District Council Report

May 2024

Full Council met in May for the Annual Meeting. Cllr Mark Goldsack was elected as Chair for the coming year, and I had the honour of being elected Vice-Chair for the coming year. Cllr Anna Bailey was appointed Leader of the Council, with Cllr Julia Huffer as deputy Leader. Membership of committees and appointments to the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) were also agreed. I have been appointed to the Audit and Planning Committees, and was also appointed as the ECDC representative on the CPCA Audit and Governance Committee. I presented the first annual report from Audit Committee to the meeting.

Following the meeting of Council, mini-meetings of Committees were held and I was elected Chair of the Audit Committee and Vice-Chair of Planning Committee.

I attended a meeting of the Swaffhams Internal Drainage Board. As a result of the wet weather this year, requiring much more pumping than usual, coupled with the increase in electricity costs, spend on energy has overrun the expected amount four-fold resulting in the need to increase rates.

I also attended a seminar to consider the business plans for the Council's trading companies.

David Brown

Notes from the meeting of the Safety Group on Friday 31st May 2024 – 20 mile per hour scheme.

Present: Paul Webb (Chair), Lea Dodds, Geraldine Tate, Liz Swift.

Apologies for absence: Brenda Wilson, Ian Woodroofe, and Jim Perry.

Paul Webb explained that the purpose of the meeting was to prepare for the meeting with Highways on 3rd June 2024. He continued to say that he has looked on the County Council website and he can see nothing about any review taking place on the 20 mile per hour scheme. It was agreed that Carol Hutton should be asked for clarification on the County Council's current thoughts. Carol Hutton also be asked how the other schemes approved for this year are getting on.

He continued to explain that having discussed with the Liz Swift it was felt that in order not to be seen as carrying out any activity supporting a political party leading up to the general election, that no consultation should be carried out with the village until after the 4th July and possibly not until September when the school will have reopened and less people will be away on holiday. Lea Dodds felt that this possibly was not necessary. There is no reason why the webpage can not be made live after this date.

Carole Hutton has sent two sets of plans:

Option One is the Zonal approach, basically on the west side of the village. The Group went through each map sheet and agreed the following:

Map Sheet 1 - All okay

Map Sheet 2 - All okay

Map Sheet 3 - All okay

Map Sheet 4 - All roads on Map Sheet 4 should be 20 mph

Map Sheet 5 - Should be 20 mph from the Fordham side of the roundabout.

Map Sheet 6 - Requires more discussion

Map Sheet 7 – All okay

Map Sheet 9 - All okay

Option Two is a partial scheme which covers more of the village. Again, the Group went through each map sheet and agreed the following:

Map Sheet 1 – All okay

Map Sheet 2 – All okay

Map Sheet 3 – Would rather see 40 mph buffer zone, 30 mph from village entrance to The Avenue and 20 mph starting from The Avenue.

Map Sheet 4 - Start 20 mph at The Avenue.

Map Sheet 5 – All okay

Map Sheet 6 - Green Lane is a byway not a road.

Map Sheet 7 – All okay

Map Sheet 8 – All okay

Map Sheet 9 – 20 mph should start before Heath Road coming from Swaffham Prior.

These two options will be shared with the village once agreed by Council

Village consultation

Council will consider comments received during the consultation carried out by the Parish Council consultation and decide on to whether to recommend one of the options to Highways to proceed with to the Statutory Consultation.

Consultations arranged by the Parish Council will need to be well advertised.

Notes from the Gardiner Memorial Hall Phase II Extension meeting held on 20th May 2024 at Gardiner Memorial Hall

Present:	<u>Apologies</u>
Liz Swift	Michael Swift
Paul Webb	Geraldine Tate
Jim Perry	Ian Woodroofe
Lea Dodds	
Yvonne Rix	

Jeremy Lander had revised the previous plan and had drawn up two possible options, copies of the plans attached. The group considered the options. It was felt that there should be solar panels on the east facing side of the roof as well as the south side. Those on the east side will capture the early morning during the winter months. The solar panels need to be independent to each other. The east facing roof could have 7 solar panels.

