

A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 20th April 2023
Time: 7:30pm
Vice Chair: Cllr Pine
Parish Councillors: Ridge, Leitch, Hall, Pine, Hatt, Clements
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
County Councillor: Not present
District Councillor: Cllr Hobro
Members of the Public:
Start Time: 7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr Dring – Unwell
Cllr McDonald – Previous commitment

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

There were none received

3. Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting on 16th March

There were no comments / amendments and the Vice Chair dated and signed the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

4. Public Participation.

To allow up to 10 minutes for any members of the public and Councillors declaring a pecuniary and non pecuniary interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting. There were no members of the public present.

5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)

Cllr Hall thanked Cllr Hobro for responding to his query on how information is shared relating to schemes run by SCDC (specifically the cost of living initiative).

6. District and County Councillors Report (already circulated)

There is a concern that state of roads is getting worse and it is clear that some of pothole repairs both here and in surrounding areas are substandard.

7. Planning

- 23/00846/HFUL – The Farmhouse, New Buildings Farm. Demolition of a small garden room; construction of a single storey extension to existing outbuildings to form an annexe; removal of existing oil tank; heating to whole premises to be replaced with air source heat pumps. There were no objections from the Parish Council
- LDF – we will hear nothing until the autumn.
- Rectory Farm, Little Chishill. The Clerk has heard nothing from South Cambs since she filled out the online form in October. However, there is a new owner of the site and he is keen to sort out planning issues. The Clerk would like to know which properties are holidays lets and which are rentals so she can tally this with the electoral register.
- North Hall Farm – Despite being promised information on this site after our meeting in January the Clerk is still waiting for this and has been chasing.
- Bridgefoot Farm - a stop notice is in place and SCDC have visited the site and are happy that the egg distribution business has now stopped. As yet there was no appeal.
- Rabbit Residence – The Clerk has yet to hear from SCDC on this. Cllr Hobro has asked to see the form that was submitted and also the one for North Hall Farm.

8. Finance

- All paperwork is with the internal auditor and will be ready to sign off at the Annual Parish Meeting.

9. Highways

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (drains, floods, potholes, New Road, Footpath). The Clerk reported that grips were reinstated on the B1039. It was reported that a new highways reporting system is coming soon. Some of the potholes have been repaired but they are breaking up.
- Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill - there has been no change in Little Chishill

10. Speed and safety

- Speed Watch – the Clerk had received one offer of assistance. She will re-advertise in the newsletter.
- Mirror – no progress to date on this.

11. Low Flying Helicopters

There was a general discussion on low flying flights. The Clerk had identified a link to make a complaint and had circulated it. Cllr Hall explained that he works with a helicopter pilot and explained how the complaints system works. This will be left as an agenda item.

12. Royston Tip

Residents from South Cambs cannot now use the tip in Royston (Herts). It is not unique and is happening in other counties too. After discussion it was mentioned that Thriplow is not so far away for us to use although possible (for some) not as convenient.

13. Lock-Up

There was nothing to report.

14. County Broadband

Cllr Clements reported that the Project Gigabit 'Lot 5', which covers Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas, has now been awarded to CityFibre. The announcement by Connecting Cambridgeshire is available here: [£122m plan set to bring lightning-fast broadband to 45,000 rural homes and businesses in Cambridgeshire - Connecting Cambridgeshire](#). Lot 5 includes Great Chishill, although we must now wait for confirmation that we will definitely be included in scope of this project. Registering your interest here: [BDUK Project Gigabit Cambridgeshire | CityFibre](#) will not guarantee this but will do no harm! Network build is expected to start early in 2024. In the meantime, he also said that if your broadband speeds are routinely below the 'minimum guaranteed speed' to which your provider committed when you signed up, you should report this to them, as there are some fixes that can be applied to improve speeds significantly. More details are available on the Ofcom website: [Broadband speeds: what you need to know - Ofcom](#). The Clerk to publicise this.

15. Promotion of Parish

The clerk has been using the newsletter, Facebook and Twitter to promote the Parish Council. She asked the council to send ideas to her for her to post.

16. Coronation Celebrations / Gifts for Children

It was decided to buy a mug for the children. They may not arrive in time for the celebrations but this did not seem a major problem. The Clerk will arrange an informal litter pick for The Big Help Out on Monday 9th May,

17. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There being no further business the Vice Chair closed the meeting at 20:31

County Report for Parish Councils – April 2023.

A further £7.1 million will be spent over the next year to support Cambridgeshire households with their cost of living.

The money delivered through the Household Support Fund (HSF) is part of a wider support offer from Cambridgeshire County Council which links families and households with different offers of support, some of which they may not previously have been aware of. The HSF is a government-funded scheme with the latest award to be spent from April until the end of March next year.

More than half of the new round of funding (£4 million) will continue to be spent delivering food vouchers for thousands of families during school holidays through the new Cambridgeshire Holiday Voucher Scheme. The rest will be used to offer a range of support for households in need, including through 80 'trusted partner' organisations who can make applications directly to the council.

Over the next 12 months, this model will be expanded to prevent people entering poverty, or to help those already struggling financially. This includes working with the NHS to identify more potential recipients.

