

Cheveley Parish Meeting Minutes 9th June 2025

The Chairman opened the meeting with eleven members of the public, six Parish Councillors, one County Councillor and two District Councillors whom he introduced. He explained that this annual meeting is facilitated by the Parish Council.

The Chair explained the purpose of the meeting and that copies of the Agenda, Minutes of the previous meeting held on 23rd May 2024 along with the latest Parish Newsletter were provided. He thanked everyone for attending and supporting the meeting.

The Chair enquired if there were any comments on the minutes from the 2024 Parish Meeting held at the Parish Hall. As no comments were forthcoming, the Chair proceeded to sign them as a true record of the meeting.

Verbal reports on recent events and achievements were presented by the Chair on behalf of Cheveley Parish Council who thanked the Parish Clerk, Mrs Sally Hughes, the Councillors, Rowena Berridge and supporters Phil Nutt and Chris Emmerson for their work during the year and the support of District Councillors, James Lay and Alan Sharp and County Councillor Jonny Edge.

The Chair then reported verbally on Cheveley Church and also thanked all those who had supported the church over the past twelve months.

District Councillor Alan Sharp reported on recent events in respect of ECDC and the changes about to take effect in becoming a Unitary Authority across Cambridgeshire.

The Chair of Cheveley Community Association explained briefly the purpose of the charity and reported on recent events in respect of the building and land it owns at Cheveley Primary School.

Verbal updates were also given on recent improvements to the Recreation Ground and intruders to the grounds during the past week which were dealt with quickly and effectively by the Parish Council and the local Police force.

The Neighbourhood Plan submitted by the Parish Council had been accepted and adopted by East Cambs Council and has been applied as is appropriate when needs have arisen.

It was noted that our new MP, Mrs Charlotte Cane MP, held a meeting for local residents in the Parish Hall on the 7th June.

Finally, the 'Young Volunteer Award' was presented by the Chair on behalf of Cheveley Parish Council to Arwin and Elise Kirk who had both given exceptional service and help to disabled people at Mersea Island Holiday Club. They were accompanied by their proud parents.

The McCalmont Cup was presented to Ian Swann, our local postman, for exceptional service to the residents of the Parish and for going way beyond his job and call of duty by the Post Office, to support and care for local people.

Great applause and appreciation was given to all three recipients and photographs taken to be published locally in the Newmarket Journal.

Appendices

1. Report from Cheveley Parish Council
2. Report from St Mary and the Holy Host of Heaven, Cheveley.
3. East Cambs District Council & Cambridgeshire Council Council Reports

1. Cheveley Parish Council Report – James Hadlow, Chairman of Cheveley Parish Council

Another busy year for Cheveley Parish Council with much being achieved. We currently have 8 councillors who volunteer their time to help make the parish the wonderful place it is to live. We have 2 vacancies in South Ward and 1 vacancy in North Ward. A big thank you to our Parish Clerk Mrs Sally Hughes who does a fantastic job making sure everything keeps running and compliant in the hours she is allocated to the parish. Also thank you to Mrs Rowena Berridge who is caretaker of the Parish Hall and pavilion and for all the other volunteers who contribute to the running and maintenance of our Parish facilities particularly Mr Phil Nutt for taking the hall bookings and Mr Chris Emerson for putting the hall rubbish out every week.

To highlight a few of the achievements from the past year:

The Recreation Ground, Children's Playground and Sports Pavilion

- The CCTV cameras located at the entrance to the Recreation Ground covering the car park and around the Pavilion have proved a useful investment by providing firm evidence for the Police of an attempted break in at the Pavilion. The perpetrator is now in Police custody.
- The "travellers" that entered the recreation ground illegally in July 2024 were evicted by bailiffs within 36 hours of arriving. Cheveley Parish Council thanks the many volunteers who came to clear up the rubbish and waste they left behind which was scattered everywhere.
- Following this, a new robust security gate with a restricted height bar and pedestrian gate was installed to prevent unwanted vehicles driving onto the field.
- Despite this "travellers" managed to force entry through the gate again on June 3rd 2025 but were moved on by the Police within 12 hours. The Parish council are discussing with security experts how we can further secure the grounds in a proportionate manner.
- The new footpath from the car park to the children's playground has been completed which was funded using Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds.
- The Parish Council has agreed to make the Sports Pavilion more accessible so it is compliant with legislation. It is hoped work will begin in the autumn/winter of 2025 to convert the existing outside toilets into one accessible facility and create a new accessible entrance into the Pavilion at the rear.
- A thornless native hedging has been planted around the existing car park fence to render a more rural appearance and make the area safer for children and dogs. This was funded by the Pride of Place initiative.
- The football goalposts have been repainted and repositioned to allow the ground to recover.
- Repairs to the historic wall, running parallel to the High Street at the Recreation Ground will continue and be completed this year which has involved replacing the capping on the top of the wall to prevent further erosion and damage from frost and bad weather.