Paul Webb suggested that the side walls of the new extension are brought into line with the existing main hall walls. However, there could be an issue with the roof angles, how they work with the existing roof. Jeremy Lander could be asked if a double angled roof could be used. The ceiling design is not known. If the ceiling goes up to the eaves in the same way as the original building, then heating costs will be higher. This type of ceiling will allow for the installation of Velux windows which will generate extra light for the room. If they are electronically controlled windows like in the main hall, blinds can be closed when needed. The aim would be to heat the new hall in the same way as the main hall is heated and options to run air-conditioning through the system could be explored now there is a greater understanding as to how the heat pumps work. The capacity in the roof area could be used for light storage.

In order to get some idea of the costs a Quantity Surveyor will need to be employed. Jeremy Lander may be able to advise of someone or may be able to give us a rough estimate based on RIBA per square metre standard costs.

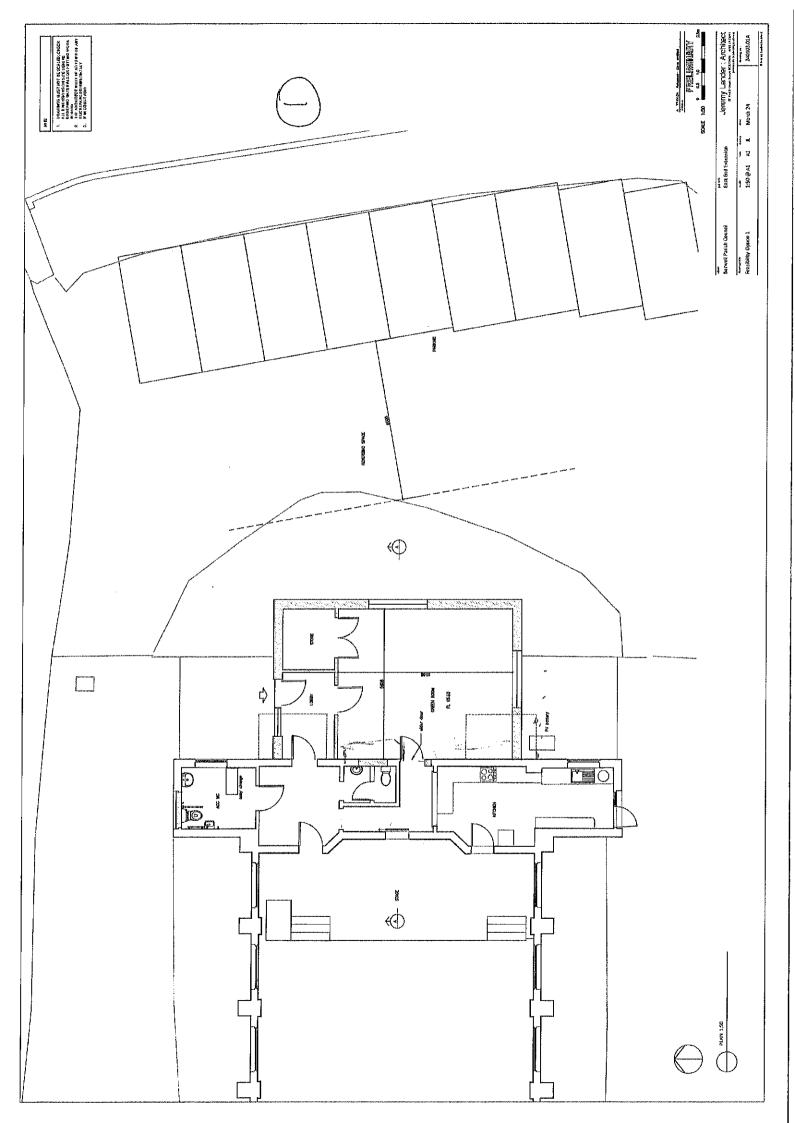
The Council will need to decide if they need to appoint a project manager. Jeremy Lander has indicated that he may be willing to act as the project manager. He should be asked how much he would charge for this.

