District Councillors' November report to Parish Councils

The only substantial meeting was that of Full Council on 14 October.

- A motion on the control of weedkiller on Council owned playgrounds was withdrawn after the Administration had amended it so much as to make it worthless.
- East Cambs Street Scene was given a ten-year contract for Parks Maintenance and Open Spaces and Ely Market which had hitherto been managed by East Cambs Trading Company; this was pushed through by the Administration despite a rather scant paper justifying the change of management.
- Vattenfal has proposed two windfarms in the north of the District. Council agreed to oppose this proposal in principle. The Lib Dems thought that this was still at an early stage, that it was too early to make judgement on a proposal that had to be fully substantiated, and that it would be better to address the issues that were of concern.

- It was agreed to appoint Dr. Stuart Green as the Lay Member for the Audit Committee; regrettably there was no information about the person included in the papers, but an internet search suggested that he had appropriate experience and understanding.
- The Government has changed the way that Planning Applications should be considered, and has in effect reduced the number of reasons for calling in a planning application to the committee; Council agreed to change the planning procedures to be in line with the Government directive, and a couple of Planning Committees have been cancelled. The changes may mean that there is less community involvement in planning applications; each planning application will be designated as Schedule 1 or 2, and only Schedule 2 can be considered at Committee; written comments from relevant parties such as neighbours, Parish Councils and District Councillors will be considered for Schedule 1 applications.

  For reference, the Council agenda item is:

  https://eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-10/Agenda%20Item%2011%20-%20Planning%20-%20Implementing%20the%20National%20Scheme%20of%20Delegation.pdf

  and it contains references to the relevant legislation.

Cllrs Charlotte Cane MP and John Trapp