

# **The Annual Meeting of the Parish of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL Under the Chairmanship of Cllr Rebecca Pine**

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	19 <sup>th</sup> May 2023
Time:	7:30pm
Chairman:	Apologies Sent
Parish Councillors:	Ridge, Clements, Pine, Hall
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	Cllr Peter McDonadl
District Councillor:	Cllr James Hobro
Members of the Public:	37 Members of the public
Start Time:	7:33pm

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Cllr Pine opened the meeting and thanked everyone for coming along. Each member of the Parish Council then introduced themselves to the meeting.

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

Kate Gardiner  
Jenny Leitch  
Simon Dring  
Jeff Gill

**2. To Approve the Previous Minutes Annual Meeting of the Parish (2022)** There were approved and signed.

## **3. Chairmans Report and Finance Report – read by Cllr Pine**

Cllr Hall explained why there were stickers on the chairs and encouraged people to give feed back using the papers at the back of the hall. He then spoke about the issue of speeding and the data gathering that had take place thus far. There are five entry and exit points in the village which potentially need some short of speeding deterrent. Heydon Parish Council have offered us the use of the speed watch equipment which can be used to gather further data which we can use to evalute what measures are open to the Parish Council / Village to assist with speeding traffic.

## **4. Reports by the District and County Councillors**

Comments by Parishioners following the report:

5. Report by Fowlmere School. The Clerk had not received a response or a report
6. Report and Election of Representatives of the Playing Fields Committee
7. A report from the Village Hall Committee
8. Report on the Windmill
9. Report of the Children's Playground / Youth Group (after Chairmans report)

## **Matters Arising from Reports**

### **Congestion Charge. This was raised by several parishioners.**

- There has been no thought or provision made for people in rural areas. We are isolated as a Parish with one bus a day to Cambridge and no buses to stations.
- There needs to be a timeframe for diliverables
- People feel very neglected here as we are on the cusp of South Cambs and border within 0.5mile Herts and Essex
- One Parishioner feels that everthing is geared towards Cambourne and we are left out
- The congestion charges includes Addenbrooks which is very unfair
- District and County Councillors reponses are that an hourly, daily bus service into Cambridge would be introduced
- Cllr McDonald spoke of an On Demand bus service, Surprisingly it is just 10% more than a regular bus route. An App is used to call for a bus, which normally arrives within about 30-40 minutes. This could be useful for our villages

## **Other**

- SCDC Free tree scheme. The recipient is issued with a voucher to use at a garden centre and so the voucher does not go very far as the trees are expensive.
  
- Another question arose about the state of New Road. Could it be upgraded? It is now on the gritting route. In essence there no money to completely re-do New Road and so pothole mending is the only way forward. Adult social care is taking priority now, hence the lack of funds for roads

- Cambridgeshire has paid out more than at £1m in compensation to people who have damaged cars due to potholes
- What can be done about Flint Cross? There is a A505 study taking place from Royston – Haverhill because of the new site at Hinxtun
- Can we get compensation from haulage companies for road damage? Some Parish Councils have done this, but it is hugely expensive
- Can we have a netball court in the village? Alan Ferrie said that the PFA had genuinely looked into this but there is no space. Could it go on the car park? No, as where would people park?
- The flint wall opposite the pub is in the poor repair. The PC to write to owner.
- Churchyard. It was felt it is not being look after. Although this was not a PC issue, the Church Warden was there to field questions and said that more volunteers are needed.

Councillor Pine thanked everyone for coming along and closed the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:45

### **Chairmans report**

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

As some of you may know, all Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting

The main purpose of this meeting is for the Council to report what it has been doing over the last year and to give the electors (i.e. you) an opportunity to hear about the work of the Council and its associated committees.

At the meeting an Annual Report is given by the Chairman of the Council and by each of the Chairs of the Council's Committees and organisations in the village. The written reports will be made available in the Minutes of the meeting and will be presented to you tonight.

Firstly I will provide the Chairman's Report, summarising some matters in which the Parish Council have been engaged over the last 12 months.

### **Chairman's Report 19 May 2023**

#### **Finance**

The PC finances remain healthy and prudently managed, always maintaining a reserve of at least half a year's precept in line with good practice. The clerk will report more detail in a moment, and any one of you are welcome to review the finance papers published after every meeting if you would like more detail.

