

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	24 <sup>th</sup> May 2013
Time:	7:30pm
Chairman:	Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors:	Harrison, Murgatroyd, Dring, Ridge
District Councillors:	Barrett and Hales
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
Members of the Parish	See List attached list

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### **1. Apologies**

Cllr van den Ven  
Geoff Crowther  
Albert Philpot  
Janet Erskine

### **2. To Approve the Previous Minutes of the APM in 2013**

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

### **3. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

- The Parish Council has two main roles, to represent the interests and problems of the community and to support and encourage village organisations
- South Cambs District Council are in the process of designing a new local plan. We have consulted the village and made a submission, supporting very modest new builds, whilst fully endorsing Chishill as a community of very limited development as well as protecting Green Spaces and Vista's.
- There are some planning matters that remain unsatisfactory, in particular the conversion of farm buildings to holiday lets which are advertised as permanent lets.
- We have good relations with County Highways but the pothole patching response cannot continue indefinitely and New Road is a point in case
- Our finances are satisfactory with £30.6k in the bank and we will continue to support organisations where we can
- The village hall is a tremendous asset to the village for thirty years. It is timely to review whether it now requires investment in significant areas and to identify priorities. For many people it has been a labour of love for many years and new committee members are vital
- I would like to thank our County Councillor Susan van de Ven and our District Councillors Val Barrett and Jose Hales. All three have impeccable attendance records and have done their best to unravel the byzantine character of local government
- Likewise my thanks to the Parish Councillors, and especially Christine Cartwright who is retiring this year. And thanks to Sarah who spends so much time chasing people on our behalf
- We are happy to take comments and questions in relation to the reports that follow or field other issues you may wish to raise

#### **4. Financial Report**

The Clerk took the meeting through the finance for the year. The Parish Council had not increased the precept this year.

A member of the public asked if the S106 monies might sway the Parish Council's decision on planning applications. The Parish Council responded by stating that they look at every application on its merit or otherwise. A point in case was a new build in Barley Road which the Parish Council had strongly been opposed to, however South Cambs had approved it.

Andy Colebrooke thanked the PC for their support of the Church clock and its repairs.

#### **5. Fowlmere School Report**

Heather Meapham presented this report (see below)

I will start with our continued mission:

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

We continue to serve the Parishes of Fowlmere, Great Chishill, Chrishall Grange and Heydon. Those living out of catchment are from Foxton, Melbourn and Shepreth. The current roll is 108, a slight decrease on last year. The intake for the Reception class in September 2013 is expected to be 11, which will decrease our roll to 102. The demographer predicts a continuous growth with a regular intake of 17, but this is currently not the reality.

Statutory Assessments are made for all children at the end of Key Stage 1 (children aged 7) and at the end of Key Stage 2 (children aged 11). The results for the academic year 2011/12 showed a slight decrease on the previous year at KS1. Attainment remains close to the National averages in reading, writing and mathematics. It is our continued aim to increase our performance against the national figures.

At KS2, results improved on the previous year in English, but overall were again in line with National averages. Again, our aim is to improve our standards further.

All of the children in Foundation Stage reached the expected level of attainment which looks promising for our mission to drive standards higher.

Over the last year we have substantially raised the standard of IT. We focused funding (both school budget and fundraising) to provide up to date technology for both staff and pupils. We audited our provision, bought new computers where necessary and set up a rolling programme to ensure a continuous renewal of hardware. Consequently we now have Wifi throughout school. The PTFA helped us to purchase a class set of laptop computers and cameras. The laptops are stored on a trolley and can be moved from class to class as needed. We also purchased an electronic library management system which enables all children to 'swipe' their book loans using a barcode reader. The system enables us to know which books children are reading, which books are most popular, as well as providing the children with search engines, author video clips and much more. Two parents have taken on the management of the system and enable it to run smoothly.

We also developed a new website, which we are very pleased with ([www.fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.fowlmere.cambs.sch.uk)). There is a site for public view and login areas for pupils, parents and governors. Pupils can interact with their classmates and teachers for homework and school-related matters.

The 2012 Olympic Games played a dominant role in our curriculum last summer. The children researched the history of the Games, the sports and sportsmen and women, both able bodied and paralympians. The values of the Games matched our own school values, and we were able to use these to exemplify and embed the ethos and behaviours that we hold dear. Our learning culminated in a bumper Sports Day on the Butts, coinciding with National Sports week. The events were inclusive and the children put on dance and singing displays in their opening and closing ceremonies. The events were structured on a carousel system with the children participating in House groups. This enabled parents to follow and watch their children competing.

