

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH
GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	11 th May 2018
Chairman:	Clr Dring
Parish Councillors:	Clr Clements, Clr Dring, Clr Harrison, Clr Wiseman, Clr Hatt, Clr Ridge
County Councillor:	
District Councillor:	Clr Deb Roberts
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
Members of the Public:	40 Members of the Public
Start Time:	19:40

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Roger Truett
Peter Topping.

2. Approval of the Minutes of APM on 11th May 2017

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of proceedings and were duly signed by the Chairman

3. Chairmans Report written by James Coney and presented by Sarah Scott Addendum 1

4. Financial Report – RFO

The RFO thanked Jeff Gill of Blanche and Co with their continuing support in undertaking the internal audit. The Precept has remained the same for 5 years now and we may well increase it next year as there are some ma be that we have to increase it next year. In line with the transparency Act all finance sheets are on the website. Last year’s audit papers are also online and when this years audit is complete, these also will be displayed online. Ended with £20,634, spend onf £33590.80, income 25812.76

5. Report by the District and County Councillors – Addendum 2

Simon read out Clr Topping

Clr Roberts spoke about her warm welcome, learn term member of the planning team and licence team and will be keeping those roles. Has a wealth of knowledge. Local plan expected sign off in July. Should be no change in village envelope, the moment they say it is sound, it carries weight and we can use in determining a planning applications. Deb will an active councillor, 100% attendance of meetingsSimon read

6. Report from Fowlmere School – Addendum 3

106 Deb Roberts added the school has lots of offer her grandchildren enjoy the school. See wonder things happening parents and grandparents alike. A question was asked about the numbers of children from CHishill

7. Report on the Chishill Charity – Sarah Scott

This year 6 village residents were given a sum of money at Christmas from the Chishill Charity. Those who received the gift were pleased to have received it.

8. Report and Election of Representatives from the Playing Fields Association, Alan Ferrie, Addendum 4

9. A Report from the Village Hall Committee, Anna Coney – Addendum 5

10. An Update from Bloomhall

“Terms have now been agreed between the developer and the owner. Development scheme plans need to be drawn up and we will be in touch with the Parish Council once there is more information to communicate.” The Clerk will chase up the

11. A Report from Speedwatch Addendum 6

Looking for new volunteers.

12. A Report on the Windmill Addendum 7

13. Youth and Children’s Provision Addendum 8&9

14. A Report from the Security Committee – Robin Dibblee Addendum 10

15. Matters for Future Consideration

Election – not publicised.
Community Awards.
Angust Gent and the litterpick

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:04

AMP 2018 Chairman's Report

As outgoing Parish Council Chairman, I have written a brief report on the past year. Please excuse me for asking Sarah, as clerk, to read this on my behalf but following the recent elections I am no longer able to do so myself!!

I would like to express my thanks to those councillors who have been members of the Parish Council since the last annual meeting who have continued to give up their time despite other commitments, often rushing straight from work to attend the monthly meetings, and in particular to thank Becks Pine who joined the council last year, and to Andy Loakes who has been a councillor since Sept 2015 but chose not to stand this time around. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

I would also like to thank and congratulate Bob and Jean for standing and being elected last Thursday. It has been a while since we have had contested elections in Great Chishill and it is great to see there are members of the community ready and willing to give up their time to join the Parish Council, and I believe in Bob's case for a second time!

The Boundary changes in March 2017 and subsequent all-out District Council Elections have also meant that we have said goodbye to our Councillors from Melbourn. A huge thanks to both of them, not just for coming up to the Chishills for the meetings every month to hear our concerns and keep us informed on district business, but for all the support and advice they were able to provide on a multitude of different items. Val has chosen to retire this year and we wish her well whilst Jose has been re-elected so many congratulations and good luck to him.

We have now moved to the Foxton Ward and have a new District councillor, Deborah Roberts, re-elected to the ward this year so congratulations and welcome to her, she will introduce herself and give an update from the District Council a little later.

The Parish Council has finished the year with approximately £20k in its bank account which is broadly similar to previous years, therefore the council took the decision at the start of the year to maintain the current precept, feeling that any increase at this time would be unjustified. Sarah will take you through a summary of our spending shortly.

