

# The Annual Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall  
Date: 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023  
Time: 7:30pm  
Chair: Cllr Dring  
Parish Councillors: Ridge, Hall, Pine, Hatt  
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott  
County Councillor: Not present  
District Councillor: Not present  
Members of the Public: One member of the Parish  
Start Time: 7:30pm

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## 1. The resignation of the Chair and election of a Chair to the Parish Council

It was proposed (Cllr Ridge) and seconded (Cllr Hall) that Cllr Dring is elected as Chair  
It was proposed (Cllr Ridge) and seconded (Cllr Hall) and Cllr Pine is elected as Vice Chair

## 2. Acceptance of Office

Forms to be signed at the next Parish Council meeting.

## 3. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs Leitch and Clements had previous engagements and these were approved by the Council.

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

There were none received.

## 5. Approval of the Minutes of 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023

It was agreed that this was an accurate account of proceedings, there were no further comments and these were signed by the Chairman.

## 6. Public Participation.

One member of the public felt that they would like to come along and observe the meeting.

## 7. Finance

Signing off the Audit Forms – the clerk reported that the internal audit was complete and there were no issues. She read through the statements on the annual external audit form and she and the Chairman duly signed the form in the relevant places.

VAT Claim – the Clerk reported that she had submitted the VAT claim and payment had been made by HMRC

### Approve Annual Grants

Annual Grants Seniors Tea Party - £200  
St Swithuns Grass cutting - £300  
St Nicholas Grass cutting - £300  
PFA - £2500  
PFA - £750 – Grass cutting  
Children's Christmas Party - £200  
Great Chishill Youth Group - £1000  
Childrens Playground - £1000  
Great Chishill Village Hall - £3000  
Windmill Grant - £2,500

It was agreed to pay these grants but to hold back on the Children's Playground Grant. None of the organisations had asked for an increase this year. It was noted that as these were grants to the various organisations, they use them as they see fit.

## 8. Annual Review of the Policy Document

There had been no changes this year apart from the inclusion of an email policy which had been agreed to by the Council earlier in the year. A discussion took place about the policies and the Clerk said that they are recommended model policies which are adapted (where applicable) to align with Great and Little Parish Council (there are blanks left in the model publications which the Clerk fills in). Cllr Hatt said he wanted to review the documentation.

## 9. Planning

Bridgefoot Farm. A discussion took place about the huge planning documentation associated with this planning application. It was thought to be the most comprehensive application that the council had seen. There was no issue on the part of the application which related to the retrospective planning for the sheds but there were still major concerns about the road safety aspect of the new access. It was commented that road plans do not seem that clear. The Clerk will send out a response for sign-off by the Council and it will read:-

*The Parish Council has met and discussed this planning application. With the addition of a 5th entrance in a very short space of road we have serious reservations. The volume of traffic entering and leaving the site is a real and large concern and we are not convinced that the layout change will adequately mitigate the increased traffic on this busy road in an area of road that is known as an accident hotspot. The Parish Council recommends refusal.*

Rectory Farm, Little Chishill. The new owner is meeting with SCDC planning.

North Hall Farm. The lady at SCDC who was assisting us has now left and the information which was supposed to be sent to us after our meeting in January did not materialise (after lots of chasing). A list of planning applications has been to the Clerk to go through.

Bridgefoot Farm – see above

Rabbit Residence. Ann update is imminent.

**10. Lock-Up – 2 minutes, Chairman**

Nothing to report. A new planning application is to be submitted.

**11. Highways**

Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill. Grips are to be cut on the B1039 to aid with the drain blocking. Cllr Hall mentioned that there are still lots of potholes which need filling on New Road and he had been reporting them.

Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill. Cllr Ridge reported about half of the potholes had been marked yellow  
Potential extension to footpath – no news.

**12. Speed and Safety - Cllr Hall**

We had recruited another 5 volunteers for Speedwatch.

The Clerk shared data from the FOI requested relating to the Police Speed Van:

- The average speed on Hall Lane is 38mph
- The highest speed recorded by the van was 54mph
- The van has been out 14 times since January 2021
- There had been 223 Notices of Prosecution issued

**13. Verges - Clerk**

The clerk had got the verges cut (for various reasons we could not get them done in April). She was pleased with the service and cut. The contractor was careful and cut around wildflowers. Cllr Ridge also said that they had done a good job in Little Chishill. The Clerk also commented that we don't ask the contractor to remove grass from the road due to the cost implication. The Clerk had received a complaint from one parishioner on the Parish Council Social Media page and she said she was add it to the agenda. There were no comments about the complaint.