The older children based their annual end of term performance on an Olympic theme, which was enjoyed by many parents, relatives and friends.

Christmas was celebrated and enjoyed through a range of activities. The younger children performed their version of the Nativity, whilst the older children performed musical and spoken items in a concert at the Fowlmere United Reformed Church.

The School Council chose a number of charities to support including Tom's Trust, Save the Children, Children in Need, and Red Nose Day.

One of the successes introduced this year is a transformation to the lunch time system. Previously, children eating school lunch would queue up with a moulded air-line tray to receive their meal in a canteen-style system. In January, after months of planning, we introduced a family service system where the children sit at tables and Year 6 pupils serve the meal to the children at each table. As a result, we have observed better table manners and social behaviour, and children are eating and drinking more with less wastage of food. The Year 6 table leaders and mid-day supervisors and kitchen staff have worked hard to make this such a success. Parents were introduced to the system when mums were invited to share Mothers' Day lunch, and Governors have also monitored the system.

Trips were taken to St Mary's Church, the United Reformed Church, village walks, Burwell House, Linton Zoo, Colne Valley, Sawston Village College and Melbourn Village College for a number of events. The children have taken part in numerous inter-school competitions organised by the School Sports Partnership, and Gifted and Talented teams took part in maths and science events. We have welcomed a range of visitors to school to bring their stories, talents and skills to share with the children. For example, members of the Heydon community came to share their views with the older children about Wind Farms; a builder demonstrated to the younger children about building houses.

Our House system has strengthened with regular House events, both sporting and non-sporting; buddy days and creative days. Each House entered the Bury Lane Farm inter-school scarecrow-making competition. The Eagles House scarecrow won the competition and was duly exhibited in

the shop. The children were treated to a strawberry picking session, which were shared with the whole school at the Queen's Jubilee tea party.

We have a whole school reward structure for good behaviour. School Council identify and select three treats each term, which the children can 'vote' for by putting any tokens they collect into the appropriate pot. Behaviour foci such as courtesy, care or respect will be discussed in assemblies and the children are rewarded for demonstrating them. This year the children have enjoyed a dress-up day, a Christmas cooking day, and at the end of last term, a wheels day.

We are working towards achieving the Eco-schools national award, and have set up an eco-team who lead on helping us to protect the environment. The children designed and made eco-mascots, and we chose one to represent Fowlmere School.

We are currently developing garden plots for the four Houses so that they can grow vegetables, fruit and flowers. We are also developing the school garden as a sensory garden for all the children to enjoy. We have benefited from tremendous volunteer help from one of the families in our community.

The Reception teachers are exploring the concept of Forest Schools, which is run in many Scandinavian countries and is growing in popularity in the UK. The idea is that young children develop awareness of the natural world through regular visits and work in wooded areas and copses. Land art and woodcraft skills are part of the learning. At the moment the nearest we have to this is at the top end of the Butts. We are on the lookout for a small safe wooded area within walking distance of the school which could be visited on a weekly basis.

We are one of few primary schools that still provides voluntarily-run after-school clubs. The clubs are organised by the teachers, parents and community members, and sporting governor bodies. We offer tag rugby, contact rugby, football, netball, fencing and cricket. Non-sport activities include cross-stitch, art & crafts, games, nature, French, gardening, and choir, and a termly stamp club. The children take part in inter-school and inter-house competitions. We also benefit from classroom support from parents, grandparents, and members of the community.

Cambridgeshire Music provides piano, flute and violin tuition to a growing number of children.

Our focus for school improvement is on raising attainment in English, Mathematics and Science. In September 2012, a new EYFS curriculum was published and is being used with our Reception aged children. We look forward to receiving the final version of the new National Curriculum for children aged 5-11 years. This is due to be published in Autumn 2013 so that we can plan for its statutory use in September 2014. This will of course be the focus of our work in the next academic year.

We have supported Cambridge University and the University of Bedfordshire by taking on trainee teachers. We currently have two trainees working in school.

We are, however extremely fortunate to benefit from the fund-raising efforts of the PTFA and particularly the hardworking committee. They raise an extraordinary amount to support the

children at Fowlmere School. The recent annual Art Exhibition weekend raised £1,800. The next event will be the school summer fayre on Sunday June 30th on the Butts.

