

MINUTES OF THE APM OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 20th May 2016
Time: 8:00pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Clements, Dring, Harrison, Coney, Loukes
County Councillor: Cllr van de Ven
District Councillors: Clls Barrett and Hales
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Members of the Public: See attached list.
Start Time: 20:00

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr Ridge – Prior Appointment

2. Approval of the Minutes of APM on 8th May 2015

The minutes were approved as an accurate account of proceedings and were duly signed by the Chairman

3. Chairmans Report

The Chairman warmly welcome everyone to the meeting. Key points which followed were:

- Thanks to all the Parish Councillors for all they do – it is good to see the Council has a majority of councillors in full vigour of life which augers well for the future.
- I would like congratulate the St Swithuns Restoration team for their pro-activity and success in raising substantial funds for the building.
- The Parish Council are in good order with approx. £34k in hand. We have provided support to a number of village organisations and clubs. The precept has remained unchanged this year.
- We were approached for the erection of a telecommunication mast in the corner of the playing fields and this has not progressed possibly as a consequence of the gyrations in the mobile telephone market. We have taken legal advice as to if we should try to rescind the historic reversion clause on the playing field. It appears that the imposition of this clause, that the land should be used for recreation use in perpetuity, imposed by the Butler Trust when granting the ownership to the village, was now in effect, spread to several parties as the Trust has been broken. Any possible benefit to the village in having complete freedom over the land were outweighed by the legal costs involved in resolution.
- Highways - we have renewed some of the road signage, the 40mpg buffer zone from the windmill to Barley Road is now in place and dragons teethe have ben painted on the entry into New Road. According to Road Reseach Laboratories these will provide small 1-2 mph reductions in speed.
- Planning – we have had 17 or 18 applications, similar to last year and the majority were non contentious or can be resolved with compromise. South Cambridgeshire District Council has yet to agree the Local Plan and this is not likely to be in place until 2017. This create problems for applicants and the Parish Council as developers are attempting to use the absence of a plan to drive through schemes. SCDC are in effect setting aside the limited flexibility we requested in our submission in 2013. In some areas logic does go out of the window, for example in are designated as a non-sustainable in-fill village. However, conversion of redundant farm buildings is supported by the Government because conversion to housing is deemed more sustainable than dereliction. Further the planning committee do seem to be masters of inconsistency and the Parish Council can only do its best to reach a reasonable view in each case.
- We met with SCDC representatives in the winter to see if the creation of a formal Neighbourhood Plan would justify the costs and effort involved. As an infill village we decided the benefits would be marginal.
- I would like to thank all who contribute to the wide range of village activities, our District Councillors, our County Councillor and last but not least Sarah, for the vast amount of chasing she does to keep things on track.

4. Financial Report

This year the precept has remained at its current level of £22,500, this is the third year it has remained unchanged. We started the year with £32679 in the bank accounts and finished with £33447. This figure includes Section 106 monies totally £8,167. We hope to install an outdoor gym. In accordance with the transparency act, the spread sheets, year end external audit, annual governance statement, asset register are all published on the website. My thanks to Jeff Gill from Blanche and Co who has just completed the internal audit for the Parish Council – you are always very patient with me! This concludes the finance report.

5. Report by the District and County Councillors – Addendum 1 and 2

Cllr van de Ven read her County Council Report. Cllr Barrett read out the District Councillors report.

6. Report from Fowlmere School – Addendum 3

Mrs Heather Mephram read out the report.

7. Report on the Chishill Charity

This year 6 village residents were given a sum of money at Christmas from the Chishill Charity. Those who received the gift were pleased to have received it.

8. Report and Election of Representatives from the Playing Fields Association – Addendum 4

Special thanks to Andrew Drury for all his help over the years, we are sad he is stepping down and he will be missed.

9. A Report from the Village Hall Committee – Addendum 5

10. Speedwatch Report – Addendum 6

Special thanks to Martin and his team for the movement of the flashing sign, it really is appreciated by us all.

