

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

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 12th January 2017
Time: 7:30pm
Acting Chairman: James Coney
Parish Councillors: Dring, Harrison, Clements, Coney
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Clr Gardiner
Clr Ridge – Previous commitment
Clr Hales – Ill-health
Clr Barrett – Previous Commitment
Clr van de Ven – Previous Commitment

All apologies were accepted.

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

There were none declared.

3. Approval of the meeting on 23rd November 2016

These were approved as an accurate account of proceedings and the Clr Coney signed and dated them.

4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public.

5. Finance

The clerk took the meeting through the finances to date and all income and expenditure. There were no unexpected items in the accounts. To plan for next year would be the lock-up refurbishment and the painting of the telephone box.

The Clerk had received the retainer invoice from Andrew Brown and the Parish Council approved its payment. The Clerk to speak with the Village Hall committee about them contributing to this.

Clr Coney signed and dated the finance sheets.

The Council then discussed setting the Precept for 2017-18. After discussion, it was unanimously resolved to keep the precept at its current level of £22500 per annum.

6. Planning

S/3542/16/LF – Land to Rear of Colts Croft

After much discussion, and studying the plans and a letter from a neighbour, the Parish Council recommended refusal of this planning application for the following reasons:

- The building would be in infill and backfill within the village envelope
- There is a significant level of concern from Colts Crofts homeowners which we feel is quite justified
- We have serious concerns over the lack of access, both during building and afterwards. The only access to deliver building materials is along a narrow (1.5m width) Public Footpath (6) which vehicles are not permitted to travel down. Access to the house if built, would not be ideal, again accessing it via public footpath
- Disabled access would be a serious issue
- Colts Croft is already congested with parked cars one single space would not be adequate. The owners of 14 Colts Croft already have several vehicles some of which are large - where are all these vehicles going to park?
- Because of the congestive nature of the parking in Colts Croft, there is a worry that any emergency vehicles would be inhibited when trying to access the area. The addition of more vehicles would make the situation much worse.
- We are concerned that curb side collections would be difficult to execute
- To summarise, we feel the proposed development is inappropriate, raises serious safety issues and is non-sustainable.

S/3484/16/LB – Rectory Cottage

This was unanimously approved by the Council.

7. Highways

Footpath between Chishill and Barley

The meeting with Strutt and Parker is still to be finalised. The Clerk to speak again to the third farmer involved.

8. A report from Speed Watch

The sign now tells you what speed you are doing and it was agreed that this was a good thing. Once again, we are very grateful to Martin and his team for moving the sign around the village.

9. A report from the Windmill Trust

Planning permission has been granted, so the interim works can commence. David McKeown is driving the project along and has met with English Heritage.

10. Parish Council Properties

Telephone box – to be painted in the spring

Lock-up – pre-app done, a full application will be submitted. A quote for the brick work is imminent.

White lines – the Clerk explained that the PFA had expressed an interest in getting the white lining on the car park re-done, possibly including a disabled space. The PFA have a contact who might do this and the cost would be split between the PC / PFA and Village Hall Committee.

11. County and District Councils Written Reports

12. Great and Little Chishill Parish Council, January 2017, County Councillor Report

Gritting routes: As I have reported to you during the course of the year, the formal County Council decision last February to freeze council tax, rather than proceed with the standard 1.99% rise to meet inflation and demography demands, has exacerbated the problem of budgetary constraints mainly arising from the ending of government support grant. The freezing of council tax was a Conservative led decision and not supported by my group (Liberal Democrats). The 1.99% rise would have allowed winter gritting routes to remain unchanged; instead the network has had to be redrawn to a smaller scale. At last month's County Council meeting, responding to deep public concern, the Liberal Democrat group proposed to reinstate the pre-cuts gritting routes by drawing from reserves. This was unanimously agreed by the whole council, including all those who had supported the February cuts. However reserves are not a permanent solution. The council will once again, in February, be asked to consider a 1.99% rise. I hope common sense will prevail.

New gritting lorry drivers are being trained and South Cambs routes should be back in operation on 13 January. Heydon Lane, Heydon, is one of the routes to be reinstated.

Street lighting: Another motion to December County Council proposed that the decision to switch off late night/early morning street lighting be reversed. Again, this will have cost implications that cannot be solved without adequate revenue streams. Furthermore, as a cost saving exercise but without the knowledge of councillors, street lights have been significantly dimmed to the point where complaints have come in that they are not providing adequate illumination. This was raised at Full Council last month and will now have been rectified.

A505 fatal accident. The tragic accident on the A505 last month has devastated countless lives. Thank you to Chishill Parish Council for being pro-active about understanding next steps. I've had a response from the Road Safety officer, saying: "The recent fatal crash is currently subject to a Police investigation and I cannot comment on any causation factors until this is concluded. There will also be a separate investigation carried out jointly by the Police and ourselves to identify whether any highway factors could potentially have contributed. If any remedial measures are evident from this they will be prioritised and delivered. However an initial inspection has been undertaken and I am informed that all necessary signs and lines are present and in good condition. There is an area close to the quarry access where verge overrun by heavy vehicles has resulted in a 'lip' forming on the verge and an order has been placed to rectify this. The accident did not occur at the Flint Cross junction but approximately 200m to the east."

I have also pointed out to the Road Safety Team how poor the line painting is along the southwestern section of the A505, in comparison with section approaching Fowlmere and Thriplow. They say they will re-inspect the A505 during hours of darkness.

It is extremely regretful that the Road Safety scheme budget has been reduced after last year's budget cuts, and this trend continues with government revenue support winding down to zero. Again, it's vital in the lead-up to this year's budget setting in February that essential services are not compromised any further than necessary.

Bus Users: All seems to be in place for retaining the 31 bus and other bus subsidies, though as with the other items in this report, we seem to be fighting for essential revenue support on a constant basis.

13. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none received.

The next meeting is 23rd March 2017

There being no other business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:25