Planning has also been a similar picture to previous years with the exception of the proposed development from Bloomhall on the land between Colts Croft and Wallers Close. The Parish Council had asked for an update from Bloomhall to find out if this is still being pursued, As late as last week we were told that there has been no progress however late yesterday Sarah was told that:

“Terms have now been agreed between the developer and the owner. Development scheme plans need to be drawn up and we will be in touch with the Parish Council once there is more information to communicate.”

Obviously, I am sure the parish council will keep the village well informed on this matter.

Other than this the PC has commented on 15 full planning applications this year, again most have been uncontentious except for a few. South Cambridgeshire District Council is still undergoing the process to allow it to adopt the Local Plan and this has continued to make life difficult for the Parish Council with no weight being able to be applied to the new plan until it is in place, although this policy appears to have been relaxed in the last few months signalling that adoption of the plan could be close. I am sure Deborah will have more on this later. Regardless of this the Parish Council has, as in previous years, tried to maintain a consistent and unbiased approach to its comments on planning applications, and reviews each application in detail at its meetings.

Coming out of a pretty miserable winter I am sure it has escaped nobody that the roads in and around the village are a mess. The Parish Council has kept up the pressure with both highways and the County Councillor to get road repairs done in a timely manner. It appears that now we have some dry weather some of these potholes have now been filled but we would urge anyone to report any highways damage using the online tool on the County council website and to let the PC know if they don't already so that we can keep the pressure on. Peter will hopefully update you later with some news from the County.

I would like to thank all the groups and clubs and societies in the village for everything they have done this year, as ever we will hear from some of them tonight, the Parish Council has been delighted to be able to contribute to some of these in a small way and look forward to being able to continue to do so in the future.

Last Summer, thanks to the Livings Family, the telephone box had a facelift and was transformed into a library. Out thanks go to the Livings Family for putting together this well used facility for the village.

The Parish Council would like to express its most sincere thanks to The Friends of Royston & District Healthcare for providing us with Automatic External Defibrillator now installed on the wall of the pavilion, in particular to Peter Homent from the Charity for

providing the AED and to Rod Taylor representing the East of England Ambulance Service NHS who has organised and done all the paperwork to link the Defibrillator to the 999 service. Also to Andrew Brown for the electrical installation work required. I hope it never has to be used but in a rural location such as ours it could be an invaluable asset. Sarah has kindly already put some signage up for the device with some more going up shortly. Rod has also offered to come up and give a familiarisation session if that is something people would be interested in.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone on the Council and around the village for their support and guidance over the past four and a half years, and wish you all well for the future.

Many thanks.

James Coney

Addendum 1 and 2 – District and County Councillors Report

Addendum 3 – Report from Fowlmere School

Report for the Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting

Friday 11th May, 7.30pm

Since the last Annual Parish Meeting, our biggest news is the outcome from our inspection in November 2017. We had a two-day inspection from an Ofsted inspector, who was shadowed for quality assurance purposes by one of Her Majesty's Inspectors – something which, reassuringly, happens periodically to ensure that judgements are consistent. After a very thorough inspection, we were delighted that our inspector recognised that we met the criteria for a "Good" school. This acknowledged the hard work undertaken by staff and governors, past and present, to transform the school over the preceding two years.

I started in my role as headteacher in September following a summer holiday in which staff planned, organised, designed and even decorated: you should see our space-themed entrance for Early Years!

We worked with staff, governors, pupils and families to establish a common understanding of what we want for Fowlmere Primary School over the next five years and the outcome of this work is on our website for all to see. Without fail, all groups were ambitious for the school: we all want to make sure that Fowlmere School provides the very best educational experiences for the children of the parishes of Fowlmere, Great & Little Chishill, Heydon and Chishall Grange.

Looking towards the best schools from across the country, we introduced a set of clear values which are designed to underpin everything we do:

- Care
- Ambition
- Determination • Teamwork
- Confidence

and set about embedding these throughout our community. In the Spring Term, we took a whole week to explore what we meant by each of these values – experiencing teamwork activities through drumming, care through first aid training and confidence through dance, amongst many others.

