

## A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	7 <sup>th</sup> April 2022
Time:	7:30pm
Chairman:	Clr Dring
Parish Councillors:	Ridge, Wiseman, Pine, Harrison, Hatt
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	
District Councillor:	Clr Roberta
Members of the Public:	One member of the public
Start Time:	7:30pm

**1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)**

Clr Clements – previous engagement

**2. To receive any declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest of Councillors**

There were none received.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (already circulated)**

There are no comments or additions and the minutes were approved as a true and accurate account of proceedings. These were signed and dated by the Chairman.

**4. Public Participation.**

There were no items put forward.

**5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)**

There were no comments on the reports which had been previously circulated.

**6. Planning**

- LDF. Clr Roberts reported that there was no further information as yet. She did say that she had major concerns relating to speculative applications. These are typically from developers whose land has not been included in the LDF and they are submitting applications. There is a lack of planning officers at South Cambridgeshire at the moment and because of this the consultation time on planning applications could run out and as a consequence the developers will go straight to appeal. A lot of the planning officers have left to go into the commercial sector.
- Campsite, Lynchets Farm. There was nothing to report.
- North Hall Farm. There was nothing to report.
- Land in village. The Clerk had heard nothing from the developers

A question arose as to why the dance school application is still on the weekly planning summary. The Clerk reported that she had chased this up with Clr Roberts (who thought it had all been approved) and also the planning office.

**7. Finance – Clerk**

- Finance Sheets. These had already been circulated and there were no questions
- Audit. The Clerk had submitted the accounts to the internal auditor and had also submitted the VAT reclaim.
- Verge Cutting. The clerk to looking to replace the contractor as they no longer wish to carry on cutting the verges. She advised the costs are likely to increase with any new contractor.

**8. Highways**

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (path, white lining, drains). We are still waiting for the works to be completed.
- Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill. Clr Ridge reported that the bollards had been removed but the road is in mess. A farming contractor had taken some equipment down the road which had damaged the verges.
- Straw lorries from Langley. The lorries have stopped but the stick is still in situ and the straw is ruined.
- Potential extension to footpath plus additional footpath into Village Hall. Clr Roberts has had a look and will talk to the housing department.

**9. Jubilee Gifts - Clerk**

The clerk had ordered the gifts for the children. She also has a tree for The Plaistow. Clr Wiseman asked if the Millennium stone wording could be cleaned.

**10. Lock-Up - Clr Ridge, Chairman**

The Chairman has a quote and we are awaiting another. The Clerk to pass on detail of another contractor.

**11. Bench Near Chalk Pit – Community Chest Grant, Clerk**

The bench has been delivered and the clerk will install it this week.

**12. Council Elections, Clerk**

There will not be an election in the village. We have a new councillor, Jenny Leitch and a vacancy. After the elections and Annual Meeting of the Council, the council will start the process to look to fill the vacancy. The Chairman thanked Clr Wiseman and Clr Harrison for all their support and efforts over the years. These sentiments were applauded by the Council.

**13. Date for Annual Meeting of the Parish and AGM (Annual Meeting of the Council), Clerk**

The Annual Meeting of the Council will be on 12<sup>th</sup> May and the Annual Meeting of the Parish on 13<sup>th</sup>. Clr Pine sent her apologies for the latter meeting.

**14. District and County Councillors Written Reports**

Clr Roberts had voted against the council tax rise. This meant a rise for Band D houses of £2k a year which was no acceptable. She also spoke about the amount of spending taking place in SCDC at the moment. She also spoke about the 4.1% council house rent (which she also voted against).

She went on to say that she is standing for election again in May. She thanked the Parish Council for welcoming her to the Parish and being kind to her. She has enjoyed working with us (and hopes she will be carrying on working with us) and also thanked the Clerk for her support. The Chairman thanked Clr Roberts for all of her work, support and help and said it had been a pleasure working with her and hopes that we will see back working with us.

The County Councillor's report is below.

**15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda – 5 mins**

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore, the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for discussion.

- Clerks salary review
- Village Hall update
- District and County internet contingency in case of a national cyber attack

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

## **Cambridgeshire County Report**

### **Biodiversity Initiative**

A scheme which will help increase the county's biodiversity and support the development of new homes, businesses and infrastructure was approved by Cambridgeshire County Council's Strategy and Resources Committee (29 March).

Under the Environment Act 2021, the biodiversity of an area resulting from new developments must exceed the pre-development biodiversity value by at least 10 per cent - known as Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This should be provided onsite, but if that isn't possible it must be provided offsite, close to the development and within the local planning authority area. Greater Cambridge Shared Planning Biodiversity Special Planning Document, adopted in February 2022, says that they expect to require developers to deliver 20 per cent BNG.

