

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

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 25th May 2012
Time: 7:30pm

In Attendance:

Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Harrison, Murgatroyd, Cartwright, Erskine, Upcraft
County Councillors: Cllr van de Ven
County Councillors: Cllr Barrett and Hales
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott

Apologies: Cllr Ridge

Parshioners and Guests – see attached sheet

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened with meeting with his report.

- An overview of the who the Precept has been sent
- Highways – The Clerk liaises with Highways on Potholes and has make them aware of our dissatisfaction with New Road
- The Motorway Barrier between Barley and Chishill – this was Hertfordshire County Council initiative and we were not consulted
- One of farmers has been undertaking snow clearance for us – which we are grateful
- We are pleased with the new gates by the windmill
- We are grateful to the speedwatch team for all their continued efforts in reducing Speeding
- The Windmill project has moved on significantly and the Windmill Trust. They will provide an financially independent vehicle for the restoration and development of the mill as a permanent, high quality village asset.
- Localism – become law in April and its objects are to de-centralise planning strategy from Whitehall. The District Council is to produce a Local Plan over the next 18 months. Parish Councils are empowered to produce their own Neighbourhood Plan which is intended to have weight as long as it is broadly compatible with the bigger picture. We are taking to SCDC on the form and scope of our input. There is a feeling in many villages that the effectively zero development guidelines are too restrictive. The Parish Council will consult with the village as the methodology becomes clearer.
- I would like to thank on behalf of the Parish Council all those who contribute to and promote village societies and activities. Many of those people are low profile.
- We have continued to enjoy strong support from our County and District Cllrs Susan van den Ven, Val Barrett and Jose Hales
- Three Parish Councillors, Ruth Dibblee, Tim Scott and Jim Brearley are all standing down and all three have made considerable and individual contributions and provided lively debate at our meetings
- All groups benefit from fresh blood and I am confident the new Councillors will bring the skills and ideas we need

- Lastly without whom the edifice would not function, my thanks to Sarah who continues to provide the Parish Council, particularly myself, with a backup second to none

Financial Report – 2012 - Clerk

The Parish Council continues to support organisations and groups throughout the village. Virtually all age ranges are covered in our support from the Children's party right through the spectrum to the Senior citizens tea party.

We are very grateful to Jeff Gill who acts as our auditor. He is incredibly helpful and very generous with the time he gives to the Parish Council - thank you Jeff.

At the beginning of the financial year the parish council had a combined total of £21,198.00 and we finish the year with £24,848.00 in the bank.

When we set the Precept last year we were mindful of the impact of localism and the cost implications to us. However, this year we managed to get Chalky Walk repaired and improved and new entrance gates by the windmill installed at no cost to the Parish Council. We were very lucky. This, and the fact that there were no major expenses this year, the Parish Council took the decision to freeze the Precept at £22,500.00 for this year.

I have uploaded the finance sheets to the PC website, but if you have no internet access and would like a copy, please let me know and I will get you a paper copy.

County Councillor Report - 2012

County Council tax increase: A 2.95% council tax increase will help to fund the following headline items: £90 investment in road and pavements, to prevent further deterioration of chronically underfunded network; £20 million toward rolling out of high speed Broadband in rural areas not on the map of private telecoms industry, and a prospective £29 million bypass for Ely Level Crossing.

Adult Social Care: Budget problems continue to plague adult social care and this service area is the council's main area of expenditure.

Changes of policy: Good news is the reversal of library closure decisions last year, and the realization by the administration that something needs to be left in the pot for subsidized public transport. Last year's decision to cut 100% of bus subsidies (£2.7 million) has been mitigated with £1.5 million going into as yet unspecified 'alternative transport solutions'.

Councillor Allowances: Unfortunately the council's political administration demonstrated extraordinary insensitivity by proposing and voting through a 25% allowance increase for councillors. After a procedural error was discovered, the matter was sent back to a new Independent Remuneration Panel that eventually recommended a freeze to the allowance. I was one of several volunteer members interviewed by the reconvened panel.

Localism Policy: Some worthy intentions regarding local decision-making powers, but in practice an unrealistic devolution not only of responsibility but also funding (schemes for HCV monitoring, cycle paths, traffic calming, Library Access Point, youth clubs, community transport, to name a few). Action and decision-making remains slow due to lumbering bureaucracy: the Civil Parking Enforcement Policy has been delayed due to 'lack of response' in the public consultation, and the Minor Highways Improvement pot has been overwhelmed with applications due to lack of funds

everywhere and ironically, a hurried approach on the county council's part. A 'Local Highways Warden' scheme is being rolled out and Chishill is a parish where this has been a success.

