

# GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

## July 2022 Meeting

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	21 <sup>st</sup> July 2022
Time:	7:30pm
Chairman:	Cllr Dring
Parish Councillors:	Ridge, Clements, Leitch, Hatt
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	-
District Councillor:	Cllr Hobro
Members of the Public:	None Present
Start Time:	7:30pm

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

Cllr Pine – prior engagement  
Cllr McDonald – prior engagement  
These were accepted by the Council.

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

There were none declared.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council 12<sup>th</sup> May (already circulated)

It was agreed that these were a true and accurate account of events and the Chairman signed and dated them.

### 4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

### 5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)

There were no comments received about the communication reports circulated.

### 6. Co-Option of Charles Hall to the Parish Council

It was proposed by Cllr Dring and seconded by Cllr Leitch and unanimously that Charles Hall be formally co-opted to the Parish Council.

### 7. Code of Conduct – adopt new and clerk to get paper out and adopt

It was agreed to adopt the new Code of Conduct. The Clerk to send out paperwork to the Councillors and update the policy document.

### 8. Email from Deb Roberts (request to read out the meeting)

The email had been circulated to the Parish Council as requested and the Chairman read it out at the meeting. Cllr Hobro clarified the situation to the Council. Cllr Hatt commented that there are not enough houses being built based on the governments recommendations. There was also the question of water supply and infrastructure which Cllr Ridge raised. Cllr Hobro said the main clusters of new houses are being built around existing new communities. Cllr Hobro said that they are basing the new house calculations comfortably within the 5 year supply guidelines. The clerk queried the methodology used in the calculations of new houses as that was the stumbling block last time, in that, the wrong system was used to calculate houses. The new area planning lead is now Phil Macintosh and Cllr Hobro will forward his details on to the Chairman and Clerk.

### 9. Planning

- 22/02617/HFUL – 67 Heydon Road, rear extension. The council had raised issues about privacy relating to the balcony previously and will raise the same concerns. Clerk to draft and circulate to the PC for approval.
- 22/02691/FUL – Bridgefoot Farm Kennels. The Council noted that the planning is retrospective. There were discussions about all of the previous planning activities on the site and how it grown in size and the nature in which buildings had changed use over the years. The Council to make representation based on prior objections (flooding, over development and no formal plan). The Chairman to open a dialogue with the new area planning officer.
- 22/00256/CONDA, The Old Kennels, Bridgefoot Farm (for information)
- LDF – the Parish Council are awaiting the next email from SCDC and will respond accordingly.
- Rectory Farm, Little Chishill. The Clerk had shared information with Cllr Hobro prior to the meeting. Following on from discussion in the meeting about some planning irregularities the Clerk and Cllr Ridge are to put a bullet point item together for Cllr Hobro to present to enforcement.
- Campsite, Lynchets Farm. There still appears to be one or two caravans which are being permanently lived in. The Clerk has chased this up with Cllr McDonald and she will chase up again.
- North Hall Farm. It was reported that all the single storey dwellings are occupied. The Clerk to check the electoral role to ascertain the status of residency and then report back to Cllr Hobro to chase up enforcement.
- Land in village. There is no further news on this.

### 10. Finance

- Finance Sheets (already circulated). There were no questions on the finances and the clerk reported that the next tranche of precept will be with us in September. The Chairman signed the finance sheets.

The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that we had not yet paid the Playground group their grant and that some of the areas are now deemed unsafe. A general discussion took place about signage etc and the Clerk to follow this up.

### 11. Councillor Email addresses

A discussion took place as to the merits of Councillors own email accounts. It was decided that this is something the Parish Council would undertake. The Clerk will source an email policy to adopt to go along with this initiative and the Chairman will set up the accounts. There will be a cost implication of circ £70 per email address per year.

### 13. Highways

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (white lining, drains) (Cllr McDonald). The Clerk reported that the white lines are due to be done in August and she thought that the drains were being looked at too. The cones in New Road were mentioned and the Clerk said that she had mentioned this to Cllr McDonald as well. There are also road signs which have fallen down which need replacing. The Clerk and Chairman to chase.
- Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill. There are still works outstanding in Little Chishill. Cllr Ridge to chase.
- Straw lorries from Langley. The Clerk had spoken to the police and also had an email from them. They had spoken to Mr Clark who had said that he would certainly take straw on the road seriously. The police were honest in that, as it stands there are no breaches and so nothing can be enforced. The Clerk had told them that the power station does not want the lorries coming through our village and asked the police how they would manage this. The police are going to put the clerk into contact with the highways enforcement officer to see what he suggests.

