

MINUTES of Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 April 2018 at Oakington Sports Pavilion, Queens Way, Oakington at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Dr S Moore (Chairman of the Parish Council) was in the chair supported by 5 Parish Councillors.

In attendance: Dist Cllr L Harford, Dist Cllr S Edwards, Cnty Cllr P Hudson, Mrs L Lawrence (Clerk) and 27 members of the public.

The Chairman thanked Irène and Geoffrey Butlin for very kindly providing refreshments.

1. APOLOGIES: Annette Field (Parish councillor), Elaine Bailey (Pavilion Management Committee chair), Jim Bryant (Community Plan Steering Group & Transport Action Group chair)

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held 24 April 2017:

Copies of the minutes were distributed at the meeting and had been made available on noticeboards and on the Parish Council website.

Minutes were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. Oakington Rural Travel Hub, James Blacow (Transport Officer, City Access) & Charlie Cooke (Greenways Officer) and Kirstin Donaldson (South Cambs District Council)

Presentation available on the Parish Council website.

<http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk/news>

The officers stated that no decisions had been made yet about the Rural Travel Hub.

This would be a community led project and they sought feedback and suggestions from residents. There would be further engagement events in the next few months and then a final draft proposal would be taken to the GCP board.

The Greenways project is looking to establish a network of 12 cycle routes into Cambridge from surrounding villages.

The Chairman welcomed Andy Campbell, Stagecoach MD who had been invited to give his input on bus service options. He stated that Stagecoach would look into extending the C6 from Mill Road to the hub, but it would depend if this could be achieved with the existing resource. He also stated that GCP had asked him to investigate the feasibility of electric buses.

The Chairman then invited residents to make comments/ask questions. Concerns were expressed about the lack of tangible benefit to village residents, roads near the busway being used as overflow parking, cycleway safety, loss of green space for a car park and lack of sustainable transport by having a car park. Some residents were positive about the possibility of extending the C6 service to the busway. Officers took note of all comments and suggestions. James Blacow concluded by inviting further feedback from residents either at one of the upcoming consultation events or by email to him at james.blacow@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

4. Parish Council Chairman's Report:

The Chairman began by thanking former Chairman, Mike Oakley for all his hard work on behalf of the parish. (Stephen had been elected as Chairman in January.) His report included: highlighting the role of the Parish Council, traffic & travel, pavilion & recreation ground, flooding, Rural Travel Hub/Greenways project and Northstowe.

Full report – **Appendix 1**

5. County Councillor's Report:

Cnty Cllr Hudson read out his report which included: Council budget 2018/19, Child and Family Centres, transformation of library services and the various work done for the parishes he represents. (Oakington & Westwick, Longstanton, Northstowe & Over)
Full report – **Appendix 2**

6. District Councillors' Report:

Dist Cllr Edwards highlighted the following from the full annual report: Northstowe, finance, shared services, housing, planning, boundary review, Community Chest grant, devolution and new initiatives
Full report – **Appendix 3**

7. Oakington Charities Report:

Mrs Grove gave a brief report on 2017 and the year end accounts for both charities.
Full report – **Appendix 4**

8. Community Plan Groups Reports:

Brian Baxter - Transport group (TAG)- highlighted work undertaken with Greater Cambridgeshire Partnership (GCP) on proposed Rural Travel Hub and Greenways cycleways project. They had liaised with appropriate authorities on physical closure of Airfield road.

James Youd– Environment group (EAG) – highlighted projects undertaken including improvements to village appearance and safety, enhancement of village amenities preservation/enhancement of bio-diversity and supporting PC efforts towards sustainable Oakington & Westwick.

Jenny Prince – Oakington & Westwick Neighbours (OWN) – highlighted the various events that took place during the year and outlined the work undertaken by the group. Everyone was invited to attend the bring and share lunch on Saturday 9 June.
Full reports – **Appendices 5,6,7**

9. Local Groups Reports:

Reports were read out from the following groups: Ten Sing, Oakington Singers and History Society.
Full reports – **Appendices 8,9,10**

10. Public Open Forum:

There being no further comments or questions, the meeting was declared closed at 9.20pm.

Appendix 1

Report of Chair: Oakington and Westwick Parish Council: April 2018

Acknowledgements

I would like to begin my annual report by thanking the previous Chair, Mr. Mike Oakley for all his hard work and commitment to the activities of the Parish Council.

I would also like to say thanks and farewell to Cllr. Annette Field.

Thanks too to the staff of the Parish Council: To the person sitting next to me, the Parish Clerk, Mrs. Laura Lawrence for all her hard work and dedication this year and to the man who looks after this impressive building so very well, Tony Leadley.

Of course, thanks also to the hard-working Parish Councillors and welcome to our new Councillor, Marcus Dann. Please note that we still have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

The Role of the Parish Council

Since becoming a Parish Councillor, I have noticed that people are often unaware of the activities of the Council and the powers that we have. First, it is important to note that we are the lowest tier of local government, but as a part of local government, we have legal powers and the legal restrictions which this entails.