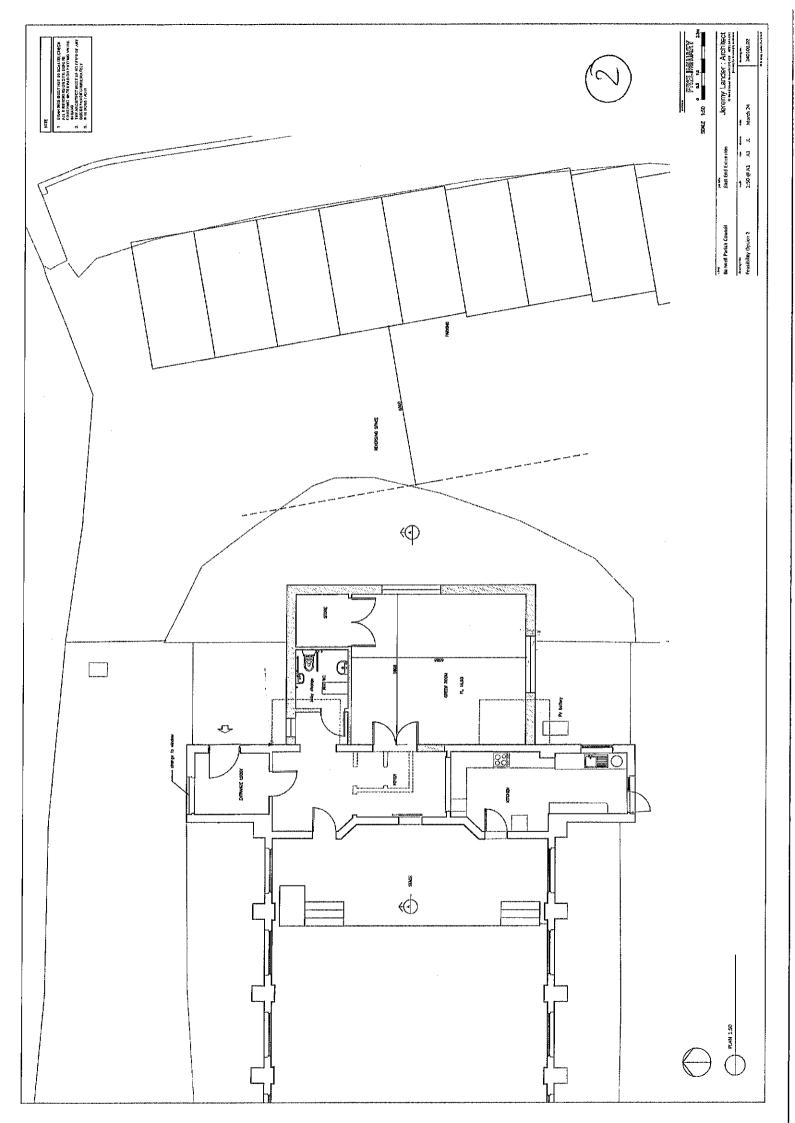
Sally Bonnett at ECDC to be approached about possible funding including the 33% of CIL 106 funding that was indicated as being available when Phase One was constructed.

