

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

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	13 <sup>th</sup> October 2016
Time:	7:30pm
Chairman:	Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors:	Dring, Ridge, Harrison, Loukes, Clements
District Councillors:	Cllr Barrett, Cllr Hales
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
Start Time:	19:30pm

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

Cllr Coney – business reasons  
Cllr van de Ven – 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

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

**4. Public Participation.**

There were no members of the public.

**5. Finance**

The clerk took the meeting through the finances to date and all income and expenditure. The meeting discussed future projects such as the telephone box and lock-up which money will need to be allocating. The Clerk to send out the updated finance sheets to the Council.

**6. Planning**

**Footpath between Chishill and Barley**

The Clerk has spoken to Mr Law and he said, in principle, he is not adverse to an informal footpath on this land (behind the houses on the Barley Road). He said that the other farmers involved are Mr Duke and Mr Doggett. The Clerk to speak to Mr Doggett and Cllr Ridge to set up a meeting with Mr Duke.

There were no other planning issues to discuss.

**7. Highways**

The Chairman had seen an article about a Parish Council in Devon being allowed to undertake minor pothole repairs to the roads. The Clerk to investigate this.

The Clerk is to speak to local farmers to see if they would like be on standby to clear the roads if we have roads blocked due to snow.

**8. A report from Speed Watch**

Martin has arranged for the seals to be replaced. Cllr Hales suggested looking into a Police Commissioner Grant – he will send the information to the Clerk.

**9. A report from the Windmill Trust**

Cllr Dring reported that there are bats in the windmill, but they visit and don't roost. The track will be uncovered by volunteers this weekend. Listed Building has been sought for some repairs to the windmill.

## **10. Parish Council Properties**

- Lock-up – Cllr Coney had nothing to report. The Clerk had forwarded him a telephone number of a builder which he will follow up.
- Telephone Kiosk – the Clerk had been unsuccessful in finding someone to paint the kiosk. She will ask Tim Scott to quote for doing this work.

## **11. County and District Councils Written Reports**

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

#### **Boundary changes – to clarify**

County Council Division boundaries have now been announced: From the May 2017 elections, our area is split in two, with Melbourn and Meldreth joining Whaddon and Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth in a new 'Melbourn/Bassingbourn Division', while Shepreth, Foxton, Heydon and Great and Little Chishill move into a new 'Duxford Division' together with Fowlmere, Thriplow, Duxford, Whittlesford, Pampisford, Chrishall Grange, Ickleton and Hinxton.

District Council Ward boundaries are now being considered by the Boundary Commission, for change in 2018. Currently the proposal is for Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth and Whaddon to join into one two-member ward, and Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon and Great and Little Chishill to join into one one-member ward.

Parliamentary constituency boundary proposals, to take effect in 2018, have now been announced and are out for consultation until 5 December. These add yet another dimension to the mix: Melbourn, Great and Little Chishill, Heydon, Whaddon, Bassingbourn and other villages from south-west South Cambridgeshire would join together with Royston and North Herts villages to form a new cross-county border constituency called 'North East Hertfordshire.' Shepreth, Meldreth and other villages in this area would be part of a new 'South Cambridgeshire' constituency. More information about how to respond to the proposal is available here:

<https://www.bce2018.org.uk/node/6484?postcode=SG86NU>

**County Council budget consultation** closes on October 14! Please respond:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/budget2017>

As a guide, for each 1% increase an average band D property would pay approximately an extra 23p per week £11.67 a year. A 1% increase would yield approximately £2.56 Million. The council will have an opportunity to increase council tax by 1.99% (general) plus 2% for social care. Even with the full potential tax rise, huge cuts will be inevitable.

#### **Current County Council transport budgets**

The concessionary bus pass fare scheme is a legal requirement by national government, and it is funded – reimbursements to bus operators – by local authorities (Cambs County Council). Spend in 2015/16 was £6,056,877. The 2016/17 budget for local bus and community transport is £1,959,342, of which £284,480 is Community Transport – these are non-statutory services and therefore subject to cuts. There is no other lifeline transport available to vulnerable people.

#### **Fighting for the 31 bus continues**

I chair a small group of county councillors tasked with looking at bus and community transport subsidies. It was agreed to go away over the summer and contemplate the 'nuclear option' - cut all rather than wind down aimlessly and painfully over another year. This yielded a very strong paper from Fenland District Council outlining in detail the negative impacts this would have on those with no other options. Of particular note were young people. The South Cambs officer supported the Fenland view. It was also pointed out that the County Council has no alternative plan should all subsidies be removed – as indeed we know through trying to figure things out on our own for the 31. All County resource is now going into a pilot in the Ely area tasked with exploring synergies across various forms of county-provided transport – mainly home-to-school but also adult social care and some other subsidized provision. This is beginning to yield interesting and useful results, particularly around efficiency savings in home-to-school transport, but there is no significant resource focused on 'new solutions' anywhere else.

While subsidized buses serving more remote populations are not cheap to run, cutting them will have an unacceptable impact on those people who rely on them and have no other options. This does not mean we shouldn't be looking at

other options. If somehow the argument to retain them prevails (and this would require income from somewhere), the subsidy could be deployed differently – though it will take resource just to figure out new and improved ideas.

I have been talking further with Royston and District Community Transport. They could possible do a morning shuttle to Meldreth station but could not do an afternoon return and are happy to provide a quote. The next option is to meet with a commercial community transport provider.

Everything will change if and when the government's plans for a combined authority and mayor are realized, because the mayor will hold significant new transport franchising powers. This will play out in the next few weeks.

There are no easy answers for small remote settlements and I suspect it will be a matter of continuing to fight the corner, in the difficult economic climate we're in, and which shows no sign of improving any time soon.

Cllr Hales spoke about the Parliamentary Boundary Changes. This would mean that Great Chishill's Parliamentary Member would be from North Hertfordshire and not South Cambridgeshire.

SCDC had formally approved that No 104 Hall Lane should go on the open market.

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

There were none.

With there being no other business to discuss or transact, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20.03.