

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL
(District of South Cambridgeshire)

The Annual Parish Meeting of this Parish was held on Monday, 15 May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Austen Room of the Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, SG8 6DZ.

Present: Cllrs Clark (Chair), Cowley (Vice Chair), Alexander, Barnes, Campbell, Davey, Hart, Kilmurray, Travis, Barley

Absent: Cllr Wilson

In attendance: Sophie Marriage (Parish Clerk), Abigail Williams (Assistant to the Parish Clerk), District Cllr Hales and ten members of the public

1. To receive any apologies for absence.
Apologies were noted from County Councillor Van de Ven and District Councillor Hales.
2. To receive the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2022
It was RESOLVED to approve the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2022 as an accurate record.
Proposed by Cllr Cowley, seconded by Cllr Kilmurray. All in favour.
3. Report on aspects of the meeting held on 16 May 2022
There was nothing to report.
4. To receive a report from The Chair of Melbourn Parish Council
The report was noted with thanks and the chair of Melbourn Parish Council reminded members of the public that there are vacancies on the council and those interested in joining the council should contact the parish office.

(District Cllr Hales joined the meeting)
5. To receive reports from the Committees and Working Parties of the Parish Council:
 - a) Planning Committee
The report was noted with thanks.
 - b) Finance & Good Governance Committee
The report was noted with thanks
 - c) Maintenance Committee
The report was noted with thanks
 - d) HR Panel
The report was noted with thanks

The Chair re-arranged the order of the meeting
7. To receive reports from District Councillors
The report was noted with thanks

(Cllr Hart and District Cllr Hales left the meeting 19:36)

 - e) Futures Working Party
The report was noted with thanks
 - f) Melbourn Play Parks Working Party
The report was noted with thanks. It was noted that the Futures, Melbourn Play Parks, and Skate Park Working Parties all include members of the public. These members are thanked for their time and effort, and the public were reminded that opportunities to join working parties arise will be advertised.
 - g) Skate Park Working Party
The report was noted with thanks
 - h) Website Working Party
The report was noted with thanks
 - i) MAYD Joint Committee
The report was noted with thanks
 - j) Melbourn Timebank
The report was noted with thanks
6. To receive reports from the Parish Council representatives on Village Charities and Other Organisations:
 - (a) Triggs Charity (Gillian Morland)

It was noted that Phil Stewart prepared the report and it was noted with thanks

(b) Martins Charity (Parish Clerk)

The report was noted with thanks

(c) John Clear Almshouses (Mavis Howard)

The report was noted with thanks

(d) Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (Colin Conner)

The report was noted with thanks

(e) Melbourn Community Hub (John Travis)

The report was noted with thanks

(f) Melbourn & Meldreth Lunch Club (Jeannie Sears)

The report was noted with thanks

(g) Grants awarded in 2021/22 and how the money has been spent

It was noted that the agenda item should be corrected to 2022/23. All the reports were noted with thanks.

8. To receive reports from District Councillors
The report was noted with thanks

9. To receive a report from Cambridgeshire County Councillor Van de Ven
The report was noted with thanks

10. To consider any matters brought before the Annual Parish Meeting.
No matters were brought before the Annual Parish Meeting.

11. Public Forum

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the Bruntwood science park application. It was noted that reports have been carried out by officers from SCDC and CCC Highways which highlight areas of concern. The reports in question are available on the planning website. The member of the public encouraged members of the council to consider this information because it is newly available. It was noted that the Parish Council is a consultee and the District Council make the final decision. There is a SCDC Planning Committee Meeting on 14 June and the Parish Council will have a representative at the meeting. The public were reminded that they can request to speak at the meeting and need to contact SCDC.

A member of the public highlighted the concerns that the highways department at County Council raised regarding the Bruntwood science park application. The parish councillors were encouraged to review the information from the consultees on the planning portal.

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of the road and pavements in the village. It was noted that the highways department at the County Council are responsible for the road and pavements. Members of the public were reminded to report issues using the map on the Highways website or to inform the parish office.

12. Annual Awards

Awards were given out to:

Andrew Woolley in recognition of his efforts in keeping the village litter free.

Paul White in recognition for the time and car he volunteers to the village and for keeping 83 High Street looking fantastic.

Paula Froggatt in recognition of her volunteer work as an assistant guider with 1st Melbourn Brownies for 12 years as well as volunteering with the Melbourn Fete committee and Turn on to Christmas.

All the MACS Volunteers in recognition of the time and effort poured into Melbourn Action Community Support and the vital services provided such as the Melbourn Foodbank and the Warm Hub.

Meeting closed at 20:14

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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Annual Report from the Chair of Melbourn Parish Council May 2023.

I would like to start by saying thank you to all of our staff for the excellent work that they have done this year, ensuring that the Parish Council functions efficiently and professionally. Both our office staff and wardens have been under considerable pressure managing our expanding village with all of the challenges that this brings. There have been two big projects which have been brought in on budget and on time. I have mentioned these later in my report.

We have seen a change in personnel this year with both the Clerk, Claire Littlewood, and our Responsible Financial Officer, Gabrielle van Poortvliet, leaving us. They both decided to move on and take up other challenges, we wish them well in whatever the future holds for them. During their time in office, they both contributed significantly to the efficient and smooth running of the Parish Council. However, through succession planning we were fortunate to be in the position to promote our Assistant Clerk, Sophie Marriage, to Clerk. The council supported Sophie in obtaining her CILCA which allowed her to hit the ground running in her new role and take over from our previous Clerk. Additionally, we have employed a new Financial Officer, Shelley Coulman, who has fitted into the team extremely well and is already contributing to the efficiencies of the office. Furthermore, we have just recruited two new members to the team, who joined us on the 24th April. I would like to welcome Abigail Williams and Alexandra Coxall. This now provides us with the necessary resources to ensure that we maintain our efficient and professional standards which allows us to be ready for future challenges.

One of the big projects of this year was the refurbishment of the Moor play park which resulted in the replacement of almost all of the old equipment. It was great to see so many residents from the village attend the re-opening event for the play park in November and we continue to receive positive feedback from the public. We are seeing a much higher number of residents visiting the area bringing their children to experience the new equipment. After receiving feedback that more seating is required for adults, the council are looking to add some new seating to the area this year to make it a more enjoyable experience.

Another project that has been completed this year is the replacement of the old boardwalk at Stockbridge Meadows. The new boardwalk allows nature lovers to experience the area in a safe way. It is our ambition to attract more residents and visitors to the reserve to enjoy all the area has to offer. We are currently working with residents and the River Mel Restoration group to investigate the possibility of establishing a pond and applying for nature reserve status.

Our futures group has now acquired a second MVAS camera, as a result of the success of installing our first camera last year. We hope that these cameras will help educate motorists to adhere to the speed limits and thereby protect the safety of residents.

Furthermore the Parish Council has set up a new working party to review the possibility of introducing a skate park. A survey identified an interest in introducing a skate park and this project is now starting to move forward, but with more questions than answers at this time. We have been successful in getting residents to join the working party along with Parish Councillors. We will be looking at appropriate locations and also how we can best obtain grant funding for a large project like this.

We will also this year be undertaking a number of large initiatives, these will be financed from our Asset Management Reserve. We are looking at improving the parking facilities in the Moor car park as well as replacing part of the drains structure to the Littlehands nursery. In addition we will be looking to renovate part of the Church wall that is in need of repair.

Finally, as mentioned last year, I would like to remind residents that we still have some vacancies on the Parish Council. If you have an interest in our village, want to get involved, and help make a difference, please contact the Parish Office for more information.

Cllr Graham Clark – Chairman of Melbourn Parish Council

Committee report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Melbourn Parish Council Planning Committee
Members of public and how many	N/A
Meeting dates to present	<p>2022: 13 June, 11 July, 8 August, 26 September, 10 October, 14 November, 12 December</p> <p>2023: 9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 11 April, 9 May</p>
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	<p>Consider all planning applications submitted within the bounds of the Parish and larger applications close to the borders. Support or object to the applications on good planning grounds and make comments on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> <p>In the year 2022/23, the Planning Committee considered 96 planning applications – including tree works and, since we have several large developments happening at present, multiple Discharge of Conditions applications. We have supported the majority of applications with or without comment, and submitted objections to 10 applications. The planning committee has also considered the government planning White Paper and SCDC's proposed document on the Conservation Area and its extents.</p> <p>There have been only 17 Notifications of Decisions received from the Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) of which 5 differed from the MPC Planning Committee's choice. In each of these five cases, the GCSP overturned our objections.</p> <p>Additionally, MPCPC has brought to a conclusion the transfer of open spaces on Orchard Gardens development (the Moor), the Strategic Green Belt at the Hopkins, New Road, development and Rosemary Place.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to monitor all applications within the Parish – especially the larger applications and hold existing developments to account where Conditions are not being met.

Prepared byCllr Steve Kilmurray, Chair of MPC Planning Committee

Committee report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Finance and Good Governance Committee
Members of public and how many	N/A
Meeting dates to present	2022: 20 June, 17 October, 19 December 2023: 20 March
Overview / Report of what Working Party has been doing to date	Reviewing Parish Council spending to ensure value for money. Review income streams (Cemeteries, Littlehands, match fees for football pitches, Pavilion rental and allotments) Reviewing annual budget and recommending the precept to full council. Regular review of policies and ensuring that responsible Committees and Panels review their allocation on time. Monitoring of the Asset Register and the Asset Management Reserve. Verifying all statutory information is published. Review effectiveness for internal controls of the PC. Review the effectiveness of the internal and external audits. Checking the quarterly VAT refund has been submitted.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continue to review all activities of the PC to ensure good governance and prudent finance.

