

MINUTES OF MEETING
Great and Little Chishill Parish Council

Venue: Village Hall
Date: Tuesday 13th March 2012
Time: 7:30pm

In Attendance

Chairman: Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors: Scott, Dibblee, Brearley, Cartwright, Erskine
District / County Councillors: Cllr Barrett
Clerk / Proper Officer: Sarah Scott
Members of the Public: John Gandy and Simon Hudson

Actual Start Time: 19:33

1. Apologies for Absence and Reasons

Cllr Jose Hales – previous appointment - accepted
Cllr van de Ven – previous appointment - accepted

2. To Receive Any Declaration of Interests

- 2.1 Councillors to declare any personal interest in any items on the agenda. Cllr Brearley declared a personal interest in agenda item 6 as he is in the process of setting up the Great Chishill Windmill Trust.
- 2.2 Councillors to declare any personal and/or prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda and to inform the Chairman if they wish to speak on the matter during the public participation. There were none declared.

3. Public Participation

There was none.

4. To Approve Minutes of 24th January 2012 (PC Minutes and Public Windmill Meeting Minutes)

These were approved to be a true accurate account of the meeting and were signed by the Chairman.

5. Planning

The Clerk reported that the Rabbit Sanctuary will be submitting a planning application. The details will be on the planning applications, but they will ask to allow for some additional opening times, additional volunteers and will ask for a 5 year application. Mrs Coxall had reported via the Clerk that there had been little or no issues with parking and traffic. Caroline had been vigilant in letting her know of deliveries etc and the arrangement is currently working well. They have also applied to set up as a Charity.

ACTION

6. Windmill

The Chairman handed over to Cllr Brearley. He said that he was going to give an overview of the progress from when the mill was first offered to the PC, but as all parties were present he would update the Council on the status of the Trust. The following points were raised.

- Cllr Brearley asked the PC to approve the Articles and Memorandums at the meeting and 'to give consent for the Trust to complete the transaction' with the County Council.
- The Trust although they had not be in favour of doing so, had become a company limited by guarantee and had set up Articles and Memorandums as suggested by the Chairman of the Parish Council. The Architect Heritage Fund had also suggested that this would be the correct way forward, SPAB and English Heritage had endorsed this but the Charities Commission had said this could be done at a later date.
- The County Council had a right to dispose of assets as long as they are confident there will be a long term commitment and those purchasing are able to manage the asset.
- The Trust had created a lot of recent press coverage, resulting in a good hit rate on its website and this has in term created interest in people wishing to become friends of the windmill. Many of these friends have good skills which should sit comfortably with the restoration / upkeep of the mill. There will also be a comprehensive door drop to the surrounding villages. There are fundraising activities planned and the Annual Millers and Millwrights Conference will be held in Great Chishill in April. For information on this and recent minutes visit, www.greatchishillwindmill.com
- It was reiterated that if the Trust took over the purchase and upkeep of the mill, there would be no liability to the Parish Council.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Brearley for his hard work and update and was pleased that the Charity was being set up as explained above as he understood that if a Charity held an asset then this is the correct way for them to be incorporated.

Cllr Scott asked if the County Council were happy with the way the Trust is being set up and it was reported that they were. He had asked in previous meetings if a timetable of progress or action plan could be put together by the Trust on the acquisition so that when he and others are asked about the subject he / they could reply accurately as information had seemed in short supply and there was a lot of second guessing in the Village. He also passed comment that he had not yet seen the Articles and Memorandum's and so could not endorse progression until he had seen sight of them and digested the contents. He also thought that there should be some link from the PC (Parish) to the Trust to ensure the asset for the Parish going forward. Simon Hudson commented it was paramount to

keep a link between the Parish and the Windmill Trust.

The Chairman asked that a representative of the PC was invited to sit in on Trust meetings. If the Parish Council insisted that this person was a Trustee, then the Trust were not prepared to accept this as a Trustee would be a decision maker and it was thought that in an indirect way the Parish Council could dictate the way the Trust is run. If the person selected by the Parish Council was a member / friend, then this was deemed satisfactory as they would be a 'communicator'. The Parish Council were happy that there was this link to the Trust. The Articles and Memorandums would be amended accordingly. John Gandy and Andrew Gardiner will meet to complete this.

In principle, on the proviso that the all parties agree on the Articles and Memorandum amendment providing a clear Parish representative link to the Trust, then the Parish Council will 'give consent to the Trust to complete the transaction of purchasing the windmill for the Parish'. This was proposed by Cllr Erskine, seconded by Cllr Cartwright and agreed by the Chairman. This will be ratified at the next meeting once the paperwork is completed.

The Chairman of the Parish Council thanked John Gandy and Simon Hudson and they left the meeting at 20:26.

7. Jubilee Mugs

The Clerk had done a survey of Children in the village who are 12 and under (approx. 85) and presented the Parish Council some samples of commemorative mugs for the Parish Council to choose. They could be personalised. It was decided that the design from Tayler Made Ceramics was liked the most and the Clerk to place an order of not more than 120 pieces. This should allow for any unaccounted for children and would also give scope for a few to be sold as well without carrying too much stock. It was asked if coins could be an alternative and after the meeting the Clerk looked into this and they are much more expensive than the china mugs.

8. Insurance

The Clerk has spoken to Kathryn Farrow and she is to talk to the Village Hall Committee about extending their PL insurance to cover the Children's Play Area and Skate Park Area. She awaits the response.

9. Chalk Walk / Gates

The Chairman commented that significant works had taken place on Chalky Walk which has made a major difference to the Byway. Cllr Scott asked if it might known as Chalky Way so as to distinguish that it is a Byway. As there were signs each end stating it was a Byway it was felt that this was sufficient. The Clerk to write to Peter Gaskin to thank him for all his help on this project. The hedging will need flailing once a year and the Clerk will speak to local farmers to see if they are willing to assist.

The Clerk also mentioned that out two protected verges will not be cut by

Highways. A letter had been received asking if the PC might fund or part fund the twice annual cutting. The Clerk to speak with Carol Hughes and also say that the Council might be willing to part fund this.

The Village gates are now in situ and the majority of comments have been favourable.

10. Register at Risk – Cllr Cartwright

Cllr Cartwright had heard nothing back from Claire Bruin. It was reported that there were 10 likely 'names' to go on the register.

Cllr Dibblee made comment that this had been going on for over a year now and maybe a better person to contact was Louise Tramham.

11. Finance

The Clerk had reconciled the accounts up until the end of the last statement (29th February) and as there is only 2 ½ weeks to run until the end of the financial year will send these out then. However the Parish Council will finish the year with a likely surplus of £25,000 in reserves.

12. District and County Councillor's Report

County Councillor van den Ven had kindly circulated her report. District Councillor Val Barret reported on the savings that had been made due to the revenues received from the Blue and Green Bins. The District Council Tax had been frozen, there were more affordable housing schemes going up in the region. There are still some funding available from the Community Chest. The Chairman thanked her for her report.

13. Correspondence

After recent inaccurate correspondence sent by an individual relating to the Clerk, the Parish Council stated that it will not tolerate and strongly disapproves of the Clerk or any Parish Councillor being treated in this manner by any member of the public.

14. Matters For Future Consideration

Cllr Dibblee – Lock Up, Street Lights and Telephone Box, Community Awards
Cllr Scott – Speed watch

It was suggested that all PC's walk around their delegated areas and report back next meeting

A general discussion took place about forthcoming elections.

15. Date of Next Meeting

24th April 2012

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:54.