

A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 12th October 2023
Time: 7:30 pm
Chair: Cllr Dring
Parish Councillors: Hall, Hatt, Clements, Pine, Leitch, Ridge
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
County Councillor: Not present
District Councillor: Cllr Hobro
Members of the Public: None
Start Time: 7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr McDonald had a previous engagement.

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

There were no declarations of interests received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 14th September Meeting

There were no comments or amendments to the minutes and these were signed and dated by the Chair.

4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)

There were no comments received relating to the correspondence report.

6. District and County Councillors Report (already circulated)

Cllr Ridge reported that there was an issue with a bin collection in Little Chishill which was rectified. Cllr Hobro offered to assist if this was required.
Michael Sexton is now our contact at the planning department. Cllr Hobro shared with the Council why a Parish Council receives no further feedback when a compliance report is submitted.
The Cambridge Congestion Charge has now been scrapped.

7. Cambridge Acre Survey – Jenna Brame

Jenna Brame took the Council through the results of the Housing Needs Survey. To obtain the total number of potential households who might need housing in the village the results of the survey combined with the South Cambs Housing Register was used and a figure of potentially 14 families were identified. There needs would be primarily for homes that are 3 bedroomed or smaller and in particular demand are 3-1 bedroomed properties. The survey was commissioned by Accent (a housing association). Jenna also said that any new housing in the village would be classed an Exception Site meaning 'a site can provide homes for local people to live near their families and work'. The issue of the lack of sustainability (and lack of infrastructure) was discussed and if any site was submitted and planning sought then this would be discussed at the next stage and Cambs Acre can facilitate these discussions.

8. Planning

- 23/01726/FUL – Bridgefoot Poultry Farm. Change of use from agricultural use to mixed use for agricultural for the storage, packing and distribution of eggs produced on and off site etc. This was a minor change and the Council still has the same comments.
- Rectory Farm, Little Chishill – There had been a positive meeting with the landowner, Cllr Hobro and planning. We await further information as and when it comes.
- North Hall Farm – Clerk has looked at electoral role and as expected there are people living there permanently. We do not know if these are holiday lets or regular properties for rent. The Clerk to do another online compliance report.
- Bridgefoot Farm Static home. A compliance report has been submitted.
- Driveway on Heydon Road. So far, no planning has been submitted for this (it was reported that this was imminent). Cllr Hobro to investigate.

9. Finance

- Finance Sheets. There were no comments and the sheets were signed off.
- Clerks Salary. This is to be carried forward until the next meeting.
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10. Highways – Chair

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (drains, floods, potholes, New Road, Footpath). The Parish is overwhelmed by grip cuttings on Hall Lane. There is a pothole in May Street which needs reporting. There are still many issues on New Road. Clerk to write to Cllr McDonald.
- Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill. There are still issues in Little Chishill and substandard pothole repairs have taken place.

11. Speed and safety - Cllr Hall

Speed Watch – Cllr Hall will review the guidelines. He also had seen an idea where vinyl stickers are stuck to road signage reiterated speed limited. He is to look into this and circulate his findings.
Mirror. The Parish Council to install the mirror and publicise it.

12. Promotion of Parish – Cllr Hall

- Cllr Hall spoke about the poster / flyer idea. He had a quote from the company in Duxford for £5k. The Clerk might have some contacts too.
- The Clerk to investigate if a Community Chest application would be appropriate.

13. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There being no further business to conduct the Chair closed the meeting at 20:30.

County Report for Parish Councils – October 2023.

A short report this month but hopefully relevant.

Streetlighting

There will be a programme to replace the 47,000 streetlights owned by County with LED's. The programme will cost £13m over 2 years but will save £2.4m per year. The report is here:

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

20 mph schemes

I've already updated on the outcome of the current year programme. Here is a summary of the overall situation:

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Civil Parking Enforcement

As we move towards implementation the County has published the detailed policy:

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Requests for enforcement can be made to the Council's Parking Control Team by email at: parkingcontrol@cambridgeshire.gov.uk or by calling 01223 727915 between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Thursday and Friday 9am to 4.30pm.