This year the PC took the decision to keep the precept at the same level as in previous years, maintaining the PC's annual income at £23,500. We took this decision to try to do what little we could to help avoid raising costs for those in the community and because through our careful management over the last year have managed to increase the funds held in reserve, demonstrating that there is no immediate need for more income.

The purpose of the money raised through the precept is obviously to benefit the whole parish. Arguably the PC's most important job is therefore to distribute that money to support the community groups and projects that benefit the community in all manner of ways (and about which you will hear more over the course of the evening).

I'd also like to thank Jeff Gill from Blanche & Co who has, once again, supported us with our internal audit processes.

#### **Planning**

When it came to small developments within the village, the PC continued to receive and review our steady small stream of applications this year (there were 12 in total), trying, as we always do, to maintain a consistent and unbiased approach to comments on planning applications.

We have also kept our eye on the larger topics with respect to planning. Whilst month by month different topics bubble to the top of our radar, the general picture remains the much the same as it did 12 months ago.

SCDC continues the job off putting together a new Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan, which considers how best to develop and support the entire area over the next decade or so, it covers many topics, but one of the most carefully considered is the availability of sufficient land to meet the projected housing needs of the area.

Whilst the plan is still going through the fairly slow process of reviewing and updating, it has been issued in draft form, and the current draft has no sites selected for development in our parish, which is pleasingly as the council wanted. There are further rounds of review or feedback before this plan is finalised, so we continue to monitor progress and feed in the perspective of the Parish.

It is certainly the case that developers keep an eye open for opportunities to develop land around the area and we could well be supportive of an application that added good quality housing and a measurable benefit to the community, but we have yet to see hide nor hair of such a proposal, and whilst a robust local plan remains in place we are confident that poorly thought-out larger developments in the parish are unlikely.

One topic that has provoked a lot of discussion and activity in the last few months has been the site near Bridgefoot Farm at Flint Cross, which saw the exit onto the A505 suddenly become much more trafficked. Eventually, a stop notice was issued to prevent traffic flow we considered to be dangerous. We'll continue to monitor the situation.

### **Highways**

One perennial area of focus for the PC is trying to keep the highways and paths around us in a reasonable state, which remains the responsibility of Cambridgeshire County Council, and regrettably they do not always respond as quickly or as comprehensively as we wish, or sometimes in fact at all. We do not always succeed in getting action from the County Council to address the issues we raise, but rest assured we are trying as hard as we can as the minutes of our meetings will demonstrate.

We are trying to get the parlous state of the B1039 between here and the county boundary addressed, something that we have been pursuing for several years by now. We're still not pleased with the resolution, but some grips to the drains are about to be cut which may help matters somewhat.

We continue to explore the possibility of introducing a 20mph limit into the village - for us and that could help mitigate the levels of speeding. We are in the process of putting together a new SpeedWatch team with the goal of gathering data for supporting an application for a 20mph limit. One data point we have recently collected to validate the concern that many of us feel about speeding in the village is that over the last two years speed vans operating on Hall Lane have recorded an \*average\* speed of 38 mph and the police and over 220 drivers have been issued with notices of intended prosecution.

If you are willing to lend a few hours to that initiative, please contact Cllr Hall.

### **Parish Facilities**

Another of our roles is the stewardship of some village assets, responsibilities which are often delegated to various committees you will hear from tonight. I'd like to mention the Playground which many of you will know has been condemned. I'm pleased to be able to report that a new (old) band of volunteers have come together and have a plan. You'll hear more from them later.

Finally, on the topic of parish facilities, it's worth mentioning dog poo, a frequent topic of conversation. Our powers to reintroduce capital punishment are sadly limited, but the PC does pay for the provision of the various bins around the village, and if you think any more locations would be beneficial, please let us know.

Thanks

I would now like to issue some thanks to those who keep the community and the PC running.

Thanks to our District Councillor, James Hobro, who has developed into a useful ally and representative in our dealings with SCDC, particularly with respect to the recent concerns with the Flint Cross site. And to County Councillor Peter MacDonald who works on our behalf with the CC. You will hear his report later.

Now let's turn to some parishioners who have contributed to the quality of village life.

First, thanks to Will Parsons who does such a great job of putting out a friendly newsletter to the entire village every month.

We would also like to thank Peter Johnstone who keeps the flower beds at the crossroads tidy, and has done an enormous amount of litter picking all around the area.