11. Windmill Report 7

12. Youth and Children's Provision – Addendum 8

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 21.02

Addendum 1 and 2

Great and Little Chishill Parish Council: County Councillor Annual Report 2015-16

Cambs County Council is in the process of being deliberately dismantled by central government. Strategic powers are being removed and financial power stripped from local authorities, under the incomprehensible heading of 'devolution'.

- End of government revenue support grant = 79% cut by 2020.
- Cap on council tax = inadequate revenue to run services. £100 m further cuts, next 5 years.
- *Proposed academisation of all schools = ending of local accountability - reversed*
- *Proposed regional mayor = removal of local decision-making on strategic issues - challenged*

The most challenging aspect of ensuring the well-being of the population – public health and social care – is the only core responsibility being left with county councils, yet the scale of cuts to virtually all services is harming public well-being.

Publicly obvious features of this trend include the reduction the failure to adequately maintain pavements, road and drains. Hidden features are cuts to services for children and adults with mental/physical/learning disability or disadvantage. The closure of two children's mental health services last year, due to spike in demand for urgent care and lack of capacity, is symptomatic, as is the removal of discretionary transport subsidies for post-16 students and people registered blind.

For Great and Little Chishill, every day implications will include a reduction to the winter gritting network and further cuts to Highways general maintenance budgets. We've had yet another stay of execution on the 31 bus service which is propped up by non-statutory subsidies, but with a further £100 million in cuts over the coming five years there is nothing in the pipeline to keep this going.

A 31 bus users' meeting was held in March to explore new ways of providing essential lifeline transport for people without access to a car. Royston and District Community Transport attended and said they would

like to recruit more volunteer drivers from Heydon and Great and Little Chishill. We'll get to together again now in the autumn when we have a clearer picture of resources.

Ironically, Greater Cambridge is the fastest growing region in the country, with enormous wealth. However, the greatest wealth/poverty gap in South Cambridgeshire lies within this county division.

Local campaigns and community groups to make a difference

- The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group has succeeded in retaining the advantageous 50% post-16 student rail discount and is bringing councils together to look more strategically at building capacity from local rail stations.
- The Community Rail Partnership has won grant funding for Melbourn Primary School to develop its family support work, through a new community gardening scheme.
- The A10 Cycle Campaign is working to access Dept for Transport funds to create a good quality pedestrian/cycle path between Cambridge-Royston, and to establish a standard.
- The Cycling and Rail campaigns have won funding to provide a half-term Bike Bank course for Melbourn Village College area teenagers, free of charge.
- Mental Health: The free wellbeing drop-in service at the Melbourn Hub is run by Mind in Cambs with County Council support.

The Boundary Commission's proposed changes to split natural education networks in this division – breaking up the MVC catchment primary school area – would undermine collaborative efforts to understand and tackle common problems, and to achieve better outcomes, especially for children. Under this proposal Great and Little Chishill would be aligned with Duxford, Ickleton & Pampisford.

District Councillors' Report 2015/16

There have been several changes over the past year which Jose and I have had to get our heads around, planning being one of them with the most recent changes to the criteria for deciding which planning applications are determined under delegated powers.

Under the old scheme of delegation, applications where a Parish Council recommends refusal and the planning officer recommends approval, would automatically be determined by the Planning Committee. This is no longer the case as Parish Councils will now be able to request applications should go to Committee and these requests will be considered by the Chair of Planning and the Head of Developmental Management. These applications will go to Planning Committee if the Parish Council has given material planning reasons which cannot be addressed by condition. This means that Parish Councils will no longer be solely reliant on the local District Councillor requesting that the application is determined by the Planning Committee and they now have the option of putting forward their own case.

Local Plan

South Cambs. Local Development Framework was originally adopted in 2007 and was intended to cover the period up to 2016. We have now been working towards producing a new Local Plan (the new name for the document setting out all our planning policies) to take over from the previous LDF.