We invited parents into school to talk about their careers, not just for our oldest pupils, but with everyone from 4-year-olds upwards, and, in a recent assembly led by Rev. Angie children talked candidly about wanting to become scientists and designers and engineers and even teachers!

We marked National Science Week in March, and received the support of the University of Cambridge (more than once), IonScience, Melbourn Village College, Sawston Village College and yet another group of parents and carers in engaging all pupils in the huge diversity that is science.

We have continued to provide teams for the local football league, rugby tournaments and cross country competitions. Children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 (4 – 7 year olds) performed in a joint Christmas Play and Nativity in December and children in Key Stage 2 (7 – 11 year olds) will be performing soon in a concert in Royston and their own end-of-year production in July. Britten Sinfonia provided a fantastic performance and workshop based on Alice through the Looking Glass – funded by an instrumental concert held by pupils just before Christmas.

Our PTFA continues to provide events for parents, carers and the wider community, and in doing so raises much needed funds for those little extras which make school special. Most recently, the committee of hard-working volunteers have contributed to the school's IT provision, library and Early Years as well as providing ongoing support for sports and extra-curricular activities at the school. Their contribution is highly valued by everyone at Fowlmere School.

A major change came in September as we set up our own After-School Childcare, following the decision by Thriplow Primary to end the joint provision hosted there. Our After-School Club provides childcare for around 18 pupils per day whose parents work. It runs from the end of the school day to 6pm and is staffed by a dedicated team of play workers. Currently the provision is based in the school hall, which, whilst fine for the club, is not ideal for the school as it limits the number of other extra-curricular activities we can offer the whole school. In reality, the club needs its own space, but funding is very limited and as yet this is something that we simply can't afford.

We currently have 100 pupils on roll which is a steady increase on our numbers in September. The reality for us is that this is not a sustainable roll for the school. Changes to the funding formula brought in over the last year have meant that small schools, such as ours, have been the net losers. In the longer term, we need more pupils on roll than we have currently: at least 105. Everyone at the school is working hard on getting the message out there about what a great school Fowlmere is – and I hope that this report adds to that evidence. But, we need the support of the respective Parish Councils. We do need our villages to attract young families so that the school can continue to grow and thrive. We have a school with so much potential it would be a shame not to be able to see it through simply because of insufficient funding.

The risks in the current climate for small schools are great – but your catchment primary school is in a great position to develop for a long and successful future. If anyone would like to see the school we do hold occasional open days, or alternatively, our PTFA is holding an Art Exhibition over the weekend of 19th/20th May – you would be most welcome.

Mr Philip Atkin

Headteacher

VILLAGE MEETING 11th May 2018

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISHING TO SERVE

ALAN FERRIE: CHAIR
JEFF GILL: VICE CHAIR
GEBE PLUMB: TREASURER
DAMON DEAN: SECRETARY
FRED KUENZI: COMMITTEE MEMBER
SIMON COXALL: CC REP
ANGUS GENT: CC REP
JOHN DRURY: COMMITTEE MEMBER

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ADOPT THIS PROPOSAL

REPORT

Another good year for the PFA the buildings equipment and the playing fields as well as the bank balance are all in excellent condition.

The Great Chishill nursery continue to use the pavilion during the week during term time Which continues to work well for both parties.

The additional storage container which we obtained last year is used by both the cricket club and the nursery.

This storage area is now also being used by other groups and space has become a bit of an issue and is something which I need to address.

In last year report I mentioned that we were continuing a program of gradually upgrading the decoration of the pavilion.

We have however now discovered damp in some of the internal walls which we will need to address before we do any decoration. I will be arranging to get this dampness investigated and a quote for any required remedial work.

I hope that you have noticed and that you are all adhering to the parking spaces which have now been marked out in the car park. The playing fields committee arranged with the village hall committee for this to be done.

I am sorry to report that we had an attempted break in and a break in to our storage facilities. A few items were taken but were of little value. We have upgraded the security on these facilities but it is something we will need to be mindful of.

We continue to host the football and cricket clubs each fielding one team.