In essence the activities of Parish Council centre around supporting, liaising and funding.

Supporting : A vibrant village like Oakington will have a number of active groups or individuals who wish to initiate and activity to benefit the village. It is the role of the PC to provide support in any relevant way it can. This could be by providing facilities, information, funding or physical support. Any group in the village is welcome to discuss how best the PC can support them.

Liaising : This involves representing the views or needs of the village to government and other organisations which impact on the village. Routinely, we are in contact with the District and County Councils to express our views and those of the villagers. This could be to request, complain or even demand actions. A recent example of this was our liaison with the County Council Highways Department through Peter Hudson, our County Councillor, to have the Tomato Farm trees cut back.

I have been surprised and impressed by the way that government agencies and the local authorities do respond to requests and do listen to us. Recently, our complaints to the Environment Agency, for example has resulted in flood attenuation work.

Funding: Every household in Oakington and Westwick pays a small additional charge or 'precept' on their Council Tax which goes directly to the Parish Council. This precept gives us £34,000 to spend each year on the village and with that money we seek to provide financial support to groups. Each year a very wide range of groups and activities are supported. One example this year has been our very significant financial support for the clearing of the 'village pond' by the Environmental Action Group.

Traffic and Travel

After many years and much agitation, **Longstanton Rd** will close to all traffic on 21st May. There will be a Pelican crossing constructed to allow cyclists, pedestrians and horse riders to cross the two new roads running directly across Longstanton Rd; that is the temporary 'haul road' for construction traffic and the new dual carriageway (Southern Access Rd, West) running from the Bar Hill junction to Northstowe town centre.

At long last the tall trees of the **Tomato Farm** have been cut back. This was a very long and complex process, which I will not bore you with, but essentially involved a hard struggle by our County Councillor, Peter Hudson who took our side and spent a large amount of time pressing, a very reluctant County Highways Department to take responsibility. We still hope to get the trees cut down much lower, but this is the responsibility of the District Council and we are still pressing them, via our local District Councillors to do so.

Speeding through the village continues to be a problem. I doubt we will ever be able to stop this. However, given the lack of police support, we have been as active as we can. During the year, we had a trial of a reactive speed control sign which was placed in Cambridge Road, near the allotments. This recorded some shocking speeds, with one driver passing the sign at 74 mph. This in a 30-mph area! The sign did seem to have some effect on some people's driving with a significant proportion of people slowing down. We therefore put in a joint bid, with Longstanton PC, to the County Council for a shared reactive speed sign. This bid has been successful and we will soon be seeing the sign around our streets.

Potholes are getting worse and we continue to complain. Please do report potholes to the County Highways. We are told that they have a new pothole-filling machine which does a quicker and more effective job. Let us hope we will see fewer potholes in our roads this coming year. Congratulations to Mead View and Church View which are both getting their road surfaces relaid.

Anyone interested in running **Speedwatch**? Please see me if you are.

Thank you to the members of the EAG for clearing our pavements.

The Pavilion and Recreation Ground

Thank you to the Committee who runs this so efficiently and especial thanks to the Chair, Elaine Bailey.

You will have seen a green container by the MUGA. This was purchased by the PC (with a grant from the District Council) to store the equipment for the Youth and Children's football teams. We can only have it for three more years, so this year we have obtained planning permission for an **extension to the pavilion**. We are now in the process of raising money. All ideas or financial offers gratefully received.

We have paid for the **construction of a height barrier** at the entrance to the car park in order to prevent any illegal encampment on the car park or rec itself.

We have received some limited funds from a 106 agreement and we now have a working party looking at how we can best use these funds to **improve the amenities on the rec**.

Talking of improved amenities, maintenance work will be done on the **MUGA** surface again this year.

On a sad note, the **community orchard** – the result of much hard work by Simon Edwards – was vandalised twice.

We have also had some minor vandalism around the pavilion site and so have **improved our CCTV system**.

Oakington and Westwick in Context

The Parish Council is a small local authority with limited means. Where possible we do the best we can for the village. However, we obviously operate in a much wider social, natural and political context. We do our very best to ensure that Oakington and Westwick benefits, or at least is not harmed by, this wider context.

In Oakington and Westwick's case, the context specifically refers to the danger of flooding, the activities of the Greater Cambridge Partnership and the development of Northstowe.

Flooding: We all know the risk of flooding that Oakington and Westwick faces. This year we have been very active. We have been supporting the Flood Mitigation Group and liaising with the Environment Agency to try to prevent flooding in the village. Working in collaboration, we have been successful in getting various minor works undertaken to ensure better flow of water through and away from our village and we will have more works on the banks of Beck Brook taking place this year. Andrew Dennis has been outstanding in his work for the village. We are also very hopeful that part of the benefits of Northstowe will very significant improvements in flood attenuation. We hope to have clarity on this within the year.