Part of this process involves the new plan undergoing an Examination in Public which is carried out by a Planning Inspector. This examination was progressing well until March 2015, when the Inspector conducting our examination called for additional work to be done to ensure we have taken into account house prices and affordability when assessing the number of new homes needed. (This was as a result of new planning guidance issued in the intervening period). The Inspector was asking for clearer evidence to enable them to make an independent judgement on the soundness of the plan.

An Extraordinary Council Meeting was called where the Inspector's letter to the Council was read outlining the work required. This was debated, Council noted the letter and Officers were asked to carry out the work required by the Inspector. This work has now been completed and a further Extraordinary Meeting was held in March where the Council approved the modifications to the Plan and authorised a further period of consultation on the changes.

This has all been very frustrating as it has delayed the process by at least a year which means that some of our existing policies are now considered out of date and has resulted in some of our villages receiving speculative applications from developers.

One example is for 199 houses with care Home in Melbourn which has gone to appeal following refusal and is due to be heard on 12th July, 2016.

Shared Services

One of our efficiency drives is to enter into a number of 'shared service' arrangements an example of which is our Waste & Recycling service which is being shared with Cambridge City Council. This has resulted in £600,000 of savings so far and we are aiming to make a further £150,000 of savings over the next 2 or 3 years.

Other services already being shared are the Home Improvement Agency, Payroll, Building Control, Legal Services and shortly ICT. These are being shared with a combination of Cambridge City Council and Hunts District Council.

Finance and Planning are 2 further areas which are envisaged to be shared. A new shared Head of Finance has been appointed as well as a new shared Planning Director in anticipation of this.

Housing

One of the Council's main success stories this year has been the continued growth of our housing company, Ermine Street Housing. This is an organisation set up to provide market housing to the rental sector alongside our affordable properties which are managed by the Council. Ermine Street Housing has been targeted to bring in around £600,000 per annum to the Council through its commercial activities and has recently been shortlisted for a national innovation award. It has been shortlisted for the 'Reinventing Public Services' award and will be up against other Councils and organisations from across the country.

Boundary Review

The Local Government Boundary Commission is responsible for ensuring appropriate local government representation at both Parish, District and County levels. They have a set of quite complex rules which they apply to local authorities, such as how many electors per councillor there are, how big each ward is, where the boundaries are and how many councillors there are in a council.

Due to the growth in some of our Wards, we have apparently broken one of the rules relating to the number of electors per councillor and this has prompted the Boundary Commission to undertake a full review of all the wards in our District.

At the same time we were required to look at the number of councillors we had, which at 57 was deemed on the high side. As a result, the Council has agreed to reduce the number down to 45. This of course means many of the Wards will change by having fewer councillors looking after them. In addition, the boundaries will also have to change to ensure the Council remains within the rules on the number of electors per councillor.

In tandem with these changes, the Council have also resolved to change the election arrangements. Up to now, we have always elected our Council in thirds, ie each year for three years, a third of our councillors are up for election with no district elections in the fourth year. From 2018, when the changes will come into effect, the council will have all out elections every four years.

Community Chest

The Community Chest Scheme has now been replenished with over £50,000 of funding for 2016/17 and is open for applications again. We would encourage any community groups and Parish Councils to make their applications early before the pot runs out again. Awards are given on a first come first served basis so when it's gone it's gone until next year!

Devolution

The Government has been promoting the idea of devolution for some time now, but only recently things have gathered pace.

The initial ideas were that a devolution deal might be struck on an enhanced Greater City Deal footprint. In other words, a combined authority comprising South Cambs., Cambridge City, Hunts DC and a subset of the County Council.

This looked unworkable as the county council would be required to be a member of this combined authority, which would prevent them joining any other combined authority which was also being suggested

for Peterborough, Fenland and East Cambs. Initial proposals were worked out for a combined authority based on the County of Cambridgeshire together with the Unitary Authority of Peterborough'.

