

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 11th April 2016
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Clements, Ridge, Dring, Loukes, Coney
District Councillors: Barrett and Hales
Members of the Public: Mr and Mrs Hague
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr van de Ven – prior commitment

Cllr Harrison – prior commitment

These were all accepted by the Council.

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

There were none declared.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 10th March 2016 (already circulated)

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

4. Public Participation

Mr and Mrs Hague spoke about their planning application at Hope Cottages and how they wish to restore their home.

5. Finance

The Clerk had circulated the finance sheets which the Chairman signed off.

The Clerk to investigate an installation of an outdoor gym to be funded by the S106 monies.

The Parish Council is to fund a memorial coin for each 0-primary school aged children in the village to celebrate the Queens 90th Birthday. They will be handed out at The Pheasants celebrations on 11th June.

The speed humps for the playing field drive have been purchased.

Jeff Gill of Blanche and Co have the external audit forms and the year end accounts – he will meet with the Clerk in the next few weeks.

6. Telephone Mast

There is no further news at present and it is likely that this will now not happen due to changes in the telecoms industry.

7. Planning

S/0684/16/LB – the council resolved to recommend approval of this application.

Maltings Lane – the Chairman and Clerk have put together a comprehensive submission to the appeal committee.

The Chairman and Clerk had met with John Koch. In essence, SCDC planning officers / committee are not going to be flexible on bending any village frameworks until the LDF is settled. As a result, in Great Chishill, all infilling has been exhausted. Only backfilling remains and any application relating to these are likely to be refused.

However, concern was raised that farm buildings over a mile away are being allowed to be developed and they are arguably less sustainable than the heart of the village is.

8. Speedwatch

The Clerk reported that as more and more villages are using the 'Speed Watch' equipment the number of times that Martin and his team can use the equipment in the village is reducing. The only other solution to this was to purchase our own equipment. The Clerk and Chairman to meet with Martin to discuss this.

9. Windmill Trust – Cllr Dring

Listed building consent has not yet been submitted. A new tarpaulin is to be purchased. Cllr Dring is working on an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. There had been some changes of personnel at the Trust and the Clerk will be sent minutes from the meetings.

10. Lock-Up

There is no further news.

11. County and District Councillors Reports

Apologies: Sorry I cannot attend the meeting tonight, as I have already committed to a Melbourn Village College governors' meeting.

Transport follow-up: Thanks very much to Andrew and Sarah for attending the bus users' meeting held last month. Notes are attached. Things are very chaotic in terms of unknowns: the stay of execution on bus subsidies has been made possible by taking out of reserves and is not a sustainable solution. The possibility of piggy-backing onto statutory school transport services will become clearer in the next couple of months. I have been out to meet a new flexible minibus service setting out operations in Cambridgeshire – 'London Hire', based in Duxford. We will aim for another local meeting in June, and I liaise with Sarah and Andrew on dates.

Meanwhile, though the 31 bus is not disappearing quite yet, new post-16 students will no longer receive transport subsidy assistance from the County Council. This had amounted to about £112 per year, though the lion's share of a season pass (about £650 per year) had always been borne by the user.

Comment from a local resident - I would be grateful for your thoughts: *Could Chishill and Heydon piggyback on Essex CC's new Demand Responsive service which starts on 11 April and will currently extend as far as Chrishall? As for students, for the morning journey could they use the existing schoolday 444 which goes past Audley End station? At present it arrives at about 08.08 but if necessary it could surely be retimed to connect with the 08.03 train. I suspect, though, that an extra bus would be needed to get them back. If both the 444 and my proposed extra return journey ran on non-schooldays they could also cater for people travelling to work (including in Cambridge) from any of Chishill, Heydon, Chrishall and Elmdon.*

Boundary Commission: It has transpired that the Boundary Commission's new county division lines for 2017 will be re-consulted. It would seem that there has been a slip-up somewhere on process. The new consultation will take place between May and June and if the parish council would like to contribute to it, I will let you know the details as soon as I have them. This would be a chance to promote education commonalities of a division encompassing the Melbourn Village College catchment area.

Devolution: In mid-March George Osborne sought to impose the 'East Anglian Devolution Agreement' on Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The deal was signed without councils' consent by our county and district council leaders. Powers of transport, highways, house building and general infrastructure were to go to a single elected mayor. The timing of the Agreement was to coincide with the announcement by Osborne of the budget, but the County Council took the chance of a regularly scheduled meeting to pass a motion indicating its unhappiness with the proposal. The vote was almost unanimous (one abstention) and even our leader voted to reject the motion he himself had signed. Osborne's promise of financial support was disingenuous, amounting to £30 million per year spread across three counties. Foxton Level Crossing would swallow up a good deal of that; the cost of one km of single carriageway is £4 million. The vote doesn't kill the Agreement, but was a resounding condemnation of the plan and discredited the notion that it met the true sense of the term 'devolution.' Combined with the announcement of mandatory academisation of all primary schools, and the cessation of government revenue support grant, one can't avoid the conclusion that this is another component in the march.

Bus and community transport users meeting, Great Chishill Village Hall, 14 March 2016

10 people in attendance including County Council officer and councillor, Heydon and Chishill Parish Council chairs and clerks, and Royston and District Community Transport.

2 apologies received.

Key points:

Main concern is need to continue a regular daily service that allows people to get to Cambridge, mainly for school. A small number of users would be work commuting.

County Council can no longer finance a subsidized bus service; all bus subsidies being withdrawn. No guarantees for community transport finance either.

Information, ideas, actions:

1. Trumpington Park and Ride has some cycle parking provision; sixth formers could cycle from P and R to sixth forms along traffic-free Guided Bus cycleway – ten minutes to Hills Road and rail station, five minutes to Long Road.
2. Royston and District Community Transport will investigate costs of running a minibus service to either Park and Ride or Shepreth Station.
3. New RDCT volunteers to be recruited in both villages, as drivers are reimbursed for the door-to-door cost of their journeys, and this would reduce reimbursement costs to the passenger.
4. Private car commuters could be encouraged to do more lift-sharing, perhaps for a contribution toward petrol.
5. Andrew Gardiner to investigate further the option of buying into the Barley private bus service, for the Chishills and Heydon.
6. A local car scheme could be set up.
7. Residents in both villages should be asked: if they rely on public transport, and if so for what purpose.
8. County Council to be approached on possibility of creating a service for small number piggy backing onto a regular school transport service

Next steps:

Gather information and take actions as set out above

Meet again in May/June to shape most viable ideas

Provide summary of meeting to parish councils and village newsletters to dismantle local government.

District Councillors Report

Cllr Hales spoke about devolution and the concerns it brings. See Cllr van de Vens report above.

12. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

The AGM / APM will have to be moved as due to elections, the original date means that the Councillors are not actually in office until the following Monday. The new date is 20th May 2016. The Clerk print the village invitations for the Councillors to deliver.

There being no further business, the chairman closed the meeting at 20:30.