There are many other community groups who make a difference to village life, and you will hear from some of them over the course of the evening, thanks to all such groups and their members.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks to my fellow Parish Council colleagues who volunteer their time to come together to do good work in support of the villages and community. In particular, Cllr Charles Hall has, relatively, recently joined the PC and is currently extremely active, particularly with respect to speed restrictions in the village.

Finally I'd like to express my thanks to the tireless Sarah in her role as Parish Clerk, and who works many unseen hours to ensure the smooth running of the PC and many elements of village life.

If you have any questions about the work of the PC, we would welcome them at the end of individual reports or at the end of the evening.

### **Report from Great Chishill Playground**

**Chair: Emily Brown**

**Secretary: Claire De Froberville**

**Treasurer: Jenny Isted**

**Other Committee Members: Trudie Adcock, Lisa Beard, Anna Cooper, Stephanie Earnshaw, Suzanne Oliver, Kath Whittaker, Celia Woods.**

In the last few months a new Playground Community Group has been formed with myself as Chair, Jenny Isted as Treasurer and Claire De Froberville as Secretary. We also have another 7 enthusiastic group members from Gt Chishill and Heydon.

We are all keen to move forward with the care and improvement of the playground.

The swings, tunnel and small toddler spring toys are still safe and in good working order.

The zip wire has been closed for a year now, and sadly the 'fort' is beyond repair as the supporting timbers are all rotten from the base - this is a huge shame but simply the result of the age of the structure. After much discussion we feel the only safe option and to avoid accidents is to take this part of the play area down - this will be happening at the end of May. We are hoping to find some ingenious ways of using some of the timbers to keep the playground interesting in the interim.

We are working to completely renovate the children's play area with all new equipment. So far we have gathered several quotes from companies to give us an idea of how much we will need to fundraise and the design choices available. They have all come too around £65,000.

We are starting to draft fundraising documents and applications, and plan some events; hopefully kicking off with an auction of promises, family football match and afternoon tea in the autumn. We are also creating a GoFundMe page and QR code to begin advertising for fundraising. We will keep the community well informed with our progress via the village newsletter, website and facebook group - hopefully this will also encourage support of the project.

We are the same team who plan the Children's Christmas Party.

In December 2022 the 'party' this was once again held as an alternative 'Santa on Tour' Christmas float. All children and families in Gt Chishill and Heydon were visited by Santa and his elves and treated to gifts, music, a flurry of snow and chat with Santa himself! It was again a huge success and brought much joy to all residents.

Our great thanks to the Playing Field Association's grass cutting team who keep the play area so neat and tidy. And our thanks to the Parish Council for their ongoing financial support and of the Playground and the Children's Christmas Party.

We would really appreciate any further support and advice of the Parish Council for the Playground Project and any extra funding you would be able to help with.

We are keen to work closely with the Parish Council, Playing Fields Association and the whole village on this project. It does seem a rather large mountain to climb at the moment but we are an enthusiastic team determined and excited to provide a safe, fun and high quality well designed new village play area.

### **Report from Gt Chishill Youth Club**

**Chairperson: Amy Tait**

**Secretary: Betsy Kagwidzo**

**Treasurer: Emily Brown**

**Youth Workers: Dan Horne and Stephanie Hicks**

Great Chishill Youth Club offers a local meeting place for young people aged 10 to 17, every 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month in the village hall.

Dan and Steph continue to be our Youth Workers, supported by extra volunteers on club nights. We also currently have a local student with us volunteering for her Duke of Edinburgh award.

As always, we desperately need extra voluntary support and continue to encourage parents to get involved.

The club continues to offer a variety of activities including lots of sports and games, food and theme nights, fun competitions, cooking, crafts, and plenty of free play! We are keen to raise awareness amongst our members about local charities and the needs in the wider community and ask for food bank donations in exchange for the end of term Christmas and Summer party treats.

Our great thanks go to the Parish Council for their continued funding support, without which we would not be sustainable. Our thanks also to the village hall committee for the continued provision of storage space for our equipment...and their tolerance of the occasional left over sweet wrapper!