However, while negotiations were progressing, although slowly, the Government indicated that this would be too small an area and made it clear that the only deal which would be credible was one comprising Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk and that the combined authority of these counties and their respective district councils would be under the umbrella of an elected Mayor. The Mayor would have a number of powers devolved by Government to him/her and the County Councils would hand over a number of powers upward to the Mayor mainly around transport, skills and health. Districts such as South Cambs. would lose no powers, but would be dealing with a Mayor rather than ministers.

The initial deal leaves much to be desired. South Cambs. has signed up to commit us to debating the offer at a special full council meeting in June when we will decide whether or not to take this forward.

As you can imagine, all these issues have taken up a large amount of our time as well as our day to day concerns of our residents. We are both very involved in the Neighbourhood Plan which we expect to take up to 18 months to its conclusion.

We would like to thank our Parish Councils for your help and support throughout the year and to remind you – do not hesitate to make contact with us.

Cllr. Val Barrett Cllr. Jose Hales
District Councillors for Melbourn, The Chishills & Heydon.

Addendum 3

Fowlmere School Report

Heather Mepham – Headteacher
2016

As usual, I start with our mission statement, because it captures our core purpose :

'We exist to inspire children to love learning and achieve excellence in all they do within our caring village school'.

- We believe that literacy and mathematical skills are the fundamental building blocks to wider learning.
- We believe that an enriched curriculum provides our children with real and meaningful learning opportunities, using diverse resources within the local and global environment.
- By creating an open, stimulating, challenging, environment children will leave the school as well rounded individuals, prepared for the next steps of their lives

Our school motto is: 'love learning, achieve excellence'.

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Additionally we attract some families living out of catchment from Foxton and Melbourn. The current roll is 100 pupils. 9 children will be leaving at the end of July to attend secondary schools at Melbourn Village College and Sawston Village College. The intake for the Reception year in September 2014 is expected to be 11, therefore the school roll will remain steady.

The end of Key Stage results for the academic year 2014/15 resulted in good attainment across EYFS (5 year olds), KS1 (7 year olds) and KS2 (11 year olds). Our focus on mathematics reaped its rewards and was reflected in the results.

Last year I reported that we were awaiting an Ofsted Inspection, having received notification that we had sustained our 'Good' performance, and would not be inspected before summer term 2015.

In November we received the call, and were inspected under the new Ofsted Framework. We received a 'Requires Improvement' grading which, whilst disappointing, we found that almost all the inspections that had taken place in the Autumn term had downgraded the schools in Cambridgeshire.

We have however accepted that judgement and risen to the improvement challenge and were pleased that our HMI monitoring visit at the beginning of this term recognised the progress we have made, and reported that

'School leaders and governors are taking effective action to tackle the areas requiring improvement identified at the recent Section 5 inspection in order to become a good school'.

The children have continued to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities and competitions.

We had a number of pupils who were placed amongst the fastest runners in both the Y3/4 and the Y5/6 cross country competitions. Our girls cross country team achieved 22nd position out of 103 teams in the annual cross country competition in St Neots, and came 4th out of 23 small schools in the event.

Our netball team has enjoyed considerable success, and has moved through the competition ranks to representing South Cambs. in the County Finals competition which will be held in July.

Our Year 5 team came third in a recent heat of the Local Authority-organised Maths challenge, narrowly missing a place in the finals. Our English team reached the County finals of their competition which was held in Ely Cathedral.

This year we took the KS2 children to one of the Young Voices events at the Genting Arena in Birmingham. Young Voices is a charity that organises large-scale high-quality singing events for schools. We sang with Laura Wright (who opened the World Cup Rugby and the Invictus Games singing the 'World in Union' song) as part of a 6,000 strong choir. It was a magnificent opportunity and we hope to enter again next year.

Our Community involvement includes:

Monthly assemblies with Revd. Angie Melaniphy, (Anglican), also with Mrs Tess Maddin, (Methodist), and termly assemblies from the GenR8 team from Royston. We have raised funds for a number of charities including Jimmy's Nightshelter, Children in Need, Red, White and Blue Day for Armed Services charities, Save the Children Fund, Marie Curie, and Beads of Courage.