We strive to do our very best for all the children, and it is a privilege for me to be leading Fowlmere School

## **6. County Councillor and District Report**

The Chairman read the County Councillors (see below)

Firstly, my apologies for missing the Annual Parish Meeting, due to a long-standing previous engagement. I have thoroughly enjoyed coming up to the Chishills, getting to know people and working with parish and district councillors.

Broadband –Thanks to Chishill residents for registering interest in Superfast Broadband People can still sign up to [ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk](http://ConnectingCambridgeshire.co.uk). The service is to be rolled out to most of the county by the end of 2015. Protecting the interests of small villages will be key.

Police – The County Council wanted to convert the police-oriented Neighbourhood Panel to a general public service meeting but this was met with resistance and things will stay as they have been. We have very good access to the local policing team.

Melbourn Village College – Jose, Val and I have all been involved in a variety of activities to support our young people at MVC and this continues to be a very important link for us.

Transport – We've known for well over a year that the 31 bus is to lose its subsidy in September 2013, with the Council's promise that it will be replaced by something as good or better. The project has already been delayed and while affected parish councils have been written to about a public consultation process, the team of officers running the project have all left and new recruitment is now underway. I have offered my full support but we need the officers on board before we can get started.

Roads –It is disappointing and worrying that our network of roads and pavements is to receive almost nothing in the way of improvements over the next six months, in spite of the Council's borrowing of £90 million over five years to improve the highway network. The Council's enthusiasm for offering support to the £1.5 billion upgrade of the A14, a national trunk road, is difficult to justify.

The Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group wish list for the next Thameslink franchise has been fully adopted by the County Council in its response to the Dept for Transport. This includes retaining our hard-fought free station car parking at Shepreth Station, and the 50% student discount fare.

Cycling – Through working with County Council officers, Bikeability has now been rolled out free of charge, county-wide. The A10 Cycling Campaign has got off to a good start and we are pleased to have the support of cyclists from a wide variety of villages including the Chishills. This helps the overall case for improvements to cycling infrastructure. The Dept for Transport has money which the County can draw down if a clear need is evident.

Social Care – The biggest expenditure of the Council is on adult and children's social care. This is not something that often reaches public attention, but individual case work is becoming increasingly challenging for those in need.

Cambridgeshire County Council, following the elections, is now in 'no overall control'. At the May 21 Full Council meeting, the combined smaller political groups won a vote to bring the Cabinet and Strong Leader model to an end, and to re-introduce the committee decision-making system which served the council for many years, before central government imposed the Cabinet and Leader system in 2000 through the Local Government Act. Due to legal constraints, the committee system will not be able to commence until May 2014. It will be set for five years. For the coming year, the largest political group, the Conservative Group, will run a final year of the cabinet and leader system. The new leader is Cllr Martin Curtis. I voted for the committee system, having received a very strong message from residents in the run-up to the election that opening up the decision-making structure to all councillors, and reducing the party-political role in council decisions, would be welcome.

### **District Councillors Report by Cllr Jose Hales**

I forward this report to you on behalf of both myself and Cllr Barrett as we have done in the past whilst working together. We find much common ground when we have the communities we serve in mind, a few differences when other issues pop up perhaps. But, all in all we agree that our role is to defend, support and further our communities.

2012/13 has been a rather busier year for not just the both of us but in fact for the three of us, we include our County Councillor Susan van de Ven in that comment too. Our duties have ranged from advice to residents, to helping in the background with the much talked about Mettle Hill issue and the equally reported CCC PFI street lighting contract, the latter of which has plagued Melbourn in the early part of this year. We have worked closely under the direction of Susan, whose remit street lighting is. A great deal has been learned, when it's time for the remaining villages in our group to have their lighting changed, we will be in a much better position to advise and help where we can.

Planning issues again seem to be our staple diet, while we both help residents with their issues where possible, Cllr Barrett also serves on the planning committee at Cambourne and is of help from that aspect too.

Perhaps the biggest issue affecting all of us is the potential impact on people from the newly introduced Welfare Reform Bill. Whilst it is widely agreed that people should where possible provide as best they can for themselves and their families, it is also true that some aspects of the bill are at best difficult and at worst, somewhat unfair. Both Val and I are seeing a marked increase in people's concerns when facing a tax on a vacant bedroom. They rightly ask that the Council re-house them in a smaller house, unfortunately this isn't possible without a massive building program that would have to be rolled out in every village across South Cambs. The cost of which is also unaffordable and the impact unwelcome.