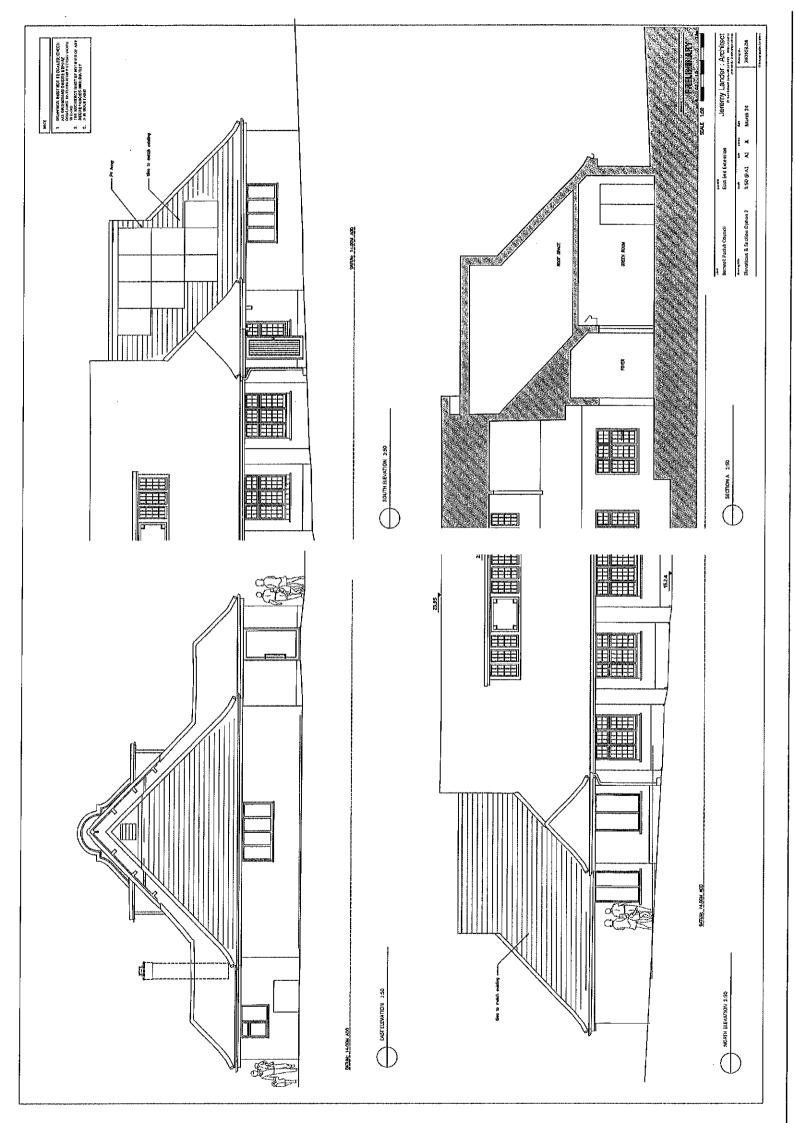
It is thought that it would be better to go through an amended planning application in preference to a totally new one as there are concerns that a new application may cause issues regarding parking. It may be worth getting some pre application advice for the extension from ECDC.

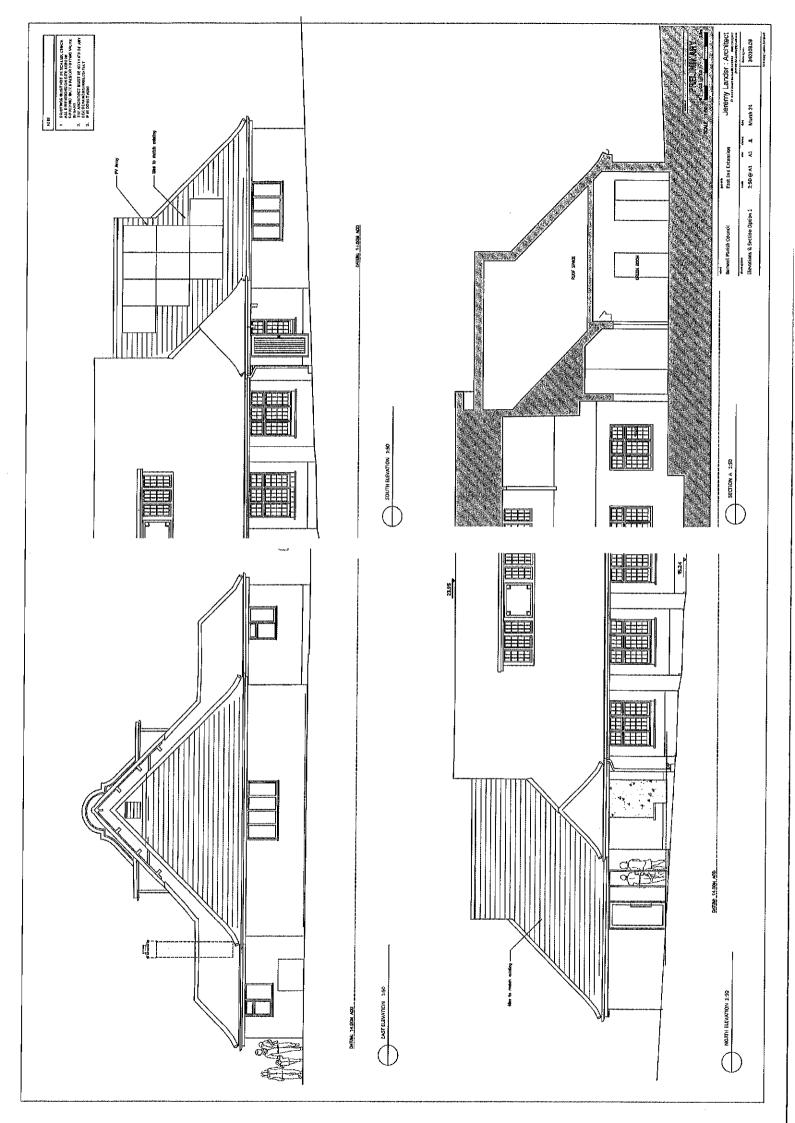
No decision was made on which design was suitable and some questions need to be answered by Jeremy Lander before a final decision can be made. A patio door could be included in the extension to allow easy access for anyone bring a large amount of equipment into the hall. The name of the room needs to be changed from Green Room to Multi-Purpose Room. Another meeting needs to be arranged with Jermery Lander.