Cllr Hatt mentioned the new trees that had been planted on New Road. The Clerk had already received correspondence about these and highways knew nothing about them.

**14. Parish Council Promotion**

Litter pick / Hedgerow survey. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for organising these events which had a good turnout. The Clerk had submitted the hedgerow survey results.

The Clerk has been continuing to tweet, post on social media and promote the council through the newsletter and also the Parish Council website.

**15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda – 5 mins**

Please note that no decisions can lawfully be made under this item. LGA 1972 s12 10(2) (b) states that business must be specified; therefore the Council cannot lawfully raise matters for discussion.

Councill Hatt – Policies  
Cambridge Acre

There being no further notifiable business the meeting was closed at 20:29.

**County Report for Parish Councils – May 2023.**

**Cambridgeshire County Report**

**No Mow May**

Cambridgeshire County Council will again be supporting bees, butterflies and biodiversity by taking part in 'No Mow May' this month (May).

The council's Highways Maintenance team will pause mowing road verges during May to allow plants like daisies, dandelions, selfheal and clover a chance to thrive.

Letting wildflowers and plants grow freely will provide much needed nectar for pollinators and allow other plants and wildlife to grow and flourish.

'No Mow May' is run by Plantlife, whose mission is to secure a world rich in wild plants and fungi. The organisation encourages garden owners and green space managers to lock up their lawnmower and liberate their lawn for the entire month.

More than 700 species of wildflowers grow on road verges in the UK according to Plantlife – this is almost 45% of the total wildflower species found across the country.

Road safety is a priority for Cambridgeshire County Council, grass cutting will continue in areas where necessary such as junctions or bends. Road signage will also remain clearly visible.

Representatives from Cambridgeshire County Council previously attended a workshop and worked closely with Plantlife to develop its current grass cutting protocol around the highways and verge management policy to support biodiversity. These changes to the way roadside verges are maintained help support wildflowers, bees and plant species to thrive.

Cambridgeshire County Council is committed to tackling climate change and improving the environment having declared both climate and nature emergencies in 2019.

For more information about the 'No Mow May' campaign, visit: <https://www.plantlife.org.uk>.

**Flood Resilience**

Two Flood Resilience Days to provide advice and support to community flood groups and anyone interested in flooding are being run by Cambridgeshire County Council.

They are being hosted by Cambridgeshire County Council, offering expert advice to households and businesses in the area which have previously experienced flooding or had near misses. A special 'Floodmobile' vehicle, which contains samples of more than 50 practical flood protection measures, will also be on site for visitors to explore.

The events will be attended by Fola Ogunyoye, director of TJAY Consultancy Ltd who has more than 30 years' of expertise in providing flood risk, water and environmental management consultancy services, and Mary Long-Dhonau, a flood resilience campaigner who has spent 20 years supporting communities at risk of flooding.

Staff members from the council's flood risk team will be there on the day to support with any area/site specific queries. Staff from the Environment Agency would also be present on the day to answer any area/site specific queries and talk about the work they do in the areas.

The Flood Resilience Days are part of the Community Flood Action Programme (CFAP), which was set up in April 2021 by Cambridgeshire County Council following severe flooding in December 2020 and the increasing risk of flooding posed by climate change. Since then, council officers have worked with communities to develop and train flood groups and build local resilience.

The dates and locations for the events are as follows:

- Saturday, 13 May, 10am-4pm – Houghton Mill, Mill Street, Houghton, Huntingdon, PE28 2AZ. The events are free to attend and do not require prior booking.

