

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

Venue: 50 Heydon Road
Date: 18th March 2015
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Ridge, Clements, Dring, Harrison, Coney
County Councillor: Cllr van den Ven
District Councillors: None
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:30

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr Murgatroyd – Personal
Cllr Barrett – Previous Commitment
Cllr Hales – Previous Commitment

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

There none declared.

3. To approve the minutes of 19th February 2015

It was unanimously agreed that these were an accurate account of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation.

There no members of the public at the meeting.

5. Finance

The Clerk took the Parish Council through the finances. The approximate year end combined balance should be £30k. The Council had a discussion about spending money and encouraging village organisation to contact them for requests – particularly the S106 moneys. The clerk to communicate with village organisation and encourage them to contact the Parish Council.

6. Planning

S/0073/15/FL - 14 New Road, conversion of garage into a holiday let. The Council discussed the planning application and unanimously recommended approval. The Clerk to send the planning form to SCDC.

A further planning application for a new dwelling in New Road had been received. This will be discussed at an extraordinary meeting on 1st April in the Village Hall.

7. A report from Speed Watch

A speed watch meeting had taken place to the day before. Actions to carry forward are for the Clerk to set up an appointment with Skanska to talk through traffic calming measures. Some of 30mph signs need a clean – Clerk to contact a window cleaner to clean them.

8. A report from the Windmill Trust

There were no updates and a meeting of the Trust is scheduled in the next 12 days.

9. Move of National Speed Limit of Barley Road

The Clerk is to chase this up with the minor highway grant department.

10. A Report on the Lock-up

Cllr Coney is to obtain a spec and then three quotes will need to be obtained.

11. Telephone Box

The glass has been replaced. The Chairman to speak with Neil Heywood about his request in the Newsletter for volunteers to paint the telephone box.

12. County and District Councils Written Reports

Great Chishill Parish Council

March 2015

County Councillor Report

1. The Local Highways Improvement scheme is being reviewed at the request of the chairman of the Highways and Community Infrastructure Committee. I am on the review panel and would appreciate any feedback the parish council may have, given that the scheme has worked so well for the Chishills.
2. Traffic Regulation Order legal costs: These are always surprising – how can it cost £2000 to put down 30 metres of double yellow lines or change one number on a speed limit sign? The excessive cost is due to the legal requirement to publish the TRO in newspapers, which charge considerable sums. The matter was raised when the Secretary of State undertook a review of the system. However, heavy lobbying by the print media to make no change was successful. Local Highway Authorities have continued to lobby and I am told that Cambridgeshire is participating in a national pilot scheme to test out new ways of consulting the public on TROs, in collaboration with the print media. Nevertheless I can't see the justification of any demand on tax payers' money by the print media, particularly at a time of appalling cuts, given that there are now easy and cheap ways of advertising TROs via the internet.
3. Bridgefoot Farm fire Environment Agency costs as of mid-January were £56,703.
4. Education transport: I'm involved more closely with the bus subsidy review as I am now chairing the steering committee. It is logical to guess that cuts to education transport will affect non-statutory services and therefore post-16 transport.
5. Cambridge Central Library: Huge budget pressures are forcing radical changes, and the library faces the prospect of a new Enterprise Centre in collaboration with a company by the name of Kora Enterprises, with £300K investment by both parties to refurbish and reconfigure the third floor of the library. This ties in with agreed priorities to support small business and adult skills development. However there is concern about the significant loss of public space, and a closure period of the whole library for a period of up to three weeks that could coincide with summer exams when the library is needed for student study space. More concerning is the decision-making process, as negotiations between officers and Kora took place for about 18 months and the proposal was brought to a very high level of specification before being brought to councillors' attention. The project carries significant unknowns and risks. Councillors were asked to approve the proposal but Kora was not invited to present or answer questions. On that basis I moved an amendment that the decision be postponed, but this was lost. The decision has now been 'called-in' for review on account of lack of due process.

13. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.08. Our thanks to Cllr Harrison for letting us meet at her house whilst the Village Hall was being refurbished.