### **District Councillor's Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting – Cllr Hobro**

The past year has been the first of a newly-elected District Council, and my first year as District Councillor. During the year, the council has made significant advances in developing the emerging Local Plan, turned the tide in rebuilding our Council House stock, provided extensive support to local businesses, and brought much-needed relief to those most severely affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Starting with the emerging [Greater Cambridge Local Plan](#), in June the results were published from the consultation on the First Proposals, which had included a range of new policies to meet the environmental challenges facing the area – including tackling carbon emissions and increasing biodiversity. The results included [more than 9000 responses](#). This was followed in the autumn by an objective assessment of housing need, as required by government planning law, which identified a requirement for some additional housing over the First Proposals. A report with an update on the development strategy was considered by the Council in January. The strategy from the First Proposals was confirmed, with its focus on delivering the required housing and infrastructure sustainably, on environmental protection, particularly with regard to water supply, and on retaining existing policies that protect our rural villages. Three key strategic sites were also confirmed in Northeast Cambridge, East Cambridge and near the Biomedical Campus. The next stage in the process is the draft Local Plan, which is expected to be released for consultation later this year, although this may now be postponed slightly by delays in developing the regional water strategy. As well as working on the Local Plan, the council has adopted three new Neighbourhood Plans for individual parishes in the past year, the highest number in a single year to date.

In July the council [approved funding for key civic buildings in Northstowe](#), the most prominent new town in our district, including a Sports Pavilion, Community Centre and Civic Hub. This was a significant milestone in building a community at Northstowe that offers high-quality housing and local services.

In the planning system, we introduced [a new web site for reporting](#) actual or suspected violations of Planning Permission with clear guidelines on the boundaries for compliance and ran a consultation on a [new draft Planning Compliance Policy](#) in January. In this ward, Enforcement notices were issued over a breach of planning control at Flint Cross, which was being used for Storage and Distribution without planning permission, and where access from the A505 was detrimental to highway safety.

In December, the District Council was awarded money under the Government's Shared Prosperity Fund after a successful joint bid with other local authorities, receiving £1.76m towards improving our High Streets, business skills training, community green space improvements and funding for start-up companies.

Our Council Housing stock has been reduced significantly over many years as Council Houses were sold without being replaced, and this has led to a shortage of Council Housing in the district. This year the council turned a corner by more than doubling its rate of council house building to 70 per year to boost our stock of around 5,500 houses. We successfully bid for £4.5m in January from the Government's Local Authority Housing Fund which will allow us to acquire an additional 30 homes, and for £1.7m in March from the Government's Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund to upgrade the energy efficiency of our housing stock. This year we also introduced [a new, simple online form](#) for requesting repairs to council properties.

To help our communities, we created a new personalised advice service to identify sources of free assistance for residents, and funding to tackle local problems and create safer communities. We ran [a campaign called 'Free to Feed'](#) to help mothers by encouraging local businesses and venues to sign up and become a breastfeeding-friendly location.

The Business Support & Development Team has provided support and advice for over 100 local businesses in the past year, and has established an up-to-date list of business premises to help local start-ups. They have also worked with traders, communities and businesses to help establish and expand local markets within the District. We created a specific [Market Toolkit guide](#) for anyone considering beginning a market in their village. Our online [Trader Directory](#) is designed to list the talented marketeers across the district whilst promoting shopping and supporting local businesses. The Council's [annual Christmas Market](#) was held again this year in Cambourne. In September, our [Visit South Cambs](#) tourism directory celebrated its first year of operation, having promoted around 200 local venues and over 230 local events within the year. The web site has attracted thousands of visitors from around the world. At the annual [Cllr Awards](#) in October, our County Councillor Peter McDonald (also District Councillor for Duxford ward) won the Resilience and Recovery award, one of only six councillors in England and Wales to be recognised at this level. This was in recognition of his oversight of business grant funding which enabled Cambridgeshire's unique business growth fund, supporting 102 local businesses.

The Council's investment strategy has been developed to provide income of approximately £5m per year to help replace the cuts taking place in government funding. One of our commercial property investments was sold this year bringing in an additional sum of over £10m to the Council.

On the environment, the council has awarded [£120,000 in grants](#) to Parish Councils and other community organisations for projects to reduce carbon emissions or improve the natural environment. We have been working on the sustainability of our waste management, with a move to using electric bin lorries, the second of which was put into use in June. Plans have moved ahead this year for a solar farm at the waste depot at Waterbeach, which would provide electricity for 30 of the current 50 bin lorries in the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste fleet. We introduced used battery recycling with every bin collection and set up a [new grant scheme](#) to help provide more public charging points for electric vehicles (EV) at village halls and other community buildings. Many small grants have been awarded to local groups for improvements to village amenities through the Community Chest scheme, such as the loo refurbishment at Fowlmere Village Hall and a proposal to install cycle racks at the shop and pub in Foxton.