On the subject of Planning and new homes, residents are aware of the recent Option 2 consultation that took place across the district, where South Cambs District Council asked for public opinion on certain ideas for housing development and other issues associated with them. Some residents in Melbourn were so concerned that residents in Melbourn and surrounding villages would not be heard, that they undertook to encourage as many residents in Melbourn to participate in the consultation. This was hugely successful, in fact Melbourn submitted nearly 80% more comments and votes than any other village in South Cambs. The further data collected has been submitted to SCDC for inclusion in the decision making process.

Val and I have attended a raft of workshops aimed at trying to design the best plan for the district, however our primary role is to represent the Melbourn Ward, I believe this we have done. The 3<sup>rd</sup> June is when we find out how successful we have been.

The main voices that Planners and administrations should listen to are those of the residents and if done properly, it's a message that can be understood loud and clear. As we made mention of earlier, the response in Melbourn was very significant, if we can better the response in the next consultation across our villages in and around our ward, then nearly 11,000 people have a better chance of being listened to.

With that in mind, a second bite at the consultation cherry takes place in mid July of this year running for 10 weeks and we strongly urge every resident to 'Have Their Say' before the LDF (The Draft Local Development Framework Plan) is sent to a higher authority for ratification late this year.

SCDC have now brought the Contact Centre they shared with CCC, in house, giving a saving of over a quarter of a million pounds. This will hopefully improve the service to residents.

SCDC are piloting a doorstep textile recycling collection service which at the moment isn't available to our area. However if found to be successful it will be rolled out.

PV panels that have been fitted to some of SCDC's housing stock, has been reported to have been very worthwhile in helping residents with ever increasing fuel bills.

To close, once again both Val and I would like to say what an honour it is to be able to serve our communities in this way and hope you will continue to make our lives as busy into the coming year as they have been for the past one.

Cllr Jose Hales & Cllr Val Barrett.

A member of the public an issue with the bus shelter light and the contract to Balfour Beatty. This is something that the District Councillors cannot address

Another member of public commented that this was not a political meeting but a Village APM.

## **7. Village Hall**

Stuart Farrow report on the Village Hall

- Turnover is good and they financially healthy
- The committee have diminished and they are not quorate so new members are sought
- Keep things ticking over and need more participating to run the hall to.
- The Parish Council have asked for an action plan for the next few years
- We have had an energy audit and the floor needs replacing
- The current committee is currently not in a position to move any building / refurbishments forward
- The bottom line is we really need some new, young blood on the committee
- A member of the public asked what the Parish Council is doing to encourage people to come forward – they replied that they had put articles in the newsletter on many occasion and the invite for tonight made special mention on the Village Hall
- Another member of the public suggested paying someone to obtain grants
- The Parish Council reiterated that it is always prepared to consider grants

## **8. Chishill Charity**

The Clerk reported that a number of parishioners had received a cash gift from the Chishill Charity and she had received a number of thank you letters.

#### 9. PFA Report and Election

Paul Drury read out the report. He listed the current members who missed to serve again and I hoped that the Parish Council will adopt this proposal (which it would).

- The playing field facilities remains strong with the cricket team, football team, youth club and other casual organisations using it
- The playing area continues to be well maintained
- The showers have be refurbished
- The excessive water usage bill has been reduced by a substantial rebate
- All equipment and had annual services and is good condition
- We exterior of the pavilion will be decorated this summer
- Our financial position remains strong
- We thank our volunteers, Simon Coxall, Darrell Plumb, Joe Wright, Tim Scott (for cutting the Plaistow), the Youth Club, and Peter Wiseman
- We appreciate the Parish Council Grant and other kind donations

#### 10. Speed watch – Martin Gruselle

- This has been active again this year.
- Three letters have been sent out
- We now have a flashing sign financed by the Parish Council and it records vehicle movements and speeds
- The highest speed recorded has been 83mph at 8am
- He gave an overview of the statistics collected thus far
- A member of the public said it had made a difference outside her house
- Another member of public congratulated Martin and his colleague Albert Philpot for a great job

#### 11. Windmill – Jim Brearley

This has been moving slowly and it had been offered to the Trust for £1. However it had been decided to lease the mill from Cambridgeshire County Council on an 125 year lease with an option to purchase it they so wished. The Council will also pay the building insurance and the Trust will pay for Public Liability Insurance. It is not in a great state at the moment and the Trust are to ask the Council if they will donate any funds to help with the project. English Heritage had said that could ear mark £30 towards to project.

