

A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 8th February 2024
Time: 7:30 pm
Chair: Cllr Dring
Parish Councillors: Hall, Hatt, Leitch, Ridge,
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
County Councillor: Not present
District Councillor: Not present
Members of the Public:
Start Time: 7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr McDonald – previous engagement
Cllr Hobro – previous engagement
Cllr Pine – previous engagement
Cllr Clements – previous engagement

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

There were none declared.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 11th January 2024

There was one typo relating to the square footage on a planning application which the Chair amended on the minutes. After this the minutes of 11th January were approved as a true and accurate account of the meeting and were signed by the Chair.

4. Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)

There were no comments on the correspondence.

6. District Councillors Report (already circulated)

Cllr Hall spoke about the pink bin mentioned in the report. The Clerk to enquire about this.

7. Highways / Transport

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (drains, floods, potholes, New Road,) (Cllr McDonald) A working document had been shared to the Parish Council and Cllr McDonald. The proposed meeting with Cllr McDonald and highways has not happened. We are still awaiting updates. It was suggested that we share the highways information at the AMP in May. There was also a comment about the roadside furniture (roundels) which are damaged or fallen over. The Clerk had reported several times all the missing signage heading towards Flint Cross. It was also reported that there are lots of blocked drains in the Parish.

8. Planning

- 24/00379/HFUL – 80 Heydon Road, demolition and replacement of existing side extension – There were no objections.
- Land in Village – there have been no updates.
- North Hall Farm. The Clerk had heard from Chris Braybrooke and they are investigating the site.
- Bridgefoot Farm. This had been reported. A resident from the site had written to say that there were no planning breaches at the café / art gallery and the clad caravan did not belong to them.
- Rabbit Residence. Enforcement had been out and ask the resident of the caravan what they are going to do. Clerk to follow up.
- Wallers Close. The resident with the extension has been told to either remove the extension or apply for planning permission (if this is approved then Council Tax will be payable) within a 21 day period.
- Planning Applications. The Clerk had noted that at present 5 applications had EOT on them which to her seemed unprecedented. Cllr Hall commented that two of them had this because more information had been requested. It was noted two of the other applications were straight forward and it seemed odd that EOT's were required.

9. Finance

- Finance Sheets – there were no comments and these were signed and dated by the Chair.
- A parishioner had cut down a tree which was leaning against a telegraph pole, removed the ivy from the bus shelter, removed ivy from other trees and planted a new tree on the Plaistow. The Clerk asked if the Council could reimburse him and it was agreed. The Parish Council thanked the parishioner for his work.

10. Speed and safety.

- A report on a new speed sign and stickers will be circulated. It was suggested that Cllr Hall speaks to James Coney about the old speed sign and the nalc sockets.
- Cllr Letch said she had received complaints about the mirror. The Clerk asked Cllr Leitch could let the Clerk know when if and when she receives complaints such as this. There had been other favourable comments received about the mirror. Cllr Ridge said he thought it was very good. The Parish Council will review this on an ongoing basis and may look to upgrade the mirror.

11. Giga Clear

There was nothing to report.

12. Promotion of Parish

The Clerk had made contact with the artist in Barley who said he can help us with this project. The Clerk to create a list of landmarks to go on the poster and share this with the Council before sending to the artist.

There was a discussion about the bike race which was due to pass through the village and the possibility of putting extra floral decorations at the crossroads. However during the conversation it would appear that the bike race might be in doubt as the organisers have gone into administration.

13. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

Barley Surgery
Alarms for the vulnerable

There being no further notifiable business the Chair closed the meeting at 20:09

Clr Hobro's report.

Melbourn Greenway update

The Melbourn Greenway is a long-standing project designed to bring active travel enhancements to the route linking Cambridge and Royston via the villages along the A10. The project includes a spur introducing traffic calming between the centre of Foxton and the A10 along Station Road and Shepreth Road. There were consultations on the project in 2019 and 2022. Initial work is due to begin later this month (February 2024) and [detailed plans](#) for this initial phase were published on 16 January.

Significant concerns have been expressed by residents about the details of the scheme design, and the lack of an adequate opportunity to comment on the detailed designs. I have been working with Peter McDonald, our County Councillor, to convey feedback to the GCP team working on the project in the hope of adapting the project to the needs of residents. There was an online meeting on 25 January and GCP officers will be present to discuss the scheme at the meeting of Foxton Parish Council on 5 February.

Many residents have expressed a desire for reduced traffic speed in Foxton, and this was [recorded in the Neighbourhood Plan](#). However, it is important in any scheme like this to consult fully and get the details right. My main priorities have been to ensure that the scheme honours the policies and objectives in the Neighbourhood Plan, the rural character of the village, and the requirements of the Conservation Area.

One issue is the lack in the plans of speed reduction measures on Fowlmere Road, where the danger from speeding traffic is arguably greater than in the roads covered by the scheme. The GCP officers have now agreed to include speed reduction measures for Fowlmere Road in a later phase of the scheme.

Axis Land Partnerships proposal

On 29 January, the development company Axis Land Partnerships published [proposals](#) for a large housing development to the West of the A10 at Foxton Station. The outline proposals included 1500 houses, a country park, education and employment facilities and a bypass for the A10/railway crossing.

It is too early to comment in any detail but I would emphasize that no planning application has been submitted and the site in question is not included in the sites permitted for development in the emerging Local Plan.

Action on Energy

The District Council is urging residents to make use of energy-saving support that they are entitled to, after the recent rise in the energy price cap. In January, energy bills for a typical household using gas and electricity rose by £94 a year. The next price cap will be announced on 23 February.

The Council is part of the [Action on Energy](#) partnership which provides advice, guidance, and support on reducing carbon emissions and increasing home energy efficiency. The scheme offers advice on [Home Upgrade](#), [Boiler Upgrade](#), [ECO4](#) and [Great British Insulation](#) grants.

Electrical appliances recycling bin

In December, the Greater Cambridge Shared Waste Service team launched a new initiative to make recycling small electrical appliances easier. We now have a roaming pink bin which will visit suitable temporary locations so that you can have a clear-out or purge your cupboards of old cables you have been meaning to recycle.

The pink bin was initially deployed in Cottenham, in the village hall car park, and then in Girton, in both cases for several weeks. If you would like it to visit your village, please contact vicky.lacey@scamb.gov.uk. The location needs to have:

- A concrete area to stand the bin on,
- A drop-kerb onto the road,
- A safe, sheltered spot by a fence, wall or railing where it won't be in the way,
- Someone to keep an eye on it and whom we can contact, such as a Parish Clerk,
- Someone who can let the village know the bin is there and what can be put in it

(e.g. post supplied posts on social media & put up posters).

Ermine Street Housing

The Council is proposing to make a further investment in its wholly-owned company Ermine Street Housing of up to £20 million. Ermine Street Housing owns and rents out approximately 530 properties in and around Cambridgeshire and leases around 190 properties from the Ministry of

Defence. It provides the Council with a regular income stream that helps to reduce its dependence on government funding and Council Tax. It also helps to maintain the stock of quality rented accommodation in the district.

One of the aims of the additional investment would be to provide market rental housing to reduce the Council's reliance on expensive Bed & Breakfast accommodation when fulfilling its responsibilities in housing people who are homeless.

Last year, Ermine Street Housing provided the Council with an income of £3.6 million. Forecasts suggest the income for this year will be £4.25 million.

The proposal was discussed by the Scrutiny and Overview Committee in January and will be debated in a Full Council meeting in February.

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