

# A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall  
Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023  
Time: 7:30pm  
Chair: Cllr Dring  
Parish Councillors: Hall, Hatt, Clements, Pine  
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott  
County Councillor: Not present  
District Councillor: Cllr Hobro  
Members of the Public: None  
Start Time: 7:30pm

---

## 1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

John Ridge – previous meeting  
Peter McDonald – previous meeting  
Jenny Leitch – previous commitment

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

There were none received.

## 3. Approval of the Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> July meeting

There were no comments or amendments and these were approved by the Council and signed by the Chair.

## 4. Public Participation.

There were no members of the public present.

## 5. Correspondence Received

The Clerk will prepare a report and circulate it.

## 6. District and County Councillors Report (already circulated)

Councillor Hobro reported that the new bin collections will take place soon. Our collection day will remain on Tuesday but this will mean that when there's a bank holiday the bin collection will not change.

He reminded the Parish Council about the Community Chest grant scheme. The chair will send this information to the playground group. The windmill group had received a grant for a new bench at the windmill.

Another priority is the focus on fly tipping. Please report any fly tipping using the online reporting link.

The District Council has received an ISO 901 accreditation. A discussion followed about the merits of this accreditation and the fact that it has been around for many years.

## 7. Planning

The lady from Cambridge Acre will attend the October meeting to discuss the survey.

Councillor Ridge has had a meeting with South Cambs and the owner of Rectory Farm, Little Chishill. The owner is keen to work with SCDC to sort out existing issues.

North Hall Farm. The Clerk has circulated her response to her FOI request. The clerk reported it feels like an awful lot of work is being put into this by the Parish Council and this is not being reciprocated by SCDC and they do not appear interested in any potential planning breaches. It appears that since a member of staff left the planning office (who had a lot of dealings and knowledge of the site) no one is interested in picking this up. The Clerk will look at the electoral role and see how many people are registered living on site and report back to Councillor Hobro.

Bridgefoot Farm. A static caravan has appeared on the site opposite the removal company. The Clerk is to report this using the online portal. The appeal is ongoing with regard to the other side of the site.

The Rabbit Residence. There will be no further action until December by which time the caravan should have gone.

The Chair asked Councillor Hobro about residents in council properties causing issues. Councillor Hobro signposted the Chair to the SCDC website.

The RO Group (the people involved with pockets of land in the village) would like to meet with the Parish Council prior to the next meeting. The Parish Council will not meet in a private capacity, so the Clerk is to write to suggest that they meet with a couple of the councillors prior to the meeting.

## 8. Finance

The finance sheets have been circulated and there were no questions. The clerk is to pay the annual insurance premium which auto renews. The Chair asked for the Clerks salary to be an agenda item for the next meeting.

## 9. Highways – 10 Minutes, Chair

- Outstanding highways issues in Great Chishill (drains, floods, potholes, New Road, Footpath). Cllr McDonald was not present but has offered to meet up and look at the issues. Clerk to organise.
- Outstanding highways issues in Little Chishill. See above.
- New Road Classification. Highways do not offer a service to monitor the roads but Cllr McDonald had arranged for Fowlmere PC to contact the Clerk with some information on companies who do and indicative costs. Cllr Hall suggest that once speed watch is up and running data from the monitoring could be used to look at New Road usage.
- There 50mph signs at Flint Cross have been long gone and need replacing. This can be talked raised with Cllr McDonald when he meets the PC on site.

- Cllr Hatt mentioned that access into Barley from Great Chishill is now very narrow as you approach Barley. Clerk to write to Barley's Clerk.
- Weeds. There had been various emails relating to weeds on road in South Cambs. There are weeds in our village particularly at the crossroads. The Clerk to ask our verge contractor if this is something he can help with.

**10. Speed and safety - 10 Minutes, Cllr Hall / Clerk**

- Cllr Hall is working on this and will liaise with John Arthur in Heydon.
- Mirror. Some of the Parish Councillors will look into this at the weekend.

**11. Children's Playground**

There is progress on the fundraising side with events planned and a committee has been set up.

**12. Fibre Broadband**

Gigaclear has approached the PC about its potential plans to deploy fibre broadband in the village, as part of a deployment extending out from Royston and Barkway. This would be a commercial investment and is not part of the 'Project Gigabit' government subsidy scheme, which has recently been awarded to CityFibre for our area. A discussion took place about whether a commercial deployment would impact the subsidised scheme. Gigaclear will be coming back to the PC in a few months with more information.