Protected Road Verges: Well done on resisting accepting charges for this job which the council has now said it will pay for, when small parishes can't afford to – and this has thrown the policy of devolution of cost into doubt, so a real grass roots triumph!

Windmill: The council has not been able to care properly for the windmill and has never had a dedicated budget to look after it – so its future under county ownership was a fairly disastrous proposition. What could have been a very fractious and problematic outcome, including legal consequences for county and district, has been turned around by Chishill residents themselves who have taken on a can-do ingenuity and created a trust, about which Jim Brearley will be talking later.

Children's Centre funding: Due to greater need elsewhere in the county, our local children's centre has had a 15% cut to its grant funding, specifically for rural outreach work. This is a catch-22 situation because we are in a rural area with poor transport links and the very people who need the children's centre may not be able to get there.

Children's Homes: I visited two children's homes last summer. The total number of children in care, county wide, is about 475, with about 7-8 from the Melbourn Division in which we are situated. These children represent very distressing family situations and the care provided is extremely costly, so all in all a very difficult subject.

Superfast Broadband: To address the very poor broadband speeds in many rural areas, the county council has decided to borrow up to £20 million to invest in Superfast Broadband, which achieves speeds in excess of 25 Mbps.

The first step is for people to register their interest at www.connectingcambridgeshire.com. Information will be passed to commercial operators to see where they are prepared to provide the service commercially. If holes remain in the network then the county council can decide where to deploy its funding. This is very important in our part of the world, where a good proportion of people either run businesses or just work from home. So please sign up.

Disproportionate spending on buses: The total withdrawal of bus subsidies mirrors in reverse the investment into the Guided Bus contractual dispute contingency fund, which costs taxpayers' £1 million per year. Outside of the Busway the council has no transport strategy for South Cambs. The big grants from outside are designed to shore up transport corridors in growth areas as a form of investment, and those corridors do not include this part of South Cambs. The 31 bus is due to lose its subsidy in September 2013. The Council has made a commitment to help with post-16 transport but only to designated Sixth Form centres – so not private schools. The council's decision to cut all bus subsidies was legally challenged and the result is the council's commitment to replace subsidized buses with something 'as good or better' though what this turns out to be remains to be seen. I am critical of the council's policy but am working closely with officers on this and have joined the overseeing group for 'Cambridgeshire Future Transport' which is tasked with finding 'alternative solutions.'

Rail campaign: The county council does not seem to engage of its own initiative with local rail service as a form of public transport. It has been very useful to have a rail user group for our three local stations, Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton, to fight this corner. Having said this, the county council has been actively supportive of all aspects of the rail user group's campaign. With the demise of bus services I hope that rail will be able to fill some of the gaps; there have been numerous discussions regarding lifts to local rail stations.

The rail campaign has succeeded in retaining the 50% student discount fare, which applies to state and private schools alike and which National Express matched for the Whittlesford-Cambridge. We're now in the midst of vigorous discussions with Network Rail about Foxton Level Crossing pedestrian safety, and a number of improvements are being made though it all takes a long time. We've succeeded in lowering of Meldreth Station Car Park's charge to £1.50 per day, obtaining free parking at Shepreth Station. Part of our leverage has been the establishment of station gardens at each of these stations and anyone is welcome to join. Melbourn Village College and local primary schools have also been actively involved in the station gardens. So, I hope Chishill residents might consider joining if they find rail service at these stations a good thing.

Roads and pavement maintenance: In spite of £90 million investment over next three years, very poor quality is likely to remain. This massive investment is designed to prevent further deterioration; climate is the unknown factor and of this £90m, £30m is already earmarked for drought damage, mainly in Fenland. I've inquired about New Road; we know that all over the county roads are in similar states of disrepair and money for very short term patchwork repair seems to go down the drain – but the council must do this reactive work to make roads safe and to avoid insurance claims.

Flooding: The County Council has new powers to coordinate localized flood avoidance, including ensuring that outside agencies such as Anglian Water and the Environment Agency are responding to identified need. A data base of big and small flood incidents in the county is being developed and the question of EA flood risk maps where no flooding has ever occurred, tallied up with difficulties in obtaining household insurance, is also being looked at.

District Council Report - 2012

This report is from Cllrs. Val Barrett and Jose Hales, District Councillors for Great & Little Chishill, Heydon and Melbourn.