Further information on flooding, including how to report an incident, can be found on the council's website at:

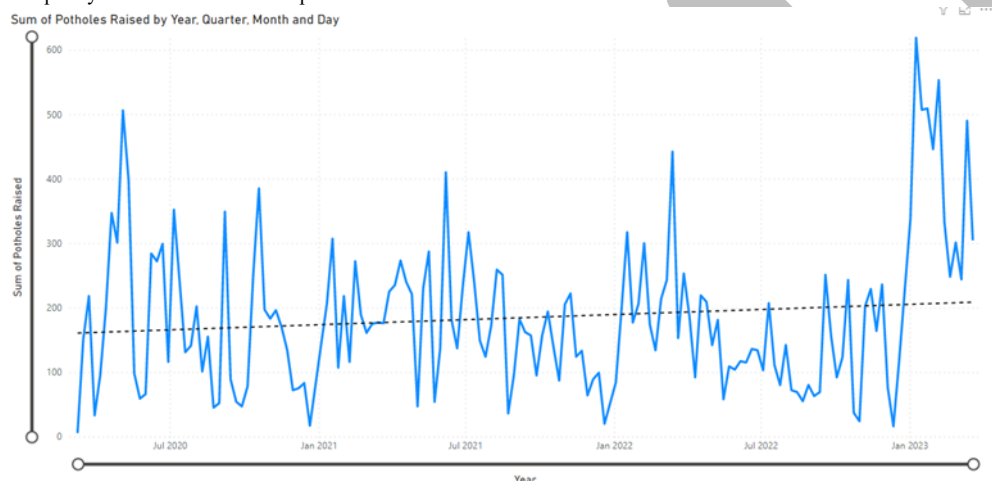
<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/planning-and-development/flood-and-water>.

Residents can check their flood risk by using the online flood maps to check whether they're at risk of flooding at

<https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>.

#### **Potholes – Current Work & Solutions**

- Increased pothole crews. We normally have 2 dragon patchers and ~4 traditional crews.
- We're currently at 8 traditional crews + 3 dragon patchers. April 17th we have 2 more dragons starting
- This should help reduce the backlog of ordered potholes and start to be proactive.
- April - Commenced South Area Parishes adjacent to City Area and within City on main roads; commuter and radial routes.
- Late May – Planned patching programme (Delay in start to enable programme to be built up to maximise resource use and secure / mobilise required resources).
- Grip cutting commencing this year should help reduce the deterioration of road edges due to water damage
- We are starting a new sampling process for identifying milestone issues. We will be taking a random sample of repairs and judging their quality as a barometer of all repairs.



## District Council Report for May 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](mailto:cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk).

### Zero Carbon Communities Grant

The popular [Zero Carbon Communities Grant scheme](#) opened for 2023 on 3 April and will receive applications this year until it closes on **Friday 2 June**.

Parish Councils and community groups are invited to apply for a share of the £125,000 funding available for projects to create a cleaner and greener future in our district.

Groups can apply for between £1,000 and £15,000 for projects in two categories:

- Carbon emission reduction or mitigation, e.g. via energy-saving improvements to community buildings, tree-planting initiatives or greener transport facilitation
- Community engagement supporting or encouraging lower-carbon living

This is the fifth round of grants since they were established in May 2019. Since then, more than £400,000 has been allocated to at least 60 different grass roots projects.

Previous projects have included cooking classes that reduce food waste, tree planting, a community e-bike rental scheme, solar panels for village halls and a men's mental health and wellbeing project that runs a mobile library for gardening equipment and tool hire.

The Zero Carbon Communities fund is one of many ways the District Council is working with the community to support a shift to a cleaner and greener future.

### New murals for Meldreth to Melbourn underpass

The underpass linking Melbourn to Meldreth [has been transformed](#) thanks to grassroots community action from groups including Melbourn and Meldreth Parish Councils, South Cambridgeshire District Council and the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Community Rail Partnership.

The makeover project was organised in response to a survey by South Cambridgeshire District Council's Community Rail Partnership Project Officer, which showed that seven in 10 people avoided the area after dark and that residents wanted a vibrant art space created by the community. New reflective paint has enhanced natural light, new electric lights improve lighting after dark, and vegetation has been cut back to improve visibility.

The vibrant murals have the feel of a giant art gallery and include artwork from 40 community groups, painted by volunteers of all ages over the Easter break. More than 100 volunteers helped in the first week alone.

### **Funding for voluntary groups in South Cambridgeshire**

Eleven community groups in South Cambridgeshire [have been given a funding boost](#) by the District Council, with grants totalling more than £148,000.