We have once again taken part in the Children Challenging Industry initiative with Johnson Matthey and the University of York.

The children have enjoyed all sorts of activities including Mothers' Day lunch, Fathers' Day lunch, an Easter egg hunt, Cooking day, Class Christmas parties, Cycling Proficiency training, and school discos to name but a few. They have been on a range of school visits including Wicken Fen, Burwell House and to the British Museum in London by train.

Madame Veronique Sanders from Melbourn Village College has continued to teach French throughout the school, and we have been able to provide a range of after-school clubs for the children including choir, chess, drama, lego, games and a range of sports. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents, and sporting governing bodies.

Cambridgeshire Music provides piano lessons to a number of children in school.

Our new rising 5s will be visiting the school for messy play this term. The teachers will also visit the pre-school providers and make home visits to ensure a smooth transition for the children into school in September.

Finally, we are extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA. They raise an extraordinary amount each year to benefit the children at Fowlmere School, and are currently planning a ball for the Autumn term. Please do come and support us if you can.

We currently have vacancies for a caretaker/cleaner and for a mid-day supervisor. If you know of anyone that might fit the bill please do let them know.

Addendum 4 – Playing Fields Report

Great Chishill Nursery has continued to use the pavilion during week day in the term time.

The nursery can take up to 13 infants aged between 2 and 5 years.

This arrangement continues to be beneficial to both parties..

The PFA has gained in being able to hire this playing fields facility resulting in a significant and regular income.

I mentioned last year our intention of to purchase a metal storage container as I am sure you are all aware we have now installed it along side the garage at the corner of the car park. I would like to thank Simon Coxhall for the purchase of the container and Andrew Drury for overseeing the preparation of the ground for the container. I would also like to thank John Drury for painting the container.

Throughout the year a number of modications were undertaken to accommodate the nursery and necessary maintenance was undertaken at the same tiem.

We continue to host football and cricket clubs each fieding one team.

We are told that both clubs expect to continue next season, however both their membership could be stronger. The football team in particulare has struggled on a number of occasion to put out a full team. Please continue to support them in any way you are able. Playing areas contine to be well maintained. Cutting equipment has undergone annual maintenance and is in adequate condition for the cutting season.

We continue to work to manage costs associated with maintenance of equipment. Our financial position remains soung, after significant investments in recent year.

Acknowledgements

We are appreciative of the Parish Council Grant – thank you

Our thanks to:

Simon Coxal, Darrell Plumb, Joe Wright, the PFA Committee, Tim Scott for cutting the Plaistow and Peter Wiseman

Addendum 5 – Village Hall Report

First, apologies from the senior officers, all of whom are not able to attend, so I, as carpet bowls representative, will do my best to cover. Following the major refurbishment last year, the focus has been on consolidating the work, by concentrating on making the space more streamlined. Cupboards have been provided to assist regular uses to store equipment, new lighter weight tables have been purchased, and the existing storage areas have been reorganised. In the background work has been done on the electrics bringing them in line to current standards. Generally, the hall has been kept in good condition following the refurbishment thanks to regular cleaning, local inspections and cooperation from users.

Currently the financial position is sound, with a reserve fund of about £5,000, for emergencies. Use of the hall has increased significantly enabling income to match regular expenditure. The committee are indebted to the parish council and the community for financial support, and intend that future support will be used for Capital items.

We invite new members to the committee, including user club representatives. We have about four meetings each year.

Addendum 6 – Windmill Report

Report of Great Chishill Windmill Trust to the Annual Parish Meeting 20 May 2016

Summary

Progress on physical work has been frustratingly slow, but project planning and Listed Building Consent application are well in hand. Fundraising has continued throughout the year and just under £20,000 is held in the bank account with a further £15,000 reserved and held by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. A grant was received from the Parish Council for which the committee is very grateful. Grant applications, particularly for the National Lottery Heritage Fund, are being prepared.