Together we sit on most Committees of the District Council and attend, sometimes jointly, sometimes individually, which usually entails several days a week at Cambourne.

We are also on several outside bodies such as The Melbourn Mobile Warden Scheme, The John Clear Alms Houses, The Trigg Trust, The Melbourn Area Youth Development Team and The Practical Solutions Group as well as attending the Parish Councils of Great and Little Chishill, Heydon and Melbourn.

We have participated in several Working Parties and Panels such as Sheltered Housing, Responsive Repairs Contracts and Disability Forums along with Environmental issues.

As you will be aware, our part of the Council Charge has been frozen again until 2013 and we, the Members, have volunteered to have our Allowances frozen for the fourth year.

The introduction of the Blue Bins has been very successful, resulting in higher sales of recyclable materials and lower landfill charges.

205 affordable homes have been completed in the last 12 months in a number of villages.

500 South Cambs District Council Houses are having solar panels installed. The cost is being met by Savills Solar. This is as a result of a survey done last year which identified the roofs capable of producing the most electricity. This should save about £150.00 per year in electricity bills.

The SCDC Community Chest Fund has allocated \$36.000 towards equipment, local Community events and group outings. The BMX Park and Melbourn Gardening Club have been recipients recently at the requests of Cllrs. Barrett and Hales.

The Jubilee Oaks have been planted.

The remainder of our time is taken up dealing with individual queries which often means visiting residents in our patch.

Fowlmere School - 2012

Heather Mepham - Headteacher

It is a pleasure to be here to report on the developments at our village school. I was appointed to the post of Headteacher from September 2011, following the retirement of Richard Elcock. My association with Fowlmere school spans 1/3 of the school's history, as a pupil; twice as a teacher; three times as a parent; and now the position I have always dreamed, Headteacher. I am passionate about the development of Fowlmere school, and believe that as a Fowlmere resident, I am well-placed to further the growth of the school, and its role in the wider community.

In September, the Governing Body met to reevaluate our vision for the school. Our mission is that

'We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school'. Our school motto is 'love learning, achieve excellence'.

'We believe that literacy and mathematical skills are the fundamental building blocks to wider learning.

We believe that an enriched curriculum provides our children with real and meaningful learning opportunities, using diverse resources within the local and global environment.

By creating an open, stimulating, challenging environment, children will leave the school as well rounded individuals, prepared for the next steps of their lives'.

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Those living out of catchment are from Foxton, Duxford, Royston and Shepreth. The current roll is 111, a slight increase on last year. The intake for the Reception class in September 2012 is expected to be 12, which will maintain the roll at 110.

Statutory Assessments are made for all children at the end of Key Stage 1 (children aged 7) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (children aged 11). The results for the academic year 2010/11 showed a slight increase on the previous year at KS1. Attainment is close to the National averages in reading, writing and mathematics, and it is our aim to increase our performance against the national figures.

At KS2, results dipped slightly on the previous year, but were again in line with National averages. Again, our aim is to raise our standards further.

Our focus for school improvement is on high quality learning and teaching across the curriculum. We recognise that if all children are to love learning and achieve excellence, their curriculum and learning experiences must be highly motivating. Real learning happens when children are actively involved, and can see the relevance of their learning. Using local contexts is key to this, and you will see the children making greater use of the rich learning environment in which we live, and members of our community to support them.

We are one of few primary schools that still provides voluntarily run after-school clubs. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents and community members, and include a wide range of sports, cross-stitch, games, stamp club, French, gardening and choir. The children also take part in inter-school and inter-house competitions. We also benefit from in-school support from parents, grandparents, and members of the community.

Cambridgeshire Music currently provides piano, flute and violin tuition to a small number of children. As part of the Governments Wider Opportunities music initiative, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 receive pocket brass tuition. We await a new National Curriculum, postponed until 2013/14; but a new curriculum for the Early Years & Foundation Stage, which includes our Reception-aged children, will be introduced this September.

Our key priority for curriculum development is ICT, in particular building the hardware stock to enable our children the opportunities to learn using a range of current technologies. This will have quite an impact on our diminishing resources, particularly as our Capital funding was cut by 80% last financial year, bringing the previous income of £25,000 down to £5,000. The forthcoming year will see a similar budget income which has an impact on our ability to maintain the Victorian building, which suffers particularly from rising damp.