When we have had flooding in the past, we have had excellent informal cooperation between individuals and groups. However, Cllr. Lis Warboys is currently leading us in the development of an **emergency plan for the village in the case of flooding**. This will enable us to take possession of a flood barrier.

The second element of this context is the Greater Cambridge Partnership. Cambridge is growing and so is the amount of traffic. One part of the GCP's work is to try to limit traffic. As such, it has been suggested that at **Rural Transport Hub** be located next to the Guided Bus stop at Westwick. The proposal is for about 50 parking spaces and a bus turning circle, plus secure places for bicycles to be stored. Whether that is a 'travel hub' or a mini park and ride is unclear. The proposal would include a full-size cycle and footpath, separate from the road, to run to Mill Rd. It is not clear what other advantages there are for villagers. The Parish Council does not currently hold a position on this but will reflect the wishes of the people in the village. Public consultations will be held. Please express any views to the PC.

Another element of the GCP consists of the **'greenways' or proposed cycle routes** around Cambridge. The good news is that we are included in the project and the bad news is that we are 12th out of 12 possible routes. The proposed greenway would link us to Cottenham and Dry Drayton. It may be that agreement on a travel hub would promote us on the list.

Finally, **Northstowe**. I cannot emphasize adequately how much Northstowe will affect us. It is now moving into Phase 3, which is the part of the new town to be built next to Oakington. Northstowe brings us benefits and costs. Each person may see the balance of these costs and benefits differently.

We can assure you that the Parish Council will seek to promote the interests of the village as much as it can. We will be in discussions regarding much improved flood attenuation schemes; new footpaths/bridleways and cycleways in and around the village; funding for village amenities and we will not forget the 100-metre green separation we were promised.

Thank you all for coming this evening.

DRAFT

Appendix 2

Annual Report by County Cllr Peter Hudson March 2018

It's been a busy first 12 months. Chasing the inevitable highway problems from potholes, excessive mud on the road, the Dry Drayton Rd speed table, surface flooding, stopping ludicrous traffic diversions, cutting back the Oakington Tomato Farm trees to name but a few. Also, successfully lobbying hard to achieve a new Child and Family Zone in the Pathfinder School which will benefit the whole area. In addition to this, I have been supporting and working with the Parish and District Council Colleagues on a number of issues, as in the incorrect routes taken by HGV traffic from the Northstowe site, traveling through local villages in contrary to planning conditions, being the Chair of the Public Health Committee, and an active member of the Staffing and Appeals, Audit and Accounts, and GPC Committees of the County Council. I have been asked how many hours I spend on council duties, well it averages out at around 30 hours per week during the working day, and on top of that any evening work with parishes and residents etc.

I have received a large amount of correspondence from our friends and neighbours with requests for help on a number of issues that affect their everyday lives. Over the past twelve months I have received 89 requests from residents for help (down from 148 last year) on issues as local fun run road closures, school placements, home to school transport, special educational needs requirements, parent and school difficulties, social care for the elderly and venerable adults, general council benefit entitlements, with 85 of these cases resolved to the complete satisfaction of our residents, the remainder were either not possible for various reasons or the information given was found to be untrue. This individual case work very satisfying and extremely rewarding, It also gives me the chance to meet and get to know many of our neighbours who continue to keep in touch and in some cases bring their friends along who also may have some difficulties.

I have actively continued my work in finding and helping our low income families to take advantage of any free child care they may be entitled to. On top of the existing free 30 hours child care and early learning for 3 and 4 year olds, now your 2-year-old can get 15 hours per week free early education and childcare starting from the term after the child's 2nd birthday if you get one of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Universal Credit - if you and your partner have a combined income from work of less than £15,400 a year after tax
- tax credits and you have an annual income of under £16,190 before tax
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- support through part 6 of the Immigration and Asylum Act
- the Working Tax Credit 4-week run on (the payment you get when you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)

Council Budget 2018/19

At a full council meeting on Tuesday 6th February, it was unanimously agreed by all members to raise the basic council tax by 2.99% this is as well as the 2% ring fenced Adult Social Care precept. The only disagreement was what to do with the small amount left over, some wanting just to spend it all, with the majority wanting to keep it to one side to support any unexpected demands on Children's and Adults Services over the next year.

Due to the continuing programme of transforming back office functions and service delivery, this is the first time in 3 years that the County Council Tax has had to raise. Unlike many County Councils in the news recently, Cambridgeshire has retained, and in some cases, improved front line services whilst delivering essential savings and balanced budgets. 75-80% of the total county budget is spent on vulnerable adults and looked after children (children in care). These are demand led budgets and because of a recent and unprecedented demand on these budgets, a budget gap of £4.3 million is forecast. An example of this is that as of January 2018, there are 701 children in the care of the Council. Of these 62 are unaccompanied asylum seekers as part of the County's share of the national total. The total "Looked after Children" budget for 2017/18 is £17.3 million and due to the extra unforeseen demands, is currently forecasting an over spend of around £3million.