People eligible for support includes single adults with no children earning less than £20,383 a year, or couples earning less than £27,340 a year. Those figures increase for families with children. Further information on the HSF, including how to apply, can be found on the council's website.

Cambourne to Cambridge

The recent County Council meeting on March 21st received a good deal of press coverage for the decision to create a public transport link connecting existing and planned settlements at Cambourne, West Cambourne and Bourn Airfield to Cambridge. These settlements are the best alternatives to development in the green belt, and this clustered development protects the vast majority of South Cambs villages from unsustainable growth. Public infrastructure including good transport links are necessary – and indeed this is a requirement of the local plan and without it the legal planning framework collapses.

The current Cambourne situation, with no decent public transport, is now urgent and critical for young people seeking access to post-16 education and training opportunities in the Cambridge area. The same is true for all those seeking access to jobs, including health and care staff where recruitment is hampered by lack of affordable housing with reliable public transport connections.

A key point of contention for the proposed Cambourne to Cambridge Busway is at Madingley and Coton where different options have been debated. The eight years of consideration included a detailed independent audit in 2021.

Officers have given a clear steer that the proposed on-road route was not good enough to meet the needs of Cambourne and further planned growth, and risks disturbing Madingley

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Wood, an ancient and hugely biodiverse site. The preferred route involving the loss of trees at Coton Orchard, a private site without public access, is regrettable. The final route will be aligned to reduce to a minimum the number of lost trees, almost or potentially all of which will be commercial fruit trees around 30 years old, currently estimated at one-fifth of the total current area of the orchard. It is very likely that large replacement sites with a wilder mix of native species will be able to more than replace the lost biodiversity, along with other benefits such as public access to wilderness.

The next stage will almost certainly be a public inquiry at which the integrity of the scheme and objections to it will be tested. After careful consideration of representations, papers and arguments made in the debate, I voted in favour of the proposal. You can watch the debate, including my contribution, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwbAi8Q9e5Q>.

The independent audit and other documentation is published at <https://www.gretercambridge.org.uk/sustainable-transport-programme/public-transport-schemes/cambourne-to-cambridge/cambourne-to-cambridge-independent-audit>

County Farms to Let

Three farms to let including Lynchets in Gt Chishill.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/business-with-the-council/rural-business-opportunities/guide-for-prospective-tenants/farms-to-let-on-cambridgeshires-farms-estate>

Great Chesterford Hardcore Site : ESS/109/22/UTT
Planning Appeal:
<https://acp.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/ViewCase.aspx?CaseID=3306988&CoID=0>

District Council Report for April 2023
Councillor James Hobro
District Councillor for the parishes of Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon, Great Chishill & Little Chishill.

I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions about these or other issues relating to the District Council. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at cldr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk.

Local Building Control service wins national award
The shared Local Authority Building Control (LABC) service for Cambridge City Council, Huntingdonshire District Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council is celebrating its role in securing a top national award.
3C Building Control, which checks that new buildings are designed and constructed safely and are in line with environmental standards, was jointly awarded with local firm JPT Design Consultants Ltd for 'Best Partnership with a Local Authority Building Control Team' at the LABC Building Excellence Awards Grand Finals in London. Judges described JPT Design's relationship with 3C Building Control as 'a clear exemplar of how to work well collaboratively to deliver successful, quality projects.'
The LABC Building Excellence Awards focus on the very best in technical innovation and construction quality, helping to raise the level of construction quality across England and Wales, by celebrating the way in which council building control teams work closely with architects and builders to ensure building projects are successfully completed.
The building control team helps householders ensure they are complying with all building regulations, and that work is carried out safely and in line with all environmental requirements. The team also offers ongoing advice and support throughout a project and charge at cost, meaning that getting advice at an early stage can help keep costs of a building project down.

Action taken on fly tipping and planning breaches
Reducing fly tipping in South Cambridgeshire is one of the council's goals for 2023/24. Fines of £400 have been issued where waste has been illegally dumped, including two recent cases in Impington and Cottenham. In both cases, the house owners had handed waste to someone offering waste collection, but had not checked that it would be properly disposed of. The illegal fly tips were reported to the District Council and officers visited the sites where they found evidence linking the waste to its owner.
In Foxton Ward, Enforcement notices have been issued in response to a breach of planning control on Land on the Northwest side of Bridgefoot Farm Lodge at Flint Cross, which was being used for Storage and Distribution without planning permission, and where access to the site from the A505 was detrimental to highway safety. The notices prohibit the unauthorised use of the land for Storage and Distribution purposes, and also prohibit any related traffic movements to and from the site.

Bank Holiday bin collection changes
The addition of the Coronation to the usual schedule of Bank Holidays for Easter and the two May holidays means that over half the bin collections in April and May will be delayed by one or two days. The Foxton Ward bin collection days for these two months are,
April: Tue 4, Thu 13, Wed 19, Tue 25
May: Wed 3, Wed 10, Tue 16, Tue 23, Wed 31
Bin collection dates can be checked for any postcode in the district at <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/binday>, which also provides links to add bin calendars to your mobile phone.

