

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 21st October 2015
Time: 7:30pm
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Clements, Harrison, Coney, Ridge, Loukes, Dring
County Councillor: Cllr van de Ven
District Councillors: Cllr Hales, Cllr Barrett
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Start Time: 19:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

There were none.

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

There were non declared.

4. Approval of the Minutes of 10th September 2015 (already circulated)

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

5. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Finance

Action – Clerk

The Clerk took the meeting through the finances to date. Items to flag up (for future expenditure) are the speed hump in the road to Village Hall, varnishing of village benches and repainting of village sign.

The Parish Council agreed to pay a retainer of £500 to Andrew Brown for looking after the Village Hall. The Clerk to advise the Village Hall Committee.

Cllr Ridge asked about S106 monies. The Clerk identified several potential projects which the S106 monies could be used for including the speed hump replacement, boundary fence of the playing field and the basketball / skateboard area.

7. Butler Trust

The Chairman took the meeting through the background. The Clerk reported that the Solicitor is on holiday at the moment and she will chase them up.

A company called Shared Access has approached the Parish Council with a view of erecting a phone mast on the playing fields on a 25-year lease. It would be situated near the garage. John Koch at South Cambs is very relaxed about the proposal. The next stage is to contact Mr and Mrs Brown to ascertain their feelings and then consult with the village to gauge their feelings on this proposal. It was emphasised that this project is in its very early stages. A figure of £35k has been mooted as an approximate figure Shared Access would pay the Parish Council. Cllr Clements has great experience in this sector and will undertake some background investigations into these types of project.

Action: Cllr Clements

A village meeting will be set up for November

Action: Clerk

8. Planning

The Clerk gave an overview of a recent planning meeting she had attended at SCDC. The main change would be that on the planning application form which the Parish Council use for their comments, there will be additional tick boxes for sending an application to committee and confirming the Parish Councils attendance. The Clerk had submitted the Parish Council comments to the original proposal. She said it was acutely obvious that the Planning Committee does take the views of Parish Councils very seriously. There would be some formal planning training offered to Parish Councils in Spring 2016.

The Chairman attended the planning committee meeting where Maltings Lane was resolved. The application was refused.

The Parish Council is expecting a planning application relating to Reeves Pightle.

The Council talked through the idea of undertaking a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk had had an initial meeting at SCDC. She will be investigate this further and contact Alison Talkington at SCDC who is a Neighbourhood Plan Expert. Initial questions from the Parish Council were, if the LDF is formally adopted in the New Year, would we be repeating the same exercise? How much will it cost? Cllr Hales commented that it could cost £5k-£12K. The Clerk to ascertain costing when she speaks with SCDC.

Action - Clerk

9. Telephone Box

The Clerk has sent in a formal application to adopt the telephone box.

10. A report from Speed Watch

Cllr Harrison had spoken with Martin Gruselle and he had agreed to leave the flashing for longer periods in key hot spots in the village. The Parish Council thought it might be a good idea to insert NALC sockets in the 40mph buffer zone – the Clerk to speak to highways.

Action – Clerk

11. Highways Improvements

The sign on Hall Lane has been replaced and the works on New Road / Crossroad area scheduled to take place soon. The Clerk to chase

Action - Clerk

12. Windmill Trust

Cllr Dring reported on behalf of the Windmill Trust. The trust thanked the Parish Council for their donation. The Trust has money from SPAB to use going forward to use on the building only (as opposed to insurance / grass cutting etc). Some minor works can now go ahead as the planning department has deemed these repairs. These will be the work to strengthen the trestles and in effect works will commence from the bottom and work upwards. James Brearley is now Chairman of the Trust. Cllr Dring to circulate the Windmill Presentation Document.

Action – Cllr Dring

13. A Report on the Lock-up – Cllr Coney

Cllr Coney is obtaining quotes for the works. The Cockertons had lowered the bank to the back of the lock up that will vastly help going forward.

Action – Cllr Coney

14. County and District Councils Written Reports

Chishill Parish Council – Cllr van de Ven

Upcoming cuts: The council is having to cut its cloth to accommodate a 40% cut over the coming five years. Central government revenue support grant – traditionally a very significant piece of the council's spending pie – is to be phased out completely. At the same time, government will not allow councils to set council tax over a set limit. (And the Chancellor's announcement of Business Rate retention doesn't take effect until 2020, and may come with additional devolved responsibilities to councils, involving more costs). The net result is a huge shortfall in council budgets, and low-tax shire councils are in a particularly bad way. Certainly some things can be done more efficiently, but inevitably vulnerable people will often be adversely affected, and so it is horrendous to witness these cuts in the making.

As a member of the Health Committee, I have the opportunity to see more holistically how different services across the council affect health outcomes. For example, community transport and subsidized bus transport for people who have no other way of getting to school, work and health service appointments, will face profound difficulties if their transport services are cut.

Community Transport and subsidized bus transport: Councillors are being asked to consider severe budget cuts for community transport and bus subsidies, which would adversely affect people who have no other way of getting around. The 31 bus is a great concern. A very significant proportion of community transport journeys are to health appointments. A glimmer of hope is potential for collaboration with the Clinical Commissioning Group's retendering of the Non-emergency Patient Transport Services contract, which is currently out for consultation. I am working on this in my role as chair of the Cambridgeshire Future Transport steering group. The CCG will be visiting Royston and District Community Transport to discuss this potential synergy. Please do respond to the CCG's consultation if possible, before November 17:

<http://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/downloads/CCG/Have%20your%20say/NEPTS%20Consultation%20document%20-%20WEB.pdf>

Contactless ticketing will be available on both platforms at Foxton, Shepreth and Meldreth within a few months and this will improve accessibility. The pedestals are now installed and will go live in tandem with Cambridge Station.

Melbourn Village College: MVC is looking for volunteers to supervise lunchtime clubs: chess and board games; debating; table tennis and basketball. Please let me know if you're interested. For the 3rd year running, MVC came in the top 10% nationally for progress in Maths GCSEs – many congratulations to students and staff.

Mind in Cambs would like to bring a further mental health support project to our area, probably from the Melbourn Hub.

15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

There were none.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:03

The next meeting is on 18th November 2015.