

A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	17 th March 2022
Time:	7:30pm
Chairman:	Clr Dring
Parish Councillors:	Ridge, Wiseman, Pine, Clements
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	Clr McDonald (part)
District Councillor:	Clr Roberts
Members of the Public:	
Start Time:	7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Clrs Hatt and Clements – prior engagements. These were approved.

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

There were none received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 13th January 2022 (already circulated)

These were approved as an accurate account of the business transacted and were duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation.

To allow up to 10 minutes for any members of the public and Councillors declaring a pecuniary and non pecuniary interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting. There were no members of the public present.

5. Correspondence Received

Reports had been circulated relating to correspondence and there were no comments to add.

6. Planning – 15 Minutes

- 22/00519/HFUL – 5 Colts Croft. The Council had no comments on this application. There had been no comments submitted to the Parish Council; it was agreed that the Council will recommend approval.
- LDF – consultation: Clr Roberts said that this ongoing and we should hear more later in the year. The Clerk asked if there would be a further final consultation with Parishes as last time (last time the Parish Council submitted protected vista's and green spaces etc). She said that there would be.
- Rectory Farm, Little Chishill, (amended from Great Chishill): The Clerk read out an email from Mr Sexton and the Clerk to follow up.
- Campsite, Lynchets Farm. Again the Clerk had emailed Mr Sexton (note: Clr McDonald was not at this part of the meeting and unable to comment). The Clerk to chase.
- North Hall Farm: The Clerk to pass on contact details to the Chair to make contact to discuss this and Bridgefoot Farm.
- Land in village: The developers had indicated that they would be sending out a simple questionnaire to all parishioners. Clr Robert raised concerns about this and had received an email from the developers. She said that they were going about this the wrong way around. She said a survey needs to be undertaken to see if there is a need for further housing. Cambridge Acre can undertake this or we could speak to the housing department to see if this can be done. Clr Roberts went on to suggest inviting Paul Sexton to a meeting to talk about it and look at the needs of the village. The Chairman to follow this up.
Clr McDonald added that the 5 year land supply is robust and larger developers are 'flying kites' and chip away at smaller sites to create a way forward for larger sites.

7. Finance

- Finance Sheets (already circulated). There were approved. The Chairman asked about the annual audit and this is in hand.
- Petanque Piste. As the site is not on public land this could pose an issue in terms of offering some funds. It was suggested that representative /s of the club attend the next meeting
- Dog Poo Signs. After discussion it was decided that no further dog poo signs were needed near the chalk pit.

8. Highways – 10 Minutes

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (path, white lining, drains). It was reported that the drains are still an issue. Clr McDonald again mentioned that there is a county wide scan of all the gullies being undertaken and then these will be categorised. Clr Wiseman said there may be a collapsed drain, Clr McDonald will arrange for a team to come and put a camera down the drains. It was reported that this issue is causing damage on the road and it is very warn at the sides. It was suggested that Cambridgeshire Highways need to liaise with Essex highways on this issue. Clr McDonald said he would make sure that this would happen. It was also reported that May Street needed looking at too.
- Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill. Clr Ridge is to double check so see if the bollards have been removed. He reported that the drains are now blocked again and the road surface is very poor and breaking up. There is also an exposed manhole on the road between May Street to Little Chishill which is a danger to road users. Clr McDonald to follow this up.
- Straw lorries from Langley. There is still a big stack on the site and there are 2/3 enforcement issues lodge with Uttlesford (who is now in special measures).
- Speeding – investigate possible 20mph limited in Hall Lane. Moving forward County will put in a separate budget for a new scheme for £400k a year for 20mph schemes. This is due to be published in July as Local Highways Initiative. If we wish to proceed, we will need to pitch for a new scheme in the village. The Council to look into this in July.
- A discussion took place about the extension of the path so it finished opposite the village hall. This is not a significant path (a few metres) and it could be extended from Wallers Close on SCDC's land. The clerk to send images to Clr Roberts. It was suggested that the idea of a path into the playing fields was suggested to the group who are proposing a refit of the playing fields area.

Item not on the agenda: Ukraine funds – Peter McDonald updated the council regarding housing families from the Ukraine. There is a family in the village who are investigating housing a family and Clr McDonald will send more information when he receives it.

9. Jubilee Tree's Initiative

The Clerk to liaise with The Pheasant with regard to handing out plug trees to the children. She will source the plugs and create an instruction sheet.

10. Lock-Up

Clr Ridge has one quote in which is quite expensive, he will obtain another quote.

11. Bench Near Chalk Pit – Community Chest Grant

The Clerk had been to the site and commented that the base is now in. She will order a bench.

12. Gygabites Broadband

Clr Clements had amended the minutes which explained the scheme more accurately.

13. Council Elections

The Clerk has been forwarding information as and when she received it. The Election notice should be displayed on the noticeboard on 28th March. Cllrs Harrison and Wiseman are regrettably standing down this year. They were thanked for their help over the years.

14. District and County Councillors Written Reports – 10 Minutes

Cllr Roberts voiced her concerns and dismay that SCDC decided to raise their part of the Council Tax this year and had told them that she was not in agreement with the proposal. Added to this Council House rents had a 4.1% increase this year too. She said it would appear that money is being spend freely at SCDC with £1.5million going on heat source pumps, new light fittings, a new café, new furniture and £60k on new laptops.

