The Annual Meeting of the Parish of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL Under the Chairmanship of Cllr Simon Dring

Venue: Date: Time: Chairman: Parish Councillors: Clerk / Proper Officer: County Councillor: District Councillor: Members of the Public: Start Time: Village Hall 13th May 2022 7:30pm Cllr Dring Ridge, Clements, Leitch, Pine Sarah Scott Apologies sent Cllr James Hobro 7 Members of the public 7:37pm

1.Apologies for Absence

Cllr Hatt Cllr McDonald The Head of Fowlmere School The Children's Playground and Youth Group representatives

2. To Approve the Previous Minutes Annual Meeting of the Parish (2020)

These were approved.

3. Chairman's Report (report 1)

4. Financial Report, including the Chishill Charity

There Clerk reported that the finances are in good shape. She thanked our Internal Auditor, Jeff Gill for his assistance.

At Christmas a monetary gift had been given to some residents in the Village from the Chishill Charity and they had passed on their thanks.

5. Reports by the County Councillor and District Councillors (reports 2 and 3)

A question was raised about the lack of water in SCDC. Cllr Hobro commented that SCDC is in charge of housing and not water supply and the water companies are responsible for the sustainably of water supply and that in time, water will be piped into the area. He added that the growth plan was for 37,00 new houses and not 49,000 (as had been reported).

The issue of 20mph speed limits was by a member of the public. They said that actually they can contribute to more accidents and addressing speeding (police etc) was the only deterrent. Some people will always speed, if a 20mph limit was appropriate then highways grants will be available. It was not thought that traffic calming was appropriate due to the costs and street lighting associated with these schemes. A member of the public commented that they would not like extra lighting. A new flashing sign would cost about £2-3K and it was universally felt that it was not worth the investment although ones that flash up numberplates might be more effective.

The Chair read out Cllr McDonald's report.

6.Report from FowImere School (report 4)

8.Report and Election of Representatives to the Playing Fields Committee (report 5)

In addition to the report, Alan Ferrie spoke about how communication was conveyed during Covid to keep the playing fields maintained. He also said that they had lost some committee members. He also spoke of a potential redevelopment plan and is currently looking at applying for grants and also 'match grants'.

A member of the public asked if dogs are a nuisance. The answer was generally 'no' and dogs cannot be banned from the area as there is a footpath across the playing field. At the moment it is fox and badger poo that is an issue!

9.A Report from the Village Hall Committee (report 6)

A universal plea was made to please do not change the chairs! It was noted that it was a shame that Chishill Chimps is no longer running and that people were unwilling to take it on. A member of the public commented that he thought that the village hall hire price was a little high and that he had lost money due to a cancelled event. It was commented that the prices are guided by Acre and that our Hall actually offers very attractive rates.

12.Report on Windmill (report 7)

13.Report of Children's Playground / Youth Group (reports 8 and 9)

Phil Maynard spoke about the Church Bell restoration project and how most of the money raised had come from the community. He was congratulated on how well he had done and what amazing achievement it was.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 20:34.

REPORTS

The Chairmans Report (report 1)

Good evening everyone and welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Parish.

As some of you may know, all Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting

The main purpose of this meeting is for the Council to report what it has been doing over the last year and to give the electors (i.e. you) an opportunity to hear about the work of the Council and its associated committees.

At the meeting an Annual Report is given by the Chairman of the Council and by each of the Chairs of the Council's Committees and organisations in the village. The written reports will be made available in the Minutes of the meeting and will be presented to you tonight.

Firstly I will provide the Chairman's Report, summarising some matters in which the Parish Council have been engaged over the last 12 months.

Chairman's Report 13 May 2022

Finance

The PC finances remain healthy and prudently managed, always maintaining a reserve of at least half a year's precept in line with good practice. The clerk will report more detail in a moment, and any one of you are welcome to review the finance papers published after every meeting if you would like more detail.

This year the PC took the decision to keep the precept at the same level as in previous years, maintaining the PC's annual income at £23,500. We took this decision to try to do what little we could to help avoid raising costs for those in the community and because through our careful management over the last year have managed to increase the funds held in reserve, demonstrating that there is no immediate need for more income.