Prepared byCllr Steve Kilmurray, Vice-chair of MPC F&GG Committee

Committee / Working Party report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Maintenance Committee
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	3 members of the public and some MPC Employees
Meeting dates to present	21 st April 2022, 18 th May 2022, 16 th June 2022, 21 st July 2022, 18 th August 2022, 20 October 2022, 17 th November 2022, 15 th December 2022, 19 th January 2023, 16 February 2023, 16 March 2023
Overview / Report of what the Maintenance Committee has been doing to date	<p>The Committee continued throughout the year addressing routine and non-routine maintenance issues both planned and some emergencies. This included all general maintenance contracts for the servicing of village green spaces and public parks</p> <p>The operating budget was underspent by approximately £2000 over the year although some unplanned overbudget spends had been needed.</p> <p>Amongst these overspends were works addressing surface and drainage problems on the Moor football pitch, removal of asbestos from the allotments and various matter related to building problems in particular foul drainage at Littlehands</p> <p>Two major projects were steered through to completion during the year:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Removal and renewal of the unsafe Boardwalk in Stockbridge Meadows 2. A complete refit for the Moor Play Park <p>Both were regarded by the public as very successful</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Continued servicing of routine and non-routine maintenance tasks. The development of Stockbridge Meadows as a formal and legally recognised Nature Reserve. Through the Asset Management Reserve to (a) correct drain design problems at Littlehands, and (b) address the structural issues related to the All Saints church yard wall.

Prepared by: Cllr. John Travis, Chair Maintenance Committee

Working Party/Panel report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	HR Panel
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No members of public 4 Councillors (Max 5)
Meeting dates to present	The HR Panel has continued to meet and liaise on at least a monthly basis and more frequently when responding to recruitment and appraisal/performance management duties. Zoom meetings have been used to facilitate regular HR Panel contact, however we were able to carry out this year's staff appraisals and performance review meetings in person. The HR Panel have sought advice on recruitment and occupational health assessments from CAPALC.
Overview / Report of what the HR Panel has been doing to date	<p>In line with our Terms of Reference, the HR Panel, in consultation with the Clerk, have identified additional Service Providers to meet the needs of the Parish as follows: Litter Pickers, Cover Warden, Moor/Littlehands Gate Locking.</p> <p>Following the resignation of the Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer, the HR Panel completed exit interviews and went on to advertise, interview and recommend for appointment a Financial Officer and 2 Assistants to the Parish Clerk.</p> <p>As well as the HR Panel's Terms of Reference, the following policies have been reviewed and agreed by Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Health, Safety, Accessibility & Well-being Policy 2. Grievance Policy 3. Disciplinary Policy
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	<p>To recruit another member of the HR Panel. With reference to MPC published policy review schedule, the HR Panel priorities are to review the following policies:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment 2. Employee Appraisal 3. Equality & Diversity 4. Harassment & Bullying 5. Employee Capability 6. Lone Working 7. Training & Development 8. Recruitment

Committee / Working Party report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Futures Working party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	The working party is made up of Parish Councillors and currently 2 members of the public. We have had previously 4 members of the public involved in the working party.
Meeting dates to present	At present we are meeting approximately quarterly. Although if initiatives are raised by Council then that may change.
Overview / Report of what the Working Party has been doing to date	We have been successful in obtaining and installing MVAS cameras around the village. This is to try and reduce speeding vehicle issues. We have also been looking at and have obtained funding to introduce Gateway signs at the entrance to the village from Cambridge Road. The signs will identify you are entering a village and will show the speed limit. We have also been identifying where road markings need updating and refreshing and reporting these to the County Highways.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	We will be looking at road safety issues around our primary school. In addition the chair will be discussing with the Parish Clerk future actions for the group.

Prepared by: Councillor

Graham Clark

Committee / Working Party report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Melbourn Play Parks Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	3 members of the public
Meeting dates to present	Last meeting: 5 April 2022
Overview / Report of what the Working Party has been doing to date	The aim of the working party was to help facilitate the refurbishment of the Moor Play Park. The working party last met on the 5 April 2022 but kept update to with the progress of the project. The pre-start meeting with the contractors took place on the 7 th July 2022 and then the works began in mid-September 2022. The official opening event took place on 5 th November and it was great to see so many residents come along. Also at the opening event, winners of the drawing competition officially opened the park and HAGS (the contractor) gave out goody-bags.
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	Now that the Moor Play Park project is complete the working party has not needed to meet. If council believe that there is another project the working party can help facilitate, then the working party can re-group.

Prepared by: Sophie Marriage (Parish Clerk)

Committee / Working Party report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Skate Park Working Party
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	We have a working party consisting of Parish Councillors and 2 members of the public (residents)
Meeting dates to present	At present we are limiting our meetings to approx. quarterly.
Overview / Report of what the Working Party has been doing to date	<p>To date we have undertaken a community wide survey the results were mixed but we had only 57 respondents. The majority of those who responded favoured a skate park as opposed to a pump track and to be made of concrete. We have also identified one suitable location to site the structure if we go ahead. We are also looking into what alternative options for location we have available to us.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	<p>Our next steps are to reach out to other Parish Councils that have installed skate parks to identify what issues they came across and how they funded the initiative. Also to get information about installers.</p> <p>We will also be making contact with Cam –Skate to see if there could be any grant funding (matched or otherwise).</p> <p>We will also be talking to our resident members of the working party to see about setting up a user group.</p> <p>We also intend to research companies prepared to visit Melbourn to offer professional advice.</p>

Prepared by: Councillor
Graham Clark

Committee / Working Party report to Annual Parish Council Meeting:

Working Party Name / Title	Melbourn Area Youth Development (Joint Committee) MAYD
Members of public and how many (no names need to be given)	No lay public, but does include Parish Councillors from Shepreth, Meldreth (and Foxton part year) District and County Councillors from Cambridgeshire and District Councillor from North Herts, Youth delivery contractors and representation from Cambridge County Youth Services
Meeting dates to present	28 th June 2022, 20 th September 2022, 14 th December 2022, 7 th March 2023
Overview / Report of what the MAYD Joint Committee has been doing to date	<p>Groundwork East, who were retained throughout the reporting year for youth leadership services, contracted again for the summer, autumn and spring periods. They continued with the previous pattern and content for youth club sessions. A loyal and consistent group of young people attended throughout the period, although numbers remained disappointingly low. A useful contribution was made to the 'Wonderpass' project.</p> <p>The proposal to implement a "Gaming Café" was pursued and the equipment needed for it defined and costed. Arrangements for installing Wi-Fi into the pavilion were brought almost to completion. A successful bid was made for grant monies towards the cost of gaming equipment. However, this project was not brought to completion due to wider cost considerations.</p> <p>The increasing cost and poor value for money of the Groundwork contract was questioned by the committee. Other youth service delivery routes are now being developed to cover the upcoming year and it is likely that the contract with Groundwork will be discontinued.</p>
Any future proposals of what they are going to do	The Groundwork East contract will almost certainly be discontinued and replaced by a 'Connections Bus' mobile youth club that can visit Melbourn with all the normal youth club services on board. The cost for this option is approximately half that of Groundwork East.

Prepared by: Cllr. John Travis, Chair MAYD Joint Committee

Melbourn Timebank 2022/'23

Highlights

Big Picnic attended by 28 people

Forever Cycling pilot session

Community Support for Dementia trip to Felixstowe

Christmas lunch

Seated Yoga sessions

MACS (Melbourn Action Community Support) formed to facilitate Food Bank and Warm Hub sessions

45 Customers and over 215 visits

'Wonderpass' project, 7 frames instigated by Timebank

'Aquathon' raised £814 for **MACS** and HomeStart



Solo Sunday Lunches once per month

Memory Cafés each month supported by Timebank

Cam Sight meetings supported by Timebank

Games nights each month

On-going weekly activities

Mondays	Food Bank 10-12 and Warm Hub 12-3	
Tuesday	Dog Café 10-12	
Wednesday	Wellbeing Walk 10.30	
Thursday	Coffee Morning and Food Bank 10-12 Warm Hub 12-3.00	



Membership

	Mar '22	April '23
Individual Members	102	120
Organisation Members	16	19

Total Hours exchanged

March '22	April '23
6,718	11,900

Trigg's Charity

2022 Summary

The Trigg's Charity was set up in 1821 by John Trigg of Melbourn who left £2,000 for the establishment of a school for poor children in Melbourn, Meldreth and a six mile radius in South Cambridgeshire. The school was held in a barn but in 1854 was superseded by an infant's school built by John Mortlock and the Trigg's Charity money was distributed in the form of prizes, Arithmetic or Woodwork for the boys and needlework for the girls.

Occasionally money was given for a scholarship to a Cambridge school. Nowadays, the money is more likely to be requested for library, classroom or playground equipment or computer accessories. Each year the charity is restricted to dispersing only the interest on our capital investment, so not huge sums.

The Trigg's Charity demands a moiety between the Melbourn and Meldreth Schools and the other schools in the area.

Gillian Morland stepped down after several years as the Trigg's Charity Treasurer and was replaced by Phil Stewart, who lives locally in Melbourn and has been actively involved in other local charity work, mainly as Treasurer for the Melbourn Primary School PTFA from 2016 - 2022.

This year the Trigg's Charity invited applications from the nine local schools eligible for grants through an online form for the first time, which was well received by all who responded as it made the application process quick and simple. It also facilitated the review and award process for the trustees. The response rate was excellent, with all bar one applying for a grant.

The trustees awarded of varying amounts totaling £3,000 to all eight schools who applied to support a number of exciting projects, including school trips, picnic benches and planters for a new recreational flower meadow, a sandpit for long jump and dig and learn activities, playground equipment refurbishment and non-fiction KS1 library books.

Phil drove round to all of the schools to present them with their grant cheques, which was a great way for him to see the schools that the Trigg's Charity supports, as well as for them to meet Phil and get a more personal touch.

The charity will be reaching out to the schools again this year to invite applications, and hopes for a similar high response rate and existing range of grant funded activities that the charity can at least in part help facilitate.

May 2023

Phil Stewart, Treasurer

Thank you for your kind email and the cheque which was delivered to school today. The money will be a help with the cost of transport for school activities which is becoming an increasing obstacle with the rise in fuel prices. We do value the on-going support of the Trigg Trust for the work of the local schools
Harston & Newton Primary School

Thank you so much for delivering the cheque this morning. We are so grateful for your generosity and it will help us to enable all children to access enrichment opportunities, such as our trip to the Isle of Wight.
I'm sorry I was not able to meet you personally when you visited Thriplow, but I know Linda Baron very much enjoyed meeting you,
Many thanks again,

Thriplow Primary School

Please pass on our thanks to the Trigg Trust for the £500 which is very gratefully received and will make a real difference to our ability to provide affordable school trips for the children.

