



South Cambridgeshire District Council

Council Meeting
Thursday, 22 July 2021

Agenda and Reports

South Cambridgeshire Hall
Cambourne Business Park
Cambourne, Cambridge
CB23 6EA

Exclusion Of Press And Public

The law allows Councils to consider a limited range of issues in private session without members of the Press and public being present. Typically, such issues relate to personal details, financial and business affairs, legal privilege and so on. In every case, the public interest in excluding the Press and Public from the meeting room must outweigh the public interest in having the information disclosed to them. The following statement will be proposed, seconded and voted upon.

"I propose that the Press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item number(s) in accordance with Section 100(A) (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds that, if present, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended)."

If exempt (confidential) information has been provided as part of the agenda, the Press and public will not be able to view it. There will be an explanation on the website however as to why the information is exempt.

South Cambridgeshire District Council

TO: The Chair and Members of the
South Cambridgeshire District Council

Notice Is Hereby Given that the next meeting of the **Council** will be held in the **Council Chamber - South Cambs Hall** at **2.00 P.M.** on

Thursday, 22 July 2021

and I therefore summon you to attend accordingly for the transaction of the business specified below.

Dated this 14 July 2021

Liz Watts
Chief Executive

The Council is committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to its agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you.

Agenda

Presentation

- 1. Apologies**
To receive Apologies for Absence from Members.
- 2. Declaration of Interests**
- 3. Register of Interests**
Members are requested to inform Democratic Services of any changes in their Register of Members' Financial and Other Interests form.
- 4. Minutes**
To authorise the Chair to sign the Minutes of the meetings held on 15 April, 4 May and 20 May 2021 as a correct record.
(Pages 1 - 40)
- 5. Announcements**
To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader, the executive or the head of paid service.

6. Questions From the Public

To answer any questions asked by the public.

The deadline for receipt of public questions is Friday 16 July.

The Council's scheme for public speaking at meetings may be inspected here:

[Public Speaking Scheme](#)

7. Petitions

To note all petitions received since the last Council meeting.

8. To Consider the Following Recommendation:

8 (a) Civic Affairs Committee, 10 June: Babraham and Sawston Community Governance Review

(Pages 41 - 56)

9. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority

(Pages 57 - 82)

10. Greater Cambridge Partnership Executive Board

(Pages 83 - 86)

11. Update on the OxCam Arc

(Pages 87 - 88)

12. Appointments to Committees and other bodies

(a) To note and endorse the following appointment.

Investment Partnerships Boards: South Cambridgeshire Investment Partnership LLP and South Cambridgeshire Projects LLP

- The replacement of Councillor Peter McDonald by Councillor Henry Batchelor as the Council-nominated member on the Investment Partnerships Boards.

(b) To note the following changes in the membership of committees or substitute appointments which have been made in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the political group to which the seats concerned have been allocated.

Climate and Environment Advisory Committee

- The replacement of Councillors Ruth Betson and Nick Wright by Councillors Sue Ellington and Mark Howell as Substitute Members of the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee.

(c) To note any other changes in the membership of committees which have been made in accordance with the wishes of the Leader of the political group to which the seat concerned has been allocated.

(d) To agree any changes required in the membership of outside bodies.

13. Questions From Councillors

A period of 30 minutes will be allocated for this item to include those questions where notice has been provided (as set out on the agenda below) and questions which may be asked without notice.

Members wishing to ask a question without notice should indicate this intention to the Democratic Services Manager prior to the commencement of the item. Members' names will be drawn at random by the Chair until there are no further questions or until the expiration of the time period.

13 (a) From Councillor Peter Fane

Homes that are empty for 2 years or more are charged double the regular Council Tax, or an additional premium of 100% with effect from 1 April 2019.

In some cases, the empty properties surcharge is applied to owners / part-owners of domestic properties for the period before the completion of the purchase.

Has the Council considered whether it is right to apply the empty homes penalty immediately to new owners, in some cases penalising owners for a period of non-occupation prior to the purchase of the property, thus holding them liable for the circumstances of the previous owner?

13 (b) From Councillor Bunty Waters

How many privately-owned properties in South Cambs are empty and not in use, is Council Tax being collected from these empty homes and is there any assistance being given to the home owners to bring them back into habitable use?

