

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 10th September 2015
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Clements, Harrison, Coney, Ridge, Loukes, Dring
County Councillor: None present
District Councillors: Cllr Hales, Cllr Barrett
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:36pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr Susan van de Ven - Prior commitment.

2. Co-option of Andrew Loukes to the Parish Council

It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Dring and unanimously agreed that Andrew Loakes be co-opted to the Parish Council.

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

There were non declared.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 20th July 2015 (already circulated)

These were approved by the Parish Council as a true and accurate account of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Finance

The Clerk had precirculated the finance sheets – there were no queries and these were signed by the Chairman.

After discussion (see Windmill Trust Report), the Parish Council agreed to give a £2k grant to the Windmill Trust – primarily to be used for grass cutting and insurance.

The Clerk had attended the Playing Fields Association meeting and the subject of a replacement speed hump and the re-varnishing of the various village benches had arisen. The Parish Council will get quotes for these two items.

The Village Sign in the centre of the village needs repainting. The Clerk to quotes for these too.

Action - Clerk

7. Butler Trust

The Chairman took the meeting though some of the history of the Butler Trust. The Village owns the playing fields but with a reversion clause. A phone mast company had approached the Parish Council on a speculative basis and were interested installing a phone mast on the Playing Fields. For this reason, the Chairman and Clerk had been to see the Parish Council solicitors to ascertain if the Butler Trust still exists and if yes, in what capacity. The documentation relating to the playing fields and the trust is quite old now and could be updated.

The erection of the phone mast is in its very early infancy, but it was agreed that the Parish Council should pursue this. If it were a serious approach by the phone mast company, then naturally a full village consultation would take place, which would also include aesthetics and any potential associated issues.

8. Planning

Maltings Lane – The planning committee will meet on 7th October to discuss this application.

New Road – The Clerk and Chairman are to meet with John Koch, a senior planning officer at South Cambridgeshire District Council to discuss the question of the sustainability of the village with regard to new builds in the village, following the New Road decision.

9. Telephone Box

The Clerk had researched 'adopting the phone box' for a £1. It can be done, but the Parish Council will have to take it on in its present condition. If a defibrillator were installed, then there is a scheme to obtain free paint to maintain it. It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk commence adoption proceedings – the usage of the box will be discussed at a later date.

Action - Clerk

10. A report from Speed Watch

It was reported that there was not a lot of change in data but since the 40mph buffer has been in place, Barley Road traffic does appear to be slower in and out of the village.

It was suggested that Cllr Harrison speaks to Martin Grusselle about the movement frequency and locations of the speed signs, so that it stays in key hotspots for longer.

Action – Cllr Harrison

Cllr Hales mentioned that Heydon Parish Council might wish to borrow the sign; in principle this would be fine although they would have to install NALC sockets in consultation with highways.

11. Highways Improvements

The improvements at the crossroads and New Road will be undertaken in September / October
The Heydon Road – 30 mph repeater needs cleaning / repairing. The clerk to chase.

Action - Clerk

12. Windmill Trust

Cllr Dring reported that at a recent Trustees meeting, James Brearley had resigned as Chairman but will remain a trustee.

A planning expert is now in place who is working on planning applications.

Permission has been granted for some of the works as they are deemed repairs.

There was a presentation at the village fete – Cllr Dring to circulate this.

Action Cllr Dring

It is estimated that £200K is needed to complete the works. There are three phases:

1. Make it safe and watertight
2. Get the mill to turn to the wind
3. Get the mill working.

Cllr Hales suggested contacting Rob Mungoven who runs the Cambridgeshire Community Chest. The Clerk to get these details to Cllr Dring

Action – Clerk

There is now a bat problem in the mill and a bat survey will need to be undertaken in the Spring.

13. A Report on the Lock-up – Cllr Coney

A pre-app meeting had taken place with a planning and conservation officer. Most of the works can be undertaken as repairs / maintenance. The window / display board would need planning consent. It was agreed to obtain quotes.