Melbourn Primary School

Trigg's Charity Thank you emails January 2023

Thank you so much for the cheque you delivered. Please could you pass my thanks onto the rest of the committee. The donations you have made to our school over the years, have made a huge difference to the resources we are able to supply for our children.

Barrington CofE Primary School

Thank you very much. I have given the cheque to our finance department and the Student Eco committee have been told of the grant.

Melbourn Village College

Many thanks for the generous funding as we are all aware difficult life is for families at the moment. As passionate champions of young people for over 30 years, I want to ensure that the cost of living crisis doesn't mean children missing out on truly transformative school trips.

Your donation will provide financial support for young people who face barriers to accessing this valuable life experience.

Meldreth Primary School



MVC's magazine article – March 2023

Trigg's Charity Grant for MVC

We were delighted to learn that MVC has received a grant from the Trigg's Charity to provide benches and planters for a new wildflower area at the college. The school Eco Group had already identified an area for a wildflower meadow between the new Food Technology rooms and the George Edward building. Jake, a Year 11 Prefect, discussed the idea of picnic benches with site manager, Mrs Bloomfield, who completed the application. We are very much looking forward to making this project happen later in the year as the weather improves.



MVC's newsletter call out

Annual Report of Martins Charity 2022

The opening balance on 1st April 2017 - £21.55

The closing balance on 31st March 2018 - £21.55

The Clerk

5 May 2023

FRANCIS JOHN CLEAR ALMSHOUSES

Annual Report to Melbourn Parish Council 2023

This is my FORTY SEVENTH Annual Report from the Trustees of the Almshouses to the Parish Council. I think I shall throw in the towel at 50!

Shortly before Christmas our longest stay resident died – she had endured ill health for many years and had resisted all suggestions that we should put her up in a hotel somewhere whilst we brought her unit up to date. Unfortunately the result was that when we finally made a thorough inspection of the house we found over the years she had, without our permission, replaced doors, removed pelmet boards and a built in dresser and even had some sort of re-wiring carried out!

This was a sharp lesson to the Trustees to insist on making regular inspections of the property, the subsequent restoration needed has been both expensive and time consuming. We shall take this opportunity to inform the ladies that henceforth annual inspections will be made of the property – with due notice being given of course. This conforms with NAA policy. Shortly after Miss Newell's death, another one of our Licensees sadly had to move into a home and we found ourselves with two empty properties and a lot of decorating to be done.

Over the years we have gathered an excellent team of skilled tradesmen who have rallied round and there has been pretty much non-stop activity round Clear Cottages for months. I have to say how hard our Trustees, and in particular our Chairman Brenda Meliniotis, have worked – constantly visiting the two units, sourcing kitchen furniture, white goods and flooring etc and checking on progress, not to mention interviewing prospective residents.. The result is that we now have all four units absolutely bang up to date and all the workmen on site without exception have said they would be ready to move in next week. To which we gleefully reply – NO MEN!

Whereas on the last occasion when we did the refurbishment of nos 55 & 57 we took out a ten year loan from the NAA to cover the costs, this time we were able to fund the work on our own. I should add that the loan was

suggested by the NAA when we applied to them for permission to cash some of our reserves – they preferred us to borrow the money from them interest free rather than cash in bonds. This is some indication of how complex finances are when charities are involved!

All of our Licencees are ladies who have a very close connection with Melbourn. As I have already said, we are extremely fortunate in our list of trusted tradesmen who come to our aid so swiftly when we need things done. We could not possibly manage without their co-operation and goodwill.

The remaining recommendation made in the Quinquennial report which I mentioned last year, the dry lining of the porches, is now being dealt with in this major upheaval. I hope you have noticed that we have also had the trees cut back along the frontage. We rather smugly say to each other that after this we should be able to sit back on our laurels for some years. (Am I tempting fate?).

Brenda Meliniotis continues to be our Chairman and the Board of Trustees remains the same - Arthur Alderton, Val Barrett, Peter Chilvers, Hilary Docwra, myself and Eric Johnston who continues to do the rather boring job of perusing the information and instructions which come from the National Association of Almshouses and deciding which pieces apply to us. With only four units we are, of course, very small beer compared with many Almshouse complexes

We are pleased that the Parish Council continue to store our archives and trust that they will remain in safe keeping.

I am sure that you will agree that the Almshouses are as ever a credit to the village. This is my report in the 98th year since the Almshouses were built – we are wondering what we can do to celebrate the centenary!

Mavis Howard,

April, 2023

Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme Chair's Report 2023

This has been a challenging, but successful year for the scheme. The service provided to the clients of the scheme by the wardens is outstanding. They visit each client twice a week and contact them for a further three days by phone. Wardens have helped clients to access vaccinations and other health and well-being support. They collect shopping, medical supplies, arrange doctor's appointments and respond to other requests or concerns raised.

We currently have 50 clients in total, of whom just under 70 percent are women. The average age of the vast majority of our clients has risen and now sits at just short of 90 years old. There are a tiny number whose age is lower, with one mobility impaired client in their early forties. The clients have a variety of physical or sensory issues and a number are living with dementia.

To meet the continued demand, the service is now supported by 7 wardens. We have also appointed an 8th warden given the need to

provide support when other wardens are unavailable. Specialist training is provided for the wardens funded by the scheme to equip them to support clients, particularly those living with dementia. Newer wardens received this during 2021/22.

The key elements that changed things during the last year was the vaccination programme and relaxation of restrictions which brought more 'normality' to life for many clients who were able to go out again or have more visitors. Unfortunately for several clients, the long period of remaining at home has seen a decline in mobility and confidence.

The reopening of Lunch Club at The Hub has been a very positive thing for the MMWS clients who are able to attend. We are very grateful to the Hub Committee for its continued support and to those in the Hub who provide assistance during the meals.

Prior to the pandemic a notable additional feature of the scheme was the organisation of two or three trips out for lunch. These are supported by the Royston Community Bus

scheme and local volunteer drivers. These have usually taken place at the Cambridge Motel. After 2 years of being unable to organise these activities for clients due to Covid risks, we are delighted to report that MMWS completed successful Summer (22) and Spring(23) outings to the Cambridge Motel and we hope to continue this as a regular element of the scheme's provision. As an alternative to the Christmas trip, Wardens provided each client with a Christmas Hamper of food and treats as a surprise. This was very gratefully received by the clients.

A regular magazine featuring client articles and stories, photos, jokes, quizzes, word searches, news and health tips has been created and published by the head warden and this has proved popular and helpful in keeping clients connected in particular over the last year or so. MMWS would like to thank the Parish clerk for the service provided to produce the copies.

As the scheme develops, we intend to ensure that we can provide for any growth in the number of of clients and that we have a sufficient number of wardens available to

support them. We hope to be able to provide the specialist training they need for this. Of course, all of this is subject to continued funding for this important service! The Trustees are very grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support and to the contributions received from South Cambridgeshire, Cambridge County Council and local parish councils whose residents are supported by the scheme. We are also fortunate to be one of the charities supported by the local Co-op.

The most recent development has been the request to offer support for another scheme that is about to close. Discussions are taking place with the leaders of the scheme in Harston with regard to this.

Colin Conner (Chair of the Trustees) April 2023

melbourn hub

annual report

2021/2022

*"for the community
by the community"*




MELBOURN
hub

30, High St, SG8 6DZ

01763 263303

melbournhub.co.uk

 [thehubmelbourn](https://www.facebook.com/thehubmelbourn)



John Travis



Jeannie Seers



Steve Kilmurray



Jonathan Berks



Linsey Craike



Jose Hales

Chair's Report

This report covers the first full year of trading after the interruptions to both normal life and business that resulted from the COVID – 19 Pandemic. The results showed a steady improvement over the 12 months. There were clear signs that customer confidence was beginning to return by the close of the financial reporting period at 30 September 2022.

Also included is the Hub financial position as at September 30th 2022 together with a general review and assessment of the Hub operations. A small trading profit was declared.

Our Board of Directors was subject to some changes with a number of long-serving board members deciding to retire. An advertising programme asking for new directors resulted in the appointment of one excellent new person, supported by one or two other key individuals who work closely alongside the director team. The spread of skills remains comprehensive with no significant gaps.



The Staff Team

underwent a significant revamp with only one of the original catering team remaining, under a new and very effective catering manager. This improvement to the catering resource is considered a key reason for the now growing trade. The cleaning function has also been re-staffed and much improved, this now being a truly complementary service to both cafe and other building services.

The Community Library

has been revitalised with increasing numbers of borrowers, the planning of in-person author evenings alongside other book events, particularly some aimed at younger readers. The changes made in 2021 to desk and admin spaces have also been successfully accommodated.

Room Hire

was worryingly very slow in returning to the levels seen pre-pandemic. The pattern is thought to relate to both a partial permanent move to home working and also personal habit changes following the repetitive lockdowns. This picture is being rapidly reversed through advertising and customer partnerships.

Volunteers

remain the lifeblood of the Hub and we continue to receive and support all new applications to help us out. Both café and library rely heavily on this vital resource and our profound thanks go out to this group for what they do. The year was also notable in the number of Work Experience placements and Duke of Edinburgh Award students that were satisfied.

Events

again provided highlights during the year after a long absence forced by the pandemic. Notable was the celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on the 5th June. A joint participation between the Hub, the Parish Council and the Fete Committee resulted in the best-attended and most successful public event ever held at the Hub. More than 600 people enjoyed a very special day. A healthcare launch event was another landmark, as the Hub announced its partnership with the local health care network and the NHS vaccination service. We anticipate that healthcare provision from the Hub will become very important and a significant

factor in increasing trade generally and room occupancy in particular.

And a long-standing partnership was renewed with the Melbourn Village College who provided music to accompany a jaw-dropping student art exhibition at the Hub! Art continues to be a popular feature with different local artists queuing to display their work on our gallery wall each month.

Marketing and Promotion

has been strengthened with a refreshed brand design to reflect the Hub's current image and is used across all marketing and information platforms. Increased social media presence, leafleting to promote the café, our events and services, plus regular articles for a wider range of local publications have all successfully contributed to increased trade and demand for our services. The Hub's website has also been significantly enhanced with focus on the new brand image, easier navigation for customers and access to current news and events.

