

## A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	11 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Time:	7:30 pm
Chair:	Clr Dring
Parish Councillors:	Hatt, Leitch, Pine, Clements
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	Not Present
District Councillor:	Clr Hobro
Members of the Public:	Chris Braybrook
Start Time:	7:30pm

**The Parish Council would like to express their sincere sadness following the death of former Chairman and Parish Councillor John Murgatroyd. He worked tirelessly for the Village whilst on the Council. He will be fondly remembered for his wit, charm and energy by the Council and our condolences go to his wife Vicky, daughter Jane and son Richard.**

### 1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Clr Hobro – previous commitment  
Clr Ridge – previous commitment

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

There were none received.

### 3. Approval of the Minutes of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

It was agreed that these were an accurate record of the meeting and the Chair duly signed and dated them.

### 4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

### 5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)

There were no queries or questions on the correspondence report which had been circulated.

### 6. District and County Councillors Report (already circulated)

Neither Councillors were present at the meeting. Cllr Hall had some question relating to the draft Gambling Policy from South Cambs. He will make contact with Cllr Hobro to raise his valid concerns.

### 7. Highways / Transport

Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill and Little Chishill (drains, floods, potholes, New Road,). The Clerk reported that Cllr McDonald had been in the village today and had queried with highways why nothing had been done on the junction at New Road. Nothing had been done on the B1039 and an email had been sent out talking about resurfacing Hall Lane. The Chair to follow up with Cllr McDonald.

### 8. Planning

Chris Braybrooke from the Compliance team came to the meeting.

He explained to the Council how his departments works:

- Most matters are civil matters and not criminal
- They look to see if enforcement can take place
- They will look to see if it is dominus or not
- They look at breaches, permitted development, conditions and uses
- There are 4 Members in the team in SCDC
- Cambridge City have 676 open cases
- Our enforcement representative has 180 open cases
- Both these numbers are the most serious cases
- They have to look at the timings of actions, as the applicant could appeal if the timeframes are limited
- The City enforcements are more commercial and SCDC are more residential breaches

Mr Braybrooke went on to update us on the following:

- Land in Village. The Council have heard nothing.
- North Hall Farm. This ongoing. The Chair gave Chris some background information in terms of Julie Ayre's involvement in the site and former proposals to turn the site into a business park. Chris said it is tricky to work out all the planning applications. But they also look at things such as sustainability, schools etc. He has every faith in Nick Smith who is leading on this.
- Bridgefoot Farm – enforcement notice about a year ago. The main issue was the entrance onto the A505 and Highway safety matters. To make an access compliant it would cost between £500,000 £750,000 and the landowner would incur these costs. It might be feasible to look at a different access.
- The security dogs are being looked into.
- Rabbit Residence. Enforcement is continuing to work on this. They will serve the legals, but the timeframes need to be correct as these could be challenged. So a period of 9 months is more favourable than 6 months.
- Wallers Close – nothing further

### 9. Finance

Audit. The paperwork is with the internal auditor and will go to the external audio auditor when it has been signed off by the Parish Council.  
Vat Reclaim. The VAT claim has been submitted and we're claiming back £374.

### 10. Speed and safety – Cllr Hall

Speed Watch. There will be an update on speed watch at the next meeting.

Speed Camera. There is nothing further to report at this time.

Mirror. The clerk had made contact with the windmill group and they're happy to take our mirror when we upgrade ours at a later point in time.

### 11. Giga Clear – Cllr Clements

Great and Little Chishill are now not under consideration for the Giga Clear scheme. It has been a year since City Fibre were awarded the Cambridgeshire contract and we will wait to see what happens.

Councillor Hatt asked Councillor Clements if he knew what the little plastic boxes on top of some of the telegraph poles were. He thought they were something to do with the infrastructure of high speed broadband to Little Chishill.

**12. Pink Bin – Clerk**

The Clerk have been in contact with SCDC and had secured the delivery of a pink bin on the playing fields for the month of June. The bin will be used to recycle small electrical items and leads. The Clerk has made arrangements for this to be in next month's newsletter.

**13. Barley Surgery – Cllr Hall / Pine**

Councillor Pine will e-mail Granta Medical in Barley.