The cutting equipment has undergone its annual maintenance and is in good condition for the cutting season

We continue to work to manage costs associated with the maintenance of buildings and equipment. With a steady income from the nursery, football and cricket clubs plus the grant from the parish council. Our financial position remains sound

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are appreciative of the grant given to us by the parish council.

THANK YOU.

I would like to express my thanks to all our volunteers

Our grounds men Simon Coxhall, Darrell Plumb, Joe Wright and John Drury

The PFA committee

Tim Scott for cutting the grass in The Plaistow.

Peter Wiseman for his help in keeping our tractor running.

Great & Little Chishill Village Hall

Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 11 May 2018

It's been another positive year for the village hall. We continue to host a great mix of local events and activities – and this has helped to keep our finances in good shape.

For the second year running we've managed to cover day-to-day running costs from the money we receive from bookings – but as ever we are extremely grateful for the support of the Parish Council which is allowing us to implement a number of vital improvements.

The most significant of these will be the installation of new glass doors this coming Monday. Thanks to an additional grant from the Parish Council we have been able to replace all three sets of doors simultaneously – so as of next week doors in the lobby area, kitchen and main hall should be far easier to open, close and keep secure. Deciding what doors to go for has been no easy task and special thanks must go to our Treasurer, Andrea Hamblin, for liaising with potential suppliers and looking into all the various options so carefully.

The committee would also like to thank our wonderful bookings secretary, Janet Crouch, for all the work she does through the year, and also for pledging to make sure that all our regular groups are issued with new keys as swiftly as possible.

Other improvements implemented this year include new white lines in the car park. The village hall worked closely with the Playing Fields Association on this and we would like to extend our thanks to Alan Ferrie for co-ordinating this work, which has greatly improved parking at busy times.

In April this year, we introduced new hire fees and updated our hire agreement policy so that it is easier to follow. Our fees remain competitive compared to other local halls and rates for village residents have been kept as low as possible. However, we needed to make a small rise to safeguard the hall for the future, and to help us make further improvements. Plans for the coming year include re-decorating the back kitchen and side room, and implementing new energy saving measures.

We are also pleased to announce that some new members joined the committee this year. Rebecca Pine recently joined as our new PC rep. Gillian Philpott has kindly taken on the role of secretary again, and is also our new WI rep alongside Janet Crouch.

Our other committee members are: Anna Coney, Andrea Hamblin, Nigel Russell, John Crawley, Colin Hall and Andrew Brown.

As ever, we would love more people to join us. There are only 4 meetings a year, usually in January, April, July and October. We are also on the lookout for someone to help us check the hall is kept clean and tidy – just checking up on things once or twice a week and doing a bit of spot cleaning when needed. If you are interested in either of these things, please get in touch!

Anna Coney
Chair, Great & Little Chishill Village Hall Charity
9 May 2018

GREAT CHISHILL SPEEDWATCH
Memorandum for Annual Parish Meeting May 2018

Activity in 2017 using the Police Speedwatch Kit

We used the kit on 4 occasions (2 less than in 2016, as the weather in May was not conducive to sitting in the rain!) in our usual Eastbound sites. Here is the Data (taken over 1½ hour periods each session), showing number of vehicles at 35mph and above for the last 3 years:

Eastbound at The Playing Fields Hall Lane

Vehicles At	2015 3 Sessions		2016 3 Sessions		2017 2 Sessions	
	35 - 40	60	19.05%	57	18.75%	46
41 - 45	23	7.03%	17	5.59%	18	7.96%
46 - 50	7	2.22%	4	1.32%	7	3.10%
51 plus	1	0.32%	0	0.00%	1	0.44%
Total 35+	91	28.89%	78	25.66%	72	31.86%
Total Passing	315		304		226	
Vehicles Per Session	105		101		113	

Eastbound at The Pudgell

Vehicles At	2015 5 Sessions		2016 3 Sessions		2017 2 Sessions	
	30 - 35	64	12.80%	58	18.87%	41
41 - 45	13	2.60%	19	6.15%	9	3.14%
46 - 50	1	0.20%	4	1.29%	2	0.70%
51 plus	2	0.40%	1	0.32%	0	0.00%
Total 35+	80	16.00%	82	26.54%	52	18.12%
Total Passing	500		309		287	
Vehicles Per Session	100		103		144	

My thanks to Albert Phillpot, Michael Melville, John Murgatroyd, Angus Gent and Keith Goodall for their assistance.

