

MINUTES OF A MEETING

GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue: Village Hall
Date: 12th September 2012
Time: 7:30pm

In Attendance:
Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Ridge, Harrison and Murgatroyd
County Councillors: Van de ven
District Councillors: Barrett
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Cllrs Cartwright and Erskine - on holiday
District Councillor Jose Hales - family commitments

2. To Adopt the New Code of Conduct (previously circulated). Model Code as per South Cambridgeshire District Council

The code was formally Adopted.

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

Cllr Mick Martin is Cllr Harrison's boss.

4. To approve the minutes of 19th June 2012

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

5. Public Participation

To allow up to 10 minutes for any members of the public and Councillors declaring a Pecuniary interest to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at that meeting.

There were no members of the public present.

6. Parish Council - Update on Membership

As Cllr Upcraft had moved away, the Clerk and Chairman had approached Simon Dring (who had shown an interest in the Parish Council) and he will be co-opted at the next meeting. The Clerk to get the paperwork in order for the next meeting.

7. Update on Planning including LDF / Neighbourhood Plans and SCDC Consultation

The Chairman had a meeting Keith Miles (Senior Planning Manager) to discuss the merits of producing a neighbourhood plan. There are none going to be undertaken in South Cambridgeshire at present although 10 Parishes out of 100 may do one. There had been one done in Devon, but this had been rejected by the inspector. There are significant costs involved in creating a Neighbourhood Plan. The LDF Consultation had received over 10,000 responses. Cllr Miles had stated that Great and Little Chishill could produce a document (not a full blown neighbourhood plan) which could be considered and added into the local plan. The Clerk is also revisiting the Parish Plan. Things that could be included in the document would be, for example, examining the village envelope, preserving vista's, designating areas as amenity areas (which do not need the land owners permission) etc. It was agreed to do this. All will contribute. The Clerk to email Cllr Miles and check on time frames for this. The local plan will not be finalised by SCDC until 2014.

8. Speed Watch and Report on Police Liaison Meeting

The Chairman said that the Speed Watch team have still been doing a good job, but in essence they are only collecting stats and there needs to be a way forward. There had been a previous meeting and it was hoped that Amanda Pays would send a comprehensive list of what is available / solutions and costings, she had send a list but it was disappointing. Cllr Harrison to arrange a meeting with the Speed watch team and the Clerk to forward relevant emails to Cllr Harrison.

Cllr Ridge had been to the Police Panel meeting; he reported that most issues were m\motorist The other topic is metal thefts and his opinion it is scrap metal merchants that need to be sorted first. The meeting is in November.

9. Footpaths

The Clerk had said there had been reports of some footpaths being overgrown. She was aware of this as the Council are behind schedule in cutting them. This will be done sometime in September.

The Clerk had left some messages with Mr Noyes about meeting to discuss the footpaths and styles (with Cllr Ridge) but had not yet heard back. Peter Gaskin had sent a useful email explaining the issues. The Clerk to chase Mr Noyes.

10. Update on Windmill

The Clerk read out a report from the Trustees (see addendum).

11. Church Clock

One of the faces on the Clock tower is not working and needs fixing at considerable cost. In Parish Council law, the Parish Council has no responsibility to mend the clock, but it can pay for services (as it currently does). The Chairman and Clerk are to meet with Andy Colebrooke and the Church Wardens to work out a plan for this. In principle the Parish Council is happy to make a donation for part of the repairs. Cllr Ridge said if we do this, can we do the same for repairs to Little Chishill Church. The Chairman said yes, in principle as long as donations were proportionate.

12. Little Chishill issues - including drains and blocked ditches

The Clerk had spoken to Environmental Health about the drain; they had been out and it is to go to the Environment Agency.

Cllr Ridge had made contact with Dukes farm about the blocked ditches and they are to sort this out.

13. Finance

The Clerk gave a report on the finances and will circulate the finance reports.

14. District and County Councillors Report - Including feedback on Holiday lets

Cllr van de Ven agreed that the list supplied by Amanda Pays was disappointing. Cambridgeshire County Council could have the opportunity champion a community speeding solution. The Parish Council and Speed Watch need to work on initiatives such as sharing vehicle recognition cameras with its speedwatch neighbours and calming measures.

She also spoke of the Local Plan and the County Council HGV strategy - this is on the CCC website.

Cllr van de Ven said she had received notification that one of the flexi-bollards at Flint Cross was broken - the Clerk to sort this out.

She thanked the Parish Council for its support of the Melbourn Hub.

Cllr van de Ven spoke about post 16 College transport. There is a 50% rail discount being offered. The Bus 31 will lose its subsidy in one year's time but some of transport will have to be in place to take students to college in Cambridge. A Cambridgeshire Community Transport scheme is being set up. Cllr Harrison said that one of the issues was that there was no transport from our villages to railway station. Cllr van de Ven said that she would like to get this thought about and some logical links set up to rectify this issue.

District Councillor Barrett also thanked the Parish Council for supporting the link. She had checked out the rate system. If a house is a holiday let, the business rates are applied, if it is a house for rent, then the Council tax is applied. The Clerk to check on the houses in Little Chishill to confirm if planning was for holiday lets.

15. Correspondence

There had been an letter about the Essex LDF consultation

There had also been some lovely letters thanking the Council for their Jubilee mugs

16. 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.

Village Hall Committee

Rabbit Sanctuary - The Clerk had been approached by SCDC about transferring ownership of the access road from them to the Rabbit Residence. The Clerk had approached Colin Aylott, who confirmed that the Rabbit Residence is owned by Mr and Mrs Collinge and it is hoped that at some stage they will transfer the land over to the Rabbit Residence. Colin knew that Mr Collinge was interested in the Road, but the Rabbit Residence Committee had not discussed this yet. They will do at their next meeting (the Clerk to attend), the Council will fully discuss at their next meeting. The Clerk will then feed in responses to SCDC. SCDC said they would repair the road prior to any transfer.

17. Date of Next Meeting

10th October.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:54.

Dear Friends,

I do not have much to report at the moment as current negotiations need to progress with much thought and time consuming preparation.

However, things are moving along and soon we will have more positive news.

We are in possession of the final transfer contracts from Cambridgeshire County Council and John Gandy is happy with the amended content.

Before we exchange contracts I wanted to be 100% sure of the cover we have in relation to insurance and the costs involved.

I also wanted to conduct a risk assessment as this will effect insurance costs.

Simon Hudson and I have studied the areas of risk and at the same time looked longer term when we may have school visits.

I guess we will complete the transfer by end September, then the people of Great Chishill will be the rightful owners of the mill.

We are preparing grant applications in readiness for when we take ownership and we are confident that they will be forthcoming especially for phase one making the mill water tight for the future.

The Windmill is actually in quite good condition it has let in some of the downfalls of rain we have had but basically very little damp is evident.

On a bright note, I had a request from Anglia Vintage Motorcycling group to visit the windmill last Wednesday, I was told maybe 8 members would like to visit. Once the news of the visit broke out lots of members of the club decided they wanted to visit the mill.

25 Vintage motorcyclist turn up, what a spectacular sight from BSA's to BMW's, posh leather gear, well spoken middle aged enthusiasts.

They really enjoyed their visit and showed great interest and gave positive supportive comments. (see photo attached)

In conclusion, our windmill is appreciated by many different types of people and not just from Great Chishill.

The Trustees are looking forward to taking ownership in the future, when friends of the windmill will be able to contribute.

Meanwhile, thank you for your interest.