#### 12. Children's Playground / Chishill Chimps / Youth Group

Great Chishill Playground Committee

Annual Report

May 2013

The Playground Committee again organised the annual Children's Christmas Party which was held in December. A good number of children attended and enjoyed pizza and cakes, with games and entertainment from Stripey Wipey. All children who attended received a present of a book from Father Christmas. A good time was had by everyone.

The Playground Committee and Playgroup Committee (who organise Chishill Chimps) are looking to amalgamate in the near future. This would make sense as the members of both groups are or have recently been the same!



This year the Playground Committee is hoping to be present at the fete, probably with hooking ducks for a prize of sweets.

In addition we hope to organise a village lunch (sausage or otherwise) to raise funds for this year's Christmas party. There was a suggestion last year to have this around Remembrance Day, unfortunately the hall had already been booked; it may be a possibility for this year.

Following this year's RoSPA inspection which was carried out in April, the decision was made to remove the high ramp which was originally part of the teenage skateboard park. The smaller ramp in the centre of the concreted area has been left as it is still in reasonable condition and the younger children enjoy riding their scooters and bikes over and round it. John Drury has kindly removed one ramp and has secured the other where some of the fixings had come loose. We are currently looking at having a design of some kind put onto the concrete – a roadway with roundabout and traffic lights etc. seems to be a favoured option.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Council for their continued financial support.

Kathryn Farrow  
14/5/13

## **Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

### **Gt Chishill Youth Club**

**Chairperson: Vacancy (Emily Brown standing in)**

**Secretary: Janet Erskine**

**Treasurer: Emily Brown**

**Youth Workers: Fred Smith and Dan Horne**

Gt Chishill Youth Club has been running since 2007, on Thursday evenings during term time in the Cricket Pavilion. This continues to be a popular club and offer a valuable social group to the young people of our village.

There are around ten regular members who enjoy a range of activities including sports, cooking, arts and crafts, music, and even a recent visit from Shepreth Wildlife Park. We have a higher number of girls at the moment who are keen to explore film making so we are hoping to soon buy a video camera so they can make short films.

Our paid Youth Workers Dan and Fred still enjoy running the Tuesday meetings. Our great thanks to the Parish Council for funding one of our youth workers, and to the Playing Fields Committee for use of the Cricket Pavilion free of charge. As an effort to sustain funding and afford both Youth Workers we are running the village fete again this year with the toddler group and we also plan to hold a car boot sale in the autumn, a concert with Fred's son Sam Smith, and a winter film night in the village hall.

## **Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May 2013**

### **Chishill Chimps Toddler Group**

**Chair: Emily Brown**

**Secretary: Helen Bowyer**

**Treasurer: Islay Dring**

Chishill Chimps toddler group runs every Thursday morning in the village hall all year round including school holidays. We offer a friendly environment for all local children aged 0-4 with their parents, grandparents and carers for tea, chat, play and a healthy snack for all children mid-morning.

After a revamp with the new committee in 2012 the group has gone from strength to strength and established a reputation for being friendly and welcoming with a good range of play equipment. With many new families recently moving to Great Chishill and the surrounding villages we have had a real boost in new members totaling approximately 25 parents/carers and 40 children.

With funding from the Parish Council last year we were able to purchase new toys for a broader range of age-groups and offer a wider range of activities, plus rugs, tables and chairs, a bookshelf and catering equipment. The committee would like to say a big thank you to the Parish Council for this generous support and to the Village Hall Committee for our vital storage space.

The increased number of members has made us more financially viable but we continue to fundraise and are keen to host events to involve the whole community. This has included a recent Comic Relief coffee morning open to the whole village and we are again working with the Youth Club to run this year's village fete. We are also in collaboration with the Playground Committee to host a 'Poppy Lunch' on a weekend in November to raise money for the Poppy Appeal and Children's Christmas Party.

The committee are thrilled with the success Chishill Chimps but as it gets busier each week we are finding it quite a juggling act running the sessions while also looking after our own children. We are currently advertising for local volunteers outside of the group to take the pressure off by helping welcome people through the door and making the teas and the toddler snacks.

#### **13. Melbourn Hub – John Travis**

The new hub is coming along, it will be a new community centre, a library, a café, CAB and Relate will also function from it. On 29<sup>th</sup> June there is fete in Melbourn a there will a stand to find out all about it. It is a facility for the wider area to use and you are welcome to used it. A member of public said that they were not interested in Melbourn and what went on there. They were told to sit down and refrain from such comments.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 21:25