On transport, the council has emphasised to the Greater Cambridge Partnership (GCP) and the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) that our district needs significant improvements to bus services, which have been in decline for years and are threatened by the shock of the COVID era. This was highlighted in October when [Stagecoach announced that it would be cancelling 18 services](#), including the 915 that serves this ward. I raised questions in the council chamber about this and the CPCA responded with immediate funding to keep services at a basic level. The District Council is committed to pushing to improve our transport options to enable greener and more affordable transport for all, and will continue to work with the GCP and CPCA to achieve this. More locally, the Melbourn Greenway overall design was approved by the GCP in March. The District Council has hosted the [Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership](#), a community group to help our railway serve local residents, which has been accredited for the third year running. They have worked on improving the appearance and safety of our stations, safeguarding discounts to allow local students to reach college in Cambridge, and bringing the views of local residents to the train operating company. For the third year running, the District Council offered [Six Free Trees](#) to every Parish Council in November. This has seen 390 trees planted across the district, providing homes and food for wildlife and helping to combat climate change.

For many residents, the past year has been dominated by the cost-of-living crisis. At this time of increased need, the Council has focused more of its resources on support for those who are most severely affected by the crisis. In October, the first Warm Hubs opened up ready for the winter, and there is now a network of Warm Hubs across the district to support the most vulnerable members of our community. Warm Hubs are designed to offer warm, friendly and inclusive places with access to light refreshments. They provide somewhere to socialise, take part in activities and offer help on how to reduce bills, access financial support, and stay healthy and well. In November, the Council [agreed a support package worth £400,000](#), jointly with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Integrated Care System, to help address the impact of the rising cost of energy and food bills on individuals, families, and businesses across the district. This was boosted with another £200,000 of support in February. We also set up a [new emergency fund](#) to provide help for those hit hardest, and have given out cheaper products for cooking and staying warm, such as slow cookers and electric blankets. The range of support initiatives set up by the District Council also includes Housing Payments, Council Tax discounts, Warm Packs for Council tenants, and food parcels for those most in need. The council's information on cost of living support has been brought together [on our web site](#), with a range of advice and information on different support options.

The War in Ukraine has rarely been out of the news this year, and residents of South Cambridgeshire have responded very generously to the need to host Ukrainian families, with our district hosting more guests than any other district in the country. Six months into the scheme, our district had received 720 guests. The District Council has managed many aspects of the government's Homes For Ukraine scheme locally continue and has helped families to settle into life in South Cambridgeshire thanks to a range of grant-funded activities organised by the District Council including day trips, English classes, free laptops, books and bikes. Local partnerships have provided laptops, mobile phones and SIM cards. The Council has worked to keep hosts and guests in South Cambridgeshire connected with regular bulletin updates, social media groups, an online welcome pack for new arrivals, and a [dedicated web page](#) offering extensive information.

Looking ahead to the coming year, the Council's key goals for residents include reducing fly tipping, bringing in Civil Parking Enforcement, introducing a new Mobile Warden scheme for elderly residents, support for local projects focusing on health and wellbeing, and to build at least 75 more energy-efficient Council Houses. Our business support goals will focus on more tailored business support, help for greener businesses, and more work in building up local markets. And our environmental goals are to address water scarcity while safeguarding our natural rivers and streams, boost local Zero Carbon projects, provide greener waste collection, and push ahead with our refurbishment of Council Houses.

Like many councillors, my time has mostly been spend on casework, helping people in the ward with a wide range of issues that relate to the District Council. I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions that I might be able to help with. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at [cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk).

**County Councillor Report – Cllr Peter McDonald**

Budget: The budget seeks to bridge a potential funding gap for the coming year of £21.4m, even after finding more than £10m of additional savings or income, in the face of levels of inflation not seen for 40 years plus rising costs for energy and essential services. The budget includes:

- £1m to continue free school meal vouchers for eligible children,
- £1m into highways schemes including rural roads drainage,
- £1m investment into flood mitigation,
- more than £1.3m into libraries,
- £380k investment in community services.

Balanced budget for 2023/24 through a mix of savings, use of one-off reserves, and the generation of additional income including a council tax rise for the coming year to 4.99% comprising 2.99% C Tax and 2% Adults social care.

This would see band D properties in the county paying an additional £73 per year, although more than half (64%) of county lives in homes rated band C or below and would see rises of between £49 and £65 per year.