**13. Village Hall Update**

The Village Hall and finance are in good shape. The concern that they had about the rise in energy prices were alleviated by prudent negotiation in the electricity supplier. There are lots of bookings but the regular Kick boxing session has now stopped. The chairs are not being changed (the Parish Council was pleased about this). The kitchen will be updated and the committee are talking to a local catering company who regularly use the village hall for functions for advice. Cllr Hall queried why the monitor that he had kindly donated had not been installed.

**14. Promotion of Parish**

There had not been much to put on social media of late but as soon as there is the Clerk will post. Cllr Hall presented an idea he had seen in Duxford. In essence it is a illustrated poster of the village highlighting village amenities, walks, places of interest etc. He will obtain some quotes for discussion to see if we can proceed with the project. The Parish Council were positive about this idea.

Actions from the Annual Meeting of the Parish – the school bus to Newport. The Chair had investigated this and no discounts /swaps were forthcoming.

**15. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda**

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 being no further notifiable business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:55

**Cambridgeshire County Report**

**Zero Carbon Training for Businesses**

Cambridgeshire businesses have an invaluable opportunity to join low carbon experts on a free two-day course aimed at cutting costs and cutting carbon.

Businesses across Cambridgeshire are running out of time to find out how to cut carbon and cut costs on a free two-day course that's offered as part of Cambridgeshire County Council's Low Carbon Business Support Programme.

The programme provides small and medium sized businesses with tailored advice that will help them to reduce their carbon footprint, increase energy efficiency, and explore new green technologies and opportunities for renewable energy generation.

Whether businesses are already on a low carbon journey, or looking to take their first steps, the programme offers something for them with business diagnostics, technology reviews and training available from expert business advisors. There are a few remaining places available for the final two-day training sessions offered by the programme taking place on 18 and 19 September 2023 in Alconbury Weald.

The workshops involve learning how to audit your energy usage, an introduction to the concept of carbon footprinting and an overview of low carbon technologies including LED lighting, air source heat pumps and solar as well as guidance on how to find funding and procurement support.

Interested organisations can find out more on the Low Carbon Business Support Programme's website:

<https://lowcarbon.deytonbell.com/>

**RAAC**

The new school year starts as normal this week with no schools in the county closed because of concerns over Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC).

All but three of Cambridgeshire's schools have been surveyed and no RAAC has been found. We have no concerns about the remaining schools, but they will each require a survey to rule out RAAC.

We have been working closely with school leaders to reassure parents, carers and pupils before the start of the new school year.

**20 mph Schemes**

20mph schemes are being rolled out in Cambridgeshire to help improve road safety and reduce pollution.

The 20mph areas being installed, and in some cases completed, are Stilton, Godmanchester, St Neots, Woodhurst, Somersham, Great Gransden, Toft, Oakington, Barton, Hauxton, Melbourn, Sawston and Duxford. The work involves installing signs, lines and markings and all schemes will be in place and completed by the end of July.

Speed kills. Studies have shown even a 1mph drop in speed reduces collisions by 6%. Reducing speed limits from 30mph to 20mph can cut pollution by 30% and reduce the chance of a severe or fatal injury in the event of a collision by a staggering 60%. This is why it's important we continue to create more 20mph areas.

Cambridgeshire County Council recently put in place a new process for communities to access additional funding to install more 20mph zones or limits. This year's schemes will be going to committee later in the autumn.

Improving road safety through 20mph schemes is a priority of the council's Joint Administration which has highlighted several benefits from the programme, including safer streets which allow residents to feel safe when walking or cycling and reduced noise and pollution.

Another area benefitting from a new 20mph zone is Oakington.

Overall, 13 areas have seen 20mph zones created and installed more quickly this year thanks to the council's Highways and Transport Committee agreeing to speed up the process and identifying funding. In addition to the £400,000 for this process (until 2025), a further £800,000 has been secured in partnership with the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority, for area-based schemes, across the county.

A 20mph limit is prioritised against the following criteria:

- evidence of traffic incidents or potential dangers within an existing 30/40mph zone
- vulnerable road users
- visible homes, shops and businesses
- a school or a school route
- a cycling route
- an area that would benefit from more active travel such as cycling and walking.

