

Minutes of a meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 17th January 2019
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Cllr Dring
Parish Councillors: Clements, Harrison, Ridge, Wiseman, Hatt
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
County Councillors:
District Councillor:
Members of the Public: One member of the public.
Start Time: 7:30

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)
Cllr Pine previous commitment.
2. To receive any declaration of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary Interest of Councillors
Cllr Hatt – Windmill Committee
3. Approval of the Minutes from the meeting on 15th November 2018
These were approved as a true and accurate account of proceedings and were signed and dated by the Chairman.
4. Public Participation.
Mr Dibblee gave an update on the security committee. A report has been circulated prior to the meeting (see appendix 1), which covers the core of what was discussed. It was pointed out that the Parish Council has a power to use funds relating to security and but it is not a statutory duty (Local Government and Rating Act 1997, Section 31). The Parish Council will continue to manage the database and the alerts. The Parish thanked Robin and his team for all the work he had done with this project.
5. Finance – 10 Minutes
 - To set the Precept for 2019/20
Clerk took the Parish Council through requests received for additional funding. A discussion took place about the Parish Councils finances going forward and it was proposed by Cllr Ridge and seconded by Cllr Harrison and unanimously agreed to raise the precept to £23,000.
 - The Chairman signed and date the finance sheets
6. Planning
 - S/4223/18/LD – Dance Studio, lawful development certificate for existing use of main room as dance studio. There were no objections.
 - S/4329/18/OL, Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, Hinxtton. Outline Planning permission for a phased mixed use development of 150,000 square metres including R&D, development office, workspace, general industrial, storage, nursery, conference facility and hotel use, retail, restaurants, leisure use, housing. Whilst the Council welcomed the creation of facilities and jobs, they had concerns about the infrastructure and the impact on the roads in the area. The Chairman to draft a response and circulate to the Council prior to formally commenting.
 - S/4828/18/LD – Certificate of Lawful development for a proposed ground floor extension, 39 Heydon Road. There were no objections.
 - Heydon Grange. There was no further information to date.
 - Colts Crofts. The new property in Colts Croft had different roof tiles than those that were agreed in the planning application. This has been passed over to enforcement.
7. Highways – 10 Minutes
 - Loss of Path. As previously reported, this will be reinstated.
 - The repair of the path on Hall Lane is sub-standard. The Clerk will forward photos to Cllr Topping.
 - Outstanding works, the Clerk is to follow with Cllr Topping
 - White lines on road, the Clerk to audit and follow up with Cllr Topping
8. Light Next to bus shelter
The Clerk to investigate if a new lamp can be fitted; one without the orange hue. There is also one in Reeves Pightle which has the orange lamp.
9. Footpaths (Cllr Hatt)
This is to be bought forward to the next meeting.
10. Security Committee
The Clerk to send out a housekeeping email to see if those subscribed still wish to receive alerts.
Cyber Crime is a big threat at this time and Cllr Ridge is to speak with Peter Homent about how to offer advice.

11. Windmill Committee
Cllr Hatt reported that everything was on target for the opening in June 8th. The sails are done and the progress has been excellent. A question was raised about a path to the windmill. There is one which runs along the fields and behind the houses by the windmill.
12. Lock-up
The Chairman is to speak to the neighbours and show them the plans for the repair. The Chairman has the specifications and the Clerk to obtain quotes for the joinery aspect as we have an accepted quote for the brick work.
13. Utilities
Cllr Hatt had looked into the feasibility of getting gas into the village. This is not possible due to the costs involved (millions of pounds).
14. District and County Councillors Written Reports
There were none received.
15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda – 5 mins
There were none.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:41.

Appendix 1

Security Subcommittee report to Parish Council - January 2019

The subcommittee was set up by the PC in response to security concerns arising from a spate of burglaries in May 2017 which largely were not even reported by the Police. It has been operating for about a year. We feel that we have largely achieved the goals we set at the outset and that it is time to close down the subcommittee and hand responsibility to the Parish Council.

Goals:

Primary focus was on domestic break-ins. Lack of information or follow-up from the police via their ECops system raised anxiety from residents that similar events could occur without their being able to take preventative action. To this end we set the following tasks.

Investigate Neighbourhood Watch as a resource.

Develop links with the Police.

Advise residents informally who had security concerns.

Track all break-ins within or near the village through logging into Ecops daily and Police.UK monthly.

After we analysed crime patterns in S Cambridgeshire, village small-scale break-ins precede a rash.

An early alert email scheme was set up to warn residents.

Outcomes:

NHW – see paper lodged with Parish Clerk

We have discovered no evidence that Neighbourhood Watch schemes reduce burglaries and recent NHW focus has been away from security and toward promoting good citizenship. There are no NHW schemes in Essex or Hertfordshire that we could use for intelligence purposes. NHW focus appears primarily social, in support of Police PR activities.

Police Links:

Regrettably, we have found no proactive Police interest in reducing domestic burglaries apart from drop-ins and talks on security advice (often not evidence-based). This is despite domestic burglaries being one of their 4 priorities in South Cambs. Neighbourhood policing is in name only and our Nominated Officer has not engaged in any crime reduction activity in the village. We have had a number of talks with senior police including the P&C Commissioner and have come to the conclusion that whilst we have not raised the profile of domestic burglaries, we have raised the profile of the village with senior police to the extent that crimes in Chishill are now reported on ECops.

Advice:

We have a number of requests for advice which will be continued informally neighbour-to-neighbour. It has enabled us to gauge that the rationale of the Early Alert scheme is not appreciated by everybody to the extent that even close neighbours of burgled premises in some cases would rather not know, due to the anxiety this would cause. Tracking patterns of crime:

This has been monitored for a year. Encouragingly, where there were a dozen domestic burglaries in 2017, there were none in 2018. In future this can be formally tracked by the Parish Council (best done through Police.uk that maps every reported crime by category and street location).

Formal crime advice (Wine & Crime Evening)

Wine & Crime evening was appreciated by the village and fulfilled our questionnaire commitment.

77 attendees but PC attendance reflected the demographics overall – very few aged under 50.

Nominated Officer did not attend.

Early Alert Scheme:

This is the only on-going activity, which has been diligently managed and executed by the Parish Clerk. We feel this should continue as it has 94 sign-ups, which probably represents ½ of those with email access in the village. The sub-committee will no longer have access to the data-base which means that the access will be restricted to one person. There is some work to be done to allocate names and village addresses to email addresses, to ensure that no outsiders are receiving information on security and it would be good governance to appoint a Great Chishill councillor to have password access and responsibility to Council as a whole, for ensuring quality of the database.

Overall:

The lack of support from the Police reflects a pattern of centralisation and central government priorities across the country and larger village PCs are hiring private security firms to fill the gap. Chishill has neither the resources nor the problems that would make this appropriate. There are

conflicting theories as to the source of the 2017 break-ins which would appear to be an organised gang with East End connections - who hopefully have moved on to other targets.

Robin Dibblee
15/1/19