The purpose of the money raised through the precept is obviously to benefit the whole parish. Arguably the PC's most important job is therefore to distribute that money to support the community groups and projects that benefit the community in all manner of ways (and about which you will hear more over the course of the evening).

Planning

When it came to small developments within the village, the PC continued to receive and review our steady small stream of applications this year (there were 9 in total), trying, as we always do, to maintain a consistent and unbiased approach to comments on planning applications.

We have also kept our eye on the larger topics with respect to planning.

Many of you will be aware that SCDC is putting together a new Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan, which considers how best to develop and support the entire area over the next decade or so, it covers many topics, but one of the most carefully considered is the availability of sufficient land to meet the projected housing needs of the area.

Whilst the plan is still going through the fairly slow process of reviewing and updating, it has been issued in draft form, and the current draft has no sites selected for development in our parish, which is pleasingly as the council wanted. There are further rounds of review or feedback before this plan is finalised, so we continue to monitor progress and feed in the perspective of the Parish.

You will almost all have also seen the issue of a questionnaire by land agents on behalf of the owners of Wright Meadow, Bull Meadow and the field between Colts Croft and Wallers Close. As things stand, these sites fall outside the areas of allowed development, and if the Local Plan were adopted in its current form, they would continue to fall outside the areas of allowed development. However, landowners are always keeping an eye on opportunities that may arise, hence the questionnaire.

The PC has an open and amicable, if slow, dialogue with the land agents who are acting on behalf of the land owner to represent your views, and will keep you informed should anything else be forthcoming.

Highways

One perennial area of focus for the PC is trying to keep the highways and paths around us in a reasonable state. We do not always succeed in getting action from the County Council to address the issues we raise, but rest assured we are trying as hard as we can.

One thing of particular interest to us at the moment is the possibility of introducing a 20mph limit into the village - something that might be made a lot easier for us and that could help mitigate the levels of speeding.

Thanks

I would now like to issue some thanks to those who keep the community and the PC running.

Thanks to our District Councillors. Firstly to Cllr Deborah Roberts who always lent her advice and insight, particularly on planning matters. She was not returned in the most recent election, and we welcome a new District Councillor James Hobro. And to Councillor Peter MacDonald who works on our behalf, often to wrangle the Highways department to improve roads and pathways. You will hear his report later.

Now let's turn to some parishioners who have contributed to the quality of village life. First, thanks to Will Parsons who does such a great job of putting out a friendly newsletter to the entire village every month.

We would also like to thank Peter Johnstone who keeps the flower beds at the crossroads tidy, and has done an enormous amount of litter picking all around the area.

There are many other community groups who make a difference to village life, and you will hear from some of them over the course of the evening, thanks to all such groups and their members.

Finally, I'd like to express my thanks to my fellow Parish Council colleagues who volunteer their time to come together to do good work in support of the villages and community. Cllrs Jean Wiseman and Susie Harrison chose to stand down at the most recent election, and I thank them for their many years of service. I'm also pleased to welcome Cllr Jenny Leitch to the PC.

Finally I'd like to express my thanks to the omnipresent Sarah in her role as Parish Clerk, and who works many unseen hours to ensure the smooth running of the PC and many elements of village life.

If you have any questions about the work of the PC, we would welcome them at the end of individual reports or at the end of the evening.

County Councillor (report 2)

I have represented Duxford Division since February 2020 which includes Duxford, Hinxton, Ickleton, Babraham, Pampisford, Foxton, Fowlmere, Shepreth, Thriplow, Heathfield, Heydon, Chishills, Whittlesford.

The key change in Cambridgeshire occurred in May 2021 with a change to a new Joint Administration. The Council has an inherited gap of £80m+ over 5 years in its budget which it is now addressing. The JA agreement is here https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/cambridgelibdems/pages/5179/attachments/o riginal/1620984611/County_agreement_2021_FINAL.pdf?1620984611

The Joint Administration proposes in 2022/23 to raise the County Council share of council tax by 4.99% (3% council tax plus 1.99% for Adult Social Care). That will mean an extra charge of £1.04 per week for a Band B, and £1.19 for a Band C household. More than half of all homes in Cambridgeshire are in these two bands.

