

**MINUTES OF THE A MEETING OF  
GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL**

Venue: Village Hall  
Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016  
Time: 7:30pm  
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner  
Parish Councillors: Dring, Ridge, Harrison, Clements, Coney  
District Councillors: Cllr Barrett, Cllr Hales  
County Councillor: Cllr Van den Ven  
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott  
Start Time: 19:30pm

---

**1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)**

Cllr Loukes – work commitments. This was accepted by the Council.

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

There were none declared.

**3. Approval of the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016**

These were approved as an accurate account of proceedings and the Chairman signed and dated them.

**4. Public Participation.**

There were no members of the public.

**5. Finance**

The clerk took the meeting through the finances to date and all income and expenditure. Outstanding expenditure will include the lock-up and telephone box.

The Council approved the finances and the Chairman signed the finance sheets.

**6. Planning**

Tree works applications are now being treated in the same way as planning applications. The Chairman asked if the tree on highways land on the corner of 55 Heydon Road could be tidied up and taken away. The Clerk to speak with our verges contractor.

**Footpath between Chishill and Barley**

2 Out of the 3 farmers / landowners had been positive to an informal path between Chishill and Barley. The Clerk to follow up with Strutt and Parker on behalf of Cllr Ridge.

There were no other planning issues to discuss.

**7. Highways**

The Chairman had seen an article about a Parish Council in Devon being allowed to undertake minor pothole repairs to the roads. The Clerk had investigated this and sent the link to the website of the Council in Devon to the Parish Council.

The Clerk is to speak to local farmers to see if they would like be on standby to clear the roads if we have roads blocked due to snow.

Cllr Hales had sent an email to the Clerk about funding.

**8. A report from Speed Watch**

The sign is working again. The Chairman to write to Martin to thank him and his team for all their continuing work. It was reported that the speed humps in Newton are having a positive effect and as required there is street lighting by the traffic calming measure.

## 9. A report from the Windmill Trust

Planning is in the process of being sought for the works to the trestle. The track had been opened by various members of local Rotary groups.

## 10. Parish Council Properties

James Coney is to meet with a local builder. A planning application needs to be submitted and Cllr Coney can do this and the accompanying drawings.

The Clerk had been unsuccessful in finding a contractor to paint the Telephone Kiosk. It was agreed she ask Tim Scott to quote the work with a view to carrying out the work in the spring 2017.

## 11. County and District Councils Written Reports

### **Great and Little Chishill Parish Council, County Councillor Report, 23 November 2016**

**Winter Gritting:** The cut to the gritting budget could easily have been avoided had the largest voting block on the council been willing to raise council tax by 1.99% as permitted and indeed encouraged by the Chancellor to do so. A Band D household rise in council tax at 1.99% would have cost that household £22 per year. Instead, freezing council tax, as has been done, causes significant cuts to this and other key services (e.g. no more transport assistance for post-16 students as just one example). Gritting has been cut by about £650K; a 1% rise in council tax raises about £5 million. Heydon Lane is being removed from the network. I'm very sorry that there is no opportunity to increase gritting in the Chishills.

**31 Bus** The working group that gives a steer on transport subsidy cuts of which I am a member looked in detail at the impact of removing bus subsidies and decided that it would be unacceptable, leaving people stranded with no alternative way of getting to work/education etc. This position seems to be supported now by the council (but will be voted on in February). However, the overall budget for subsidized buses and community transport, about £2 million, needs to be found from somewhere else.

**Government Revenue Support grant to councils:** It was hoped that the new chancellor would rethink the policy of ending Revenue Support Grant to councils, as there was talk about easing the severity of local government austerity & adverse impacts on public services. Instead, the policy will continue, but to a more extreme version than before: Cambs County Council is being asked to consider a 'negative settlement' whereby it contributes substantially to the revenue accounts of other local authorities. This is supported by the Conservative group at County Council but was voted down by minority groups in early consideration last month. It will return.

**Mayor plus combined authority:** The County Council will vote on November 22 as to the new combined authority package which would include Cambs and Peterborough, and an elected paid mayor with accompanying new bureaucracy and decision-making taken upward away from councils. It is very concerning to see no tangible benefit to the addition of the mayoral role; devolved decision-making powers could just as easily be given to a newly combined authority, without a mayor. The promise of money for devolved authorities is contingent on the mayor being in place, but £650 over 30 years is 1) not very significant in the scheme of things and 2) impossible to guarantee over successive govts.

**Proposed Parliamentary constituency boundary change:** The consultation running until 5 December (Boundary Commission website) proposes moving the villages along the southern rim of South Cambs into a new Parliamentary constituency that would combine with Royston and Northeast Herts villages. While county boundaries wouldn't change, the MP representing the cross-border constituency would have a challenging job representing local concerns. Please do respond.

The Chairman thank Cllr Van de Ven for her report.

Cllrs Hales and Barrett spoke about the proposed Parliamentary Boundary change. The Parish Council to door drop the village.

Cllr Hales and Barrett had conflicting views on the proposed devolution. There were concerns over affordable housing.

## 12. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none received.

The next meeting is 12<sup>th</sup> January 2016

There being no other business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:18.