The 2.99% increase will cover £4.3million gap, and leave an extra £3 million to be placed into a smoothing reserve to sensibly enable the council to cover any extra demands on these essential services over the next year. The council has continued to lobby government and explain to them that increasing taxation locally to offset an unfair national funding formula cannot be justified.

It is essential that the County Council continues to change how it operates even more than it has done over the past few years. The shared Chief Executive and shared services with other Local Authorities are saving many millions of pounds - backroom money put into front line services.... This still has to be taken much further to enable a slimmed down, transformed, highly efficient council, to provide the highest level of services to our residents at the lowest possible cost. Examples of recent transformation:

New look for Cambridgeshire's Child and Family Centres

The County Councils new approach to supporting Cambridgeshire families will launch in April 2018. The redesigned Child and Family Centres will better meet the needs of our growing and rural county with activities and events taking place in a range of new locations across the county with an extended focus on families with children of all ages. The changes were agreed at full council in October 2017 following public consultation and discussed at the Children and Young People Committee meeting on Tuesday 13 March 2018.

Activities will be run from new communities such as Northstowe for the first time, as well as outreach in other new locations across the county as well. Buildings that will no longer be operating as Children's Centres will be used to boost childcare provision with up to 325 new places provided for under 5s. Changes will also allow much-needed school expansions to take place. Frontline staff and managers are now working in new district-based teams and any remaining vacancies have been advertised. A new "What's On" event programmes for the summer term with additional online information and new district Facebook pages will be launched in April. This will further continue to develop with additional activities, including more for older children and in new outreach locations, during the summer term. Work has been going on behind the scenes to ensure that the redesigned service is more responsive to the needs of our rapidly changing county whilst delivering the agreed savings target of £900,000 with no cuts to frontline delivery budgets. In fact an extra £65,995 is going back into front line delivery which equates to just over 7% of the total savings. So, before transformation, 40 fully financed children centre buildings, after, 27 fully financed buildings plus an extra 120 new outreach centres.

This makes all the work, arguments and lobbying I have done over the past 12 months for a new local child and family zone so very worthwhile on seeing this great new service for our community.

Transforming our library services

We won't have far to go to access a whole range of tailored services under a new set of proposals to transform libraries. The plans, will put the county's 32 libraries and three mobile library vans, which stop at 200 places throughout the county, at the very heart of local communities. It will mean that children and family services, public health and council services will be tailored and relevant for every resident throughout the county and available on our door step. If agreed, these changes will reinforce libraries as the 'front door' of the County Council, offering a better and wider range of services. For all the people of Cambridgeshire this will mean more reasons for them to use their local library with an improved access to more services under one roof, more help and support when they need it and new ways to get involved. It will also help the council meet its priorities around keeping vulnerable and elderly people more independent through early help and prevention. Through a range of initiatives, libraries are set to generate new revenue and progress towards becoming more financially self-sufficient. This will allow the council to invest £230,000 back into the book fund in 2018/19 so stock remains relevant and up-to-date. Key recommendations to generate more income include a special membership, paid-for events such as author talks, and maximising the use of library meeting rooms. From the 1st May a £1 hourly charge will be introduced for computer access after an initial 30 minutes free. This will help prevent people from monopolising the IT facilities in our libraries and will allow us to make sure everyone has fair access to computers

Everyone will be able to use computers for free for the first 30 minutes. Children up to the age of 18 and Jobseekers will be able to continue using computers totally free of charge at all times. Additional websites for government and council services (such as universal credit, child benefit applications, etc.) will remain completely free to browse to all,

Also, the County Council has just committed to spend up to £500,000 to replace and update all the library computers and software available for public use.

I would like to add a very big thank you to our Parish Clerk for her very valuable help and support over the past 12 months.

Peter Hudson.
County Cllr.
Oakington, Westwick, Longstanton, Northstowe and Over.

Appendix 3

District Councillors Annual Report 2017/18

As ever the municipal year gets underway with the Annual Meeting of Council, which is where the appointments are made to the various committees. I'm pleased that your three District Councillors were all appointed cabinet positions within the council, with Lynda as the Housing portfolio holder, Tim as cabinet member looking after Northstowe, Strategic Planning and Transport, and I continued as cabinet member for Finance & Staffing.

Northstowe

Northstowe is keeping us as busy as ever, as we are now welcoming more and more new residents to this new town. The first of these new pioneers arrived last year and were present at a formal opening ceremony in May. Plans are well advanced for the Secondary School in Phase 2, and although Oakington will be outside the catchment area for the secondary school, we will be benefiting from 2 other s106 commitments from phase 2 which are the Northstowe to Girton Cycle route improvements, which will pass through Oakington, and the Dry Drayton Road Attenuation ponds.