Comments on above Data

Playing Fields – disappointing as speeding back to 2013 levels.

The Pudgell – despite the higher volume of traffic - a big improvement; however results are heavily dependent on the number of parked cars between the Pudgell and the Crossroads!

Flashing Sign

As reported last year, the Data recording system in the Flashing sign died on us on 23 August 2016 and the Parish Council considered that the £600 cost of replacing the system was not warranted. As all Chishill residents will have noticed it now tells you your speed – even if you are only doing 28mph!

Thanks once again to Albert Phillpot - who does almost all the work – and Angus Gent (who steps in when Albert is not available) the Sign is still rotated throughout the Village on a regular basis; as Data is no longer recorded, the life of the Battery without a recharge is now 3 weeks, so the Sign is now in the same road for 6 weeks (but turned after 3 weeks). So it is advising motorists of their speeds for each direction on all 4 roads through the Village twice a year.

Volunteers required

More help is required for both of these activities!

Speedwatch is usually between 4.15 and 6pm on Fridays between May and September (weather permitting). Chairs and (usually) refreshments are provided and there is plenty of time for chat!!

The Flashing Sign needs turning or moving to a new location every third Wednesday at 9am throughout the year! Anyone willing to help please ring me on 01763 838494.

Martin Gruselle Speedwatch Co-ordinator

15 April 2018

Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting 11th May 2018

Great Chishill Playground

Chair: Emily Brown

Secretary: Laura Barnes

Treasurer: Islay Dring

Other Committee Members: Claire de Froberville, Hannah Millward, Jude Cooper

The Playground Committee continue to keep the playground maintained to a good standard. Our great thanks to John Drury who regularly checks the condition of the playground and helps to keep it maintained. He is currently helping to plan a full replacement of the perimeter fencing which we aim to get replaced as soon possible, certainly within the next few months. Our thanks also to the Playing Field Association's wonderful grass cutting team who keep it safe, neat and tidy. Currently the Playground account holds approximately £4900.00, most of which will be spent on the new fencing.

The skate ramps were removed in May 2016 due to poor condition. This is a project still to be undertaken to either replace with a similar facility or use the space for another community project – all ideas very welcomed!

As always we continue to work closely with the other village groups to host fun community fundraising events. This year we are planning a 'Wobbly Wayne' bouncy castle Family Fun day to raise money for the playground – date still to be confirmed! The Village Children's Christmas party plans are already in process and we have the fantastic Stripy Wipey booked in already for Sunday 9th December.

Our great thanks to The Parish Council for their continued financial support of the Playground and Children's Christmas Party.

Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting 11th May 2018

Gt Chishill Youth Club

Chairperson: Amy Tait

Secretary: Betsy Kagwidzo

Treasurer: Emily Brown

Youth Workers: Dan Horne and Stephanie Hicks

Volunteers and other committee members: Amy Tait, Emily Brown.

Great Chishill Youth Club continues to be a popular group and offer a valuable meeting place for the young people of Great Chishill and the surrounding villages aged 10 - 17. Steph and Dan are still doing a brilliant job as our Youth Workers and continue to be supported by extra volunteers on club nights. We are also very lucky to regularly have local young people volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards.

The Club strives to offer a variety of activities including lots of sports and games, food and theme nights, fun competitions, cooking, crafts, and specialist evenings such as Kung Fu and Kickboxing with local tutor Chris Ellis. In exchange for the last Christmas party treats the youth club members generously donated the Uttlesford Salvation Army foodbank.

As always, in an effort to sustain funding and afford both Youth Workers, we are involved in running the village fun day this year. The Youth Club account currently holds approximately £450. Our great thanks to the Parish Council for their funding support. We would also like to thank the village hall committee for the continued provision of storage space for our equipment.