In Highways the JA priorities are stated as:

- "We will focus on modal shift to encourage more residents out of their cars, along with infrastructure development, the encouragement
 of sustainable travel, and securing safe routes and connections for pedestrians and cyclists.
- We will consult communities openly and transparently on highways projects that affect them We will seek to invest more in road, footway, and cycleway maintenance and routine gulley clearance, and end the freeze on residents' parking schemes.
- We will continue to work on ways in which we can limit HGVs rat-running through villages and urban communities.
- In partnership with local communities, we will make the option of 20MPH zones more widely available, and easier to obtain."

Outside of Highways the focus in on an evaluation of 'This Land' – the Council property company which has been loaned £120m. It is also bringing forward a report on the award of a County Council farm tenancy to the Previous Deputy leader Roger Hickford who resigned and left the Council.

My responsibilities are serving on:

- Highways Committee as Chair,
- Strategy & Resources,
- Fire Authority and
- County Farms Group as a member

Currently we are working on 20 mph implementation, Civil Parking Enforcement and HGV strategy to mitigate impacts of HGV on local villages.

District Councillor's Report for Fowlmere Annual Parish Meeting (report 3)

It is just 21/2 weeks since the elections which marked the renewal of the 4-year electoral cycle for South Cambs District Council. Although I may bring a new face as District Councillor, I hope that I can provide some continuity for FowImere, having served for the past 2 years on the Parish Council. I would like to begin by thanking my predecessor, Cllr Roberts, for her many years of hard work as District Councillor. As we are now just

beginning another 4-year term for the District Council, I wanted to highlight a few key achievements of the past 4 years, to help give an idea of how your Council Tax has been spent, beyond emptying our bins and managing planning applications.

WE HAVE ADOPTED a new an equality scheme, a Bio diversity strategy, ZC strategy. an Air quality strategy

WE HAVE MOVED 10 council services online

WE HAVE HELPED find homes for Syrian, Afghan and Ukrainian refugees 2000 businesses with visits from our High Streets Team

WE HAVE CREATED a toolkit for community led plans

community recycling and waste reduction resource pack the On Your Doorstep campaign to help local shops

WE HAVE GIVEN £43.9 million in government Covid grants £78,000 to support work with young people. 70 grants to covid groups £58,000 in Community Chest grants a year ZC Community grants totalling over £300,000 free trees grants for almost 600 trees £1.4 mil to 102 businesses to help them grow. £164,000 to voluntary groups 900 hot meals over the covid Christmas period most recently £150 Council Tax rebate for everyone in properties in Band A-D (already given for Direct Debit payers)

WE HAVE MADE £5mil per year from our investments and saved £200,000 per year. (keeping Council Tax down in the light of cuts in funding from central government)

WE HAVE BOUGHT 3 electric Bin lorries mobile air quality monitors

WE HAVE LAUNCHED a Visit South Cambs website

WE HAVE CHANGED all our street lights to LEDs

WE HAVE BUILT 189 council houses

WE HAVE SPENT £1.5 mil to make council houses more energy efficient

WE HAVE WON 2 environmental awards during the past year

One of the most significant developments in the past few months is the consultation on the First Proposals for the new Local Plan, which took place in November. This plan will regulate development in Cambridge & South Cambs for the period 2030–41. The new Local Plan is designed to provide a sustainable path to meet the expected economic growth in the Cambridge area throughout the 2030s.

This plan focuses almost all new development on a small number of sites in Cambridge, Cambourne, Northstowe and Waterbeach. These developments are supported by proposals for high- quality infrastructure to ensure that these growing communities are well provided for by schools, medical services, public transport and other amenities. The plan has moved development away from rural parts of the district, with only 384 new homes added in village sites, none of which are in Foxton Ward.

In support of the Local Plan, the council is encouraging Parishes to produce their own formal Neighbourhood Plans. These are produced by Parish Councils in consultation with the village, normally taking around 2 years to research and produce. They help to provide legal support for the ambitions of each village and regulate local development in line with the Local Plan produced at District Council level. Foxton Parish produced a formal Neighbourhood Plan and voted to adopt it in July last year. Heydon has just produced a Community Led Plan, which is a step towards a formal Neighbourhood Plan.