The Future Outlook

can be determined with more certainty now we are well into a new trading year. The optimistic signs seen in the previous year have been amplified and confirmed. Café trade has never been better and Room Hire business is recovering from a somewhat depressed condition to something very sustainable. The staff changes and the policy of 'training for flexibility' are making a noticeable impact on the ability to meet customer demands. Some final improvements are needed to the outside landscaping, which are now being planned with the welcome financial support of local business. Healthcare delivery from the Hub has become a central feature of our Room Hire strategy and the next year will chart this increasingly important aspect of the Hub service to the community.

John Travis

Platinum Jubilee Celebrations



Streets ahead

A major event for The Hub was the Platinum Jubilee. On 5th June, The Hub organised a free street party which brought together many hundreds of people at our venue to enjoy food, drink and a feast of entertainment. The street was lined with tables under marquees complete with Union Jack decorations. Prices were kept low and people were invited to bring their own picnic if preferred, making the event as inclusive as possible to the whole community.

Entertainment was provided by the Bassingbourn Village brass band alongside a line-up of talented young singers throughout the day.

Children were invited to display their homemade crowns to the party and participate in a 'crown parade' where every child was given a prize for taking part.

The event was honoured with the arrival of 'Her Majesty' in a vintage car accompanied by the town crier who announced the arrival! The 'Queen' walked amongst her subjects and then graciously drew the raffle prizes.

Our thanks to the Melbourn Amateur Dramatics Society (MADS) for providing the Royal performance and to GYC Photography for some stunning images!

Photos courtesy of GYC Photography



Vaccinations and so much more!

2022 marked the beginning of a very special relationship with a number of healthcare providers. The NHS vaccination service had been delivering Covid jabs for some time from the Hub and this was ramped up so that a series of Sunday sessions were offered on a more or less monthly basis. The Hub proved to be an amazingly popular venue for the ‘Vaccinators on Tour’ chalking up the highest numbers of residents vaccinated for any venue visited by this NHS team.

Patients can also now access a range of Health and Wellbeing services at Melbourn Hub. The initiative is a partnership between the Hub and Meridian Primary Care Network (PCN) and is the first of its kind in South Cambs. The vision is to bring some of the services out of GP surgeries and into a community setting, thus providing

easier access for patients. Members of the Meridian Personalised Care Team can now offer direct help to patients who are seeking mental and physical health advice and support.

‘Health at The Hub’ was formally launched at a public event on 25th June.

Amongst those supporting the event were South Cambs. District Council leader Bridget Smith, Bill Handley, South Cambs. lead cabinet member for Communities and Jan Thomas, the CEO for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire ‘Integrated Care Board’ who said “Thank you and congratulations to all who have worked so hard on Melbourn ‘Health at The Hub’. It’s a great example of a community space designed for local people by local people. We look forward to learning from the team and ensuring we can support others to create similar excellent local services.”



Staff and Volunteers

Our Staff Team

has never been in better shape! As business has steadily grown we have added some new faces to both the catering and cleaning resources. Gemma Dowling now confidently leads the catering, kitchen and café services - the 'engine room' of the Hub. Customer numbers have responded to the consistent high quality of food and service. Both 'takeaway' and bespoke off-site buffet business has grown and the future looks extremely optimistic. Well done Gemma and everyone in the catering and cleaning teams!

Volunteers

continue to be the life-blood of the Hub, adding their help and welcome support to supplement everything we do. Volunteers fill the gaps of resource in the café by serving customers and keeping all aspects of the process going. In addition, there are specialist volunteers who tirelessly maintain the admin and customer communication.

Linda Samson professionally co-ordinates this essential work, making sure all detailed needs are met for weekly events such as the Lunch Club and, most importantly, for the increasing number of Room Hire customers. Thank you to everyone, and not forgetting the volunteers who help with taxi services and with Hub events!

The Library

continues as a central Hub service supported by a dedicated group of volunteers led by Janet Molloy. The last year has seen the remarkable addition of more than 200 new library members, many of them children. Events such as the Festival of Stories and other special story-time opportunities introduced the joy of reading to this younger audience.



Financial summary

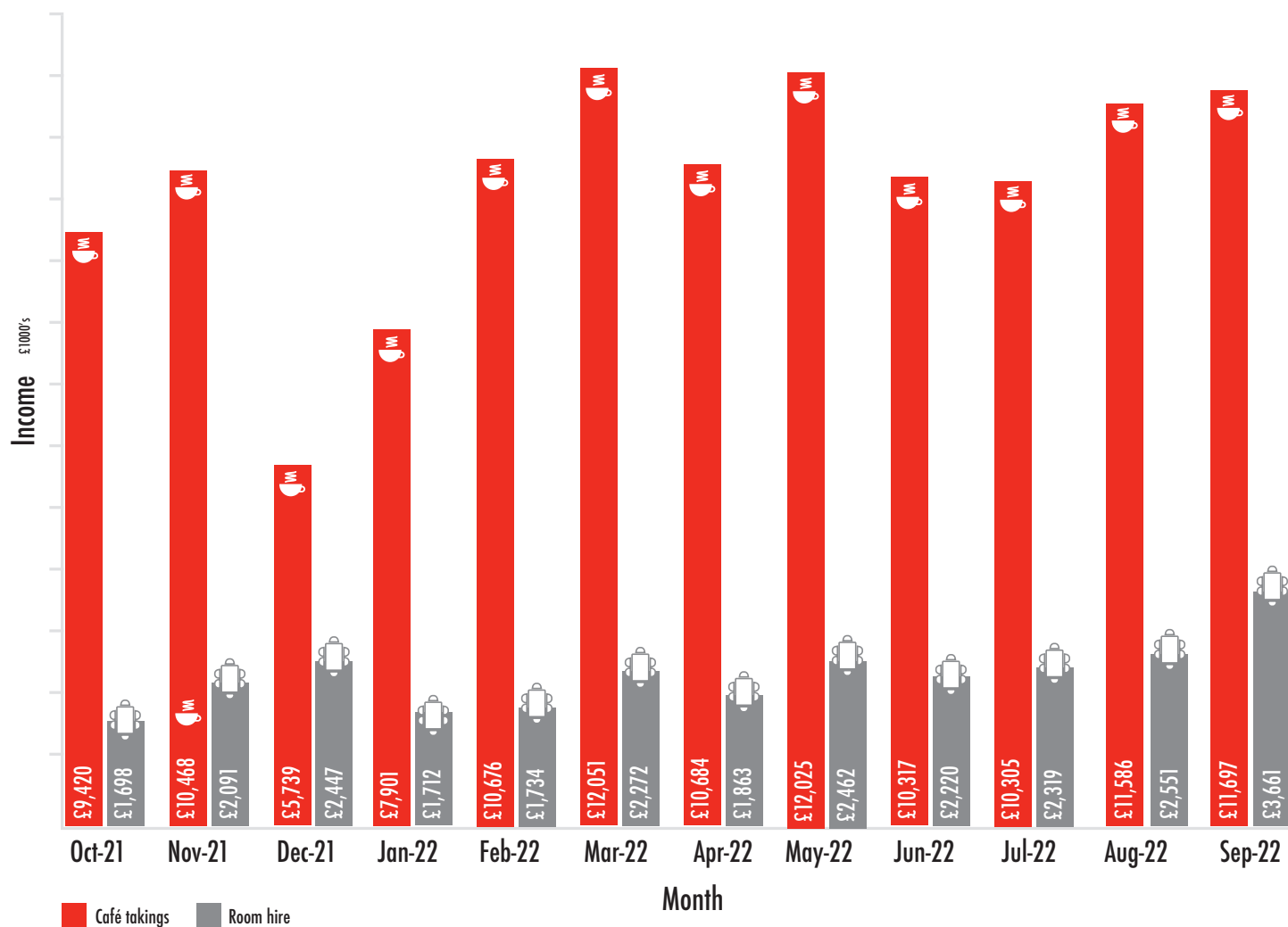
The summary table shows income and expenditure comparing financial years ending September 2021 and September 2022.

After two years of business interruption as a result of the pandemic, the 2021-22 financial year saw a full 12 months trading. As public confidence slowly returned, the sales in the café were consistent throughout the year with a small but significant trading profit. This is in no small part due to the total dedication of the staff and volunteers. The overall performance was better than that experienced in other areas of the hospitality sector. There was also a welcome increase in demand for hiring the rooms.

Income	2022	2021
Café and Events	£131,187	£34,896
Room hire	£13,630	£989
MPC rent	£13,400	£13,244
Government grants	£2,667	£36,757
Donations	£5,784	£1,000
Other income	£5,037	£1,003
Total income	£171,705	£87,889
Total expenditure	£165,233	£77,098
Profit for the year	£6,472	£10,791

Registered in England Company No: 08320569

Café sales and Room Hire income by month



Our People

a huge
Thank
You!

for the community...
by the community



Directors and Trustees

Jonathan Berks
Linsey Craike
Jose Hales
Steve Kilmurray
Jeannie Seers
John Travis (Chair)
Nikki Cross (Resigned 29.09.22)
Emma Grant (Resigned 27.04.22)
Clive Porter (Resigned 11.11.21)

Administration & Support

Denis Bulgin
Brian Collingbourne
Ben Crundwell
Linda Samson
Pam Sole

Drivers

Paul Ray
Keith Trigg

Cleaning Staff

Debi Kester
Kim Lill
Joe Littlewood
Sam Baker

Catering Staff

Loraine Buckley
Jayne Clements
Gemma Dowling (Catering Manager)
Louise Harding
Jenny Hartman
Jane Humphries
Hayley King
Emily McCarthy-Clements
Max Laws
Max Mulvey
Nadia Tomkins
Jess Wainwright

Catering Staff

(who moved on to other things)

Maicey-Anne Hayden
Jadene West
Maddie Windred

Library Volunteers

Joanne Abayasekara
Arthur Alderton
Janet Backer
Debby Brown
Vivienne Brown
Mary Cordiner
Sandra Dunne
Mandy Handscombe
Jane Hanson
Lynda Mitchell
Janet Molloy
Julie Perry
Siobhan Pitts
Maria Stapleton
Jane Stevens
Marilyn Symonds
Alison West

Café Volunteers

Arthur Alderton
Carole Alderton
Sue Baker
Jayne Briggs
Jean Brown
Mike Buckley
Barbara Clarke
Tina Davey
Vicky Deville
Pat Fowl
Della Gibson
Annette Keclik
David Keclik
Jane Kirby
Pam Lambert
Pauline Mascall
Janet Molloy
Christine Newton
Stephanie Qadir
Chris Thomas
Janie Trimble
Diana White
Tricia Willett



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melbournhub.co.uk

 thehubmelbourn



Designed by www.cwecreative.co.uk
Contact: monica@cwecreative.co.uk

Melbourn Community Hub Management Group Registered Office: Melbourn
community Hub, 30 High Street, Melbourn, Cambs. SG8 6DZ
A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 8320569
Registered Charity no. 1152407

To Melbourn Parish Council

17th April 2023

Melbourn Hub

Lunch Club Annual Report

Melbourn Hub has been running a weekly lunch club for the elderly and mobility impaired since February 2019, when the service was unable to continue as no replacement volunteers could be found to take over at the original venue at Vicarage Close community rooms. The Hub was approached, given its obvious facilities to accommodate this!