13 (c) From Councillor Tom Bygott

Water levels in Kingfisher Pond in Northstowe have declined since work on building the new town began, and the pond has completely dried up on several occasions. Cracks have also appeared in All Saints' Church in Longstanton, a Grade I listed mediaeval building.

In May, an independent consultancy, HR Wallingford, released its Phase III Report, the final instalment in its three part hydrogeological assessment of groundwater levels in Longstanton and Northstowe.

What has this Council done, or what is it going to do, to address the issues raised in the report?

13 (d) From Councillor Heather Williams

Does the leader regret the budget decisions the administration has made since 2018

in relation to planning?

14. Notices of Motion

A period of 30 minutes will be allowed for each Motion to be moved, seconded and debated, including dealing with any amendments. At the expiry of the 30 minute period, debate shall cease immediately, the mover of the original Motion, or if the original Motion has been amended, the mover of that amendment now forming part of the substantive motion, will have the right of reply before it is put to the vote.

14 (a) Standing in the name of Councillor Martin Cahn

On 28th November 2019 the Council passed a motion which resolved, among other things, that:

‘In order to enable South Cambridgeshire and the rest of the UK to reach net zero carbon before 2050, to call on government, industry and regulators to implement the necessary changes with funding, transformed national infrastructure, policy, new technologies and legislation.’

In order to encourage Government to give more attention to climate issues and to assist it in meeting its avowed objective of ‘zero carbon’ by 2050, two important legislative initiatives have been taken forward by backbench MPs.

The Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill presented in the last parliament and represented on 21st June 2021 requires government to set forward a strategy for limiting climate change to 1.5C and gives especial emphasis to the restoration and expansion of natural ecosystems and public involvement.

The Climate Change Bill, a private member’s bill presented on 16th June 2021, lays emphasis on the creation of ‘green jobs’ and bringing forward the date of zero-carbon.

Both of these bills are designed to increase the urgency with which we tackle climate issues, the importance of which has become even more apparent over the last two years and which will be a major issue in the upcoming COP26 conference of the UN.

In the absence of any legislative initiatives on behalf of Government as we called for in 2019, it is important to emphasise the need for legislative support to promote the adoption of the necessary technology and management systems needed to achieve zero carbon as soon as possible.

It is recommended that the Council

- i) recognises that the threats to climate and nature are an emergency and continues to give high priority to investigating the means by which its own operations can begin to demonstrate reduction and avoidance of emissions of climate changing gases,
- ii) expresses its support for the bills promoting a more rapid achievement of zero carbon,
- iii) uses its influence as a member of the OxCam Arc and the CPCA to encourage government investment in the green economy in South Cambridgeshire, Cambridgeshire and the OxCam Arc.

- iv) reiterates its call on government and other agencies to provide increased support for the research and development of technological and management solutions essential to deal with the emergency and requires the Leader to write to the Minister for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, local universities and the Business Board of the CPCA, copying in the MP, to express these views.

14 (b) Standing in the name of Councillor Heather Williams

This council recognises that the minutes relating to private meetings can be made available to the public if the grounds for exclusion of the meeting no longer apply. This council will seek to share the minutes of meetings wherever possible and will only keep them confidential as an absolute last resort, recognising that it is to the public that we are accountable and it is in the public's interest that we are as open and transparent as possible.

14 (c) Standing in the name of Councillor Dr Ian Sollom

Council deplores the decision of the Government to remove the 'temporary' uplift in Universal Credit on 1st October.

Council agrees with the former leader of the Conservative Party and architect of Universal Credit, Sir Iain Duncan Smith, and five of his successors (Stephen Crabb, Damian Green, David Gauke, Esther McVey and Amber Rudd) that a failure to keep the uplift in place would 'damage living standards, health and opportunities [for those that] need our support most as we emerge from the pandemic [...] and the extra £20 [...] has been essential in allowing people to live with dignity'.

Council therefore resolves to ask the Chief Executive to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to request that the uplift be incorporated permanently into Universal Credit.

14 (d) Standing in the name of Councillor Pippa Heylings

The recent consultation by the Government on "Changes to the planning system" received over 2,300 responses, including responses from the cross-party Local Government Association and our own Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Service.

The proposed reforms mean that in future local voice in planning will happen at the Local Plan making stage. The responses expressed strong concerns that this means that communities will not be able to influence individual applications in the same way as they do now which could further alienate communities.

Section 106 agreements are the primary route through which council housing is currently delivered. The proposed new Infrastructure Levy lacks detail as to how it will maintain existing levels of funding for affordable housing especially if threshold is raised to 40/50 for onsite requirement. It would also bypass Parish Councils and communities.