Parish Hall

- The Parish Hall continues to be busy with both daytime and evening bookings increasing in the Jubilee and Garden Rooms. The gates at the High Street entrance have been refurbished and a new hedge planted around the oil tank.

Cheveley Neighbourhood Plan

- The Parish Council are extremely pleased that following a successful referendum on 12 September 2024, the Cheveley Neighbourhood Plan was formally adopted by East Cambridgeshire District Council on 17 October 2024.
- The Neighbourhood Plan provides extra guidance for the planning authority when it comes to development within our Parish. It aims to preserve the unique character of the area, protect our heritage assets and encourage sustainable development.

Other PC projects

- A revised web site is under construction to make it easier to search and find relevant information on local knowledge, organisations and events with contact details.
- A calendar booking facility will be added to enable reservations and/or bookings for the Parish Hall and Pavilion be completed online.
- Road Safety and the Local Highways Improvement (LHI) Bid. Based on recent feedback and the results of our parish-wide survey, we have submitted a funding bid focused on traffic calming on Park Road. This will include:
 - Reducing the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph near the village entrance to slow vehicles down before they enter the village.
 - Adding “village gates” to make is very clear you are entering a residential area.
 - Improving road markings to enhance compliance with the 30mph zone.
- We will continue to work with County Councillor Jonny Edge to explore additional measures, such as the possibility of chicanes near the school to maintain compliance within the 30mph zone.

2. St Mary and the Holy Host of Heaven, Cheveley

APM Report 2024 / 25

We regularly hold services of worship in the church, our pattern of services remained 2 Holy Communion and 2 lay led Morning Prayer per month each at 11am on a Sunday with three regular children's events (Little Angels, Saturday Special and Lego club), along with a Wednesday Coffee Morning.

The South Transept is an important "café church" area whilst the North Transept a vibrant children's area. Both are vital in attracting new and younger congregation which is part of our overall mission strategy.

Our annual fete takes place in June and brings in much needed funds which helps us to fulfil our financial commitments and supports the daily maintenance of the building. 2024 marked the last year it was held at the Old Farmhouse. We also hold a number of social events in the church which is open to the whole community.

The churchyard is the responsibility of E.C.D.C. who regularly cut the grass. We are thankful they installed a new section of flint and brick wall along the boundary with Church Terrace in the Autumn 2024 to replace the remains of the dilapidated wall which has become a safety hazard.

Following a recent inspection of the church organ several issues were identified which need repair and restoration. The organ is a good Victorian example which has been regularly used since 1874. Funding was sought from donations, grants and a loan facility granted and works completed in January 2025.

Work on replastering and restoring the South Transept walls was completed in spring 2024. With the cost of living always on the increase, the challenge is to raise enough funds to keep the historic building in good repair. This we try to achieve via regular giving, donations, fundraising and our 200-club lottery, all of which are very much appreciated.

Most work in the church is supported directly through our volunteers enabling us to continue the loving care of our historic church building. We are very grateful to the cleaning team, coffee / cake makers, flower arrangers and many others for all their help during the year in order that we may continue to open every day to visitors. We also thank all the parishoners who give up their time and talents in all sorts of practical ways to help us. Thanks especially to Dave Joyner who manages the church's website.

The Church building remains open every day and you are welcome to visit anytime.

Very many thanks.

James Hadlow & Celia Bruce (Churchwardens)

**3 East Cambridgeshire District Council/ Cambridgeshire County Council Report – Cheveley
Annual Report May 2025
County Council**

This year, the County has encountered several issues, and my report provides a summary of the key points relevant to Bottisham residents.

Highways

Swaffham Heath Rd/A 1303 Crossroads

After four years of waiting, the new staggered junction was opened towards the end of 2024. I am aware of one accident since, involving a motor cyclist and a car. We just need to keep vigilant and ensure that the safety of all road users is paramount.

Capital Maintenance of roads programme

The County Council has introduced a new system for the major resurfacing works which uses a scoring matrix to assess the roads most in need of major work.

That sounds a good idea, but I believe that the scoring matrix is very biased towards urban areas, leaving an unlevel playing field.

The normal pothole repairs come out of the revenue budget, but there needs to be better workmanship on those repairs than currently is the case.

More money for Highways Maintenance

Our group put forward a number of proposals to increase the spending on quality highways maintenance, but this was rejected by the Joint Administration.