The Lunch Club was set up some years ago as 'Melbourn and Meldreth Lunch Club' and has been run by various volunteers over time, with a view to providing a regular social gathering for elderly people who may otherwise be isolated and to offer a hearty cooked meal for them to enjoy whilst meeting and chatting to others.

The numbers of people joining Lunch Club do have to be limited to make appropriate seating and the service manageable, so currently there are 20 people who benefit, several of whom, because of frailty, are driven by a volunteer driver - or when needed a community transport driver. A mobile warden from Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme (MMWS) is always on hand to support the needs of their MMWS clients during Lunch Club at The Hub, the majority of which make up the group.

The members are provided with sociable group seating and cloths on the table. They receive a freshly cooked main meal and dessert, specially made for the members. This can range from a full roast to a lasagne and afterwards, a dessert and tea or coffee is offered.

The cost to the member is kept very low and no charge is made to them for their transport. Therefore, the funds gratefully received from The Parish Council and a donation from MMWS (all ringfenced) have been used to subsidise the true cost to The Hub as well as provide Royston community car drivers when needed, members' birthday cards and treats for special occasions such as The Jubilee or Christmas.

The members really look forward to their weekly event and it makes a huge difference to their sense of wellbeing.

The Lunch Club would not be possible for most of the clients if it were not for volunteer drivers able to get people there and for whom I would like to express The Hub's grateful thanks for.

We are always in need of volunteer drivers to spare a few minutes to drive a local frail person to this important activity, so if any Parish Councillors can offer a small amount of time out of their day on a Tuesday (regularly or occasionally) this would really make a difference!

Jeannie Seers

Director

On behalf of Melbourn Hub Management Group

Report from Playgroup and MOOS – Community Grant:

The funds were used to improve the outside of the provision by resurfacing the playground with wet-pour safety surface. This has enriched the space for more accessible and creative play and allowed us to provide additional climbing equipment for all our children at playgroup and Out of School Club.

11/05/2023

Melbourn Parish Council

The Hub

Melbourn

Confirmation of Grant Expenditure April/May 2022

Melbourn Dynamos FC were very grateful to receive £6,493 via the community grant funding which was awarded in April 2022.

This funding was spent on the following equipment:

Description	Quantity	Unit Cost	Total
Team wear – shirts - Junior	80	£17.75	£1420
Team wear – shirts – senior	36	£20.00	£720
Team wear – shorts - junior	80	£6.75	£540
Team wear – shorts – senior	36	£8.25	£297
Team wear – socks - junior	80	£5.25	£420
Team wear – sock - senior	36	£6.00	£216
Training balls – all sizes	200	£7.75	£1550
Match balls – size 3	40	£17.50	£700
Match balls – size 4 and 5	40	£20.50	£820
			£6493

The purchase of this equipment allowed the Club to divert reserves in being able to financially support an increasing number of families.

Regards,

Blake Carrington

Chair, MDFC



Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue

Unit 2, Mount Pleasant Industrial Estate, Pymoor, Ely, CB6 2DY
www.camsar.org | charity 1118622 registered in England & Wales

2nd May 23

Report from Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue following donation from Melbourn Parish Council

Melbourn Parish Council were kind enough to support Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue (CamSAR) in April 2022 with a very generous donation of £300 towards the purchase of an underwater search pole and camera.

I am delighted to report that following a successful fundraising campaign, we purchased the pole and camera soon after the grant from Melbourn was received, and we have used it on several searches since.

I have attached two documents with further information about the type of pole and its benefits – there is no doubt that having such a specialist piece of equipment hugely assists us in our water based searches.

We continue to be extremely fortunate and thankful for all the support that the Parish and Town Councils across Cambridgeshire give us, particularly given the current economic climate, so we thank all the Councillors once again for their generous donation.

Gilly Bamber, Fundraising Lead & Anne Ninham, Administrative support and Fundraiser



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

@CamSAR999 on Twitter | @cambslowlandsar on Instagram

CamSAR is a member of Lowland Rescue (charity 1150317)

From Hill to High Water® | Professional in All But Pay



Underwater Inspection Camera

USES AND APPLICATIONS

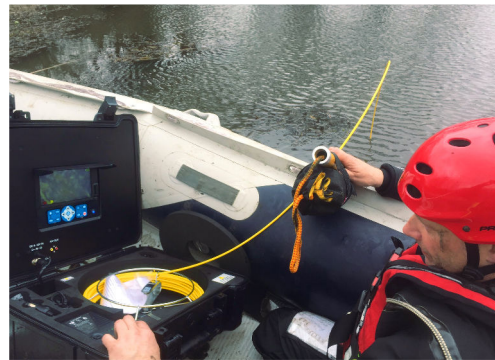
Reach and Rescue's Underwater Inspection Camera is for use when an underwater search is required. It features a bright LED torch to illuminate murky waters, utilizes a powerful, rechargeable Lithium Ion Battery and displays its findings via a clear 7" TFT display.

HOW TO USE

The sleeve fitting is designed to slide over the pole top fitting, which secures it in place using a double sprung button mechanism.

MAINTENANCE & PRECAUTIONS

The sleeve fitting should be regularly tested on the pole top fitting, as damage will prevent the attachment from fitting securely.



Used by...

UK Fire & Rescue Services

Dorset Marine Police used the Reach and Rescue Underwater Inspection Camera to search for a missing person

Kent Police (recently used the Reach and Rescue Underwater Inspection Camera to locate a murder weapon)



SPECIFICATIONS

CAMERA

- Sensor: 1/3" Sony CCD -Head
- Dimension: 23mm (d) x 45mm (l) -
- Camera Material: Stainless Steel - View Angle: 1350 Wide Angle - Lens Cover: Sapphire Glass - LEDs: 12 High Bright White LEDs - Waterproof: IP68

BOX

- Length: 50cm
- Width: 43cm
- Depth: 20cm
- Weight: 10.2kg

MONITOR

- LCD Resolution: 800 x 480 Pixels
- LCD Size: 7 inches
- Video Compress: MPEG-4

- Recording: Visual and Audio
- Picture: Picture Shot Function
- Languages: 9
- Panel Control: Any function through buttons
- External Memory: SD Card (Max. 32GB)

CABLE

- Material: Fibreglass Rod Cable
- Wheel: Stainless Steel
- Cable Length: 20, 30 or 40m options
- Connector: Gold Touch-Point Connector
- Rotation: Rotatable in the suitcase
- Wheel Diameter: 33cm
- Cable Diameter: 5.4mm

STOCK CODE RRPROCAM

Saving valuable time on your rescues

Telephone +44 (0)3301 595 088





Body Finder and Recovery Aid

The new and versatile 'two in one' Body Finder and Recovery Aid allowing safe location and retrieval of submerged objects or bodies.

SAVING VALUABLE TIME ON YOUR RESCUES

ABOUT

The innovative underwater inspection camera and the body hook can be used together with this unique attachment.

By placing the aid on the pole before attaching the body hook, and then sliding the camera head into the aid, the two attachments can be used at the same time.

This solution saves time and keeps the operator safe when searching for and retrieving bodies.



Stock Code: RRBFR



'WE MAKE THE LONGEST, MOST VERSATILE RESCUE POLE SYSTEMS IN THE WORLD'

Community Grant Report - Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Parish Council-sponsored Jubilee Street Party, directed and organised by the Melbourn Hub, proved to be a big hit with the community. More 700 residents came to the Hub site and on the High street to celebrate a very special day. This proved to be the most successful event the Community Hub has ever had.

Not deterred by the downturn in the weather on Sunday 5th the Hub team, brilliantly supported by the Melbourn Fete Committee, made sure guests were kept dry in the event of showers by providing marquees to cover the tables lining the High Street outside of the Hub,

The day had a feast of musical entertainment. This included Bassingbourn Village Band together with a number of talented young singers such as Amelia Froggatt, Beth Archer, Charles Arbon, Maddy DeBrugha and The Hub's own Maicey-Anne Hayden.

There was a charming crown parade by the children, who showed off their homemade crowns to a delighted audience, with everyone winning a prize.

A particular highlight was a surprise visit from 'The Queen' who arrived in a chauffeur driven vintage car accompanied by the town crier and MC for the day Paul Sleight! 'Her Majesty' walked through the crowd and talked to her subjects – much to the thrill and delight of everyone! The Queen also made the draw for a fantastic raffle. The amazing prizes were all generously donated by local businesses for which the Hub is very grateful. Her Majesty also announced the winners of the 'Find the Corgi' game offering prizes of Hub vouchers and cuddly corgis!

Two BBQ's, a bar, Ice Cream station and The Hub's café, satisfied appetites and quenched thirsts!

The day's events were captured in a number of brilliant photos by professional photographer Guann-Yeu Chin of GYC Photography; services were provided free of charge to support the Hub and the village, capturing memories of a day when Melbourn really came together to celebrate!

The event was designed from the outset to be inclusive and prices were heavily subsidised to make sure that all needs and part of the village were able to come and enjoy the day. A £3,000 grant from the Community Grants fund made this all possible.

John Travis, Chair, Directors Melbourn Hub



Report on Parish Council Grant Expenditure

The grant provided by the Parish Council in April 2022 has been used to cover the cost of the Primary School's PTFA annual fireworks display and to purchase additional equipment to improve the school's community events.