- Potential extension to footpath on Hall Lane. The Chairman explained the background to Cllr Hobro and he will look into this.
- 20mph limit, Hall Lane. There is some further documentation and the Parish should apply at the next stage. Cllr Hobro spoke about the road between Heydon and Chishill being 30mph. The Clerk to speak to Heydon Parish Council.

**14 Granta Medical Practice**

The Chairman read Cllr Hatt's draft email out to the Council. Some parishioners experiences of Barley appear to be better than others. The Chairman to send out Cllr Hatt's email to Granta.

**15. Buses**

16. Cllr Leitch felt that if we are to be encouraged to use our cars less frequently then the bus offering could be better. In the past Cllr Van de Ven has fought to keep the No 31 bus as children in the village use it for post 16 education transport. Cllr Hobro said that there are some bus consultations out 'live' at the moment for us to look at.

**17. Lock-Up**

We have one quote and are waiting for another.

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

Both are County and District Councillors reports had been circulated. Cllr Hobro took the council through his reports and there was interest and discussion on the Zero Carbon news and Wellbeing Grants. Cllr Hobro was thanked for his time.

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

The playground will be on the next agenda.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:00.

**Report for Parish Councils – July 2022.**

**Cambridgeshire County Report – Peter McDonald**

**Great Chesterford Hardcore Site : ESS/20/22/UTT**

I've been following closely the development of this site. It has been permitted by the EA and us been submitted to ECC Planning. I am working on an ECC officer refusal given the noise and dust from the site. SCDC have said they may be able to provide monitoring although it's across the border. I will meet the Site Director July 5<sup>th</sup> to understand their operation and communicate residents' concerns.

**Climate change and flood money**

The first spending from the Council's new Just Transition fund has been agreed. £2.175M over four years has been awarded for a business case for the first phase of the Council's plan for Cambridgeshire to reach Net Zero carbon by 2045. And £1.7M has also been awarded for flood work and nature restoration.

**Highways IT system**

A new Highways IT system is on the cards for the County Council—but officers have been asked to do more work on their proposals after a report to the Strategy & Resources Committee was sent back.

**Household Support Fund**

The Government has confirmed that it is extending the Household Support Fund for six months of 2022/23 and has allocated £3.58M of grant funding to Cambridgeshire for this. The Fund is intended to provide support to households through free school meals for eligible children during school holidays, and for payments to people in need. In order to meet the Joint Administration's commitment to provide free school meals in the holidays throughout the year, and to have a direct support scheme that is comprehensive, the Strategy & Resources Committee has allocated a further £1.87M to supplement this locally.

**Inflation adds to council costs**

The County Councils Network and the Society of County Treasurers have revealed that spiralling inflation has left forty of England's largest councils with £729M of additional unfunded costs since they set their budgets in March. To balance their budgets—as they are legally required to—and control costs, councils warn they face a winter of 'difficult decisions'. The increased costs nationally include

- £428M for adult social care services
- £72M for children's social care
- £397M for capital projects
- £107M for energy prices
- £136M for external contract and labour costs
- £77M for school transport services
- £259M for staff pay

These inflationary costs far outstrip any increases in Government funding or council tax.

**Library@home award**

Cambridgeshire's Library@home volunteers are one of three voluntary groups in the county to be given the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. This is the highest award a local voluntary group can receive in the UK and is equivalent to an MBE. It aims to recognise outstanding work by local volunteer groups to benefit their communities. The award was created in 2002 to celebrate The Queen's Golden Jubilee. Recipients are announced each year on 2 June, the anniversary of the Queen's coronation. The library@home service provides books and audiobooks to residents who find it difficult to get to a library through disability, illness or caring responsibilities. Volunteers visit once a month to bring and return library books and to have a chat.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/libraries-leisureculture/libraries/accessibility>

### Local Highways Improvement updates

The schemes in Thriplow and Foxton are progressing as well as the 20 mph zone for Duxford

			ROAD		
Peter McDonald	Foxton Parish Council	Fowlmere / Barrington / Shepreth Road	Signs / Lines & MVAS - Installation of gateway features, signs / lines and 40 buffer zones. & 2x MVAS	GREEN	Design work commenced. Design due to be complete Mid-late June.
Peter McDonald	Thriplow Parish Council	Middle Street / Fowlmere Road / Church Street / School Lane	MVAS unit	GREEN	To be procured as part of countywide MVAS package. Applicant contacted during June by officer.

### CENSUS

Cambridgeshire has seen one of the UK's biggest population increases over the past ten years, data just published from the 2021 Census shows.