We are, however extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA and particularly the hardworking committee. They organised a successful ball to celebrate 150 years of Fowlmere school, raising a substantial sum to support ICT development. They also continue to organise a number of activities for the children as well as fund-raising events. We are also most indebted to the members of the Village Hall Social Club who held a celebration event for the 150th anniversary and raised over £2,000 for school funds.

So, we are celebrating the 150th Year of Fowlmere school. It is a privilege for me to be leading the school, and I look forward to strengthening relationships between community groups in Fowlmere, Heydon, Gt Chishill, and the school.

Great Chishill Charity – 2012, The Clerk

Firstly the trust would like to say thank to Cynthia Buckland who was a trustee of the charity for many years. She stood down at the end of last year and her work on the administration of the charity was greatly appreciated. Peter Wiseman and John Murgatroyd appointed me to replace Cynthia.

In December 2011, the charity gave 9 residents of the village an equal sum of money. By the thank you's we received, the recipients were very pleased.

In due course, I will write a brief history of the Charity and put it on the Parish council website for those who are interested.

The Windmill

Jim Brearley informed the meeting of the plans for the windmill:

- It had been declared surplus from the County Council
- The Parish Council had consulted with the village on its future
- The Parish could not take ownership of it and burden its parishioners with the upkeep and refurbishment costs
- A Trust had been set up with the view of buying the windmill
- There had been great interest from windmill enthusiasts from far and wide
- A windmill expert will be employed by the trust to help with obtaining grants and funding and to project management its refurbishment
- The refurbishment would be in three phases:
 - Get it watertight
 - Get it to face the wind (thus preserving it)
 - Get it to work
- The initial plan would be to get it safe and watertight
- The windmill is an icon of the village and it is sad to see it as it currently is and the trust will work together to preserve it
- There is a windmill website and many people had signed up to be 'Friends' of the windmill

PFA REPORT

We manage the sport pavilion and playing area. Our current committee members wishing to serve again at this meeting are (and it is at this meeting that we reelect them):

PAUL DRURY - CHAIR

JEFF GILL - VICE CHAIR

DARRELL PLUMB - TREASURER

ALAN FERRIE - SECRETARY

MARTIN LEVY - COMMITTEE MEMBER

ANDREW DRURY - COMMITTEE MEMBER

JASON COOMBS – CRICKET CLUB REP

SIMON COXALL CRICKET CLUB REP AND GROUND MAINTENANCE

JONATHON DRURY & OLLY GARDINER - FOOTBALL CLUB REPS

FRED SMITH - YOUTH CLUB REP

SARAH SCOTT – PARISH COUNCIL REP

I hope that you will adopt this proposal

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to all our volunteers who worked tirelessly for us:

SIMON COXALL, DARRELL PLUMB – WHO LOOKS AFTER THE PLAYING AREAS AND OTHER TASKS

TIM SCOTT – WHO CUTS AND MAINTAINS THE PLAISTOW

YOUTH CLUB – WHO USE THE PAVILION

PETER WISEMAN – FOR THE SAFE STORAGE OF TRACTOR & ALL THE OTHER MAINTENANCE OF THE EQUIPMENT

We are also appreciative of the Parish Council Grant and all other donations which go towards:

- WORKING TO CONTROL COSTS AROUND MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT & FACILITIES
- REFURBISHMENT OF SHOWER PLUMBING COMPLETE OVER THE WINTER
- ANNUAL MAINTENANCE OF GANG MOWERS MORE REASONABLE (NEW SUPPLIER)
- PLAN TO USE VOLUNTRY LABOUR TO DECORATE THE PAVILION
- FINANCIAL POSITION REMAINS STRONG
- WE WISH TO ASERCTAIN MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR AREAS OF THE PLAYING FIELDS TO INFORM THE NEED FOR INSURANCES, AND LOOK FORWARD TO RESOLVING THIS SOON.

We will hold a Jubilee fete on 4th June from 2pm to 4pm and there is also a Steve Saunders Memorial Match on Sunday 1st July – Gt Chishill Vs Sinners XI plus the Youth Group Fete.

YOUR SUPPORT FOR THESE EVENTS IS WELCOMED

Village Hall Report - 2012

Several notable activities have been undertaken by the village hall committee this year. In partnership with the parish council we have elected to produce a five year plan to review and prepare for the future upkeep of the hall, and the first stage of this is now underway. We have conducted a full facility and energy audit with Cambridgeshire ACRE, the local group that supports village hall facilities. The outcome of this has been discussed with the parish council and we are currently following up actions agreed at that meeting.