Liz Swift closed the meeting.









Pauline's Swamp Minutes of the Meeting of 14th March 2024 held at 25 The Causeway 7.30 p.m.

Present: Mike Swift (Chair), Jenny Moss (Secretary), Liz Swift, Paul Webb, Geraldine Tate, Jim Perry, Paul Hawes.

1. Apologies.

James Moss, Helen McMenamin-Smith, Sara Phipps

2. Approval of the minutes of 8th February 2024.

The minutes were proposed by Liz and seconded by Jim.

3. Action Sheet Updates.

1. Hopkins Homes.

No update as yet. Jenny to contact Juleen Roman at ECDC to make enquiries as to progress on the replanting of the buffer zone and the Land Registry query regarding buffer zone ownership, and to ask if she has discussed the case with the new Chair of Planning. Jenny also to chase Lucy Frazer about the promised parcel of land and the fiscal agreement. We discussed the possibility of filing with Small Claims, but they tend only to deal with the money side of things. This could be a last resort if the fiscal agreement is never honoured. Hopkins (what are they called now?) still say they are going to honour the land agreement. Paul W. suggested it was time to approach the Newmarket Journal: Geraldine said that Alex Tate has warned that if we go to Newmarket Journal with our tale of woe then we must have absolute proof....she will discuss with Alex, as we believe that we do have proof. It has transpired that the occupants of the Hopkins Homes residents adjacent to the buffer zone are to be expected to maintain it, which is ridiculous. George should be able to mend the fence where the tree fell across it from the buffer zone.

2. Purchase of feeder pond land.

The new owners of the land have expressed support of the Swamp, and the maintenance of the feeder pond, but have no intention of selling. This item will be removed from the Action Sheet.

3. Visitors Centre.

Still depends upon the parcel of land promised.

4. Work Days.

As we have had such a wet few months, it looks unlikely that we will be able to do the sedge cut this spring. Paul H. to discuss a suitable date with Carl Turner for removing the bulrushes from the pond. They will assess the water levels, and arrange a date. Jim has offered his help.

We have a Coronation oak tree to plant in the hedgerow boundary, Jim will contact The Woodland Trust within the next few weeks to see if there are a couple more. Malcolm Busby has said that we have some oaks planted too close together at the far end of the hedgerow. Moving one of them will be a task for next winter.

Liz mentioned that there is a Bring Back Nature grant available, but Mike didn't think that applying would be necessary.

Jenny and Liz had met with Tara Livermore (meeting minuted further on), and Tara had said that she may be able to get volunteers of children from the Steiner School where she works to volunteer to help with such tasks as re-stuffing the insect hotel.

The tree posters and QR codes all need replacing.

Jim offered to collect any proffered hedging or trees. We will plant hedging inside the fence put up by 58 Swaffham Road (see item (5).

5. Alan Nash 58 Swaffham Road.

It looks as though Mr. Nash has no further obligation to replant, so we will plant hedging inside his nasty fence ourselves, perhaps with some buddleia, and we will see if Burwell Nursery may have any suitable whips.

6. Vision Plan.

No update as yet. Jenny and Paul to get together asap on this.

7. Water Containers,

Unfortunately J&J Drake installed the guttering on the front of the barn instead of the rear, but we have no written proof of our requirements. We will contact J&J Drake to see if they would be willing to correct it, however.

Jim is to purchase a siphon from Autozone for £10 to get water from our tank.