Under the new scheme, developers who are unable to meet BNG requirements on sites in the South Cambridgeshire area will be able to secure biodiversity units from the Lower Valley Farm BNG scheme in Fulbourn.

The 358-acre farm, which is part of the council's 33,000 acre rural estate, has been identified as the ideal site for the scheme as it is located within the Cambridge Nature Network and lies adjacent to the Roman Road Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). It will also act as a stepping stone to other surrounding SSSIs, supporting habitat connectivity across the landscape from Trumpington Meadows through to Wilbraham Fen.

Cambridge-based Bidwells have helped establish the scheme and will oversee its implementation. The currently arable land will be converted to biodiverse habitats including botanically diverse grassland, native broadleaved woodland, scrub and species-rich hedgerows. The Lower Valley Farm BNG scheme will go beyond BNG requirements by providing public footpaths and opportunities for education. Developers will secure units through an Option Agreement which will commit the council to delivering the associated habitat creation and management for a 30-year period.

### **Highways Additional Spending**

Highway Maintenance is at the early stage of transformation that given the breadth and scale of the maintenance service delivered is a big change. It could take time to produce results on the roads and outside people's front doors. Investment in two aspects of the Highways Maintenance Service would achieve faster sustainable change with immediate visible benefits to our road users, businesses and residents.

**The two aspects are;**

## **1. Getting it right for our Customers today.**

On the ground action where our residents want it.

- Removing the potholes – a programme of planned patching carried out this spring and summer to properly fix pothole hotspots in and around village and town centres. This would remove the patchwork quilt of multiple repeat visits having an immediate noticeable impact within our community centres. £400k
- Listening to our customers – Clean out our Report It tool and get back to our Report It customers. This would show we listen and feedback by providing a resource to monitor and respond to the enquiries ahead of implementation of a new up-to-date system (the current is around 15 years old). £50k
- Safe and dry – record, quantify, investigate flooding cause and implement an increased programme of highways flood hotspots to remove more of the risks of surface water on our roads. The programme would target those locations that also cause issues within the communities affecting businesses and properties. £400k
- Clear and Safe – improve the lines and road markings across the rural network. This would make driving our roads at night and in bad weather safer by providing the markings to support our road users. A targeted programme to deal with routes between towns and villages. £250k

### **Total investment £1,100,000.**

The proposed levels of investment are scalable. The suggested investment would provide visible impactful improvement on the ground across the whole county. Scaling up would increase visibility of impact and down would reduce it.

Deliverability – We can engage with a range of supply chain partners to confidently deliver by Autumn.

Key is keeping it simple and focused. We have supply chain partners other than Milestone accessible via Local Council Roads Innovation Group framework of which we are a member.

Communications – To maximise the impact delivery would include communications through our normal channels to draw residents' attention to this extra investment.

## **2. Keeping it right for our customers tomorrow**

Transforming at pace to achieve the sustainable change we need for the future

- Upskilling our Highway Safety Inspectors - a programme of training and education to ensure this area of service is achieving the most it can. Benefit to the public are safer roads and better value for money. Council benefit is less risk from third party claims. £30k.
- Local Highways Officer Review – Revamping the role to focus on community and customer needs ahead of the wider Highways Maintenance Restructure. £40k
- Highways workforce and succession – contribution to support the implementation and development of an accelerated apprenticeship/graduate/intern programme to bring forward a new cohort of staff into the Highways workforce during 2022 and 2023. £50k
- New Asset Management System – support to accelerate the commissioning and implementation of the system. Could reduce the implementation time from 18 months to 12 year by providing the one-off set up resources. £100k.
- Intelligent data – implement the latest survey data collection technology and use it to make better decisions on where to do what and achieve better outcomes for the public and for value for money we invest into our highways assets. £60k.
- Baselineing our Highways Service – a project to baseline the carbon in the ownership and management of our highways assets to raise Climate awareness and understanding across the service and provide the base from which to start our service journey to net zero. £50k
- Capacity to change at pace – one-off resource to support the transformation of the service. Capacity to get move the change tasks forward at speed. £60k.

### **Total Investment = £390,000**

These are all one-off investments to accelerate the transformation of the highways

maintenance service. They all bring forward key parts of the overall service system that will support better delivery into the future and help ensure the highways service is contributing to our climate change objectives.

### **Rail User Group AGM**

The Meldreth Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group meeting will take place on April 20, 7:30-8:30PM, via Teams – please contact railusergroup@gmail.com for the joining link. The meeting will kick off with a brief AGM and then move to all the business that the Rail User Group is actively pursuing, first and foremost encouraging take up public transport to help boost ridership figures – which is needed in order to bring the full half-hourly service back into play.

### **Thakeham**

New donation of £75k made to the Tory Party autumn 2021 taking total to £716k.

16.

Peter McDonald  
April 6th 2022

17.