

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 18th November 2015
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Clements, Harrison, Coney, Ridge, Loukes, Dring
District Councillors: Cllr Hales, Cllr Barrett – (arrive 19:56)
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:33pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllr James Coney – prior commitment
Cllr van de Ven – prior commitment

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

Cllr Clements – Non-pecuniary Interest relating to the planning application for 1 The Pudgell.

3. Approval of the Minutes of 21st October 2015 (already circulated)

These were approved by the Parish Council as a true and accurate account of proceedings and were signed by the Chairman.

4. Public Participation

Mr and Mrs Lane came and presented to the Parish Council a proposed new submission for a house in the rear garden of 6 New Road. The Chairman gave an overview of the history of the planning applications (see previous minutes).

Mr Lane said that the footprint remains the same (they need this space as their daughter and children come and visit for 6 weeks in the summer), the building has been moved slightly down the garden but remains close to the boundary to 29 Heydon Road. The planning officer felt that it would be sufficiently tucked under trees / hedge to reduce to impact to 29 Heydon Road. The ridge line has been dropped by half a metre and the garage removed. The Council said that the proposal seems okay. Mr and Mrs Lane were informed that if a submission were received and was same as what was shown this evening, then the Council, in principle would be supportive. Mr and Mrs Lane had spoken to immediate neighbours who did not voice major concerns. However, any planning application received, will still be treated in the same way and would be discussed at either a formal Parish Council meeting or Extraordinary Planning Meeting. Mr and Mrs Lane thanked the council for their time and left the meeting at 19:40

5. Finance

The Clerk took the Council through the finances. The Chairman duly signed the finance sheet as a true record of finances to date.

The notice board will taken away and mended in couple of weeks. The dragons teeth and white lining at the crossroads was due to be done but it rained too much on the day so this will be rescheduled.

There will be S106 monies coming to the Council to be used specifically for the refit of the skate park – the amounts are unknown at the moment. S106 monies currently held may be used for the replacement speed hump and fencing on the playing field.

6. Telephone Mast / Butler Trust

A public meeting had taken place on Monday to ask if the Village if they would like the Parish Council to take the idea of a phone mast on the playing fields further. The general consensus was 'yes' – a show of hands 21 (33 in attendance) confirmed this. Shared Access will now begin actively looking for customers for the mast. Special thanks were offered to Cllr Clements for sharing his knowledge of phone masts / technology and answering questions at the public meeting.

7. Planning

S/2612/15/FL – 1 The Pudgell, this was unanimously approved.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk had circulated a document received from Alison Talkington on Neighbourhood Plans. She asked the Council to read it, with particular attention the end sections and feedback to the the Clerk.

Action: All

8. Speedwatch

Speeding is being monitored in two weekly time frames. There are still speeders. The idea of putting NALC sockets at the windmill was put on hold until manual speeding analysis was done using the hand speed gun. Clerk to locate the hand speed gun.

Action: Clerk

Gritting – the Clerk to speak with Mike Cooper at hghways to ascertain that the gritting route will remain the same and grit bins are replenished.

Action: Clerk

9. Highways Improvements

This was covered in finance.

10. Windmill Trust

There was nothing new to report on.

Cllr Dring will send out the Windmill report from the Village Fete.

11. Lock-Up

Cllr Coney reported at the last meeting that he was obtaining quotes. The Clerk to email him.

Action – Clerk

12. County and District Councillors Reports

Cllr Barrett reported that there had been a reprieve for a tenant who was going to move out of their Council house and the housing team are assisting the family in looking for new accommodation in the future.

Cllr Hales and Barrett have requested that they attend all Parish Council Planning meetings – this is because they can raise issues directly with planning officers (this follows the possible reform of the planning form sent to Parish Councils, now deferred for 6 months). The Parish Council agreed that this was a good idea.

Great and Little Chishill Parish Council

November 2015

County Councillor Report

1. You may already have seen in the media some of the detail expected on cuts which would be directly relevant to everyday life in the Chishills: significant reduction in the area covered by winter gritting (45% of the network currently down to 30%). I don't have any detail yet on how this works out area by area. I have already mentioned the 31 bus and community transport. I have made contact with a couple of residents who I know depend on the 31 and have also discussed with Heydon Parish Council. Suggestions include a link from Heydon and Chishill to Barley to catch the bus there to Royston; or a regular link to one of the rail stations. The latter may work better for post-16 transport: the Govia Thameslink Railway line through Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton carries a 50% post-16 student discount for Cambridgeshire travel. I've also talked with Clare Gibbons from SCDC who as Sarah will know has liaised with cross-border parishes in the area. Is there some scope for joining forces to provide a very localized feeder service? I have no assurance at this point that the council's grant to Royston and District Community Transport will be protected. All of this assumes worst case scenario and the budget vote is not till February, but I hope some contingency plans can be worked out where needed. Please let me know how you would like to take this forward so we can work together.

2. The County Council is proposing to become a market housing developer in Shepreth, as a way of maximizing economies on a small pocket of unused County-owned land outside the village envelope, though rather anomalously so as it is in fact in the centre of the village. Nevertheless, technically this is speculative development while the draft Local Plan suspension enables other avenues toward development. It is an example of the unorthodox thinking now at work in the council to find new ways of raising money to run other services.
3. Please can you let me know of any gaps you are aware of in the Superfast Broadband roll-out. Other villages have significant gaps but they are not always known to the County Council.
4. The Alliance in-school counselling service for the Melbourn Village College and feeder primary schools, which is regarded as an important service in mental ill-health prevention, is holding a fundraising reception at Queens College on 7 December, 6PM. All welcome – please contact me if you would like to know more or come along. The programme only works because head teachers across the board are personally dedicated: demand for the service is significant.
5. The Melbourn Area Youth Development (MAYD) Tuesday night youth club held at the Pavilion on the Melbourn Rec, run by Groundwork Hertfordshire and commissioned by Melbourn, Meldreth, Shepreth, Foxton and Fowlmere Parish Councils, is attracting a small number of young people from the Chishills. Entrance is free and friendship groups are welcomed. It may be that MAYD will want to approach parishes outside the five providing funding to run the service, for a proportionate contribution.
6. Network Rail will be attending the December 2nd meeting of the Meldreth, Shepreth and Foxton Rail User Group to answer questions about Foxton Level Crossing: it is hoped that new pedestrian gates will have been installed by that time, but not certain.

13. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none.

The Parish Council will meet for Christmas drinks on 16th December.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:35.