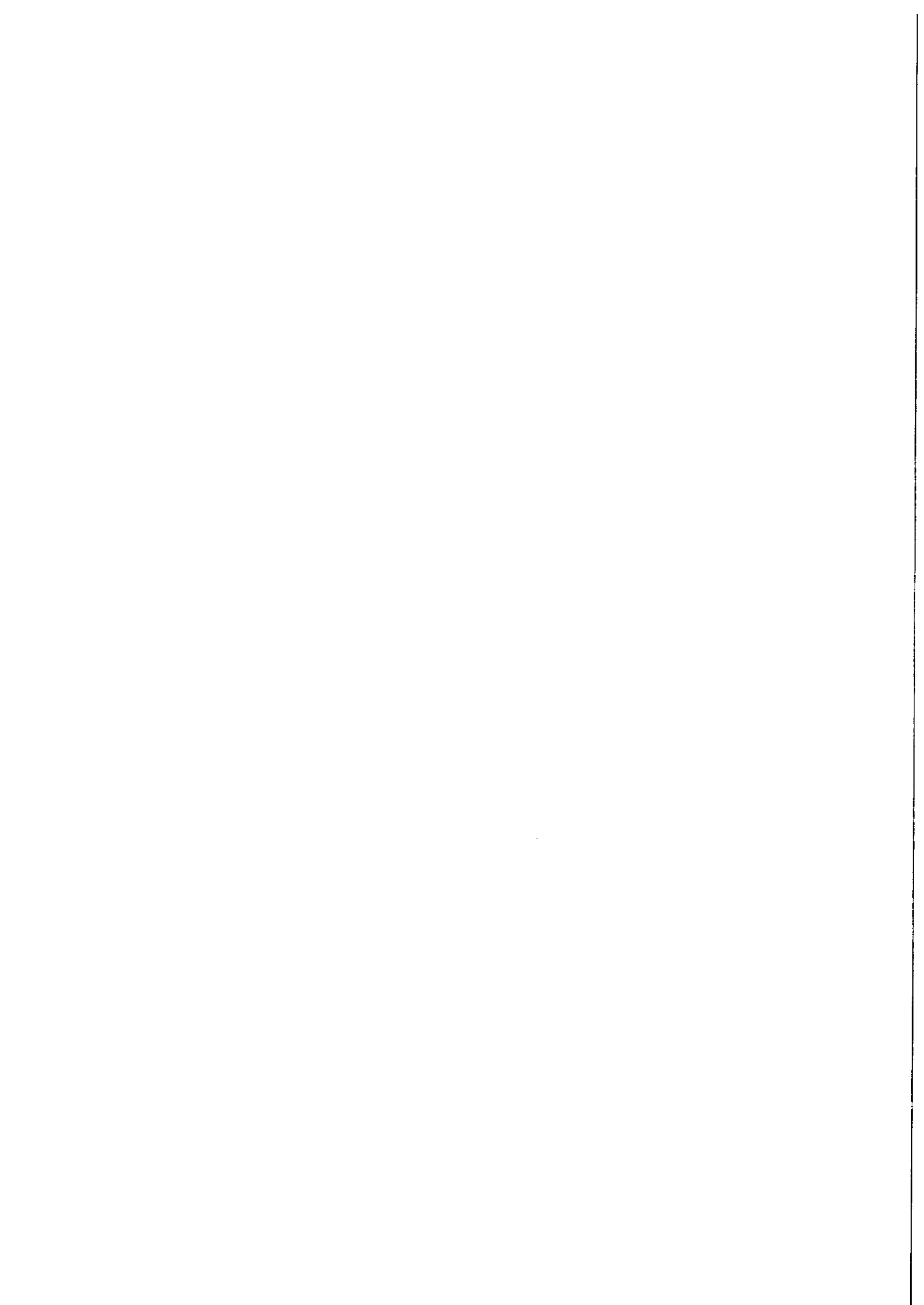
None raised. Chair gave thanks to the members for supporting the group throughout 2024.

**11) Date of the next meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2025**



### Actions Log

Item	Action	Who
Earth Cafes	Peter Bates to be invited to January Climate Change Forum	Paul Webb (cc Parish Clerk)
Wildlife counts	Request previous survey's from residents via Clunch	Wild Burwell?
Biodiversity Plan	Feedback to Nicola Hallows	All
Pollution Plan	To be created	?
Name of group	Terms of reference to be reviewed and proposal made	Chair and Vice Chair
Update on Swish and Repair Café's	Include on agenda	Parish Clerk
Net Zero fund	Await follow up of expression of interest	Paul Webb/Parish Clerk
Renewable energy projects	Clerk to include on Council meeting agenda	Parish Clerk
Wildlife Corridor	Research and develop proposal to farmer	?



I do hope you are well....

Can you advise me on the rules for dog walking on Hatley drive river open space..

Do dogs need to be on a lead in this public open space?

I have witnessed many dog poops being left on this grass area by daily dog walkers.

Is there any signage sighting BPC requirements for use of this area other than no Ball games rule.... We wouldn't not want children to play here due to free running dogs a poop being left.