District Council Report for October 2023

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 cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk.

Bin collection changes

The adjustment to the new bin collection cycle appears to have gone very smoothly with the new rounds being completed during the first few weeks even more quickly than anticipated. Some bins may now be collected at a different time of day under the new arrangements, but hopefully the only difference you will notice is reduced disruption at Bank Holidays, with the collection day now only changing at Christmas and Easter. Please do contact me if there are any issues with the new collection schedule.

Carbon Literate certification

South Cambridgeshire District Council has been accredited as a Carbon Literate Organisation by the national charity, The Carbon Literacy Trust. The District Council has achieved Bronze accreditation as part of its continuing efforts to tackle the climate emergency in South Cambridgeshire. The Council has a target for a 45% reduction in carbon emissions from 2019 to 2025 and a 75% reduction by 2030.

Free electric blanket initiative

More than 500 residents are being offered a free electric blanket in a scheme to provide further help for people in need as we anticipate another winter of high heating bills. Residents have been selected if they claim Council Tax Support and one of a set of additional allowances. This initiative is targeted at those who experience mobility issues and are experiencing some financial hardship.

Wildlife and nature legacy of Dr John Loveluck

Nine months after the sad loss of Cllr Dr John Loveluck, his legacy is being highlighted by the Sustainable Cottenham nature recovery group that he had led. Dr Loveluck was passionate about promoting community nature projects and protecting biodiversity in his village. Now, it is hoped that his work, including tips and resources, can help inspire other villages and towns to follow Cottenham's example to protect local wildlife.

Planning area teams

Here is an up-to-date list of the members of Area Team West, the planning team that serves our ward. Our Area Manager is now Michael Sexton <Michael.Sexton@greatercambridgeplanning.org>.

Four-day week trial

We are now half way through the extended trial of the four-day working week at South Cambs, which began as a 3-month trial in January and was extended for a year in March after the initial trial proved successful. This is a trial of working practice that has demonstrated greater productivity in the private sector, with the aim of bringing similar gains in productivity to South Cambs, to save money for taxpayers and improve services. The main driver for the trial was to allow the Council to compete more successfully with our strong local private sector in the jobs market. We had previously been over-reliant on expensive short-term agency staff, which were costing the Council £2million a year. The results so far are very positive, with 9 full-time posts now filled that it had not been possible to fill previously. This has led to direct savings for taxpayers of more than

£550,000 annually, and will bring service improvements from the benefits of having full-time staff. The Council's level of service has improved during the trial, with key

performance indicators being carefully monitored across the board.

The trial has attracted significant interest, with strong support within the Local Government Association from councils of all colours interested in improving their services to residents. However, there have been attacks in the tabloid press, with the issue developing into something of a 'culture war'.

I have been watching the trial carefully and scrutinising the Council's performance in committee to make that there have been genuine improvements and no adverse effects for residents. So far the results are very promising, but it is important to allow the trial to finish and to assess its results objectively. My focus is on making sure that any new arrangements genuinely offer better value for money for taxpayers.

Please see the attached infographic for a summary with links to more information.

GCP decision on Sustainable Travel Zone

At a Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) Executive Board meeting on 28 September it was decided not to progress plans for a Sustainable Travel Zone (STZ) in Cambridge, which included the much-discussed congestion charge.

Proposals for congestion charging, developed under the previous Conservative administration at the County Council, were included in a GCP public consultation called Making Connections a year ago. In the responses to this consultation it was clear that residents strongly supported much greater availability of bus services across the district, but most of those responding did not support the use of congestion charging to achieve this.

There is widespread agreement across local government in the Cambridge area on the need to create a fit-for-purpose public transport network, and to tackle traffic congestion. The hard work will now begin to find alternative strategies that can achieve this.