More recently, South Cambridgeshire communities have stepped forward to help those fleeing Ukraine, with figures showing that the area has had the highest number of visas issued for any District Council, and the seventh highest figure for any area in England. The District Council has been arranging payments for guests and hosts, and managing DBS checks and in-person visits to confirm that properties are suitable. Several families have been matched with host families in Fowlmere, and the first of these have already arrived.

The District Council is keeping the community supporting Ukrainians in South Cambridgeshire connected via regular bulletin updates and has established online communities and webinars to bring together both hosts and guests. Many effective local groups have sprung up, in person and online. In Fowlmere, a community support group is being coordinated by the vicar and churchwardens at St Mary's Church. The District Council is working hard to make sure that support is there when it is needed. This is a tremendous response from our village in supporting Ukrainians in their time of need and I feel honoured to be representing a community that is giving so generously in response to this crisis.

Fowlmere School (report 4)

Fowlmere Primary has had an interesting year over the past twelve months. Last Summer, Mr Atkin took the decision to resign so I was asked to be the Interim Head to allow Governors time to find a substantive Headteacher who would be right for the school. I came to the school with over 15 years experience of Headship through working in Norfolk.

During the Summer term last year we were able to welcome our pupils back into school and life returned to some sort of normality. We still had restrictions in place but we were able to hold the Year 6 Leavers Assembly outside and invite the parents to this.

September was a new start for the school, there were several staff changes. Our Reception children settled in really well and soon became used to a busy school day. We had a new curriculum for some subjects and this has supported the teachers in ensuring the correct skills and knowledge are taught and there is progression across the year groups.

Our intake in September was low, therefore our school numbers dropped, we had 104 pupils, now we have 100. This could significantly impact on an already tight budget. This is a concern to the school and we are looking to gain more pupils where we can, although this September we have fewer coming into Reception than leaving in Year 6.

This year the school has been working hard to ensure the children have the support they need and teachers are looking to fill any gaps in learning that may have occurred through two years with lockdowns, which for some children is quite a significant chunk of their education. We have noticed that we fit with the national profile where research has evidenced that year groups that appear to have been most affected are year one and year three. Year three entered into Key stage two having only had half of their Key Stage one learning face to face in school.

The staff at Fowlmere continue to work hard to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all of our children, we were unfortunately hit by Covid in February – we were feeling quite smug as we had had very few cases! Within a week we had two thirds of the school off with Covid and several of their family members too. Thankfully no one was seriously ill. During this time we put all the learning back on line as several children showed few symptoms. The disruption lasted for about three weeks.

At the moment, all seem fit and healthy, our year 6 cohort have completed their SAT's, the first SAT's that have been administered in over two years. They had a very mature attitude and the tests were completed without any tears.

The school looks forward to the Governors appointing a substantive Headteacher and they are also in the process of appointing a new teacher for our younger children. This will support the school in continuing on it's journey to provide the best they possibly can for the children at the school.

Trudi Sharred - Interim Headteacher

Playing Field Association (Report 5)

With the pandemic ongoing for much of last year we continued to allow groups to use the facilities adhering to the measures that we put in place the previous year. These were updated in line with government advice at that time.

To deal with any business, we used a mixture of e-mail and distant face to face meetings.

As regulations eased, the nursery was able to start up again and we were also able to host a couple of cycling events. Unfortunately the Saffron Walden under 13 football team gained the use of a 4G football pitch, which meant they no longer had any need for our pitch.

We are currently speaking with Royston Town football club about the possibility of an under 18 girls football using the football pitch from September 2022.

With careful cost control our financial situation remains good. In light of the recent increase in the cost of electricity and water we have had to increase the cost of hiring the facilities. We are continually reviewing our costs which may mean we have to increase our hire charges if our costs rise further.

Last year I mentioned that we had won a competition for a company to draw up some plans to redevelop the pavilion. As a result of Covid this has taken a lot longer than anybody anticipated. When rules finally allowed, myself, Martin Hague (cricket club chair) and Alastair Cockerton met up with the representatives from Studio8fold and ARUP structures and together we came up with a number of potential proposals. These were named Bronze, Silver and Gold and ranged from modest changes to a complete redesign of the area. Rough costs were also calculated as part of the package.