The cardboard, plastic and aluminium foil from Easter eggs can all be placed in the blue bin. The council is also reminding residents that in the UK, around £140 million worth of used but still wearable clothing goes to landfill every year. Please try to keep your unwanted items out of landfill by passing them on to someone who needs them. This can be done through neighbourhood Facebook groups, Gumtree ads, charity shops – some of which offer collections for large items – and even phone apps, like Olio.

New Government funding to decarbonise Council homes
South Cambridgeshire District Council has successfully bid for £1.7 million Government funding, to continue work to decarbonise Council homes. This will be added to the projects the Council has already started to improve the fabric of its Council homes. It will also support other measures being put in place to help the Council achieve its own and the Government's Net Zero targets.

The money is coming from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The Fund is designed to upgrade a significant amount of the social housing stock across the country, that is currently below Energy Performance Certificate C, up to that standard. The District Council owns and maintains around 5,600 Council homes in South Cambridgeshire. The new funding will go towards energy efficiency upgrades within these homes.

Energy saving measures such as exterior wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, new windows and doors, draft proofing measures, as well as heat pumps and solar panel installation can be provided with the funding. These measures could save tenants between £220 and £400 a year on energy bills.
More than £2 million had already been allocated to continue work to retrofit the Council's existing housing stock over the next two years, as part of ongoing carbon reduction efforts. Solar panels have already been installed on almost 2,200 South Cambs Council homes to help tenants generate their own electricity. Nearly 870 solid wall homes have been fitted

with external wall insulation.

By-election in Cottenham Ward

A by-election for the role of South Cambridgeshire District Councillor for Cottenham and Rampton took place on 16 March. This followed the sad loss of Dr John Loveluck, who had served as one of the two District Councillors for Cottenham ward. Eileen Wilson, the Liberal Democrat candidate and former District Councillor for Cottenham, was elected and will represent the ward until May 2026, when all the seats on South Cambridgeshire District Council will be up for election again.

English classes for Ukrainians

More than 100 Ukrainian guests have learned English to help them settle into life in a new country thanks to classes funded by South Cambridgeshire District Council. The classes have transformed life for the children and adults of all ages and are part of a wider package of support from the Council since families began arriving from war-torn Ukraine almost a year ago.

Guests have received free lessons as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme and have praised the Council for helping them find the confidence to settle into their new communities.

In feedback, one guest said, "People who were forced to flee from the war in our country feel sincere support. This is important for each of us. It is difficult to find the words that can express the gratitude we feel. You are doing difficult, important and very good work – the work of humanity. As we say to good friends, thank you to the sun and back!"

Public encouraged to add Coronation events to digital map

Members of the public and community organisations across the UK have been invited by the government to share how they will celebrate the Coronation on a digital map launched on 4 March. The map can be found on the Coronation website, linked below. The map is designed to encourage people to add their own Coronation Big Lunches, street parties, Big Help Out plans and other Coronation activities so others in the local community can find out about events near them and get involved. The Coronation website also includes information for getting involved, a toolkit including templates, a playlist, recipes, and designs. The Coronation will take place on the morning of 6 May at Westminster Abbey. Throughout the UK, Coronation Big Lunches will bring communities together on 7 May. The weekend of celebrations will end with the Big Help Out on 8 May, which will highlight the impact of volunteering. This will encourage people to get involved with activities run by local community groups, organisations and charities.

Digital map to add events:

<https://coronation.gov.uk/events/>

East–West Rail route announcement due in May

In the Spring Budget policy paper released following the Chancellor's Budget speech on 15 March, it was confirmed that,

- The East–West Rail route announcement will happen in May,
- The government will provide up to £15 million local capacity funding to support local authorities along the East West Rail route to maximise economic opportunities.

Compost Week UK

For Compost Week (13–19 March), the District Council has been promoting home composting to residents through our social media channels, in particular the opportunity to buy low-cost compost bins through our collaboration with www.getcomposting.com. A basic composter costs our residents £25 from Get Composting, a considerable saving compared with buying the same product on popular online shopping sites.

English Devolution Accountability Framework

On 16 March the Government published guidance which sets out devolved authorities will be held to account through local scrutiny, by the public and by the government. The English Devolution Accountability Framework is a new accountability framework to apply to all English institutions with devolved powers. It is an element of the Local Government Accountability Framework which applies to all councils, including combined authorities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/english-devolution-accountability-framework>

Updated guidance for landlords and tenants

The Government has published updates to the 'How to Rent', and 'How to Let' guidance. The updates include information for tenants and landlords in the Private Rented Sector to help them understand their rights and responsibilities.

How to let guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-let>

How to rent guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-rent>

Housing disrepair online signposting tool

The Ministry of Justice is promoting its housing disrepair online signposting tool. This has been developed for private rented sector tenants with housing disrepair issues. The tool gives users the information and guidance they need to resolve their housing disrepair issues before they worsen. It asks users a series of targeted questions before providing them with tailored information, guidance, and signposting to relevant advice and support. This helps them understand their rights and responsibilities and identify an appropriate next step when trying to resolve their housing disrepair issues.

<https://check-how-to-get-repairs-done-in-your-rented-home.form.service.justice.gov.uk/>