Other Areas:

This Land

A full review has been done and the Board re structured in the County Council property company which has been loaned £120m. County Council 5 Year Plan

Over the next five years, additional improvements the business plan looks to deliver include.

£122m for new primary school places

£164m for new secondary school places

£13.3m investment into converting streetlights to LED, delivering both environmental and financial benefits

£2.5m into a new highways materials recycling operation

A £7.2m upgrade to the March and Milton Household recycling

Two committees:

**Highways**

**County Farms Group**

33,000 acres

**Highways Matters**

Potholes !

20 mph zone policy being progressed for 2023-2025

Civil Parking Enforcement being progressed for 2023

Scanning of the highways initiated to get a proper view of the priorities.

New gully scanning & cleaning programme initiated

Infrastructure

A505 plan for next 10 years

Foxton & Whittlesford Travel Hubs.

Ensuring these are multi-modal hubs with benefits for the community.

School support

Duxford school re-build

Supporting Foxton on the pre-school provision.

Represent you on County Farms

Currently 33,000 acres

Environmental Land Management

Tree planting

New farm acquisition.

**A Report from the Playing Fields Association – Alan Ferrie**

Last year was the first full year that we were able to operate with no restrictions on how we were able to use and maintain the pavilion and playing fields.

We currently have the 2 main users of the pavilion and the playing fields.

The nursery use the pavilion for 3 and a half days a week.

The cricket club which uses the facilities for their games on Saturday afternoons and for coaching juniors on Saturday mornings. These Saturday morning sessions have been a great success with very good attendance.

Last year I mentioned that we were speaking with Royston Town football club about the possibility of an under 18 girls football using the football pitch from September 2022. Unfortunately due to a combination of issues which include damaged goal posts we were unable to get teams playing before the end of the season.

We are speaking with Royston football club and we are confident that we will have football on the playing fields later on this year.

During the year a couple of cycling groups have also used facilities as a feed station on several rides.

One of our main concerns this year has been the increase in the cost of utilities.

However by increasing the awareness of the users of the utility costs we have managed to control our outgoings. As a result our financial situation remains good. We will continue to review our costs which may mean we have to increase our hire charges if our costs rise further.

Last year I mentioned that we had won a competition for a company to draw up some plans to redevelop the pavilion. At the time I said that these would cost a considerable sum. After careful consideration the committee felt that taking into account, how often the facilities are used, and the current economic situation we could not at the present go to the village and ask them to help us raise several hundred thousand pounds.

We have decided for present to maintain the building and sports areas and make minor improvements where and when we can.

The general condition of the structure of the pavilion is good but the internal decoration is in need of attention. We have also become aware that we have had weeping hotwater tank. This may have been responsible for the dampness in some of our internal walls. A new tank has been ordered and will be fitted as soon as it has been fabricated. We are also looking to add cubicles to the showers so that they are more in line with modern usage.

We have asked Ed Hanson to paint the interior of the pavilion. This has been scheduled for this year.

Despite the drought last year the playing surfaces remain in good condition. Although with the amount of rain we have had this spring, cutting has proved challenging.

During the winter this year we cut down 7 dead trees. We have replanted 6 new trees supplied by SCDC (south cambs district council). Thank you to Tim Scott for helping cutting the trees down and for liaising with the council regarding the supply of the replacement trees.

As part of national initiative improve the biodiversity of the country, we have left some of the debris from the dead trees on the ground. As it rots down this will supply shelter and nutrients for a range of different insects. We have also decided to cut just a small strip from the edge of the car park to the neighbouring properties. This should encourage other plants other than grass to grow.

In summary the pavilion and playing fields are used on a regular basis. The fabric of the building and the condition of the playing surfaces and ground keeping equipment is good. \

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

We are appreciative of the grant given to us by the parish council.

THANK YOU.

I would like to express my thanks to our volunteers (Martin Hague, Simon Coxhall, Jeff Gill Andy Rixon and Tim Scott) who have helped maintain the pavilion, playing fields and equipment..

Tim Scott for cutting the grass in The Plaistow.

Peter and Michael Wiseman for their help in keeping our grass cutting equipment running .

### **CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISHING TO SERVE**

Alan Ferrie CHAIR/SECRETARY

Jeff Gill VICE CHAIR/TREASURER

**Martin Hague.** CC REP

Alastair Cockerton CC REP

Angus Gent. CC REP

Like the other committees we are struggling to get volunteers to join us. I have been speaking with other groups to see how we can work together to support these wonderful facilities.

