

MINUTES OF A MEETING

GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 18th November 2013
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Harrison, Ridge, Coney, Murgatroyd
County Councillor: Van den Ven
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott

Actual start time: 7:35

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr Dring - Business meeting
Cllr Erskine - Previous commitment
Cllr Barrett – Previous commitment
Cllr Hales – Previous commitment

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

There were none declared.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 16th October (already circulated)

It was resolved that these were a true account of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public in attendance

5. Finance Report

The Clerk took the meeting through the finance sheets and these were agreed by the Council and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting discussed outgoing monies for the rest of the financial year and we will end the year with approximately £28k in reserves, which was similar to last year. It was proposed by Cllr Harrison and seconded by Cllr Murgatroyd and unanimously resolved that the Precept should stay the same for the year 2014/15 at £22,500.

The Chairman and Vice Chairman signed a S106 agreement relating to Bridgefoot Farm Kennels for £2,244.90 for off-site provision and future maintenance of public open space infrastructure and £371 towards indoor community facilities.

It was agreed that the Parish Council offer Little Chishill Church a grant of £750 which will go towards the cost of the installation of a French Drain. This is the same amount that the Parish Council gave to St Swithuns to assist with the clock problems.

A cheque for £20 was signed for the Poppy Wreath.

6. Village Hall Update

The Clerk had received a comprehensive report from Andrew Brown. This had been sent to the Stuart Farrow and he had circulated it to the Committee. The Clerk and Chairman gave an overview of what the report contained and sort of things that needed looking at (eg, outside lights, the floor needs varnishing / waxing and longer term goals). The Clerk to forward to the Parish Council. She will speak with Stuart Farrow next week.

Clerk

7. Bus Consultation Meeting - Cambridgeshire Future Transport (CFT)

The Chair and Clerk gave an overview of the recent meeting about bus services that service the village particularly the 31 bus. There is to be a consultation about the bus service and how it affects us. It services Barley (North Herts), Great Chishill, Heydon, Chrishall (Essex) and Elmdon (Essex). The Clerk is to liaise with these villages. A questionnaire is to be sent out, but the timescales are unacceptable and the Clerk has raised this with CFT. We are to put the survey into Survey Monkey and also (after discussion) put in a question about families historical use of the bus. The County Council have a care of duty to get post 16 children to school, our catchment 6th Form Colleges are all in Cambridge. One idea is to run shuttle buses for those this side of the A505 with a drop off at Trumpington Park and Ride, where there is then access to Colleges, Hospital and Town Centre. Cllr van de Ven spoke about a bus to train stations, as there is large subsidy on student train fares. The Clerk spoke of travelling on the bus to see what take up there is, but Stacey from CFT is employed to do this. The Clerk to contact her to arrange. It would also be useful to know that from our area, how many are rising sixth form age. Clerk to investigate. If any new bus service was slicker, then this could encourage others to use it, which would make it more viable long term. Cllr van den Ven to send data relating to costs and usage of the existing bus route.

Clerk
Cllr van de Ven

8. Minor Highways Improvement Grant

It was agreed that the Clerk would apply for gates at the entrance of the village on New Road. Cllr van de Ven thought this was a good idea as it tied in with our previous application.

Clerk

9. Planning

The Clerk gave an overview of the status at North Hall Farm. After discussion it was decided that the Parish Council will challenge why units 5, 6 and 7 are immune from enforcement. The Clerk also advise that the owner of the dump on the A505 will be prosecuted for not removing the illegal stock pile at Dotterel Farm. The stock piles in the dump are being investigated on an ongoing basis.

Clerk

10. A Report on Speed Watch Activities

A discussion took place about the gritting of New Road. This will be raised at the highways meeting later this week. It is thought by using North Herts comparable data it would cost approximately £1k per mile to grit / per winter.

In North Herts, County Councillors are allocated £90k from highways budget to allocate as they see fit. Cllr van de Ven will look into this.

Cllr van de Ven

The Clerk asked about the path along Hall Lane which is dangerous in places. Cllr van de Ven said no money will be spent on it unless there are some accidents and injury

11. A Report on the status of the lease agreement Windmill by the Windmill Charity

Cllr Murgatroyd said the lease was waiting to be signed, but there had been difficulties as Nick Sweeny is in Australia and there does not appear to be personnel in his place who can sign the lease. It was suggested that the Windmill Trust contact David Nuttycombe, who was present at initial meetings.

The Trust had asked for a grant and the PC said that they will consider this when the lease is signed. The grant would be for insurance and fees.

12. Written Reports from the County and District Councillors

See report at end of minutes

Chris Malyin the new CFO at County has offered to come out to talk to Parish Councils. The Parish Council thought this an excellent idea. The Clerk to liaise with Heydon Parish Council on this.

Clerk

13. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none.

14. Confirmation of the Date of the Next Meeting (already scheduled)

18 December, but this now likely to be drinks in the Pheasant.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:57.

Chishill Parish Council, November 2013

County Councillor Report

1. The County's chief finance officer has said he would be happy to visit any parish council that would like a brief presentation on the county's budget situation, or a chance to ask questions.
2. The county council is working well toward reconstituting itself under a service area committee system, to replace the old cabinet system which tends to recycle the same people around the top table year after year. Already its work is more transparent and councillors are probably better informed. The involvement of a wider range of people in decision-making means that potentially, more expertise can be drawn upon.
3. The Melbourn Hub and our library access point are due to open sometime very early in the new year. The entire transfer of books to the new premises will be done by volunteer staff and any help on this front will be gratefully received.
4. Many people are reporting pot hole accidents and damage to their cars. Here is the on-line system for applying for compensation:
<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/roads/highways/>
5. From ridership and subsidy figures presented in March 2012: the 31 bus receives £78,894 per year in subsidy. It carried 19,026 passengers and the average cost per passenger journey was £4.15. This is not exorbitant when compared against other subsidized bus journeys in the county. The county council has emphasized that it will not remove any subsidized bus service until a new transport solution has been worked out and is ready to go. Roughly 40% of the old subsidy should

be available, though the council is reluctant to work on exact figures and is saying that it has 40% of the previous overall budget to work with, county-wide. The 31 has a particularly important role as it serves the education transport needs for 16-19 year olds.