Listed Building Consent (LBC)

Communication with South Cambs Planning Department has been difficult due to staffing problems but there is now a nominated person with whom we are in contact.

We have established that LBC is not granted without full detail of work, procedure and materials so is best sought for small defined pieces of work. Our consultants, Cambridgeshire Windmills Consultancy, have prepared a plan covering repair, protection and strengthening of the trestle and are working on drawings to accompany the application.

A Long-Eared Brown Bat has been found in the windmill in recent times so we must carry out a survey to see if it is being used as a breeding roost. This can only be carried out between May and September.

No work can start on the building before LBC is granted, other than clear maintenance and any resulting like-for-like replacement. We are planning to uncover the circular track around which the tail assembly rolls in the next few weeks.

Fundraising Initiatives

A 'Windmill Day' was held in the Village Hall on 13 June, the Trust took part in the Village Fun Day on 30 August and a Christmas Craft Fair donated part of its proceeds. Almost £600 was raised at these events.

Dance lessons were run from September until March and these raised £1000 for the Trust.

A recipe book with proceeds destined for the fund has been printed and is about to be promoted.

A Music Night is being planned for June in conjunction with the Church Restoration Group.

Grants and Applications

A grant of £2000 was received from the Parish Council,

Our GLCPC Liaison Representative is kindly co-ordinating an approach to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Church Restoration Group is giving assistance in the detail required and how best to present our case.

Protection Work

The building was covered with heavy duty plastic to make it watertight. This suffered badly in the storms last winter and a new cover has been purchased and fitted.

Addendum 7 – Speedwatch

Memorandum for Annual Parish Meeting May 2016

Activity in 2015 using the Police Speedwatch Kit

We used the kit on 8 occasions (2 more than in 2014). Here is the Data (taken over 1½ hour periods each session), showing number of vehicles at 35mph and above for the last 3 years:

Eastbound at The Playing Fields Hall Lane

Vehicles At	2013 4 Sessions		2014 2 Sessions		2015 3 Sessions	
35 - 40	70	19.18%	35	16.36%	60	19.05%
41 - 45	30	8.22%	6	2.80%	23	7.03%
46 - 50	13	3.56%	0		7	2.22%
51 plus	3	0.82%	0		1	0.32%
Total 35+	116	31.78%	41	19.16%	91	28.89%
Total Passing	365		214		315	
Vehicles Per Session	91		107		105	

Eastbound at The Pudgell

Vehicles At	2013 3 Sessions		2014 4 Sessions		2015 5 Sessions	
30 - 35	39	15.73%	40	9.39%	64	12.80%
41 - 45	6	2.42%	13	3.05%	13	2.60%
46 - 50	0		2	0.47%	1	0.20%
51 plus	0		0		2	0.40%
Total 35+	45	18.15%	55	12.91%	80	16.00%
Total Passing	248		426		500	
Vehicles Per Session	79		106		100	

My thanks to Albert Phillpot, Michael Melville, John Murgatroyd and Keith Goodall for their assistance.

Comments on above Data

Playing Fields – very much the same as 2012 – although slightly fewer above 40mph.

The Pudgell – again, much the same – but slightly more above 40mph

Flashing Sign

Thanks once again to Albert Phillpot (who does all the work) the Flashing Sign has been operating throughout the year on a regular rotation, which means it is recording Data for each direction on all 4 roads through the Village for 2 weeks (the life of the Battery without a recharge) 3 times a year.

A schedule showing the results for each 2 week period is provided to the Parish Council on a regular basis. From these results it is apparent that:

1. The average number of vehicles passing a location - each way - during the busy period (7am - 9pm), ranged from 52 per hour (New Road and Heydon Road) to 84/90 per hour (Hall Lane and Barley Road) slightly less than last year.
2. The Average speed of Incoming traffic in New Road was around 33mph compared with around 30mph in all other locations (the same as 2014).
3. The highest percentage speeding is on New Road entering the Village - 38% in 1 period (44% in 2014) - compared with Hall Lane and Barley Road (travelling eastwards) - about 22%, with Heydon Road around 14% (all similar to 2014).