Action – Cllr Coney

14. County and District Councils Written Reports

Great and Little Chishill Parish Council, September 2015, County Councillor Report

Health and social care budgets: This recently published article in the Guardian offers a very good synopsis of health and social care pressures in Cambridgeshire. Though having it all nicely set out in one place does make things seem less chaotic than it actually feels on the ground

<http://www.theguardian.com/society/2015/sep/02/how-care-crisis-making-old-age-nightmare>

Community Transport and subsidized transport: I am chairing a small member group that is being asked for a steer on budget cuts for community transport and bus subsidies, even though the bus subsidy transitions have not been completed, and even though we lack ridership data for those which have been launched. Community transport is an important component in providing transport to health appointments and we are working hard to make the case. As for bus subsidies, I am arguing that we can't make cuts in an arbitrary manner, without data. Not everyone agrees.

On a slightly more positive note, there could be some potential for collaboration with the Clinical Commissioning Group's imminent retendering of the Non-emergency Patient Transport Services contract, which is currently out for consultation. I will report back.

<http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/downloads/CCG/Have%20your%20say/NEPTS%20Consultation%20document%20-%20WEB.pdf>

Cuts: I'm very sorry to say that the overall financial situation of the council appears to be getting even worse and there is no relief in sight from central government. The Council has consistently raised council tax to the maximum threshold permitted by central government, but costs arising from factors such as significantly declining government revenue support grant (which makes up a very large proportion of the council's expenditure) and an aging local population, which by definition demands an ever growing need for specialist services, means that it is impossible to make ends meet. Population growth in the greater Cambridge area, where unemployment is very low, triggers certain central government support, but this is limited and one-off capital funding cannot run public services.

The complaints I have received about lack of action to fill potholes and tend to drains (and even the failure to respond to faults logged on the County website system) reflect the fact that we are very short-staffed. Thank you for your patience and perseverance in helping to communicate.

50% post-16 education rail discount: This discount with Great Northern is in place for the coming academic year and is arranged entirely independently of the council and does not rely on public subsidy. The Dept for Transport supports it as a revenue generating scheme. I've posted the links on my website.

Mind in Cambridgeshire at the Melbourn Hub: An approach was made to Mind in Cambridgeshire last year, to look at the possibility of a Melbourn area mental health support. This is one area where County Council funding is available, and the proposal slotted very well into a roll-out of mental health services in the villages. So, Mind is now at the Hub for a full day each month. The first session took place at the end of July, with several self-referrals even before the date was publicized. Dates for the autumn are September 25, October 30, November 26 and December 18, all between 9:30-4:00. These are one-on-one sessions lasting one hour and are intended to provide practical advice and signposting to more specialist support if necessary. All sessions are free of charge and appointments can be booked at via the self-referral form at www.mindincambs.org.uk.

A10 Foxton–Harston cycle path: Work will start in early October to create the path linking Foxton up to the Sagentia turn-off at Harston Mill. This will take about 20 weeks and funding comes from the Dept for Transport (not the Council). This is the first phase of the overall project; the other big phase will be work on the route through Harston itself. Please see this outstanding Cambridgeshire Public Health report on Health and Transport: <http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/JSNA/Transport-and-Health-2014/15>

The fact that mental health and cycle paths are being funded reflects a rise in mental ill-health, and also the obesity crisis, which has the power to further deplete the public purse.

Cllr Hales reported on the boundary commission consultation, which could see Great and Little Chishill change to the Duxford Ward – he encouraged everyone to take the consultation (this is on the Parish Council website).

He spoke about planning applications and reiterated the fact that if the a Parish Council recommended refusal of a planning application and it went to committee, then the committee expect a representative from the Parish Council to attend the planning meeting.

The Clerk and Chairman to speak to John Koch about this.

Finally he spoke about the LDF and the worries there are about speculative developers using the delay to cherry pick sites for future development whilst the LDF is finalized.

15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:28.

The next meeting is on 21st October.