

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

Venue: Village Hall  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
Time: 7:30pm  
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner  
Parish Councillors: Clements, Ridge, Dring, Harrison, Loukes  
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott  
Start Time: 19:30pm

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

Cllr van de Ven – prior commitment  
Cllr Coney – prior commitment  
Cllr Hales – prior commitments  
Cllr Barrett – prior commitments  
These were all accepted by the Council.

### **2. To receive any declaration or Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest of Councillors**

Cllr Dring – New Road planning application

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 (already circulated)**

These were approved by the Parish Council as a true and accurate account of proceedings (bar one amendment) which the Clerk will rectify and were signed by the Chairman.

### **4. Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

### **5. Finance**

The Clerk took the council for the finances to date. There were no queries – the Clerk will send out the finance sheets.

The Chairman asked the Parish Council if they would like to give village children (0-11 years) a memento to celebrate the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was unanimously agreed. The Clerk to draw up a list of children and order the medals.

### **6. Telephone Mast**

There is no further news at present.

### **7. Planning**

S/3096/15/FL – 6 New Road. The Council spoke at length about this planning application. After careful consideration, they unanimously concluded that the planning application be recommended for refusal.

S/0145/16/FL – 17 Hall Lane – this was recommended for approval.

S/0296/16/FL – 28 Hall Lane – this was recommended for approval.

Maltings Lane has now gone to appeal. The Parish Council's previous comments will stay on the appeal documentation and we can also comment on the appeal.

Neighbourhood Plan – it was unanimously decided that the Parish Council will not follow this up at the moment. The Clerk to make an appointment for the Chairman and Clerk to meet with John Koch at SCDC.

### **8. Speedwatch**

Martin Gruselle had once again produced some more statistics from the flashing sign, there were no great surprises in the data.

## 9. Windmill Trust

A bat survey is underway. The Trust are working on Listed Building Consent for essential repairs. There is now a communications person on board, so it is hoped there will be more information shared in the future as well as fundraisers in the next year and onwards.

Cllr Dring is meeting with Ro Gadian to talk about grants.

Cllr Dring concluded that it now feels that the right things are now happening.

## 10. Lock-Up

As Cllr Coney was not present, there was nothing to report.

## 11. County and District Councillors Reports

### Great and Little Chishill Parish Council, March 2016, County Councillor Report

**Budget result:** This year government allowed councils to raise tax by 1.99%, and also, an additional 2% specifically for social care. A 2% rise in council tax raises £5 million and costs a Band D household 44 pence per week. This reflects enormous scale of cuts – about £45 million in 2016-17 - which the council is forced to make in the wake of government policy to remove revenue support grant. It needs to raise all the funds it can get.

It was nice to hear the announcement that government decided to give us an unexpected £3.2 million, but this could not be seen as a substitute for council tax rise when the shortfall is so great. Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors supported the 1.99% plus 2% rise. UKIP favoured a 0% rise, which would necessitate even more cuts. Conservatives had publicly announced that they would not support the 2% social care tax rise, but then changed their minds when it came to the vote – and then rejected the 1.99% general rise. This determined the outcome.

The resulting freeze on general council tax forces the Council to take from dangerously low reserves to plug the gap – a one-off measure that cannot be repeated, and which renders the Council short next year. Furthermore, it has now been confirmed that the extra 2% rise for social care will be taken up entirely by funding the National Living Wage for workers in social care – a responsibility that central government has given to councils. The council faces another £100 million in cuts over the next five years.

Parish Councils will be asked to do more, though of course they cannot provide services on the same scale.

**Highways:** Peter Taylor, who is the new 'Mike Cooper' knows the area very well and has for years done the gritting run. Unfortunately, the endless budget cuts include reducing the gritting network, as we expected.

**Bus Users meeting:** I will be at Great Chishill Village Hall on 14 March evening, 7:30PM, for the 31 bus users' meeting. The County transport officer and Royston and District Community Transport will be coming too. We have a reprieve on the funding for the 31 bus for now, though this won't last and we must use the extra time to sort out alternatives

**Oil Club Rebate to Camsight:** The Melbourn Division bulk-buying Oil Club will be donating its £115 rebate to Camsight's work in the Melbourn area. The idea is to help raise awareness of increasing difficulties now faced by people living with blindness and visual impairment, due to budget cuts. As a result of the cuts, people who are blind or visually impaired will not be able to use their bus passes before 9:30AM.

**Boundary Review:** The Boundary Commission has now published new Cambridgeshire county division boundaries that will take effect from the 2017 elections. They have not acknowledged the points made in representations about natural school communities and transport commonalities being so important in supporting different villages to work together on common concerns. The

new Duxford Division will include Shepreth, Foxton, Fowlmere, Thriplow, Whittlesford, Heydon, Great and Little Chishill, Duxford, Pampisford, Hinxtton and Ickleton. Like all other new divisions, the number of electors will rise by about 30%, so there will be less time for effective representation by councillors.

**12. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda**

There were none.

Parish

The next meeting is on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 20:42.