Moulton Road/ Newmarket Road Junction

The white lining for this junction was done during the year. Sadly, it took a number of accidents for the Joint Administration at County Council to get this overdue maintenance done.

LHI Bid – Park Road

I supported the bid from the Parish Council for traffic calming along Park Road, which attracts speeding along the straight road into the village and was the site of a particular nasty accident near the school.

Mill Road Bridge

Back in October 2024, the Highways & Transport Committee voted to restrict Mill Road bridge in Cambridge to taxis, buses, and blue badge holders.

I am opposed to this scheme, as no account of the effect on side roads off Mill Road, such as Tennison Road and Coleridge Road, together with the extra traffic created on Cherry Hinton Road and Coldhams Lane was considered.

Highways Weedkilling

Our group opposed the Council's decision in 2023 to stop chemical weedkilling to save money.

I believed this to be a false economy and in 2024, the County Council were forced to reintroduce the chemical weedkilling, due to the state that it left our roads in.

Parishes and areas were able to continue without chemical weedkilling, which Cambridge City decided not to use. The state of roads such as Trumpington Road shows this to be an incorrect policy.

Busways – Cambridge to Cambourne and CSET

The Council voted to proceed with the busway from Cambourne to Cambridge going through an ancient orchard in Coton at a cost of £200m, as well as another busway going into Addenbrookes going over open countryside and the Gog Magog Hills at a cost of £162m.

I opposed both of those schemes, as there are much cheaper on-road solutions, which do not carve open our countryside.

Council Reorganisation

The County Council held a special meeting on 18th March to agree the Council's response to the Government's Council reorganisation, which Government requested for 21st March, with East Cambridgeshire District Council meeting on 20th March.

The response to Government consisted of a joint letter from all of the Councils within Peterborough and Cambridgeshire excluding Fenland.

The response was very much a holding response and Government are stating that the final decision from the councils needs to be sent by 28th November and if the tier 2 authorities, i.e. District Councils cannot agree, then the County Council makes the decision.

Whilst I agree that there was a need for a reorganisation, this has been imposed by Government with little discussion and no opportunity for residents to comment.

Buses

The mayor, as his last act before announcing that he was not standing for election, decided to implement franchising. I have huge concerns on how this will be financed and could cause a huge financial burden on residents for many years to come.

The extra buses promised as part of the precept increase in 2024 had to go out to tender again, with it looking likely that those services will happen sometime during the summer, a year after residents were paying for them.

This will include a direct service from Bottisham to the sixth form colleges and Addenbrookes.

Education

The County Council is currently spending £25m on taxis to transport pupils around the County. Whilst a lot of the costs is unavoidable, I have raised concerns in the Education Committee about those costs and how we need to reduce them.

The availability of school places is another issue, as seen in Cambridge, where several secondary schools are full to new pupils, causing those school with places, such as Bottisham Village College, to take those pupils, with pupils having a longer than desired journey to school.

It is a difficult balancing act, but there is a need to take a look at the location and capacity of schools around the County.

Kingsway Solar

Kingsway Solar is a proposed 3,700-acre solar farm, which will encircle West Wratting and Weston Colville, whilst taking the resulting electricity ten miles on pylons across the countryside to the Burwell substation.

I spoke as the local member at the Environment & Green Investment Committee at County Council to express my concerns about the proposed application.

The application is in totally the wrong position, and I will continue to push for a decision that thinks about residents rather than those of opportunistic applicants.

East Cambridgeshire District Council

Waste Services

The system of collection will change from April 2026 to a four-bin system of different sizes.

Part of this has been determined by Government legislation, which demands that general waste is put in a bin, rather than the bag system that ECDC uses and the weekly collection of food waste, which currently goes into the green bin.

More details will be shared of these changes later in the year to prepare residents.

Council Tax – Nil Increase

For the eleventh year running, the ECDC portion of the Council tax bill has been frozen and this is managed with no external borrowing, which is a testament to the way that the Council's finances are managed.

Planning

The planning team have had a year of challenges, and a reshaping of the department has been undertaken to make it more responsive and less bureaucratic.

East Cambs Trading Company (ECTC)

The wholly owned trading company (ECTC) continues to perform to a high standard.

The grounds maintenance team continues to win new contracts and recently won a major academy trust contract, not on price, but on service.

Ely Market continues to thrive with a waiting list of traders wanting to join it.

Palace Green Homes continues to build good quality homes, including £100k homes and a good percentage of affordable homes, whilst contributing back over £6m in saved costs to the council over the life of the Company.

Alan Sharp

DRAFT