We have shared these ideas with the parish council, village hall committee and the playground committee. With Covid still being prevalent until fairly recently it has stalled any real progress. We are hoping to get a plan together shortly to get some more momentum behind this project.

I would like to make it clear that any structural changes to the pavilion will not come cheaply and will require significant amounts of money. Our plan would be to raise as much money as we can from grants from as many sources as we can. Our research has shown that almost all grants which are on offer are matching grants. So, for example, if we raise £20K we could get a number of other £20K grants. Our initial thoughts from looking at the concepts is that the proposals suggested in the bronze package are the most realistic.

If we decided to progress with this redevelopment the cost would be £100K+ which means a substantial amount of money will need to be raised by the village.

I will keep the parish council appraised of any developments

In recent weeks the playing field has been extensively used, with the cricket club running Saturday morning sessions for children, and men's cricket in the afternoon.

We are appreciative of the grant given to us by the parish council.

THANK YOU.

I would like to express my thanks to all our volunteers who have helped maintain the playing fields. Tim Scott for cutting the grass in The Plaistow. Peter Wiseman for his help in keeping our grass cutting equipment running.

Current Committee Members

Alan Ferrie CHAIR/SECRETARY Jeff Gill VICE CHAIR/TREASURER Martin Hague. CC REP Alastair Cockerton CC REP Angus Gent. CC REP

Like the other committees we are struggling to get volunteers to join us. I have been speaking with other groups to see how we can work together to support these wonderful facilities.

I hope that you will adopt this proposal.

Great & Little Chishill Village Hall (Report 6)

When we presented our report the Parish a year ago the hall had been closed for large parts of the year, and when we could open, this was only on a very limited basis.

We are, therefore, delighted to report that things have been gradually returning to normal this year. Our exercise, dance and kick-boxing groups ran 'on and off' throughout the pandemic, but other groups were only able to come back after Covid restrictions eased in July 2021. From that point onwards, the hall has been getting busier and busier. The Antiques Fair returned in August last year, followed by Youth Club in September and now the WI, bowls club and badminton club are back using the hall again. A new yoga class has started on Monday evenings too.

We've also seen the return of some popular village events this year – the Cricket Club Dinner in November and Crafts on the Hill in December - as well as several successful fundraising events. These include the St Patrick's Day Dance in aid of The Parish and the Village Slide Show last month in aid of the Bell Restoration Fund. Since February, we've also seen an increase in bookings for private events and children's parties.

On a sad note, we were sorry to see Chishill Chimps close earlier this year, after running for so many years in the hall, and very much hope a new parent and toddler group will come along in the future.

Even though our hire income fell considerably over the last couple of years, the hall remains in good financial shape. The Parish Council kindly supported us with another grant this year, and we also received some additional Covid funding through South Cambridgeshire District Council. These grants made up for lost revenue during Covid and have allowed us to cover essential maintenance and overheads during the year. It also means that we can continue to offer the hall for use by village residents at very favourable rates of hire.

We are also progressing with our plans to make improvements to the hall. One of our key priorities is to update the main kitchen by renewing the cooker and fridge, as these are getting quite old now, and making small improvements to how the kitchen is laid out. We are also looking into replacing our existing chairs with lighter weight, folding chairs and storage trolleys. We'd love to hear ideas from all our users on any other improvements they'd like to see. Do send us your suggestions and we will look at what's possible.

There have been no changes to the committee over the past year. The current members are: Andrew Brown, Anna Coney, John Crawley, Andrea Hamblin, Gillian Philpott, Rebecca Pine and Nigel Russell. As ever, we'd love new people to join us, so please get in touch if you're interested and we'll tell you a bit more.

Lastly, I'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone on the committee for everything they do to help keep the hall in good shape. And to pass on our thanks to everyone who's booked the hall this year. It's wonderful to see it being so well used again!

Anna Coney

Chair, Great & Little Chishill Village Hall Charity

Report to GLCPC of the Activities of the Windmill Trust (report 7)

The Windmill Trust remains in good shape and has a carefully managed fund to address the ongoing routine maintenance and future expenditure.