Either a 20mph limit or a 20mph zone will be installed depending on the specific location. A 20mph limit typically covers individual or a small number of streets and requires signs only, whereas 20mph zones typically cover larger areas and require both signs and markings.

## **District Council Report for August & September 2023**

Councillor James Hobro

District Councillor for the parishes of Foxton, Fowlmere, Heydon, Great Chishill & Little Chishill.

I am always happy to hear from residents with any questions about these or other issues relating to the District Council. Please contact me by telephone on 07768 706670 or by email at [cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.hobro@scambs.gov.uk).

### **Bin collection changes**

Our bin collection arrangements are reviewed every few years as adjustments are made to allow for gradual changes in housing across the Greater Cambridge area. The latest review includes a change to a four-day collection schedule that will avoid Mondays, which means that there will no longer be a need for collection days to change for most Bank Holidays. The collection service will remain the same in all other respects.

Tuesday will remain the bin collection day for Foxton Ward. In Fowlmere, the same coloured bins will be collected for two consecutive weeks to allow synchronisation with the new schedule. In Foxton, Heydon & The Chishills, the schedule will continue unaffected.

There is a [web page](#) with more information and a list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions. Please feel free to contact me with any questions not answered here.

### **Community Chest Grants**

South Cambs District Council supports local communities through the [Community Chest Grant scheme](#) that allows community organisations to apply for grants for a wide range of purposes.

Grants were awarded in July to Great Chishill Windmill Trust for improvements to their visiting facilities including the addition of a new picnic table, and to Fowlmere Parish Council for their Community Led Plan. Both awards were for £2000.

I would encourage all local groups in need of funds for a project that would serve the community to consider applying under the Community Chest scheme. Applications are considered and awarded monthly.

### **South Cambs Magazine**

Recently there have been some delivery problems in Fowlmere with the South Cambs Magazine, which should be arriving through your letterbox quarterly. I raised this with the team at South Cambs and it appears to have been solved. The [Autumn edition](#) should have arrived recently.

The South Cambs Magazine contains lots of useful information about local services in the District. If anyone is not receiving it quarterly then please do let me know.

### **Greater Cambridge Planning improvements**

The Greater Cambridge Planning service has been working to improve its online systems to make planning queries easier and have produced [a video](#) detailing some of the recent improvements.

The service has also become the first Shared Service to be certified by the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO). [ISO certification](#) is a demonstrable badge of credibility and trust. The ISO certification is for the Quality Management System introduced within Development Management and Compliance. The system reviews processes for dealing with planning applications, breaches of planning control and how we deal with formal and informal complaints. It also examines our competencies including training and technology services. The aim is to achieve this standard for the rest of the service by 2024, in line with the Council's ethos of continual improvement.

### **Funding for New Council Homes**

The Council has been awarded significant funding to provide 13 additional homes from phase 2 of the Local Authority Housing Fund for refugees. This is in addition to the funding for 40 homes received in phase 1. In total the Council has been granted just over £2.4m. Under the terms of the funding, when the properties are no longer needed for either refugee or temporary housing they will be added to the council stock. The longer-term legacy for this project will be an increase in social housing within the District.

## **Crack down on fly tipping**

South Cambridgeshire District Council is determined to crack down on illegally dumped rubbish and has prioritised it as a key objective in its Business Plan.

Fly tipping is a criminal offence punishable with fines of up to £50,000 or a prison sentence. The Council receives around 1,600 reports a year on its [online reporting page](#). Please help to reduce fly tipping by reporting any incidents that you are aware of. These should be cleared within 10 working days of being reported. I will work with council officers to ensure that incidents are dealt with promptly.

South Cambridgeshire District Council supports local communities in running [community clear up days](#). The Council can provide litter-picking equipment and bags, and also arrange to collect all of your rubbish.

## **Government housing plans for Cambridge**

In July the government announced their intention to boost housing development around Cambridge with the press reporting plans for 250,000 new houses. The District Council [has pressed for clarity](#) on the actual plans and emphasised the challenges already faced in delivering housing in this area, in particular over water supply.

So far, very little detail has emerged. The Council continues to engage with the government and we will report to residents as soon as any concrete information is available.