The total amount of the grant was £5,080, which was used as follows:

Fireworks display: £2,600 was used to fund the annual fireworks display held at Melbourn Primary School. The display was a sell-out success and enjoyed by the whole community. The event generated a massive £11,962.50 turnover and £7,368.90 profit, all of which is available to donate to the school for much needed resources for the children.

BBQ equipment: £890.71 was used to purchase two new BBQs and one new bain marie to be used at PTFA events such as the Fireworks Night and annual Summer Fayre.

Flood lights: £600 was used to purchase permanent flood lights to enhance the lighting around the school during fireworks night. These lights have made a noticeable improvement to the visibility and safety of these events, and we have received feedback from a disabled attendee on how helpful the additional lighting is.

Card readers for stalls: £894 was used to purchase card readers. These were initially trialled at the Fireworks Night and have been a great success. Card readers have been used at many of our events subsequently; they have improved the efficiency and ease of payment at our stalls.

This totals £4,984.71 equating to an underspend of £95.29 to be returned to the Parish Council.

In summary, the Parish Council's grant has been used to great effect and has helped to enhance the PTFA's community events. On behalf of the Melbourn Primary School PTFA, I would like to thank the Parish Council for their support in awarding us the money to improve both provision for community events and our fundraising capabilities.

Signed,



Logan Gamble
PTFA Treasurer
On behalf of Melbourn Primary PTFA

Commemorative Sundial for Platinum Jubilee

At the beginning of 2022 the Trustees of All Saints Community Hall agreed it would be fitting to place a commemorative item at the hall to mark the Platinum Jubilee. After long discussions covering many ideas, we decided that a sundial would be ideal.

The Trustees were keen to find a bespoke piece made from English stone, ethically sourced and locally cut, prepared and set. Initial research made it evident that we could benefit from local council funding. We were fortunate to receive £500 from South Cambridgeshire Community Chest grants and £300 from Melbourn Parish Council. The balance of the funds were to be made via fundraising events at All Saints Community Hall over the Platinum Jubilee weekend.

The fundraising events at All Saints Community Hall were very well supported by our local community. We held a coffee morning on Thursday 2nd June and on Friday 3rd June we had a live music event, with light supper and raffle. The total raised across these events was £996! This gave us a generous budget of £1800.

We found a local stonemason, based in Ickleton, who was happy to take on our vision for the sundial project. He sourced an English sandstone boulder for the base and a sandstone disc for the inset piece with the sundial attached.

On Saturday 29th October we finally got the sundial installed. A crane was required to lift the boulder in place, and it was levelled with cement. The inset piece with the sundial attached was fixed on site – to make sure it gave an accurate time!



Inset with Sundial before it was placed on the boulder



Crane lifting the boulder in place



Final manoeuvre to get it in the right place



Photo taken at 2.30pm



The commemorative sundial



Close up of the plaque on the front

Community Support for Dementia

What happened in 2022?

2022 proved to be a productive year for Community Support for Dementia.

Having laid our foundations for the group just prior to, and during the pandemic, we had a year where all our ideas and plans came into fruition.

We run a Memory Café, every month. This is a time for our carers and their loved ones 'living with dementia' to join us on a Saturday afternoon, in an **'inclusive'** and **'safe'** environment. We regularly have more than 50 people attending and have provided entertainment such as: - arts and crafts, singers, dancing demonstrations from Salsa and Tap groups, magicians, Ukulele bands and flower arranging. The feedback has been amazing and fills us with joy that the group is now providing the support needed in our community. Below you will see some of the kind words from our group.

The group was one of the few things that kept me sane.....just knowing people cared about mum and took an interest really cheered her up towards the end of her life and myself and Rachel will always be grateful to you for that.

Since Alan and I were warmly welcomed at the memory cafe by Davina and Steph about two years ago we have nothing but praise for the Saturday afternoons we have shared with other couples being entertained and enjoying a delicious afternoon tea. Davina and Steph's helpers are all lovely caring people who wait on us all. We have made several friends and it is comforting to be able to chat with other carers who are looking after their loved ones and share stories. I always come home refreshed and happy after our monthly visits".

Our Community Support for Dementia Group has been and continues to be a lifeline to us. Our monthly meet up with friends we have made are always much enjoyed and the seaside trips are an extra bonus. It is good to be with a group of people with whom we can feel relaxed, comfortable, and accepted. Davina and Steph together with their band of helpers are wonderful.

You include everyone and that makes everyone feel valued. Davina and Steph, and everyone who helps are warm and inviting at a time when looking after a loved one can feel a very lonely place as the Alzheimer's or Dementia develops and progresses, and the love and social interaction with our loved one slowly fades away. Most importantly...you understand. Thank you so much for inviting me to join your group!

We have recently joined and have been to the Memory Café a couple of times, but you are a very warm welcome friendly group who have made us very welcome and both afternoons have been lovely. I think that both afternoons have benefited both mum and dad in different ways and I think having such a group is such a fantastic idea.

We have also received very positive feedback from our entertainers, which shows us that we are also educating those who have no experience of those 'living with dementia' how humbling it can be to share an afternoon and seeing that a diagnosis of dementia means life can still carry on. Below is some feedback from the entertainers.

There has been a lot of very good feedback from our player/singers who all say they really enjoyed our visit to the memory cafe. It was very moving to see the responses to our playing and singing, well worth our time and very rewarding for us.

Luluke – Ukulele Band

We are really glad your group enjoyed themselves - we did also - it was a lovely experience. We would be more than happy to come later in the year.

Cambridge Salsa Club

We receive lots of support from volunteers, at the Memory Cafes. Some of whom originate from Melbourn Timebank. Volunteers are essential to running successful Memory Cafes, many of them have become friends with the carers and their loved ones.

We continue to subscribe to the 'Daily Sparkle' Activity Coordinator, which provides much needed activities for our group, wordsearches, quizzes, drawing, etc. Several group members now share the monthly activity pack online.

'A trip to the seaside', Felixstowe, utilising 'The Hut', a facility for care groups was a tremendous success. We managed to fill the coach and sadly needed to tell some that there were no more seats. It was so nice to see everyone enjoying the fresh air and walking along the promenade. Due to the success of this trip, we booked a further 2 days for 2022/3.

'A day at Duxford War Museum' was another success. Once again, we had a full house and many of the group were able to reminisce and tell us stories. Lots went on Concord and joined the museum for the year. £50.00 per person (carer goes free) for unlimited visits was a deal many couldn't resist. It really is a great place for carers to go with their loved ones. Plenty of open spaces, quiet and with a nice café.

We offered training for a Dementia Workshop, hosted by CS4D and Forget me not Dementia training. The first workshop was fully booked, and we have 2 more planned.

Chris Elsley from Forget me not Dementia continues to support individual members of our group. Chris, supports the carers with day to day living around the home. Guiding them how to deal with the behaviour of their loved one 'living with dementia, as they reach the different stages of the disease.

We continue to receive referrals from the Social Prescribers/Navigators employed by the local surgeries. 99% of who are now members of our group and come the cafes regularly.

We have received several donations this year, from fund raising events, so we will not be making an application to Melbourn Parish Council in May 2023 but will possibly make an application in November 2023.

Davina Biswell May 23



St George's Allotment Association

Community Grant Report 2022

Summary: The St George's Allotment Association applied for and received a Melbourn Parish Council Community Grant in May 2022 to cover the hire cost of an 8-yard general waste skip and to purchase water butts for use on the Melbourn Allotments at The Moor, Melbourn. The grant received was comprised of £266.40 for skip hire and £392.64 for water butts. Both amounts were fully spent during the year.

Waste Clearance: A suitable skip was hired from the Mick George Group and delivered to the allotments on 1st June 2022. Plot holders rapidly filled the skip by clearing non-compostable assorted rubbish from their plots, such as broken wire fencing, rusted metal, broken glass, waste plastic, etc., etc. The full skip was removed on the 9th June 2022.

This project was beneficial to all of the St Georges Allotment community who took part and resulted in many tidier allotments. Plot holders include families with children and a fair proportion of retired people. Having less rubbish on their allotments not only benefited the current plot holders but also provides legacy value to future tenants. It also benefited the local environment by removing environmentally harmful materials such as plastic and it provided safer conditions for plot holders to tend their plots.

Water Butts: A major objective of the Allotment Association is to try to reduce mains water usage, both through introducing good horticultural practice (e.g. mulching, etc.) and through wider collection of rainwater where possible. This would both benefit the environment and enable direct cost savings on metered water, and these will become increasingly important as global climate change progresses.

A total of eight water butts and associated guttering was purchased during the autumn of 2022 and



six water butts were distributed to plot holders who had previously requested them. These were placed underneath suitable rain water collectors such as greenhouses, sheds or home-made collectors. The remaining two water butts were used as part of a community rainwater collector and storage system that was built next to the wood chippings area. The rainwater collector was comprised of two corrugated plastic sheets held above the water butts on a wooden frame, see photo. Guttering and downpipes funnel the collected rainwater into the water butts. Within a few weeks the butts were full due to heavy rain and the water is now available for all plot holders to use.

The purchase of this initial batch of water butts will help us to determine how effective rain water collection could be and whether it is likely to make a significant reduction to mains water usage. If rain

water collection is significant then the intention would be to purchase further water butts in future.

Conclusion: Both grant projects were successfully completed in 2022, bringing benefit to allotment holders and the allotment environment. The full amount of the grant was spent, and a small additional amount to cover the cost of the community water collection system was provided from the Association funds.



It Takes a Village

Thank you for the grant awarded to ITAV, parents support group.

The grant money has enabled us to produce a Flyer (below) for Melbourn, to book space for meetings and provide refreshments.

May 2023, Stephanie Trayhurn & Pilan Ramiah

'Drop in' Group for Parents/Carers with children affected by Mental Health issues. We are at Vicarage Close Community Hall, Melbourn on Mondays 12-3.

It takes a Village to raise a child' Old African Proverb
Parenting isn't always simple. We can't always get it right, but we try. Do you have a child or young person who struggles with mental health difficulties? Do you feel like nobody understands what you are experiencing and all the advice you are being given, you've already tried and tested?

There is support available, in the form of others who have had similar experiences. What better experts than those who know? We are setting up a confidential support group for parents/carers of children who have been recognised as having these issues but who have not had the support they need and deserve. This could be partly due to the pandemic or other reasons, but parents still need to manage challenging behaviour every day.