8. CCTV

The cameras and their solar panels are in situ, however the transmitter is still in the office. If we purchase a SIM from Vodafone we can have unlimited data for £10 pcm, but the details of BPC's account with them are missing, and Yvonne will have to go in person with a bank statement to the Newmarket office to correct this. Liz will ask Yvonne if she can go during work time. J&J Drake will install the transmitter when we have a SIM card in it, and perhaps they could look at the guttering at the same time.

9. Compost Toilet.

Jenny has made enquiries about a grant from Pride of Place for a compost toilet, but was told that we would need further items to be added to our request to make it viable. We came up with:

Insect hotel, bat boxes, bird boxes, hedgehog boxes, posters and QR codes, signs and mapping, disability access, the compost loo, more benches and tables. Jenny will return to Emma at ECDC with the list, and if no luck, we will try the Facilities Improvement Grant.

10. Tara Livermore.

Jenny and Liz met with Tara, who wants to run educational and nature driven classes on site Tara is happy to give 5% of each ticket sale, has offered to write a recommendation to support our request for a compost toilet, and suggested that the Steiner School children may be able to help volunteering (see Work Days). Jenny and Tara to liaise about work days and Tara's bookings. Tara will need a Risk Assessment — we only have one for the Open Days so Paul W. will make a more generic one.

11. Open Day 2024.

See separate Action Sheet.

4. Open Day 2024.

Working from the addendum Open Day Action Sheet:

1. Stands.

We need more nature stands than we had in 2023. Last year we found stands but didn't chase them up nearer the event. Geraldine will ask the Eco Soap stall, Debbie the Plant

Lady, and Barbara the Card Lady. Jenny will ask the Print Centre (Hidden Treasures), Hoggywobbles, Wild Burwell, and BEG. Paul W. will ask Wicken Fen, Burwell Brewery, and Spinney Abbey.

We will ask Gwen and Neil Spike if they would like to run a stall.

Perhaps Sian would like to sell Wren Cafe cakes again.

2. Portaloo.

Jenny to book nearer the time. If we don't have a compost loo by then!

3. BBQ & Refreshments.

Paul H's Grandsons will supply and run the BBQ again. Paul will ask them to get costs for 50 burgers and 100 sausages from a local supplier, as local supermarket donations are much less now than in previous years. We can ask Tesco for chicken legs and veggie donations, and the local Co-op for items such as tea, coffee, and ketchup. We can buy the rolls from Bookers.

4. Generator and water

Jenny will ask James if he can supply generator and cold and hot water again.

5. Dog Show.

Paul W will get the stakes and rope from carnival again. Jenny to find a judge and will supply the marquee. Mike to purchase rosettes for 8 categories. Jenny to ask Sian Moss if she can do certificates.

6. Activities.

We will ask James Moss if we can borrow the Kingfishers Bridge pond dipping equipment. Paul W. will ask Wicken Fen if they want to do any hydroponics in the pond: Liz will organise the Bear Hunt. Mike will make a new Directions Board. Paul H. to do the bird box construction again. We will have the owl pellet dissection again.

7. Media.

Jenny will make the posters, and ask Yvonne to print lots of A5 nearer the time, as they can be left in small clumps around the village and people pick them up. We will do the FB targetted advert again in August. Paul W. will ask Burwell radio, but make it clear that live music is inappropriate.

8. Safety.

1st Aiders. Geraldine will ask Neil Spike. Liz will collect the fire extinguisher and first aid kit fro the JRR. Mike will do the Risk Assessment form.

9. Other equipment.

Paul H. will check with the museum that they can lend marquees, tables, and chairs.

10. Preparation Day.

We will cut round footpaths and do any other prep work on Saturday 31st August.

11. Jam and Booze competition.

This year we will hold jam-making and liqueur/wine competitions.

Andy and Geraldine will judge the wine/liqueur competition, and Geraldine will ask Jean Reeves if she will judge the jam making competition. Jenny will start advertising these competitions to give plenty of preparation time.

5 Any Other Business.

It was noted that Victor Le Grande would like to become a Friend of the Swamp. We feel that a meeting with current and potential Friends could be held on site in April. Jenny will make enquiries with James as to how the Kingfishers Bridge Friends operate.

Date of Next Meeting.

Thursday 18th April 7.30 pm, at 25 The Causeway.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

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Signed.	/ · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Date	