Closure of the Airfield Road is now inevitable, with the date of closure expected to be sometime in May. Regular Northstowe Parish Forum events take place, chaired by Tim Wotherspoon, and these are well attended and reported on by the Chair of the PC through the Parish Council meetings and the Village Journal. The focus of these meetings has always been very much towards the existing communities of Longstanton and Oakington, but I have noticed a definite shift now towards the needs of the new Northstowe residents, and this will become more the norm with more and more people moving in. There are now pre-application discussions taking place between Homes England and the District Council about Phase 3 of this development, which is almost entirely within the current parish of Oakington and Westwick, with phase 3b being entirely in Longstanton to the north of the development. It is anticipated that an outline planning application covering phase 3 will be submitted in early 2019.

Finance

As ever, the council's finances are very tight, with further reductions in government grant to deal with this year. When I became a councillor, we were in receipt of around £7.8 million of government grant per annum, but each year it has been cut and cut to the point where now it has reduced to zero.

The council have always anticipated this, and to mitigate the impact we have introduced a number of schemes to increase our income from other sources. Pre-application planning fees, trade waste, and our business hub all contribute to our income, but by far and away the most successful initiative has been Ermine Street Housing. Ermine Street was set up to provide market rental housing to the section of the community that don't qualify for social housing, and yet aren't able to get on the housing ladder by buying their own home. Ermine Street Housing are being promoted as an Ethical Landlord, providing low costs, flexible tenancies and the same care and attention we give to our social housing tenants. And in the process it is generating £1.4 million of income this year, which is expected to rise to £1.7 million next year.

Over £5 million has been saved over the last 5 years, and the budget for 2018/19 shows there is a further £450,000 to be found, rising to £1.2 million by 2022/23. This will be achieved by a combination of further efficiencies within the council, including shared services, and increasing our income from commercial activities.

Our collection rates continue to be some of the best in the country with 98.4% of housing rent, 99.4% of council tax, and 99.5% of business rates being collected over the year.

Shared Services

One of our efficiency drives is to enter into a number of 'shared service' arrangements. A good example is our Waste and Recycling service, which is now being shared with Cambridge City Council and has saved around £700,000 in annual revenue. This is a tremendous achievement given our teams empty nearly 6 million bins a year.

Other services already being shared are the Home Improvement Agency, Payroll, Building Control, Legal Services, and ICT. These are being shared with a combination of Cambridge City Council and Hunts District Council.

The Planning service are also about to be shared with the City Council, which will help co-ordinate not only planning application determinations but also strategic planning through the Greater Cambridge Partnership.

Housing

The Council has so far built 50 new homes and another 68 are either in build or have budget approval. Feasibility studies are being carried on a further 6 schemes which would provide over 100 new homes. With no underpinning legislation published by the Government for Starter Homes an opportunity has been seized to agree Heads of Terms between SCambs and Homes England [formerly the Homes & Communities Agency] for a 'Northstowe' version of this type of housing. Changes mean that the 1400 starter home units on Northstowe Phase 2 will be better suited to local needs but most importantly will in the longer term provide a very significant source of funding for the Council's house building programme.

SCambs is one of the eleven councils selected by Government as Right to Build Vanguard Authorities. The Council has 819 applicants on its self build register all keen to become self or custom builders. SCambs will sell plots of land it owns having first obtained outline planning permission. 11 of 100 identified plots are being progressed. A sale has been agreed on the first plot, a further 6 are in being marketed and the remaining 5 are in the planning process. Estimated receipts for these are £1.825m and this money will be used to match fund Right to Buy receipts to build new council homes. The Council is also talking to both SME builders and volume developers to increase the availability of land available for this.

SCambs is working closely with the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority to accelerate housing delivery particularly on key worker housing to benefit nurses and teachers. Funding has been approved or is being considered for schemes that will provide in excess of 1,500 homes.

The Council has also secured funding from the Greater Cambridge Partnership [formerly The City Deal] for a modular homes pilot. Application has been made for temporary planning permission to erect a unit on land adjacent to South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne where, subject to planning consent, it will be available for research and tours for a period of up to 12 months.

To help maintain its excellent record of homelessness prevention and minimal use of bed and breakfast accommodation SCambs has introduced its own Private Sector Leasing Scheme. Interest from private landlords has been positive with 9 now signed up and 20 more properties being inspected for suitability.

Planning

The council's planning service continues to be a real challenge as the number of planning applications greatly exceeds the number of people we are able to recruit to deal with them.

Add to this the challenges with the new local plan and it all adds up to a department which is really stretched.

South Cambs are working hard to produce a new Local Plan (the new name for the document setting out all our planning policies) to take over from the previous LDF, which was adopted back in 2007.

Part of this process involves the new plan undergoing an Examination In Public, which is carried out by a Planning Inspector. This examination was progressing well until March 2015, when the Inspector conducting our examination called for additional work to be done to ensure we have taken into account house prices and affordability when assessing the number of new homes needed.