I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ADOPT THIS PROPOSAL

### **Village Hall Report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 19 May 2023**

We are delighted to report that the village hall has been busier than ever, with many different village groups and clubs using it throughout the year.

We have activities going on every weekday. There are exercise classes most mornings, as well as yoga, badminton and kickboxing in the evenings. Bowls club continues to be very popular on Thursday evenings, the WI hold their meetings here once a month and Youth Club runs two sessions a month during term time. A new art club has started this year on Wednesday afternoons, and we've welcomed a new kurling club on Friday evenings.

Over the last year, we've been the venue for lots of popular village events too – a Musical Quiz in May and a Ceilidh in July which both raised money for the Bell Restoration Fund. In November, there was a 'sell out' Tribute Night in aid of Little Chishill Village Church, as well as the ever popular Annual Cricket Club Dinner. We were the home for Crafts on the Hill in December, followed by Burns Night in January and the St Patrick's Day Dance in March. We were also very pleased to see the Seniors' Tea Party return to the hall this year, after a one year gap. More than 60 villagers attended and were treated to a wonderful array of sandwiches and cakes, kindly funded by the Parish Council.

Bookings for private events and children's parties have increased slightly this year, but remain lower than they were pre-Covid. However, the Antiques Fair has continued to pop up at the hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

Financially, the hall remains in good shape - thanks to the grants we received from South Cambs District Council during the pandemic, as well as our hire income, and the annual grant we received from the Parish Council.

We have done a number of small things this year to keep the hall in good order and are reviewing other improvements we can make. Updating the kitchen area is one of our main priorities and we hope to progress with this quite soon.

We'd love to hear ideas from all our users on any other improvements they'd like to see. Do send us your suggestions and we will look at what's possible.

There have been no changes to the committee over the past year. The current members are: Andrew Brown, Anna Coney, John Crawley, Andrea Hamblin, Gillian Philpott, Rebecca Pine and Nigel Russell. As ever, we'd love new people to join us, so please get in touch if you're interested and we'll tell you a bit more.

Lastly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone on the committee for everything they do to help keep the hall running smoothly. And to pass on our thanks to everyone who booked or used the hall this year. It's wonderful to see it so busy!

**Great Chishill Windmill Trust**  
**Report to Parish Council May 2023**

The Great Chishill Windmill Trustees thank the Parish Council for their continued support of this treasured village asset. The general maintenance of the windmill costs about £5000 / year so the annual grant from the Parish Council is much appreciated.

In addition to the grant the GCWT received £900 from sales and generous support at the Christmas Craft Fair and have organised two fund raising events this year which were widely advertised to and supported by the villages. The visit to meadows, owned by a windmill supporter just outside Harston, in February to view snowdrops also raised £900 and the Quiz Evening in March in the Village Hall (very well supported) raised slightly over £500.

In August last year the GCWT said goodbye to chairman David McKeown who had plans to leave the village. Unfortunately for him but fortunately for us he is staying, and we continue to have his support as a Committee Member. The GCWT Trustees are Jeff Gill (Chairman), John Wahlich (Secretary), Hazel Hayden (Treasurer), Nigel Parslow (windmill maintenance) and Bob Hatt. Neil Heywood sits on the committee and looks after our guiding volunteers.

The windmill has been open for tours (10:00 to 16:00) every other Sunday from the start of April through to the end of September. Volunteer guides (three in the morning and three in the afternoon) are available to answer visitors' questions and provide tours. These have proven very popular. Although we don't charge, visitors have been very generous with donations, and we have windmill themed sale items available. Takings so far have averaged just over £100 for each Sunday. We are always on the lookout for more guides. The Mill Wright who had done such sterling work to get the windmill to its current state, was, as with everyone else, badly affected by the pandemic shutdown. We are hopeful to be able to re-engage them soon to complete some of the outstanding major items of maintenance. In the meantime, we plan to wash the windmill and determine whether it requires re-painting.

It is highly unlikely due to health and safety / food standards reasons that the mill will ever mill flour again. However, there are further opportunities to bring the mill closer to its original working order and develop it as a village asset. We will be discussing these and making plans over the coming months.

The GCWT is pleased to report that the windmill is in safe hands.

Jeff Gill (Chairman) / John Wahlich (Secretary)