Last month the House of Commons with cross party support from MPs called on the Government to protect residents' rights to object to individual planning applications in their own neighbourhood area if the area is zoned for growth or renewal.

This Council

- believes planning works best when local communities are empowered to work together with developers to shape local areas and deliver new homes that are affordable to live in;
- asks the Leader of the Council to call on the Government to protect the right of communities to have a voice on individual planning applications; and to ensure that any changes to the S106 system lead to an increase in the supply of affordable housing.

15. Chair's Engagements

To note the Chair's engagements since the last Council meeting:

Date	Venue / Event
9 July 2021	RAF Alconbury Wing Commander's 'Welcome Back' Reception

16. Exclusion of Press and Public

The press and public are likely to be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business in accordance with the provisions of Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A (as amended) of the Act).

Paragraph 3 refers to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

17. Cabinet, 22 March 2021: Ermine Street Housing Business Plan

To receive the following item recommended by Cabinet.

(Pages 89 - 164)

Guidance For Visitors to South Cambridgeshire Hall

Notes to help those people visiting the South Cambridgeshire District Council offices

If you can attend remotely, rather than in person, you are encouraged to do so. These notes apply where you are attending the offices in person.

While we try to make sure that you stay safe when visiting South Cambridgeshire Hall, you also have a responsibility for your own safety, and that of others.

Security

When attending meetings in non-public areas of the Council offices you must report to Reception, sign in, and at all times wear the Visitor badge issued. Before leaving the building, please sign out and return the Visitor badge to Reception.

Public seating in meeting rooms is limited. For further details contact Democratic Services on 03450 450 500 or e-mail democratic.services@scamb.gov.uk

Emergency and Evacuation

In the event of a fire, a continuous alarm will sound. Leave the building using the nearest escape route; from the Council Chamber or Mezzanine viewing gallery this is via the staircase just outside the door. Go to the assembly point at the far side of the staff car park opposite the staff entrance

- **Do not** use the lifts to leave the building. If you are unable to use stairs by yourself, the emergency staircase landings have fire refuge areas, which give protection for a minimum of 1.5 hours. Press the alarm button and wait for help from Council fire wardens or the Fire and Rescue Service.
- **Do not** re-enter the building until the officer in charge or the Fire and Rescue Service confirms that it is safe to do so.

First Aid

If you feel unwell or need first aid, please alert a member of staff.

Access for People with Disabilities

We are committed to improving, for all members of the community, access to our agendas and minutes. We try to take all circumstances into account but, if you have any specific needs, please let us know, and we will do what we can to help you. The Council Chamber is accessible to wheelchair users. Infra-red hearing assistance systems are available in the Council Chamber and viewing gallery. To use these, you must sit in sight of the infra-red transmitter and wear a 'neck loop', which can be used with a hearing aid switched to the 'T' position. If your hearing aid does not have the 'T' position facility then earphones are also available and can be used independently. You can get both neck loops and earphones from Reception.

Toilets

Public toilets are available on each floor of the building next to the lifts. These include facilities for disabled people.

Recording of Business and Use of Mobile Phones

We are open and transparent about how we make decisions. Public meetings are webcast and are also recorded, but we allow recording, filming and photography at Council, Cabinet and other meetings, which members of the public can attend, so long as proceedings at the meeting are not disrupted. We also allow the use of social media during meetings to bring Council issues to the attention of a wider audience. To minimise disturbance to others attending the meeting, please switch your phone or other mobile device to silent / vibrate mode.

Banners, Placards and similar items

You are not allowed to bring into, or display at, any public meeting any banner, placard, poster or other similar item. If you do so, the Chair will suspend the meeting until such items are removed.

Disturbance by Public

If a member of the public interrupts proceedings at a meeting, the Chair will warn the person concerned. If they continue to interrupt, the Chair will order their removal from the meeting room. If there is a general disturbance in any part of the meeting room open to the public, the Chair may call for that part to be cleared. The meeting will be suspended until order has been restored.

Smoking

Since 1 July 2008, South Cambridgeshire District Council has operated a Smoke Free Policy. No one can smoke at any time within the Council offices, or in the car park or other grounds forming part of those offices.

Food and Drink

Until the lifting of Covid restrictions, no vending machines are available. Bottled water is available for attendees at meetings.