The Council's Grants to the Voluntary Sector scheme supports local volunteers that help the community. Groups that foster good mental health, help families with young children, support the elderly, tackle poverty and provide disability transport are among the community organisations to share this year's grants. This year's recipients included Home Start Royston & South Cambridgeshire, Royston & District Community Transport, Citizens Advice and Care Network Cambridgeshire. Voluntary and community groups are encouraged to use the local [GrantGrabber service](#) to search for available grants.

### **Bus fare cap extended until end of June**

On 1 April, as part of the Help for Households support, the government announced that they are extending discounted bus travel for another 3 months across 5,000+ routes from over 140 bus companies. The fare cap means passengers can save on single bus tickets. The scheme began in January this year.

### **Cabinet–Parish Liaison meeting will focus on transport**

All Parish Councils have been invited to a Parish–Cabinet Liaison meeting on 5 June which will focus entirely on transport. The Mayor Dr Nik Johnson will be in attendance, as will a representative from the GCP. There will be updates on bus services, results from the Making Connections consultation and progress on Greenways.

### **Homes for refugees to increase Council House stock**

The Council has been awarded funding to provide 10 additional homes for refugees. This is on top of the funding for 30 homes that was announced in December, with funding totalling just over £6m. This, together with Council borrowing, will provide 36 homes for refugees including people from Ukraine, and an additional 4 homes for families from Afghanistan who are currently living in 'bridging hotels'. Under the terms of the funding, the properties will be initially used to house refugees. However, when they are no longer needed for this purpose, the properties will become Council Houses. The longer-term legacy of this project will therefore be an increase in social housing within the District.

### **Avian flu housing order lifted**

On 11 April the Chief Veterinary Officer announced that mandatory housing measures for poultry and captive birds, introduced to help stop the spread of bird flu, will be lifted from 18 April. However, scrupulous standards of biosecurity remain essential.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/bird-keepers-must-maintain-scrupulous-biosecurity-standards-as-housing-measures-set-to-be-lifted>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/bird-flu-avian-influenza-housing-your-birds-safely#preparing-to-let-your-birds-outside-again>

### **Warm Hubs evaluation report published**

Over the winter the council commissioned Cambridgeshire ACRE to [establish and run Warm Hubs](#). 25 Warm Hubs ran across South Cambridgeshire, with more than 3,000 visits recorded up to the start of March. Some will now evolve into Community Wellbeing Hubs, offering more services. Cambridgeshire ACRE have just published an [Evaluation Report](#) on the project, giving extensive insight into the difference Warm Hubs have made throughout the winter. There is also a [shorter infographic-based version](#).

### **Funding approved for Community Wellbeing Hubs**

We're pleased to announce that the regional Integrated Care System (ICS) has approved a bid securing a further £224,000 of funding to develop the Cost of Living Project work, namely the evolution of Warm Hubs to Community Wellbeing Hubs. These will continue to provide much needed social connection for residents but also improve outreach to other services for local people which support health and wellbeing.

### **Planning permission for short term lets in tourist hot spots consultation**

On 12 April DLUHC published a consultation that proposes introducing planning permission for an existing home to start to be used as a short term let. This is designed to help support local people in areas where high numbers of holiday lets are preventing them from finding affordable housing. The consultation will also consider whether to give owners flexibility to let out their home for up to a specified number of nights in a calendar year without the need for planning permission. The scheme aims to build a picture of how many short-term lets there are and where they are located, to help understand the impact of short-term lets on communities. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, the planning changes would be introduced through secondary legislation later in the year and would apply in England only.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-holiday-let-rules-to-protect-local-people-and-support-tourism>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introduction-of-a-use-class-for-short-term-lets-and-associated-permitted-development-rights>

### **Government encourages prepayment meter customers to redeem vouchers**

The government is encouraging households on prepayment meters to redeem their energy bill support vouchers, with £160 million remaining to be claimed. The vouchers allow eligible customers to access discounts of up to £400 on their energy costs, which direct debit customers will have automatically received this winter. The scheme will remain open until 30 June and customers can redeem vouchers at their local Post Office or PayPoint. Announcement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/prepayment-meter-customers-urged-to-claim-160m-in-energy-bill-support>

<https://www.gov.uk/get-help-energy-bills/getting-discount-energy-bill>

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