Chishill Village Security - Parish Council AGM Report

Since the Security sub-committee was set up, we have made significant strides in assessing our risk situation, preparing plans to reduce risk and number of burglaries and raising the profile of security as an issue for residents. Our plans are based on data rather than opinion. Our prime focus has been on burglaries, as a social crime producing high anxiety levels and helplessness amongst residents.

We have outside resources to enable us to reduce burglaries: using Ecops Cambridgeshire data, Neighbourhood Watch, Police.UK data, village survey data, and general nationally-based security advice. We have assessed the usefulness of these.

NHW we consider weak organisationally, concerned more with recruiting members than developing any strategy to reduce burglaries and likely to run into problems with the new Data Protection legislation. The Police consider we would need 6 NHW co-ordinators for our size of village. Our village used to be NHW but, has lapsed as with many other claimed schemes. They are not a significant presence in neighbouring villages and we have decided not to use their model. Police.UK data is potentially very powerful, based on reported incidents to the Police and capable of being analysed in a variety of ways, for us processed by Greg Dodd. From the village survey we know that 90% of incidents are reported, so for Chishill at least, data is reliable. We have used this data in the following ways: comparing our vulnerability with that of other villages; looking for time-related patterns of burglaries in the village; analysing vulnerabilities within the village.

Our record of vulnerability on the measure of burglaries/000's population is not good. Neighbouring Essex villages experience $1/3 > 1/6$ the level of burglary that we do. Neighbouring towns show a similar pattern (Our burglary levels are x5 times that of Royston). Only Barkway burglary levels are higher than ours (50% greater).

Time-related patterns of local villages show an interesting pattern of 'pyramid' incidents for successive months. A few burglaries precede a 'spike'. An early alert system could forewarn villagers to take extra care and reduce levels of burglary as this crime is at least partly the result of victim complacency.

We have a ready-built system which could be used for early alerts, but unfortunately the Police (to date) have been unsympathetic as to its use. Only 8% of Chishill burglaries have been reported by Ecops in the past year (audit data). Neither our designated PCSO or the Police and Crime Commissioner see Ecops as a warning system, merely a sample of crimes being committed. There is a high variability of reports. The two highest PCSO reports number over 50 in a 6 month period. Our PCSO records just 9 (audit data).

There appears to be no management oversight or system guiding input, which is regarded by staff as mostly a PR exercise (e.g. PCSO report on why 'no activity' is reported). The Inspector responsible has agreed to meet us and we will share our vulnerability data. He likes our Early Alert System, which would be a first for Cambridgeshire.

Our strategy is therefore to set up our own Early Alert System, based on email. We currently have highly efficient email communication systems in the village but these are run on personal initiatives and therefore outside GDPR. As the sub-committee runs under the auspices of the Parish Council by definition it has to adhere to higher levels of consent and audit.. The scheme has been operationally put together by Peter

Homent, Parish Clerk and Chair and launched through the April Newsletter. Once we have tested this system, we would like to extend the scheme to include those without email. You are all encouraged to sign up and can 'de-list' at any time. This is up and running, as from this week.

Part of the early alert system we would like to involve neighbouring villages. Our PCSO considers that we have increased vulnerability by virtue of being wedged between two other Constabularies, as well as the furthest village from the Police 'Neighbourhood' Centre, 20 miles away. We have seen comparative graphs between villages that indicate an inter-village pattern which could mutually benefit early alert co-ordination. Of particular interest is Barley and Barkway but we have so far been unable to excite interest.

If residents are alerted, what do they do? There is an abundance of advice in securing property, some of it common-sense and some 'received wisdom'. Most appears to emanate from the Home Office, through Police.UK and filtered downwards to Constabulary advice, promulgated through Ecops (although authors claim that it arises from local experience, it uses Home Office wording). Recent reputable research (particularly around commercial alarm systems) is diametrically opposed to current advice. As a village, we have challenged this advice and Police.UK has taken the issue up with the Home Office and has just received confirmation that advice from the centre will be changed. I personally suspect that Neighbourhood Watch, (co-sponsored by a commercial security hardware company) may have influenced previous advice.