**14. Village Hall Committee – Cllr Pine**

Councillor Pine reported that all is going well with the Village Hall. There are lots of groups using the facility. There are plans to renovate kitchen and make it a more commercial facility. A question was raised about the finances of the village hall and Councillor Pine responded that she didn't have the details to hand but they are in good order.

**15. Emergency Planning – Clerk**

The Clerk has been in contact with her Clerks network. She had ascertained that some parishes have emergency planning for flooding. She had also found another template document which might be more appropriate to this village. She will work on a draft version of this document for this village.

Councillor Hall spoke about the possibility finding out who might have generators to use in the event of a large scale power cut. He had had experience of a relative who needed electricity at all times having a big issue when there was a power cut where they lived. Councillor Hatt said that in the past he had tried to use a generator in a power cut in the village and because of the setup of the generator and the configuration of the power supply it did not work. The Clerk added that maybe this could be added into the aforementioned document.

**16. Promotion of Parish - Clerk / Cllr Hall**

The Clerk shared with the council the latest update regarding the village poster. David Hart had made contact and he is going to pencil sketch the village featuring our suggested landmarks. The Clerk showed the council a picture of a map which he had done for Barley. The parish council very much liked what they saw.

There was no update on the village plaques idea. **Post meeting note:** the Clerk had been to a supplier in Saffron Walden and they can produce these for approximately £14 each.

**17. Annual Meeting of the Council / Annual Meeting of the Parish**

The Clerk asked if she should prepare a flyer to advertise the Annual Meeting of the Parish for distribution. It was agreed that she would. She has also made sure that it will be included in the next village newsletter. Councillor Pine sends her apologies for the annual meeting at the parish.

When the Clerk sends out the invitation to village groups to make their representation at the meeting she will ask for finances to be included in the report.

**18. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda – 5 Minutes**

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.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:39.

**County Council Report**

An agreement has been reached whereby Cambridgeshire County Council will host the High Intensity Users (HIU) team on behalf of the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

High intensity users, in this context, are people who frequently present themselves at hospital Accident and Emergency departments. These individuals often have complex - but not necessarily exclusively medical - needs, which cannot be met by the emergency departments.

Last year, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Integrated Care Board spent an estimated £28m of NHS funding on emergency care for the 4,500 people attending emergency departments 5-10 times per year - an average of £6,200 per person.

Early identification of high intensity users of services has shown to reduce avoidable Accident and Emergency attendances and non-elective admissions by at least 40% within the NHS.

By hosting the HIU Operational Team, the county council will help to ensure that people receive a more targeted and personalised approach to their care and support.

In October 2023, the council's Communities service submitted an expression of interest to host the HIU Operational Team. The application highlighted how hosting the team would complement the work already taking place locally alongside the Integrated Neighbourhood Teams, and support the Council's approach to decentralisation, bringing support closer to communities.

The council was subsequently chosen to host the team. During the 18-month pilot, the team will contribute to an external evaluation process that will help to determine the future of the work.

However, to enable recruitment of the team to take place and the work to begin, the council needs to agree to receive funding from the ICB.

The council's Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee has therefore agreed to authorise the request to receive funding of £900,000 to host the team for a period of 18 months.

**Household Financial Hardship**

Proposals to fund support for Cambridgeshire residents experiencing financial hardship were discussed by the Communities, Social Mobility and Inclusion Committee (CoSMIC) Thursday (21 March).

The committee discussed plans to provide Cambridge Housing Society with an additional £150,000 and issue the Citizens Advice Bureau with a grant of £400,000.

This initial spend follows the council's budget setting last month when Full Council approved £2.2m to fund anti-poverty work across the county and support the council's ambition of helping people out of poverty.

Since October 2021, the council has been receiving money from the national Household Support Fund (HSF). The current round of HSF runs until 31 March 2024; in the spring budget earlier this month, a six-month extension was announced to run from April to September 2024. This funding extension will be considered at a future meeting of the Strategy, Resources and Performance Committee.

The HSF scheme has been complemented by work delivered by the Citizens Advice Bureau in the form of income maximisation and the Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme, delivered by Cambridge Housing Society.