Since then we have had a number of other requests for further work to be done by the inspector, and with each request comes the need to conduct further public consultations, which all adds to the delays. However, we have finally reached a point where all the work is now complete and we just await the final report from the inspector to tell us if the plan is sound, in planning terms, and ready for adoption. The delays have caused some problems in the district, and locally Cottenham has been subject to large additional housing developments which have been allowed due to the council not having a 5 year land supply. It is hoped that once the Local Plan is adopted, this loophole will be closed, although it is possible for this situation to arise again should there be another downturn in housebuilding. Despite the planning service being at capacity, we've managed to improve our performance of determining planning applications. Back in 2016 we are only determining 67% of (non-major) planning applications within the 8 week target, but we've managed to improve on this and are now determining 87% of non-major applications within target, which puts us among the highest performing authorities in the country. (Major applications are currently running at 94% within the 13 week target).

Boundary Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission is responsible for ensuring appropriate local government representation at both Parish, District and County levels. They have a set of quite complex rules which they apply to local authorities, such as how many electors per councillor there are, how big each ward is, where the boundaries are, and how many councillors there are in a council.

Due to the growth of some of our wards (particularly Histon and Impington), we have broken one of the rules relating to the number of electors per councillor, and this has prompted the boundary Commission to undertake a full review of all the wards in our district.

At the same time, we were required to look at the number of councillors we had, which at 57 is rather on the high side. As a result, the council has agreed to reduce the number of councillors down to 45, which of course means many of the wards will change by having fewer councillors looking after them. In addition to this the ward boundaries will also have to change to ensure the council remains within the Boundary Commissions rules on numbers of electors per councillor.

The result locally is that the Cottenham ward will change from being a 3 member ward, covering Cottenham, Rampton, Oakington & Westwick, to a 2 member ward covering just Cottenham and Rampton.

Oakington will become part of a new 2 member ward which will comprise Oakington & Westwick, Longstanton, and Northstowe. Of course as soon as Northstowe begins to grow, it will undoubtedly trigger another boundary review (as the ratio of electors to members will be no longer meet the criteria) and things will all change again. This is one of the prices we have to pay for living in a growth area. In tandem with these changes the council have also resolved to change the election arrangements. Up to now we have always elected our council in thirds. That is, each year, for 3 years, a third of our councillors are up for election, with no district elections in the fourth year. From 2018, when the changes will come into effect, the council will have all out elections, every 4 years.

Community chest

The hugely successful Community chest scheme has now been replenished with over £50,000 of funding for 2018/19 and is open for applications again.

We've done really well from this scheme locally since its inception, with 15 schemes having gained a total of around £15,000 funding.

I'm pleased to see the parish is out of the blocks quicker than Usain Bolt this year with an application in for £1,000 for the flower planters the EAG hope to place around the village.

Awards are given on a first come first served basis, and when the budget is spent, then that's it until next year.

Devolution

The government have been promoting the idea of devolution for some time now, and as a result we now have the creation of a new combined Authority, together with a directly elected mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The Combined Authority have been allocated specific pots of money for various things, including £70m for housing within the city of Cambridge and a further £100m for housing in the areas of Cambridgeshire where affordability is most acute, and nowhere is it more acute than South Cambridgeshire.

The money will be used to accelerate housing delivery in developments that have already been allocated in the local plan, but are stalled due to either viability issues, or infrastructure needs.

New initiatives

The council has this year introduced a number of new initiatives. One such scheme is the idea of providing path and street sweeping equipment for parish councils and voluntary groups to borrow for use round the parish. The idea is that South Cambs will drop the equipment off on a Friday evening, and then pick it up again the following Monday morning.

Following on from the hugely successful Community Chest scheme we have now introduced a Green Energy fund. This will provide grants for parishes and community groups of up to £3,000 for green energy schemes such as LED lighting, building insulation, solar panels and the such like. It will be run along the same lines as the Community Chest scheme, in that it is allocated on a first come first served basis, and the annual budget is £56,000 which when it is used, applicants will have to wait for the next financial year.

In addition to this we have also introduced a Green Energy loan scheme, allowing Parishes voluntary groups and individual householders and businesses the opportunity to apply for a loan of up to £10,000 for similar Green Energy Schemes. Loans will be provided interest free except for businesses where the interest will be 6%.

We have also introduced an apprenticeship scheme and aim to recruit 11 new apprentices each year for the next 3 years.

I hope this report gives you a flavour of the work the District Council has been undertaking over the last 12 months, and I would like to pay particular tribute to the help and support we have received from all 3 Parish Councils over the last 12 months, and the hard work and help given by the respective Parish Clerks.

Simon Edwards

Appendix 4

OAKINGTON CHARITIES

Registered Charity Numbers 201239 and 203789

REPORT FOR 2017

There were two meetings of the Trustees during the year.

It was agreed to make four grants, each totalling £75, to individuals and one grant, totalling £150 to a married couple. These grants were paid out in December.