If you would like to get involved in setting up the group, please contact a number below. If you would just like to come along for somewhere to express safely, please do get in touch

Stephanie Trayhurn
07710 198299

Pilan Ramiah
07815 764606

ITAV

**It takes a
village to
Raise a Child
(old African proverb)**



River Mel Restoration Group – Repairs to Access Point July 2022

The access point to the river on the Melbourn Playing field, originally installed by the River Mel Restoration Group in 2009, has proved to be a popular feature, but the front, riverside, edge was showing considerable wear and was becoming unstable.

With support and finance from the Melbourn Parish Council, a major repair project was undertaken by the group at the beginning of July 2023, with the work planned to take place over three days. The old reinforcements were removed, and the soil was dug out to bed level to allow four railway sleepers to be installed to stabilise and reinforce the front edge of the bank. Soil retaining geotextile was laid behind the sleepers and the area backfilled with a mixture of soil and gravel to ensure good drainage. The geotextile should prevent soil being washed out under the sleepers and into the river. Once the area had been infilled and tamped down, a new layer of a robust soil retaining matting was laid over the area to help prevent surface erosion.

The funding from the Melbourn Parish Council also enabled us to engage the services of Meldreth Plant Hire to do the groundworks. Their previous expertise in river work and their willingness to “go the extra mile” resulted in a superior finish.

The River Mel Restoration Group is extremely grateful to the Melbourn Parish Council for the funding that made this project possible.

South Cambs District Council Annual Report 2023

Council

The council is made up of 35 Liberal Democrats, 9 Conservatives and one Independent. The Leader of the council is Bridget Smith, and the council is run on a Cabinet Portfolio system, with statutory committees for regulatory functions including Planning and Licensing, as well as a statutory Scrutiny committee. There are also committees and advisory groups for Climate and Environment, Civic Affairs, Housing, Grants, Housing Engagement, and Audit. The council has representatives on the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, CPCA and the Greater Cambridge Partnership, GCP.

Cost of living support

The cost-of-living crisis affects everyone and SCDC has been supporting residents throughout, providing a package of support to help South Cambridgeshire residents through the winter. We supplied more than 300 residents who are 'just about managing' with free electric blankets and slow cookers: low-cost methods of staying warm and cooking food. More funding was provided to support an extra 100 eligible families with housing costs through Discretionary Housing Payments, Discretionary Council Tax discounts and a Warm Hubs programme.

A further £200,000 has recently been allocated for further support. Amongst other initiatives, a series of roadshows are planned, giving cost-of-living talks designed to highlight the support available to the most vulnerable. It is hoped that this will improve the reach and uptake of grants and other support services that many people do not know are available to them.

The home page at www.scambs.gov.uk contains a directory of Cost of Living support schemes.

Green to our Core

One of the Council's ongoing Business Plan objectives is to be Green to Our Core and we have delivered a number of initiatives in the last year. Two electric refuse collection vehicles are now operating in the district, a third is on order and a fourth will follow soon. These will replace diesel vehicles and plans are being developed for a large solar array at the Waterbeach depot to charge them. Following earlier successful initiatives, our '6 Free Trees' project was introduced to increase tree cover on parish council land, enhancing biodiversity and carbon capture. We have been working with community partners to provide equipment and information kits to encourage greater recycling and minimise waste at community events. More information can be found here: <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/climate-emergency-and-nature/>

Business Support

SCDC has a highly effective Business Support Team which provides advice and support, especially for small and medium-sized businesses and start-ups.

4-Day Week Trial

Over the first three months of this year, South Cambs trialled a four-day work week. There has been significant interest in the trial by other public sector organisations also grappling with challenges in workforce retention and recruitment. Lack of retention causes enormous disruption for the council and residents alike, especially in areas like Planning where the private sector has long attracted newly qualified staff away from the council. Recruitment is hampered by higher salaries in the private sector. The four-day-week offers a new way of managing time and new ways of managing work more efficiently. Results of the trial are now in, showing performance upheld and in some cases improved; health and wellbeing of staff improved; and

staff retention showing signs of improvement already. The trial will now be expanded to run for a full year.

Homes for Ukraine

SCDC has been highly active in the local administration of the government's Home for Ukraine scheme. Communication with both hosts and guests has been key and we have issued a weekly community update for hosts and, recently, one for guests. Throughout the scheme, South Cambridgeshire has remained one of the local authorities with the highest number of Ukrainian arrivals which shows how keen South Cambridgeshire residents have been to support and provide homes for people seeking refuge. The key statistics for the district at year ending March 2023 were that 408 hosts have welcomed 787 Ukrainian guests into their homes, 914 DBS checks have been completed and 405 welfare visits made.

The council is now heavily engaged in the next phase of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Whilst many guests will remain with their hosts, some will want, or need, to move on and the council is helping these people to find a new host, apply for social housing, or to rent privately.

The council is still looking for potential hosts, so if you feel you can help, please contact duty.communities@scambs.gov.uk

Growth in the Greater Cambridge area and the Local Plan

Economic growth in the Greater Cambridge area is one of the main drivers of the GCP's Making Connections proposals (see County Council Annual Report). Companies of all kinds and especially science and technology want to move to the Cambridge area, creating jobs of all kinds and the prosperity that goes with them. Indeed, government sees the Cambridge area as an important national driver of economic growth. Therefore government requires the local planning authority to plan for greater numbers of homes and the infrastructure (schools, medical facilities, roads) to accompany them. As we all know, there are many difficult consequences of growth on this scale.

You may ask why we need to accept the projected growth, but this is not a decision that local authorities like SCDC can take. The government requires that all planning authorities produce a Local Plan and expects them have a clear understanding of the 'objectively assessed' needs for housing and jobs. A 'carrot and stick' approach is adopted; local authorities that deliver the number of houses that the government agrees are needed continue to have control over development planning whereas, those that do not, can lose the ability to decide what is built and where. This was the case prior to 2018, which resulted in hundreds of houses being approved or built in our area outside of the agreed village limits.

SCDC is currently working to the Local Plan that we inherited from the pre-2018 Conservative administration and discussions are currently being held as to how the government's growth requirements can be delivered (especially given the potentially serious consequences for water supply in the area) without leaving us exposed to the 'stick' described above. Meanwhile, work on the next Local Plan is ongoing and the all-important draft plan consultation is due in autumn 2023.

Sally Ann Hart & Jose Hales
District Councillors – Melbourn Ward

Cambridgeshire County Council Annual Report 2023 Melbourn and Bassingbourn Division

Cllr Susan van de Ven

Composition of the Council

The three-group Joint Administration of Liberal Democrat (22), Labour (9) and Independent (3) councillors continues to run the Council, now in its second year. Conservatives (27) make up the opposition. The council is in the process of disentangling joint staffing structures with Peterborough Council set up by the previous administration and this is resulting in a more focused council.

Decision making is by service committees on which members of all political groups participate.

I serve as vice chair of the Adults and Health Committee, which manages adult social care and public health, and scrutiny of the local NHS (now called the Integrated Care System, or ICS). In addition, I co-chair the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board which is joined with the ICS. This provides a fascinating if sobering view of essential services under ever increasing pressure. I serve on the Education Transport Appeals panel and have been an active substitute member on Staffing and Appeals.

Finance

High rates of inflation in the last year, and the turmoil of last autumn's national mini budget, increased the costs of providing council services and widened the council's budget gap.

The Council increased its portion of Council Tax in February, by 4.99% in total—2.99% for general services, and 2% for adult social care.

Adult Social Care & Public Health

About 80% of CCC's revenue budget goes to social care. Much of this expenditure is tied up in long-term care contracts. Individual care packages can be highly complex.

Post-Covid our population is in poorer health and still aging, and the workforce in proportion to increasing need is proportionately smaller and under more pressure.

Prior to Covid, the social care industry was already adjusting to the departure of many in the EU workforce in response to post-Brexit uncertainty and falling value of the pound.

Current focus is support for the workforce (including introduction of real living wage, apprenticeships, career progression); a range of initiatives centred on prevention of ill-health especially among children and young people, and community level support for people to live well and independently in their own homes.

Like all local authorities CCC has been required to adhere to and prepare for government mandated reforms. This has required considerable resource though some reforms have now been delayed until after the next general election.

Significantly increased government funding support and certain reforms of the sector are needed to enable CCC to achieve its goal of serving residents in need of support.

The voluntary sector and carers (unpaid family members, friends and neighbours) play a massively important role in supporting people in maintaining their independence. This is strongly recognized.

Locally special thanks to volunteer community transport schemes, Warm Hubs and Community Hub volunteers, and all who given their time. The village mobile warden schemes are also a key component of community support.

Healthwatch is a great advocate for anyone struggling to navigate their way through complex health and care systems and bureaucracies. For county border areas like ours this has been particularly important, as we have some GP surgeries physically in Cambs but registered in Herts, or physically in Herts but registered in Cambs.

Scrutiny of the NHS: The Adults and Health Committee is also responsible for formal NHS scrutiny. We have looked at a wide range of issues including access to NHS dental services, access to primary care and children's mental health. Councillors have been fortunate to participate in informal quarterly liaison meetings with all our major NHS partners, affording a better understanding of the overall system.

Children & Young People

Funding of vouchers over the school holidays for families eligible for free school meals has continued, as has the Holiday Activity & Food programme for the children of eligible families. With the cost-of-living crisis, there is increasing call on these schemes.

The Council was praised by Ofsted for the work of senior leaders in Children's Services in responding to the challenge of Covid, and for maintaining continuity during structural change. Most children in need and those with a child protection plan were supported well.

The council is still seeking residents who would like to make a difference to the life of a child or young person by becoming a foster carer.

The council and the Government reached agreement on the 'safety valve' process to resolve the escalating deficit in the cost of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities education. The deficit was expected to grow to over £90M by 2025/26 if left unchecked, and the council was not permitted to divert funding from other sources to fill the gap. Cambridgeshire has been awarded £49M which will be used to create 463 new special school places, with a further £11.3M in capital funding to support new SEND provision on mainstream school sites.

Cambridgeshire has historically received less funding per child for education than other areas.

Communities

The Communities, Social Mobility & Inclusion Committee oversees the Household Support Fund, which supports people experiencing immediate financial hardship to pay for food, household energy or other essential items. An increasing number of households are struggling financially. It was agreed to use some of the money from the fund to give a 'payment holiday' to pensioners in arrears with their water bills.