The facilities review outlined two options for consideration regarding the future of the village hall. Firstly we have the option of continuing to maintain the current building, replacing and upgrading as necessary. We are currently providing a cost estimate of this for further discussion at the PC. The second more radical option is to consider a completely new village hall built of sustainable material with modern eco heating and other features.

As you will imagine these two options have created considerable debate on the hall committee and PC, and we are very anxious to hear views from the wider village

We are grateful to the several groups that have representation on the committee, but continue to appeal for new members- several of the current committee have been in post for a long time, so new faces would be particularly welcome!

Finally we would like to acknowledge again the vital support we received from the parish council in the form of the annual grant. With this support we can plan to ensure the future of the hall by maximising the benefit from the fundraising and rental income we receive.

Speedwatch – 2012

Activity in 2011

We held 13 sessions in the entrance to the Playing Fields in Hall Lane and another 13 sessions at the entrance to The Pudgell in Barley Road.

All but one session at each location was set up to check the speed of vehicles travelling towards Saffron Walden and almost all were of 1½ hours duration held on Fridays between 4pm and 6.30pm.

In total 1122 vehicles were monitored at the Playing Fields of which 752 passed the Camera below 33mph (67%). At the Pudgell 1243 vehicles were monitored of which 788 passed the Camera below 33mph (63.4%).

The speed of those who exceeded the Cambs Police limit of 35 mph fell into the following categories (percentages relate to total number of Vehicles passing):

	Hall Lane		The Pudgell	
35 – 40	224	19.96%	245	19.71%
41 – 45	63	5.61%	67	5.39%
45 – 50	15	1.34%	14	1.13%
51 plus	<u>5</u>	0.45%	<u>4</u>	0.32%
	307		330	

Police enforcement

A total of 637 vehicles out of 2365 (27.0%) were monitored by us at 35mph and above (compared with 28.2% in 2010). Cambridgeshire Constabulary lost 4 of our record sheets and only have 526 out of 2100 (25%) offending. They successfully obtained the details of 412 of the owners of these vehicles, who have received warning letters. 59 of these 412 lived in the Village, 191 in surrounding Villages and 162 lived further afield!

So Far in 2012

We have only carried out 4 sessions so far in 2012 with 75 out of 313 vehicles doing 35mph or above (23.5%). As we are now required to display our Yellow **SPEEDWATCH** sign before the Camera (SID) is visible to Motorists, this may have had some effect in slowing them before they are seen by the SID!

In any event, It is evident from the above there has only been a slight reduction in the percentage of those who speed through the Village over the last 3 years!!

The team will keep going for the rest of 2012 – but there may be changes in 2013!

Martin Gruselle Speedwatch Co-ordinator 2012 .

Great Chishill Playground Committee – 2012

Current balance (22/5/12) £4334.63

December 2011:

Christmas Party held in Great Chishill Village Hall. Invitations were hand delivered to approximately 30 families. As it is difficult to assess the numbers of children in Great Chishill and Heydon it was decided to put notices in the village web, newsletter and on the website. The children were entertained by Stripey Wipey, ate pizza and cake and received a book each from Father Christmas.

The total cost was £373.59, the cost of which was partly met by the sausage lunch which had been held earlier in the year.

March 2012:

Bark was purchased for the playground. This was spread in time for the Sport Relief Mile and covers the ground underneath the zip wire, climbing frame and rockers.

This cost £222.

We had looked into the possibility of changing the surface and obtained a quote to replace the bark with wetpour (this is the surface currently under the swings).

The quotation came to £2,317. This would have been guaranteed for 5 years, but would need to have been down for 10 years (with bark being replaced annually) for the cost to be recouped.

April 2012:

RoSPA Report

Skate board area – this was felt to be a high risk and immediate removal was suggested.

This has been discussed with other committee members and because the younger children enjoy using the area for riding bikes and scooters, it has been decided to keep it with a view to repairing broken sections. Once repairs become impractical the ramps will be removed and quotes for a safer playing area sought.

Main playground – this is felt to be a medium risk.

Priorities:

- Repair rocker 5-way seesaw (medium risk)
- Re-align gate to reduce entrapment risk (medium risk)
- Large flat seat swings – replace diagonal chains. Concern from RoSPA that surface beneath swings is too small to be compliant
- Obtain advice regarding apparent decay to support legs for zip wire, consider replacing

May 2012:

Replacing current playground equipment

We have looked in to the possibility of purchasing a bird's nest swing to replace the flat seat swings. 2 quotes have been obtained.