A sum of £69.85 was paid to St Andrew's PCC being retrospective income received in 2016. From the income received for the Church and Town Estate in 2017 Saint Andrew's PCC is due the sum of £74.08, which will be paid out in 2018. (For guidance please note that Saint Andrew's PCC is due one third of the income from COIF30900001T Account and half of the income from the Black Rock Charinco Common Investment Fund)

You will notice that the two Charities, which have always been shown as a combined balance sheet, are now required to be presented separately.

Mrs J A Grove,
Hon.Treasurer. 16th April 2018

OAKINGTON CHARITIES/HOLFORD'S CHARITY

Registered Charity Number 201239

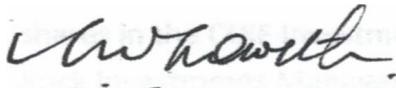
Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31.12.2017

HOLFORD'S CHARITY

Bl at Bank 01.01.2016	£42.40		
Income		Expenditure	
Rent from Land	£150.00	Grants to persons	150.00
Total	£192.40	Total	150.00
Bal. at Bank 31.12.2017	£42.40		

The assets of the Holford Charity are comprised of 3.01 acres of land in Westwick which is leased at a rent of E150 per year.

From the Bank Statements presented I confirm that the above accounts reflect an accurate statement of the Charity Account for the year.



(C W Loweth)

18 / 4 /

18

Date:

OAKINGTON CHARITIES

Registered Charity Number 203789

Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ending 31.12.2017

CHURCH AND TOWN ESTATE

Bl. At Bank 01.01.2016	£223.31		
Income		Expenditure	
COIF319300001T	172.69	Grants to persons (Christmas)	300.00
COIF319300002T	40.49	St Andrews Church (Christmas)	69.85
BRIM Charinco Divs	33.04		
Bank Interest	00.09		
Total	470.62	Total	369.85
Bl at Bank 31.12.2017	£100.77		

The assets of the Church and Town Estate at 31.12.2017 are comprised of 438.88 unit shares in the COIF Investment Fund valued at £5226.45 and 412.817 units invested in Black Rock Investments Managers (BRIM) (formerly Merrill Lynch Investments Managers) Charinco Fund valued at £822.33

From the Vouchers, Certificates and Bank Statements presented to me, I confirm that the above accounts reflect an accurate statement of the Charities Accounts for the year.

C W Loweth

(C W Loweth)

18 / 4 / 18

Date:

Appendix 5

The Oakington and Westwick Transport Action Group, known as TAG, was formed in 2015 to follow up on the transport-related issues raised in the village questionnaire of 2014.

Since then, we have made a number of detailed proposals, e.g. cycling, speed limits, to improve those issues. Those proposals were submitted to the Parish Council but with only limited success.

In the past year, we have worked closely with the GCP on both the proposed Rural Travel Hub at the Busway and on Greenways cycleways. We have also liaised with the appropriate authorities on the physical closure of the Airfield Road. I say "physical" since the Airfield Road was closed to all except permitted motorised traffic by a Traffic Regulation Order in 1979.

From the start of 2018, TAG's relationship with the Parish Council has shown a marked improvement and we look forward to working with them and, through them, with both SCDC and CCC to ensure that local transport is more efficient and safer for residents.

BB 21st April 2018

Appendix 6

EAG Projects 2018 (projects underway or to be investigated for feasibility by EAG) – update to OWCP

Priorities: High 1 – 3; Medium 4 – 5; Lower 6 – 7.

1. Improved sense of security for residents
 - a. Flood mitigation
2. Improvements to village appearance & safety
 - a. Crossroads development including Pond Restoration
 - b. Street Cleaning / Cleaner Communities Pilot Scheme
 - c. Oakington & Westwick in Bloom
 - d. Use of CCC Highways 'ReportIT' website
3. Communication & on-going consultation
 - a. Journal articles
 - b. Oakfolk facebook
 - c. Village Day
4. Enhancement of village amenities
 - a. Community Garden
 - b. Support PC activities towards: Heritage Centre, Open Spaces Project
5. Promotion of Oakington to inform residents & attract visitors
 - a. Information boards & signposts for Saxon burial ground, railway, pond history, dry dock, martyr's graves (already signposted)
6. Support PC efforts towards sustainable Oakington & Westwick
 - a. Including energy saving in the home - see PC website
<http://www.oakingtonandwestwick-pc.org.uk/community.php?template=2&id=134&name=Sustainable%20Oakington%20and%20Westwick>
7. Preservation /enhancement of Bio-diversity
 - a. Wildlife & habitats including the green belt between Oakington /Northstowe

Appendix 7

Report from OWN (Oakington and Westwick Neighbours) for the Annual Parish Meeting, 23rd April 2018

OWN evolved from the Community Plan community life action group. During the last twelve months we have organised three events to bring neighbours together: the Big Lunch, lakeside Tea and Jazz (which was also a fundraising event), and a winter beetle drive.