Overall, the number of people living in the county rose by more than 57,000 in the last decade to 678,600. This 9.2 per cent rise is higher than the East of England average, in a national picture which saw the East grow faster than any part of the UK. The figures confirm the County Council's contention that previous Office of National Statistics figures—on which the government bases its grant allocations—under-estimated the size of the county's population. Included within the Cambridgeshire Census figures is an overall 26 per cent rise in the number of Cambridgeshire people aged 65+, against an 18.6 per cent national average rise—with a high percentage increase of people in the 70 to 74 age band in all districts.

While the more urban areas of the county like Cambridge have seen population growth across all age ranges, its more rural areas have seen small or no growth in the youngest age groups (0-19) but large increases in older populations.

Last year's census took place in March 2021 and data from the census will be published in stages over the next two years. Future releases will include figures on ethnicity, religion, the labour market, education and housing. Also, for the first time, there will be information on UK armed forces veterans, sexual orientation and gender identity. [www.ons.gov.uk/census](http://www.ons.gov.uk/census)

### District Council Report for June/July 2022

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 [dlr.hobro@scamb.gov.uk](mailto:dlr.hobro@scamb.gov.uk).

### Local Plan consultation

More than 9,000 comments received as part of last year's consultation into the First Proposals for the new Greater Cambridge Local Plan [have now been published](#).

The Plan, being prepared jointly by Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, will eventually set out how Greater Cambridge will develop over the next twenty years.

During the First Proposals consultation, the Councils set out an ambitious vision for minimising carbon emissions alongside improving the quality of life for residents across the area, with all new homes to be carbon neutral. The proposals included 19 new sites for homes and business space, with the majority of extra development proposed for Northeast Cambridge, Cambridge Airport site and at Cambourne. It set out a range of new policies to meet the environmental challenges facing the area – including tackling carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity.

The First Proposals explicitly said that they are dependent on evidence coming forwards to confirm that there will be adequate water supply to support the delivery of new homes. If the water industry and central government do not act, the number of new homes proposed may need to be delayed or reduced.

The [responses to the First Proposals](#) have been published as part of the process to update Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councillors on the next steps for the plan.

A significant number of comments supported the aims of the plan, particularly for tackling climate change and protecting and enhancing biodiversity and green spaces. There were also some common concerns raised – relating to issues such as water supply and development for new jobs and homes.

For more information, please see the [Greater Cambridge Local Plan web site](#).

## **Energy Rebate of £150 given to residents**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is giving rebates of £150 per household for properties in Council Tax bands A–D under the government [£150 Energy Rebate scheme](#). This is designed to help mitigate the recent increases in energy costs.

The District Council is also operating a local rebate scheme that extends the government scheme for some additional householders. Anyone who is eligible but has not yet received their rebate can apply [here](#). Please share this information as widely as you can, as some of the households most in need may not yet have claimed the rebate.

The first payments have been made to those who paid their April Council Tax instalment via Direct Debit, and where the bank details held match the names of those liable to pay the Council Tax charge. In addition to the main scheme, payments are also being made from the local scheme, which extends eligibility into the higher council tax bands for those in receipt of Local Council Tax Support, Disabled Band Relief or where certain exemptions apply.

Those that do not pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit, or where the bank account name details that we hold do not match the names of those liable to pay Council Tax, can provide their bank details [on the web site](#). The Government requires that we undertake additional verification checks prior to payment, so these will take a little longer to process. We are currently looking at how best to support those that may be digitally excluded. If you have any concerns, please email [energyrebate@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:energyrebate@scambs.gov.uk).

## **Tailored advice and Community Toolkits**

A new personalised advice service is available from the District Council which will identify free tools and funding to tackle local problems and create safer communities in South Cambridgeshire.

Residents and community groups can complete a short online form outlining the initiative they want to set up or the problem they want to solve, and Council staff will offer tailored solutions. The guidance will include information about different grants that a particular project might be eligible for, the most appropriate toolkits to use, and introductions to community contacts who have seen success in similar projects locally.

If you are thinking about setting up a new group, encouraging others to take an interest in issues that matter to you, or addressing a local concern but aren't sure where to start, you can complete the [short form online](#).

For those communities that would like to plan for the longer-term, Council colleagues can also talk to you about creating a [Community Led Plan](#).

For more details, see the Council's video on the [Community Safety Partnership toolkit](#).

## **Fitness and Wellbeing Grants**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is urging instructors to apply for up to £300 to lead fitness and wellbeing activities in their communities.

Anyone who leads an existing group or who wants to set up a new initiative in the District, such as leading a walking group in their local park or running a weekly yoga class in a village hall, could be eligible for the small grant. Providers running multiple groups can also apply to fund multiple programmes.

Activities could range from walking football/rugby/netball, to chair-based exercise classes, diabetes walking groups, yoga for the over 60s, baby yoga classes or more.

