

MINUTES OF MEETING
Great and Little Chishill Parish Council Meeting

Venue: Village Hall
Date: Wednesday 27th January 2010
Time: 7:30pm

In Attendance

Chairman:	Andrew Gardiner
Parish Councillors:	Cartwright, Erskine, Scott, Dibblee, Murgatroyd
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	Susan Van den Ven (Part)
Members of the Public:	Mrs Bates, Mr Lawrence, Mr and Mrs Coxall

Actual Start Time: 7:31	ACTION
1. Apologies for Absence and Reasons District Cllr Guest District Cllr Barrett – Injury sustained in fall Cllr Brearley – on holiday	
2. To Receive Any Declaration of Interests (prejudicial or personal)	
2.1 Councillors to declare any personal interest in any items on the agenda: Cllrs Cartwright, Dibblee, Gardiner – friends of Mr Collings	
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.	
3. Public Participation There were no comments and so normal council business resumed.	
4. To Approve Previous Minutes	
4.1 Minutes of the meeting from the 25 th November 2009 were taken as read, confirmed as a true account of proceedings and signed and dated by the Chairman.	
5. Planning Applications	
5.1 S1319/09/F Units 5, 6, 7 North Hall Farm, Mr S Akhtar, Change of Use – Approved The Chairman had written to the Planning Enforcement Department as one of the properties at Heydon Grange Golf Club that is supposed to be a staff dwelling had been spotted for rent at a local estate agent. An Enforcement Officer is investigating this and will also monitor the above application.	

5.2 **S/1930/08/F Land South West of Wallers Close, Mr D Collings, Removal of Condition 1 to allow permanent use as a rabbit sanctuary.**

The Clerk read out a letter from residents of Wallers Close which illustrated their concerns about the planning application. A discussion took place as to the past and current problems associated with the rabbit sanctuary. It was unanimously decided to recommend refusal for this application due to reasons including the traffic and parking issues in Wallers Close (as reported and hi-lighted by Mr Rutland from the housing department), problems associated with waste and its removal, the size and management structure of the site and the fact that these issues have been causing problems for three years and never improve. It was noted that no member of the Collings family was present to present their case for the Planning Permission.

5. Finance

5.1 The Clerk asked if the Parish Councillors had reviewed the finance spreadsheets and then gave an overview of the bank accounts. There is £11,417.98 in current account and £10,050.47 in the deposit account as of 1st January giving a combined total of £21468.45.

5.2 The Clerk explained the total spend from the 1st November to present was £1849.37. This amount takes into account a £25 cheque for Acre with needs a second signatory. Cllr Murgatroyd duly countersigned this.

5.3 The Clerk requested payment which was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Murgatroyd and unanimously resolved for the following:

Clerks Salary £362.30

Berforts Newsletter - £45.65

Eon – Bus Shelter - £8.46

Street Light Maintenance - £48.13

5.4 Predicated income was explained by the Clerk - £185 from highways for the grit bins.

6. Website Update

7.1 The Clerk explained that Phil Maynard had taken over and revamped the Village website. She also explained that because of the amount of information that the Parish Council holds and to ensure that it is transparent and open Cllr Brearley and the Clerk had been working on a site dedicated to Great and Little Chishill Parish Council. The Clerk explained that there will be a 'Meet your Parish Councillors' section on the site and she will be sending out emails requesting information from the Councillors about themselves, plus a head and shoulders photograph. She offered to come and take photographs of the Councillors if they do not have a suitable picture. When this information is uploaded then Cllr Brearley and the Clerk will present the new website to the Council in February.

Clerk / All

7. Footpaths

The Chairman gave an overview of this and reported that he is still waiting to hear from Kate Day with solutions for improving Chalky Walk.