1. Removal of current swing and surface, replacement and complete installation

Removal of Current Equipment

Breakout and Remove Current Timber Swings = £200.00

New Play Equipment

Birds Nest Swing = £2,000.00

Birds Nest Swing Installation = £550.00

New Safer Surfacing

50mm Black Wetpour - supply and lay - 17m² = £887.91

20mm Black Wetpour - Supply and lay - 8.5m² = £265.54

150mm deep soil excavation - 17m² = £338.81

100mm Deep MOT Type 1 stone - 17m² supplied and compacted to 75mm deep = £374.51

50mm x 150mm Concrete Pin kerbs - 21 l/m = £309.33

Total: £4,926.10 + VAT

2. Purchase of bird's nest swing only – we would need to install and ensure that the surface beneath was compliant with current regulations

Birds Nest Swing Seat 1.2m Dia in Red/ Blue Rope with 4 point suspension = £620.00

Delivery = £62.00

Customer to be responsible for re-locating current overhead anchor points for the new swing assembly and drilling the current timber crossbar. Having assessed the risks associated with possibly irrevocably damaging the current swing frame, if this option is chosen then this work should be conducted by the council as FLP cannot be certain that such re-location of the swing hanging points will be successful.

Total: £682.00 + VAT

Other comments

The issue of Public Liability Insurance has yet to be resolved. It seems that this can only be obtained by the owners of the facility.

Future

We are currently considering the timing of the Sausage Lunch. It was felt that holding it in the spring had little relevance to it being a fundraiser for the Christmas Party, so it will probably return to being held in the autumn.

The Playground Committee is at present made up of current and previous members of the Mothers and Toddlers Group. It has been suggested that it would be sensible to combine these groups – this will be discussed at a forthcoming meeting.

Finally we would like to thank the Parish Council for their continued financial support of this group.

Kathryn Farrow
May 2012

Chishill Chimps – 2012

Background

Great Chishill Toddler group has operated in the village for over 35 years. It is a highly-valued group for the mothers (and fathers) in the village and, in the absence of a village school, provides a place for parents to get to know each other. We meet every Thursday (school holidays included) from 9.45am for two hours.

In January 2012 however we realised that our funding was precariously low, and that we did not have enough regular attendees to continue operating the group without changes. Six mothers in the village got together and informally created a Toddler Group Committee. The members of the group are: Emily Brown, Elaine Loukes, Islay Dring, Helen Bowyer, Claire Herbert and Marianne Yallop.

Improvements to the Group

To revitalise the group, we have made the following changes:

- The group has recently named itself Chishill Chimps
- Sessions have been re-structured to include a sit down healthy snack time for all the children and we also try to have story and music time.
- The committee have a more organised rota of responsibilities for opening up, inviting along new members and making sure they have a friendly welcome and are included throughout each session.
- The committee members pay quarterly in advance in order that rent is always covered and to encourage regular attendance.

Since January we are pleased to have had five new Mums join us, most of whom are new to the area. We regularly have 6-12 parents along to each session and 10-16 children. Chishill Chimps is run completely on the admission parents pay each week; £1.50 for your first child and 50p for each additional child. These funds are needed to cover hire of the hall, hot drinks, and food for the children. At present we have approximately £80 in our account which will just cover hire of the village hall for the next quarter. We can only just cover our costs and are looking into opportunities for funding new toys and equipment. We are pleased to have joined forces with the Youth Club to run the annual Summer Fete this year which is our first fundraising venture.

We are very lucky to have lots of existing baby toys and larger play equipment but are in need of more challenging toys for the 2-4 year olds such puzzles, building toys etc. We would love to build up a selection of books and have a cosy reading corner with a soft floor covering. We would also like to refresh our mugs and cups and plates for the children. Our most immediate need is to buy some more small tables and chairs as we can currently only seat six children at two small tables.

In order to achieve improve the group in the short term as planned, we would need to raise a minimum of around £500. This will be allocated approximately as follows:

- Indoor toys £150
- Outdoor toys £100
- Furniture (small tables/chairs etc) £100
- Reading area/books £100
- Crockery/Arts & Crafts £50

Our long term plan for the group is to hopefully expand it by running an after school club for 5-11 year olds. This would bridge the gap between Chishill Chimps and Youth Club age and allow village children to socialise even if they are at different schools to one another.

We would really value any support the Parish Council can offer this popular and supportive village group.