In 2021, the restoration of the self-winding tail assembly was completed. It was proposed to let the mill begin automatic turning into wind on July 4th 2021 with a celebratory gathering that was dubbed 'Windependence Day'. As Covid restrictions on the allowed size of gatherings were still in place, this was postponed until August 15th. This was a most uplifting village event attended by young and old who were entertained by live music and supplied with a picnic to enjoy in the sun. Visitors could take guided tours of the inside of the mill and the highlight of the afternoon was the release of the fantail that drove the mill gently into wind. It has continued to do so ever since, and the intention is to keep it maintained so that this is its permanent state.

Since then, the small number of finishing touches and alterations required to complete the restoration to a sustainable level have been only slowly approached and some still remain, though we are promised that this month will see their conclusion.

Our current main objective is to keep the mill in good order both mechanically and in appearance. To this end, we have contracts with a gardener (Peter Johnson) and our millwright (Bill Griffiths) that has them attending site on a regular basis. We are also planning regular cleaning and

repainting and are building our maintenance fund accordingly. The grant from the Parish Council is greatly appreciated as contributing significantly to this fund and we all thank you very much for your support.

We are also slowly building a 'sinking fund' to provide financial cover for the inevitable large repairs that will occur and are having discussions on future possible projects, including potentially working sails and stones and even an expansion of the site to accommodate toilet and refreshment facilities.

We love to show our windmill to visitors, in fact it was a condition of the Historic England grant that we should. We have a small visits team and have set up a series of open days, but we do need more volunteer guides. The windmill is also frequently photographed, and we are collecting a fine gallery of images, many of which are shown on our website. We completed a history of the restoration, including numerous work-in-progress photos and have lodged this with National Mills Archive where it is available for study and research.

On a personal note, I should like to thank my fellow Trustees, Jeff Gill, Bob Hatt, Hazel Hayden and John Wahlich, our regular and occasional committee members and all other villagers who have helped in our project over the past eight years. I am about to move to new horizons but will never forget that of the windmill on a hill!

Great Chishill Playground (report 8) Chair: Jenny Isted Secretary: TBC Treasurer: Islay Dring Other Committee Members: Emily Brown, Claire de Froberville

Much of the playground is currently closed due to many of the timbers reaching a state of disrepair. We have a helpful local resident willing to repair the climbing frame and zip wire frame but materials are proving very difficult to source. We hope to get the playground refurbished as soon as possible – this is an ongoing concern.

We are very grateful to the Playing Field Association's grass cutting team who keep it all so neat and tidy.

We continue to work closely with the other village groups, in particular the Children's Christmas Party. In December 2021 this was once again held as an alternative 'Santa on Tour' Christmas float. All the children and families in Gt Chishill and Heydon were visited by Santa and his elves and treated to gifts, music and a cheerful smile and wave. It was a huge success and brought much needed joy to all residents at the end of another challenging year.

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

Gt Chishill Youth Club (report 9) Chairperson: Amy Tait Secretary: Betsy Kagwidzo Treasurer: Emily Brown Youth Workers: Dan Horne and Stephanie Hicks

Great Chishill Youth Club offers a local meeting place for young people aged 10 to 17. Due to the pandemic, the club was closed March 2020 to September 2021.

We very happily re-opened in September 2021 and the club has again become very popular among our young residents.

Dan and Steph continue to be our Youth Workers, supported by extra volunteers on club nights. We are keen to welcome local young people volunteering with us as part of their Duke of Edinburgh awards. As always, we desperately need extra voluntary support. We will be advertising locally for anyone who can offer just a few hours of their time a term

The club continues to offer a variety of activities including lots of sports and games, food and theme nights, fun competitions, cooking, crafts, and specialist evenings such as our most popular Kung Fu and Kickboxing with popular tutor Chris Ellis. We are keen to raise awareness amongst our members about local charities and the needs in the wider community.

Our great thanks go to the Parish Council for their continued funding support, without which we would not be sustainable. Our thanks also to the village hall committee for the continued provision of storage space for our equipment...and their tolerance of the occasional left-over sweet wrapper!