Evidence from 'ex-con' focus groups indicates that CCTV is the strongest deterrent, followed by dogs. CCTV is not a Parish option due to GDPR considerations but Peter Homent has experience in fitting these on private property and has offered his advice to other villagers.

We also plan to provide security education on a broader basis within the village, as asked for in the survey. The Silver Surfers computer group have asked for a session on Internet security. The WI has a session booked in May on crime patterns. We plan a "Wine & Crime Evening" on 26th October which John Wahlich is co-ordinating, where security advice will be provided in a fun setting. We have had good personal experiences with The Bobby Scheme and Neil Heywood has merchandised this through the Newsletter for 60+ residents. These are ex-policemen offering practical advice born of long experience and good-value window alarm options for security.

At the end of the day, one can only manage rather than eliminate risk of burglary and we run a monthly 'lottery' for village addresses (no personal data involved) for a £10 bottle of wine (provided by an anonymous donor, not from the Parish Precept), as a positive counterbalance to any negative risks of living in the village.

Great Chishill Windmill Trust Report to Parish Meeting

11 May 2018

The past year has been one of hugely satisfying achievement. The trestle, which had been secured with steel straps in February 2017, was renovated by two new members of our committee, David Livingstone and Tony Andrews. All the cracks, or shakes, were filled with epoxy resin and the timbers were painted ready to receive aluminium covers as soon as the scaffolding is removed.

The scaffolding has been present for many more months than expected as the initial inspection of the structural timbers once weatherboards were removed showed them to be in a very sorry state of neglect. The 1967 work by the County Council has made the mill look smart but had failed to address the structure itself. As the mill is on Historic England's Heritage at Risk listing, we had no option but to tackle all the rot and disconnection of joints, some of which were leading to the walls moving outward. The level of disquiet felt by our technical experts and the millwright was most apparent when they checked the weatherbeam - a large beam across the front of the mill that holds the sail assembly in place - it was only just hanging in place. We dread to think what might have happened if the 8 tonne sail assembly had crashed its way through the mill structure!

Speaking of the sails, these were removed and initially stored in Terry Ingle's yard. Terry also provided the transport and Peter Wiseman used his telehoist for loading. They were then taken to Chris Bates's barn where Tony Andrews, with help from Chris and Neil Heywood, completely stripped, repaired and repainted three of them. The fourth awaits some more major repair work from our millwright. Our grateful thanks to our farmer friends and all those who provided old-fashioned BFI to lift the sails onto a trailer at the mill in the first place.

Clearly, with all the work described, we needed way more money than the good start to fundraising that we reported last year. We were really pleased to be able to persuade Historic England to help and it granted just over £15,000. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings boosted its award to us to a total of £29,000; GLCPC contributed £2000 for which we thank you very much; South Cambs Community Chest gave us £1000 towards the trestle repair; and our normal fundraising all helped.

The key to our success, however, was the staggering response to our 'Sponsor a Board' campaign. Villagers, the local community and Friends of the Windmill gave us over £18,000 which fully pays for the weatherboarding and clearly demonstrated to Historic England the community's involvement and desire to save the building. When the amount of work was fully defined and costed, HE increased its grant to an incredible £77,000. Magnificent reward for an amazing community effort. We can all be justifiably proud of this result.

So at this point, we have almost completed the restoration of the buck (the main building) with only a hatch, a window and a long control rod remaining to be fitted, hopefully this coming week, before the scaffolding can be removed.

We then must address the decay and non-functionality of the tail assembly. This is our major task for the coming year.

We are pleased to report that we have more Committee Members to help with guiding us through this phase and into the long-term future. Clarice and John Wahlich and Gillian Phillpot will be joining us this month.

A final aspect needed to allow the mill to be removed from the Heritage at Risk listing is to make the access stairway safe for public entry by replacing treads and fitting handrails. Once again we must thank the Parish Council for agreeing to take this as a sub-project that it will address. We must admit that our current funds would not cover this as well as the work on the tail assembly.

However, although our timescale has inevitably become protracted, we are confident that by next year's meeting the mill will be turning automatically into wind and we will be looking forward to a grand opening ceremony.