

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 16th March 2017
Time: 7:30pm
Acting Chairman: James Coney
Parish Councillors: Clements, Dring, Ridge
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr Harrison – previous commitment
Cllr Barrett – previous commitment
Cllr Loakes – previous commitment
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 meeting on 23rd February 2017

These were approved as an accurate account of proceedings then signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public.

5. Finance

The Clerk took the meeting through the finances. There were no questions.

6. Planning

S/0770/17/FL – The Lodge, Bridgefoot Farm Kennels

The Council discussed this a planning application. They had concerns about the height of the pitched roof and noted that the building was still to be used for 'occasional overnight worker's accommodation'. They did question if the site still had agricultural status; they also made comment to the extra homes that have been developed over the years on the site.

7. Highways

There was nothing further to report on regarding an informal footpath on fields between Barley to Great Chishill.

8. A report from the Windmill Trust

Cllr Dring gave an update following the last trust meeting. The minutes are on the Windmill Trust website. Of note were the results of the bat survey, the need for a more permanent covering (to replace the tarpauling) and the addition of the metal ties to the base of the mill.

9. Parish Council Properties

Telephone box

This is to be painted in the spring.

Lock-up

A pre-app has been done and a full application will be submitted. The brickworks quote had been submitted and approved by the Council.

White lines

There nothing further to report on this.

10. County and District Councillors Report

Great and Little Chishill Parish Council Chishill Parish Council, March 2017, County Councillor Report Results of County Council Annual Budget Meeting

Cambridgeshire is one of the very few councils nationally to have opted not to take the 1.99% standard council tax rise. This is what government permits, and it allows councils to address inflationary and demographic pressures - though it makes only a small difference in addressing the enormous funding gap resulting from government's total withdrawal of revenue support grant. The 1.99% rise would cost a Band D property 42 pence per week.

The council did opt to levy a 2% rise specifically for social care, as permitted by government, but this will be a drop in the bucket in terms of addressing the social care crisis that is contributing to NHS hospital bed blocking and cancelled operations.

The Conservatives, UKIP and Independents rejected the 1.99% rise. The Lib Dems and Labour both supported it. The social care rise was supported by all party groups except UKIP. UKIP proposed that reserves be used in lieu of any council tax rise. Council reserves stand at £16 million, against an annual expenditure of £500 million, excluding the Dedicated Schools Grant. The Conservatives argued that the council can transform the way it delivers services to such an extent as to make substantial savings negating the need for the 1.99% council tax rise, but this is speculative.

What I voted for: My group, the Lib Dems, argued for the 1.99% rise in order to provide some support the following services - though much greater financial support is needed.

Children's services:

- Increase services supporting parents and their babies
- Maintain special needs support in schools
- Increase support for the local social care team
- Keep more Children's Centres open

Services for Vulnerable Adults:

- Increase the hourly rate for the staff providing home care
- Increase services to help people leave hospital as soon as they are well enough
- Reverse cuts to voluntary sector contracts for mental health services

Roads and Transport:

- Remove the charge for parking at Park and Ride sites in Cambridge
- Subsidise bus routes and community transport
- Improve maintenance of roads, pavements and cycle-ways

Other pressures cited in the Council's budget papers are associated with Brexit, including general financial uncertainty and uncertainty as to future government support to local authorities. For example in 2020 local authorities will be allowed retain Business Rates. However, they may be asked to fund new services currently supported by government. At council level we are also scrutinizing the impact of Brexit on staff recruitment and retention in health and social care, as approximately 10% of staff come from within the EU.

31 Bus: The 31 is secure for the coming year, although the council will still be looking to review its subsidized services. The collapse of revenue grant support in two years' time, however, means that it is going to be much harder to win the bus subsidy argument as time goes on.

A505 white lining

I was assured in January that refreshed lining would be happening, and am chasing.

Cllr Hales spoke about the speculative developers who are circling South Cambridgeshire looking for pockets of land and taking advantage of the fact that this still not LDF in place. He said that 25 houses a week need to be built to meet demand. He said that 25,000 houses are in the pipeline to be built in Duxford / Ickleton. The Parish Council made comment that the infrastructure was not in place to support this type of development ie the A505 would not cope and there are no schools / medical centres in place to sustain this.

11. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda 27th April next meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:27.