The grant, which is funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, is to help deliver physical activity programmes provided by the District Council in partnership with Living Sport. It is designed to cover costs such as venue hire for up to six weeks, with new participants being entitled to four free sessions. Once the free sessions are complete, participants would be expected to begin paying a small fee to continue participation, meaning that the initiative should become a sustainable source of income for the instructor.

Full details are available on the [District Council web site](#).

## **Right to Buy extension for tenants renting from housing associations**

On 9 June the government announced an extension of the Right to Buy scheme, which means tenants renting their homes from housing associations will be given the right to buy them outright. Currently, tenants in council homes are eligible to buy their homes at a discounted price, up to 70% off the market value dependent on how long they have lived there. However, the scheme is less generous for those in homes owned by housing associations. The government will work closely with the housing association sector on the design of the scheme. The Prime Minister also committed to the building of replacement social homes for each one sold.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/right-to-buy-extension-to-make-home-ownership-possible-for-millions-more-people>

Speech:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-ministers-housing-speech-9-june-2022>

### **Electrical safety in social housing: consultation and call for evidence**

On 8 June DLUHC launched a consultation on keeping social housing residents safe from the dangers of poor electrical safety. The consultation aims to improve safety for residents in social rented homes and bring greater parity between the rented sectors with regard to safety. DLUHC is consulting on mandating electrical safety inspection and testing in social homes and calling for evidence on requirements for owner-occupier leasehold properties in social housing blocks. The consultation closes on 31 August. If you have any questions, please contact: [srselectricalsafety@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:srselectricalsafety@levellingup.gov.uk).

DLUHC also announced yesterday that failing social housing landlords could face unlimited fines and Ofsted-style inspections, under the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill introduced to Parliament on 8 June.

Consultation:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electrical-safety-in-social-housing-consultation-and-call-for-evidence>

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ofsted-style-inspections-and-unlimited-fines-for-failing-social-landlords>

Legislation:

<https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/3177>

### **Support for Ukrainian refugees**

South Cambridgeshire communities have stepped forward to help those fleeing Ukraine, with figures showing that the area has had more visas issued than any other district in the country. The District Council has been arranging payments for guests and hosts and managing DBS checks and in-person visits to confirm that properties are suitable.

The District Council is keeping hosts and guests in South Cambridgeshire connected via regular bulletin updates and has established online communities and webinars to bring together both hosts and guests. An [online welcome pack](#) for new arrivals from Ukraine has been created and continues to be updated as further useful information becomes available.

A scheme to supply 10 free one-day bus travelcards to all guests is being arranged to cover the period just after groups have arrived. This is expected to be ready within a couple of weeks.

The District Council has also set up a [scheme to provide free bicycles](#) to Ukrainian guests, working alongside OWL Bikes and Camtrust.

The Council is setting up some events with the [Association for Family Therapy and Systematic Practice](#) to help with psychological support for hosts. More events are also being arranged to allow Ukrainian guests to meet up for mutual support.

For more information, please see the SCDC [Support for Ukraine](#) web page.

### **Zero Carbon News**

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been recognised for its work to tackle climate change, with a Silver accolade at the 2022 Public Sector Transformation Awards. The Council's Green to our Core programme is supported by its Zero Carbon Strategy and Doubling Nature Strategy.

Highlights of the Council's approach include Greening South Cambridgeshire Hall with a £1.8M energy efficiency retrofit to include a ground source heat pump, solar carport, upgraded lighting and other elements.

We were one of the first Councils to adopt a fully electric refuse collection vehicle, and we are developing a solar farm to power the lorries. The second fully electric bin lorry to collect waste from residents in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire has now arrived.

We've upgraded 1,800 streetlights with low energy bulbs and awarded £314,415 to 51 different community groups to support carbon reduction projects including setting up E- Bike schemes, installing infra-red heating panels in community buildings, holding sustainable food festivals, tree planting, energy efficient lighting and waste reduction.

This year's [Zero Carbon Community Grant](#) application period has now closed. The District Council is offering £120,000 every year in grants to Parish Councils and other community organisations of up to £15,000 for projects that will reduce carbon emissions, strengthen the natural environment, and increase community engagement on climate change.

### **Property investment produces early payback**

When the Liberal Democrat group took over the running of the District Council four years ago, we inherited a financial deficit leading to a requirement to generate income. This was necessary to supplement the shrinking funding from central government.

This led us to develop a property investment plan, and we purchased several commercial buildings, largely in the science and technology parks around Cambridge. These were, in large part, responsible for the generation of £5m per year additional income.

One of those properties has very recently been sold on, after a very attractive, unsought bid was received, for around double the purchase price just 15 months before. This has added over £10m to the Council's coffers, and provides us with a very strong financial foundation for the next few years.