4. All locations (except Heydon Road) have had vehicles passing on at least one occasion in excess of 60mph - one (reported last year) entering the village on New Road on Sunday 15 March 2015 around 11.00am at 72mph with another leaving the village in November 2015 at 69mph!! This at least is an improvement on 2015 when these locations all had vehicles exceeding 65mph.

Volunteers required

More help is required for both of these activities!

Speedwatch is usually between 4.15 and 6pm on Fridays between May and September – the Police kit has to be collected from whichever of the 7 other villages who share it with us happens to have it when we want it.

The Flashing Sign needs turning or moving to a new location on alternate Wednesdays at 9am throughout the year! Anyone willing to help please ring me on 01763 838494.

Martin Gruselle Speedwatch Co-ordinator

6 May 2016

Addendum 8 and 9 – Youth Group and Playground Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2016

Gt Chishill Youth Club

Chairperson: Amy Tait

Secretary: Betsy Kagwidzo

Treasurer: Emily Brown

Youth Workers: Dan Horne and Stephanie Hicks

Volunteers and other committee members: Eleanor Mead, Laura Barnes.

Great Chishill Youth Club continues to be a thriving group and offer a valuable meeting place for the young people of Great Chishill and the surrounding villages. Fred Smith stepped down as one of our Youth Workers last summer and former volunteer Stephanie Hicks has since taken on his role. With Steph and Dan as our Youth Workers we still ensure there are one or two volunteers to give extra support on club nights.

The Club runs a variety of activities including lots of sports and games, team building games, fun competitions, cooking, crafts, and specialist evenings such as visiting dance teachers and our annual visit from Shepreth Wildlife Park. At Christmas we held a raffle and donated the takings to Cancer Research. We also had a food collection for a Hertfordshire homeless charity. In March we held a very enjoyable bouncy castle party to raise money for Sports Relief.

As always, in an effort to sustain funding and afford both Youth Workers, we are involved in running the village fun day this year. The Youth Club account currently holds approximately £1500. Our great thanks to the Parish Council for their funding support. We would also like to thank the village hall committee for their support in providing storage space for our equipment.

Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting 20th May 2016

Great Chishill Playground

Chair: Emily Brown

Secretary: Laura Barnes

Treasurer: Islay Dring

Other Committee Members: Claire de Froberville, Hannah Millward, Jude Cooper, Katie Slater

As from last year, Chishill Chimps Toddler Group took on the responsibility of the Playground, money is kept separate in sub accounts within the Great Chishill Community Account. Currently the Playground account holds approximately £4300.

The Playground Committee continue to keep the playground maintained to a good standard. Our thanks to John Drury who regularly checks the condition of the playground and helps us to keep it maintained. Our thanks also to the Playing Field Association's wonderful grass cutting team who keep it looking neat and tidy.

The skate ramps recently became damaged and it was felt they urgently needed to be removed. This was done in early May with the generous help of the Youth Club's Dan Horne, and other local volunteers. We have a small team of young people and volunteers from the Youth Club who are working to plan a professionally installed replacement skate ramp scheme. We are in the process of finalising the design and prices before looking into fundraising options. The plans will be published on the village website before the build goes ahead to ensure the community are happy with our proposals.

As always we continue to work closely with the other village groups to host fun community fundraising events. We are again organising the annual summer village fun day, this year on Sunday 17th July. As always we want this to be a collaborative village event so please do get in touch to get involved.

Last November we enjoyed our third 'Poppy Lunch', the money was shared between the Poppy Appeal and Children's Christmas Party. The Poppy Lunch and Children's Christmas party plans are already afoot for the year ahead.

Our great thanks to The Parish Council for their continued financial support of the Playground and Children's Christmas Party.