A Warm Hubs scheme over the winter was funded by the NHS and administered by Cambridgeshire ACRE and South Cambs District Council with fantastic support from local parishes.

A review of the mobile library service resulted in a number of improvements, including more stops, more fuel-efficient routes, and local storage of vehicles. Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers were one of three voluntary organisations in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service—the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK.

The Government is introducing a requirement for photographic ID for voters at elections.

This starts with the elections in May, and will cost up to £180M over ten years, despite cases of voter identity fraud at polling stations being almost non-existent. Around two million voters in the UK do not have the right form of ID to enable them to vote—they can apply for free Voter Authority Certificates, but applications for these are extremely slow and many people are likely to find themselves deprived of their right to vote on 4 May. Councillors have been working with County Council officers on ways in which the council can support the effort to ensure the many people without the required photo ID apply for a free Voter Authority Certificate so that they are not denied their right to vote.

Environment

On the hottest day on record in the UK, Joint Administration members of the County Council voted to sign Zero Hour's Nature & Climate Declaration, bolstering its declaration of Climate Emergency and commitment to Net Zero carbon by 2045.

The County Council is working with district councils on energy retrofits in homes with poor energy efficiency. A number of Cambridgeshire residents received individual invitations to apply.

The waste disposal contract with Thalia (formerly Amey) at Waterbeach has taken considerable amounts of council time. In addition to the odour emission works required by the Environment Agency, the new year saw new enforcement by the Environment Agency of rules on 'persistent organic pollutants in waste upholstered domestic seating'. This led to a week of the council being unable to accept unwanted sofas, futons, gaming chairs, upholstered dining seats, and other similar items. These must now be incinerated not landfilled. In addition to this, discussions are also ongoing with Defra regarding proposals to introduce weekly food waste collections.

The council is pursuing a number of green energy projects in different localities. The first households in Swaffham Prior are now receiving renewable energy from the new energy centre there. Interest in this project has been considerable. Other energy projects are solar panels on Park & Ride sites, North Angle solar farm, and replacement of gas and oil boilers in schools such as at Comberton Village College and in the Council's own premises around the county. In conjunction with iChoosr the council ran another round of Solar Together, the group buying scheme for homeowners wanting to invest in solar panels and battery storage.

Anglian Water and Cambridge Water announced in the autumn their preferred location for a new reservoir in the Fens, north of Chatteris, to come onstream in the late 2030s.

The council has published an interim Tree Strategy, which it will revise once it has baseline information about what trees the council has, where they are, and how the council can expand and improve its tree assets.

We received details of the County Council's carbon emissions for the year. There was a significant reduction in the early stages of the pandemic, due to construction work ceasing, but this is likely to increase again in future years.

We agreed a motion to the Full Council calling for managed divestment by the council's Pension Fund from fossil fuels.

The council ran a #LetsGetOutdoors campaign over the summer to encourage residents to make use of Cambridgeshire's fantastic parks.

Highways & Transport

It is a challenge for everyone that transport and travel span several organisations, with the Combined Authority (Transport Authority), County Council (Highway Authority) and Greater Cambridge Partnership (a legal partnership agreement with central government consisting of a combination of district, city and county council representatives, together with the university and local business, for the purpose of strategic planning and delivery of transport and access infrastructure in a high growth area).

The condition of Cambridgeshire's roads and pavements remains a serious challenge. This situation has been building for many years, as reported previously. Ten years ago about the deterioration of the highways network prompted councillors to ask for an audit and assessment of what would be needed to bring the entire network into decent condition. At that point the sum was about 2/3 of the council's entire revenue budget. The then council administration's approach was one of 'managed decline' and the crumbling state of the network now reflects this.

While much progress was being made on pot hole repair earlier this year, extreme weather has speeded up that decline very significantly. The peaty soil (in the Fens and East Cambs) and clay (in southern Cambs) under the road surface has shrunk in hot dry weather, and expanded in freezing and wet weather, causing the surface to crater and split. Adding more tarmac to level the surface simply increases the weight and makes matters worse. The severity and extent of the problem is far beyond the maintenance budget of the council, so simply 'freeing up some money' is not an option. The council has been actively engaging with the Department for Transport to seek their support and funding.

We are very grateful to residents for reporting faults online. We are following up any examples of repair work going bad so please feel free to alert your county councillor.

The council used a data interpretation and modellings tool to identify a 'Safe and Dry' programme of 115 locations where work was needed to improve flood resilience. The council is also undertaking a two-year programme to clean and plot all gullies and surface drainage features to improve highways drainage management into the future.

The county council plans to fit street lighting with energy-efficient LEDs. The council spends £3.3M a year on energy for street lights, and this sum will pay back in under six years.

The new funding pot for 20MPH schemes has attracted a large amount of interest.

The county council and partners offered South Cambs District Council funding and assistance to help with the set-up costs of joining the rest of the country in adopting civil parking enforcement.

GCP Making Connections consultation – in the news

The Greater Cambridge Partnership's consultation on 'Making Connections,' comprising the introduction of significantly improved bus services and active travel links for the greater Cambridge area, to be funded largely through the introduction of a 'Sustainable Travel Zone' (a road charge for vehicle travel in Cambridge city), has been in the news and will no doubt continue to be.

The scheme was first proposed by Cambs County Council in 2007, due to the exceptional growth of housing, jobs and population in Cambridge and the surrounding area – which as well known, is a key housing and jobs growth is supported.

The 'Greater Cambridge City Deal' in 2014 was a legal agreement between local and national government, supporting transport infrastructure for that growth, underpinned by £500 million in government funding. The Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) is the body delivering the City Deal and is made up of representatives from South Cambs District Council, Cambs County Council and Cambridge City Council.

Meanwhile in the mix, in 2017 government's devolution deal for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough saw the creation of the Combined Authority, led by an elected mayor, which assumed responsibility for Passenger Transport, previously held by the County Council. One of the key tools awarded to the Combined Authority was the power to introduce bus franchising.

Bus franchising means that the deregulated bus market is suspended and bus operators are only able to provide services under contract to the local transport authority. This is the arrangement in London with Transport for London. But franchising enables integrated ticketing, network planning, cross subsidy across bus services and other modes. Passengers benefit from greater levels of connectivity and the development of a comprehensive network, and closer integration with other modes. For operators, a growing, stable market becomes an attractive place to invest.

The expectation of a new bus franchising scheme did not take root under the first elected mayor, but the new mayor elected in 2021 is progressing steps toward bus franchising for end of 2024. Bus franchising is a key component of the new Making Connections mix proposed by the GCP.

If a new bus service is to be effective, then congestion must be alleviated. A direct bus service from the Mordens, Litlington, Bassingbourn, Whaddon and Meldreth to Cambridge ceased to run in 2017 due to congestion in Trumpington and the inability to get students to sixth form college on time. The GCP consultation last autumn generated 24,000 responses. Locally the Cam Vale Bus User Group met several times to agree a response from our area regarding public transport improvement needs of local residents from the Mordens, Litlington, Bassingbourn, Whaddon, Meldreth and Melbourn.

It was always intended that the issues raised by the consultation would be dealt with by positive, practical changes, which the GCP is now working on. The GCP has a clear remit to protect the least well off.

The results of the consultation will be included in a final report on the proposals and next steps, scheduled for the GCP Board in the coming months, after which they will make a recommendation to Cambridgeshire County Council as the Local Highway Authority on whether to proceed with a road charging scheme.

We will be hearing more in due course.

LOCAL ISSUES:

Walk/cycle paths

Taking every opportunity for links connecting our villages, plus safe links to Royston via Ivy Farm Bridge (slow but in progress) and the Melbourn Greenway A505 bridge (very challenging with inflationary rises and general economic picture).

A Transforming Cities bid to central government for the A505/A10 bridge was unfortunately unsuccessful, however the scheme remains prominently on the radar of the GCP.

Melbourn Greenway Melbourn-Cambridge aiming for link to Meldreth Station in coming year, and improvements of existing network toward Cambridge.

Cam Vale Bus User Group

Has met regularly, and responded to GCP consultation to highlight improvements needed for bus services locally.

We're very pleased that the 17 and 26 services have had their contract renewed under a subsidy arrangement with the Combined Authority.

Community Transport

Support from parish councils and SCDC is essential to keep vital CT services going, providing social contact and access to services for people otherwise isolated. Thank you to volunteers for Heron and Royston and District Community Transport. I attend RDCT meetings when possible.

Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group and Community Rail Partnership

These groups provide excellent contacts and collaboration with the rail industry. The lasting free parking charges at Shepreth and reduced parking at Meldreth, and the 50% discount for Cambridgeshire 16-18 year olds in education and training, have been retained since established well over ten years ago. Station environments are well maintained thanks to volunteer gardening and crime and anti-social behaviour rates are very low as a result.

Practical Solutions Groups, Melbourn and Bassingbourn

These groups exist to support good opportunities in the community for young people, and bring together parish, district and county council resources, plus schools and village colleges, police and community groups, for troubleshooting and to help foster new ideas and projects.

Thakeham

- No foothold for Thakeham in emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan
- Donations from Thakeham to the Conservative Party has now reached £1 million

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



COMMUNITY AWARD

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
15 MAY 2023

MACS Volunteers

In recognition of the time and effort poured into Melbourn Action Community Support and the vital services provided such as the Melbourn Foodbank and the Warm Hub.

Cllr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Sophie Marriage

PARISH CLERK

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



COMMUNITY AWARD

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
15 MAY 2023

Paul White

In recognition of the time and care he volunteers to the village and for
keeping 83 High Street looking fantastic.

Cllr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Sophie Marriage

PARISH CLERK

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



COMMUNITY AWARD

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
15 MAY 2023

Andrew Woolley

In recognition of his efforts in keeping the village litter free.

Cllr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Sophie Marriage

PARISH CLERK

MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE



COMMUNITY AWARD

AWARD MADE AT THE
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
15 MAY 2023

Paula Froggatt

In recognition of her volunteer work as an assistant guider with 1st Melbourn Brownies for over 12 years
as well as volunteering with the Melbourn Fete committee and Turn on to Christmas

Cllr Graham Clark

CHAIR, MELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

Sophie Marriage

PARISH CLERK