However the key area of our activities is to link volunteers with people who need a bit of help or just company. For example, a young mother helped an older lady with her weekly shopping; another local lady is a volunteer driver for people who otherwise struggle to get out; and other volunteers visit people who need a little friendship or company. Lots of this kind of thing goes on anyway in our community, but not everyone knows a neighbour who can help, we would like to increase both the pool of volunteers and our outreach to those who could benefit. Please get in touch if you are or know anyone who might be interested! And we hope to see lots of people at the Big Lunch on Saturday 9th June, a bring and share lunch eaten picnic-style at the Rec.

Jenny Prince on behalf of the OWN committee

Appendix 8

Ten Sing report for Oakington Parish Council

23rd April 2018

Ten Sing have had a busy year as usual. This is my second academic year as Administrator having taken over from Irene in 2016, and I am still on a bit of a learning curve, but luckily Irene is still kind enough to continue to provide me with advice and support.

We have gained several new young people as members this year, and we have another three young people who are coming to sessions to see if they want to join us. We already have 30 registered members but of course we will lose some of the older ones to other things this year, so we should be able to easily accommodate the new ones. It would be a very nice place to be to have to think about a limit in numbers, but we would always welcome some new boys – we only have four at the moment!

The biggest focus for us currently, and the most exciting, is our attendance at the European Ten Sing Festival in August, in Oslo, Norway. There will be a total of 31 of us going for 5 days, including 23 young people, with thousands of other Ten Sing groups from across Europe. Festivals only happen every 5 or 6 years, but this is the first one for 7 years, so it is going to be a new experience for all of us, both new and older members. Ten Sing in Norway is 50 years old this year, and we are told on the Saturday night some of the original members will be performing.

This means we have had a lot of fundraising events this year: a quiz evening where we sold crafts we had made at a team building day in the afternoon; our annual fundraising dinner which this year had an American theme; several yard sales and I hope more events to come! It has brought everyone together and there is a real buzz among the young people about going.

We are looking forward to performing at Oakington Village Day in June with our sister group from Kingswood in Bristol, and then we are going to rehearse for the festival as this will be the last time the two groups are together before the event, so we need to make a lot of decisions and get a lot of practice!

If anybody would like any more information on Ten Sing, please get in touch.

Terry King

Ten Sing Administrator

Appendix 9

Oakington Singers Report

Oakington Singers are an active community based choir who perform a variety of performances throughout the year. From Bohemian Rhapsody to Tchaikovsky, the repertoire grows and grows as the choir of 25-30 members perform for events such as the Village Fete, Christmas Carols at The Grand Arcade and many other venues including St Andrews Church, Oakington. We raise funds for a variety of charities including Cancer research and Arthur Rank Hospice.

We are always keen to have more members, men in particular to join our Monday evening rehearsals from 7.45 to 9.30.

If you would like more information contact Celine Pinter 07541 997 299.

Annual Parish Meeting

Oakington and Westwick History Society Report 2017/2018

Stephen Gamble

Our core membership has remained relatively stable, albeit down from the peak when the archaeological excavations (in association with the University of Central Lancashire) were taking place. New members, not only from Oakington and Westwick but also other surrounding areas, are always welcome

We are hoping to do more test pit digging in the near future. This has provided much additional evidence to support the major dig at the recreation ground. Several members have expressed interest in being involved in any archaeology dig associated with the proposed transport hub.

But just when is history? History is now as well as looking to the past. Over the next 10 or 20 years there is no doubt that the development of Northstowe and the growth of Cambridge will have major effects upon our village. We need to record our current heritage as well as investigating the past.

We have held seven lecture meetings over the last year. Subjects have been wide ranging. From Duncan MacKay talking about the "History of MacKays" (which is much more than just the shop on East Road), through "Scott's Last Polar Expedition", to most recently the History of Impington Hall. Non members are welcome to attend all lectures for a small fee.

Our lecture series was supplemented by a special visit to the Sanger Institute in Hinxton to a exhibition of artefacts and results of DNA analysis from ancient skeletons. The Sanger Institute extracted DNA from a few of the Anglo Saxon skeletons excavated from our recreation ground. This was compared with Saxon DNA from skeletons from the Sanger site and a couple of other places in Cambridgeshire. They were able to trace the origins of most of these people to parts of northern Europe. Interestingly one of the Oakington skeletons had DNA more characteristic of southern Italy, suggesting there were still people of Roman descent in the area.

Our AGM will be held in June at the White Horse. Usually we are lucky with the weather and meet in the garden. For this year David Taylor has chaired our meetings, Julie Grove has been secretary and treasurer (and done just about every other unallocated job!), David Williams has been membership secretary and Nick Harrison has arranged and publicised lecture meetings. Our website is oakingtonhistory.co.uk

We hope to be able to put on a display for the village day with information about the Society, about the history of Oakington and Westwick and some of the projects members have been working on.