Cambridgeshire Local Assistance Scheme works with Cambridge and District Citizens Advice Bureau, Citizens Advice Rural Cambridgeshire, Cambridge Re-Use, The Ferry Project and Cambridgeshire Community Reuse and Recycling Network. They help to identify and reach people and families in crisis and not wait for them to turn up.

The Citizens Advice Bureau's income maximisation work provides income advice, including support with budgeting, as well as helping with some of the practicalities like budget checks and advice on increasing income or reducing spend.

## **District Councillors Report**

### **Zero Carbon Communities Grant**

The 2024 application window for Zero Carbon Communities Grants has now opened and runs until 2 June. Zero Carbon Communities Grants aim to empower community groups and parish councils to take local action on climate change.

As before, projects fall under two themes: reducing carbon emissions or locking up carbon, and community engagement around climate change. Grants of between £2,000 and £15,000 are available to parish councils and community groups in South Cambridgeshire, with a total pot of £125,000 available.

In previous rounds, grants have been awarded to Fowlmere & Shepreth Village Halls for energy-efficient lighting and solar panels, to Fowlmere Parish Council for bicycle stand installation, and to Foxton Parish Council for wildflower habitat renewal. More information on the scheme and previous successful applications can be found on the web site.

I encourage parish councils and community groups within the ward to apply as these grants can fund an exciting range of community projects with an environmental focus. There is a grant application workshop for those considering applying on 24 April 2024, from 7–8:30pm (sign up via Eventbrite). You can also email [zcc@scams.gov.uk](mailto:zcc@scams.gov.uk) for support.

Applications close on Sunday 2 June at 5pm.

### **Mobile Warden Schemes**

This year's budget included an allocation of £100,000 for the council's funding of Mobile & Community Warden Schemes. These have been set up in South Cambridgeshire to help older people to live independently in their homes and in the community they know. They are complementary to statutory care services and do not duplicate or replace the medical or social care services that individuals may also require. They can help to combat loneliness and social isolation, and can provide significant benefits to clients at relatively low cost. They are seen by clients and their families as a vital community-based service. There are various operational models, and parish councils may run or support the schemes. There are currently no Mobile Warden Schemes in Foxton Ward. For more information, or to apply for funding for 2024/25, please see the Mobile Warden pages on the web site.

### **Proactive action on fly tipping**

This year's budget also included a provision for two new environmental crime officers, and these have now been appointed. This additional investment in improving the quality of our rural environment is designed to allow the council to be more proactive in dealing with fly tipping and related environmental crime.

### **Office for National Statistics new web portal**

The Office for National Statistics has launched a new web portal to a wide range of local statistics, including data from the latest census in 2021 at parish level. This can provide convenient visualisation of data for each parish, ranging from basic demographic information up to occupation details and travel habits. Comparisons with wider areas are included. This is valuable foundation material for developing a Community-Led Plan or Neighbourhood Plan that has not previously been available in such a convenient visual form.

### **Digital transformation funding for planning**

Greater Cambridge Shared Planning (GCSP) has secured £100,000 of funding from the Department of Levelling Up, Homes and Communities in the latest Digital Planning Improvement round. It will be used as part of the digital transformation to improve planning services for residents.

The funding will enhance GCSP's digital capabilities and development management software, facilitating smoother operations and better integration of planning data. These upgrades will make planning processes faster and more efficient, benefitting residents. Moreover, it will enable GCSP to prepare for forthcoming legislation, ensuring compliance and readiness for future regulatory changes.

### **Biodiversity net gain now applies to small developments.**

On 2 April, the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs announced that the planning requirement for biodiversity net gain is now mandatory for small developments. It has applied to major developments since February. 'Small developments' means those with fewer than 9 houses, on less than 1 hectare of land.

### **50th anniversary celebration**

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of South Cambridgeshire District Council and this milestone was celebrated with a special event in March that included a tree planting, a dance performance and a reflection on the achievements of the past half century. More details, including photographs and a retrospective covering key events since the formation of the council in 1974, can be found in this news article.

<https://www.scams.gov.uk/golden-anniversary-for-south-cambridgeshire-district-council/>