15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda – 5 mins

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 were no new items put forward.

There being no further business the chairman closed the meeting at 8:50pm.

Cambridgeshire County Report

Secondary School Places

The proportion of pupils offered a place at one of their preferred Cambridgeshire secondary schools has risen. In total, 90% of pupils have received a place at their first choice school for 2022/23, similar to the 90.9% figure from this time last year. Moreover, 97.2% of pupils were allocated a spot at either their first, second or third preference school, a rise from 97% last year. Overall, 6,983 offers were made, up from 6,819. There were more online applications and fewer paper applications in 2022. Students heard on 1 March 2022 at which secondary school they have been offered a place in September 2022.

Easter Programme for Children

Enriching experiences and a nutritious lunch are being made available in the Easter holidays for the children of families receiving benefits-related free school meals.

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers fun with friends and free food for primary and secondary school children in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities or sports and the opportunity to socialise with other children. Any child receiving benefits-related free school meals is eligible for the programme. Funded by the Department for Education (DfE), the HAF scheme enables local authorities to coordinate free holiday childcare and enriching experiences locally. The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council.

Each eligible child will be able to access up to 16 hours of free holiday childcare or enriching experiences through the school Easter holiday period. Further information can be found at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/haf and Early Years & Childcare | Peterborough Information Network

As part of the HAF programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and enriching play opportunities or new experiences that provide children with new skills and knowledge.
- At least one meal a day.
- Guidance on healthy eating and getting children involved in food preparation and cooking.
- Support for parents, carers or other family members with guidance on how to source, prepare and cook nutritious and low-cost food.

Information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful.

Both councils are working with local schools, voluntary and community organisations, and childcare providers to deliver the HAF programme.

Highways Capital Spending

The 2 year capital plan including footways and paths is here [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

The priority schemes are listed here [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Flooding

A new plan to reduce the risk of flooding in Cambridgeshire over the next five years has been approved by Members of the county council's Environment & Green Investment Committee agreed the Cambridgeshire Flood Risk Management Strategy and supporting action plan at its meeting on Thursday. The council is responsible for developing, maintaining and applying a local flood risk management strategy (LFRMS) for the county.

The key objectives of the strategy are: understanding flood risk in Cambridgeshire, managing the likelihood of flooding, helping residents to manage their own risk, ensuring appropriate development in Cambridgeshire and improving flood prediction, warning and post flood recovery.

The newly agreed strategy and action plan will run until 2027 and was agreed following a public consultation which lasted for nearly two months until late January.

The consultation received 31 responses, which led to changes in areas including: greater reference to the natural and historic environment, greater representation of local flooding issues, the impact of new development on flood risk, communication with the community and more details around timescales.

The strategy and action plan are included in the meeting's agenda, which can be viewed here.

[Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#)

Residents can check their flood risk by using the online flood maps to check whether they're at risk of flooding at <https://www.gov.uk/check-flooding>.

Ethics & Behaviour at the County Council

You may be aware of 'Farmgate' whereby an independent investigation concluded that the former Cambridgeshire County Council deputy leader breached the Council's Code of Conduct in six different areas. Ex-Councillor Hickford failed to treat Officers and others acting on behalf of the Council with respect; used a bullying manner in order for the Council to pay for works that would otherwise be the responsibility of the tenant. He also used a bullying manner in order to set the terms of the lease for Manor Farm. He compromised Officers and others' impartiality in his dealings with regard to Manor Farm and his conduct towards Officers and others and his conflict of interest would have reduced the public's confidence in him being able to fulfil his role or the Council being able to discharge its functions.

He also used his position as Deputy Leader to receive concessions that the Council would not otherwise have agreed to and failed to register a disclosable pecuniary interest (the tenancy of Manor Farm) within 28 days and he failed to declare a non-statutory disclosable interest in meetings with regard to County Farms matters. Obviously one bad apple is a bad apple too many so the Council is taking a wide range of steps to ensure that appalling behaviour such as this will never be tolerated again by officers or Councillors.

Thakeham

Seems the OxCam Arc is dead for now and Thakeham seems to be quiet.

County Farms Estate

Cambridgeshire County Council has been advertising for new tenants for seven council-owned farms, part of the council's 33,000 acre rural estate. The council's estate – the largest public sector estate in the country – is divided into 226 holdings, with 160 different tenants. The seven farms up for application, 1,800 acres in total, are in South Cambridgeshire, Fenland and Littleport. Interest is high, with 67 viewings booked by mid-February. The estate brings in £5M in rent to the council each year, to support local services. It contributes to the local economy, enables the council to put its environmental commitments into practice, and ensure public access to the countryside with permissive paths and bridleways.

The council is looking for innovative, entrepreneurial applicants with new ideas for developing their own businesses on the land. These could well be arable or livestock farming, but there are also opportunities for ancillary enterprises such as livery, farm shops or engineering.

Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the necessary skills and a viable three-year business plan and budget. They will also need to show that they understand the council's expectations for the farms estate, and in particular are keen to farm in step with nature and do their bit to help tackle climate change and increase biodiversity.

Interviews will take place this month, and tenancies will be ready to take up from October onwards. The council has published a brochure about this opportunity,

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/business/business-with-the-council/rural-business-opportunities>

Peter McDonald
Mach 6th 2022