The Clerk reported that despite chasing Mr Lines about moving the 30 mph sign to the windmill she has heard nothing. She has another contact Richard Preston and she will try and obtain a meeting with him to progress this matter

Clerk

8. Highways and Gritting

8.1 The Clerk reported on the complaints received regarding gritting prior to Christmas. She also explained that the only road to be gritted at the moment (from a directive from Central Government) was the B1039 between the Essex and Hertfordshire Boundaries. She reported that she had contacted Mr Cooper to suggest he gritted Fowlmere Road in Heydon as this serviced more residents and was the most accessible route but was told he could not go against Central Government. Cllr Dibblee pointed out that Fowlmere Road was the designated emergency services road and so the Clerk would go back to Mr Cooper on this. A discussion took place as to why farmers cannot be employed to clear the roads as they used to. The Clerk stated that she had got Simon Dudley on the South Cambs roster. Aside from this the Chairman stated that the gritting routes for next year need to be addressed and maybe a contingency for using our own contractors should be put in place. The Clerk to contact Simon Dudley for costings. To the question of if the roads were gritted (before the new directive) the Clerk stated that she saw the Gritter Lorry go through every night (as did Mrs Coxall) and also stated that Mr Knobel-Forbes had requested data from Highways Under the Freedom of Information Act.

Clerk

Clerk

8.3 Letter from Chrishall Parish Council.

The letter was circulated with the minutes, but read out by the Clerk. The Council had no comment to make and the Chairman asked that this item was minuted as noted by the council. Mrs Bates said that in the past Chestnut fencing was erected in areas where drifting was a problem; Cllr Scott added that this practice also took place in his native Lincolnshire. The Clerk to speak with Mike Cooper about this practice.

Clerk

20:10 County Councillor Susan Van den Ven arrives

8.4 Potholes

The Clerk reported that she had been reporting potholes and that Mr Cooper is inundated but is filling them. Cllr Cartwright asked why Highways had been out and filled one pothole on one side of a road and then not done ones marginally further down the road as it seemed a waste of resource to keep coming back. It was requested that the Clerk find out why. Cllr Van den Ven stated that there is realisation that the County Council have so neglected roads and not maintained them properly in the past and it is now paying the price. A review in policy is now taking place. The issue of the council only doing bits and pieces (the white lines for instance) was brought up. The Clerk asked who was the best person to contact; Cllr Van den Ven suggested Richard Preston. A discussion took place as to employing someone to do running repairs on roads etc that are usually undertaken by the County and District Councils. Cllr Van den Ven said that this is not a unique idea and some Parish Councils are all for it and others not. She has a meeting in February and will ask this on our behalf and see what constraints there are for this in terms of who we might employ, standards of workmanship and quality control.

Clerk

Cllr Van den Ven

		ACTION
8.5	<p>Parking</p> <p>The red van in Hall Lane is still parking dangerously. The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with the Police about this matter. There has been no news to date. Susan Van den Ven will contact Chris Savage and add this problem to the nuisance parking list. A discussion followed as to how the relationship with the local PCSO's has deteriorated since Lee Nutbeam and his colleague Emma left.</p>	
9.	<p>Windmill</p> <p>Cllr Murgatroyd – reported on the meeting he had before Christmas at the Windmill. He explained that the roof has been patched and that a full structural survey will be undertaken as there is much work to be done. The windmill will remain closed indefinitely. The issue of lack of funds was raised. The Chairman passed on some information about obtaining Grants from English Heritage for the Windmill and Cllr Murgatroyd is to follow this up. Clerk to chase up John Bartram for an update.</p>	Cllr Murgatroyd Clerk
10.	<p>Telephone Box</p> <p>The Council had received a letter from Conservation (which was circulated with the agenda) and it was Resolved we do nothing further on this subject.</p>	
11.	<p>Community Award Scheme</p> <p>Cllr Dibblee reported that she received Five Award Nominations to date. Cllr Erskine is to put a piece in each newsletter leading up to the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Murgatroyd said that he was not in favour of this award and stated his case. Cllr Scott said that we should run with it and see how well received it is. Cllr Cartwright asked about how we can pay for an award and as it was a question of producing and framing a certificate this was not an issue. Cllr Scott also added that there were 9 free trees coming from the council and these could be considered as a way of recognising someone. Cllr Cartwright added that the plaques cost money.</p>	Cllr Erskine
12.	<p>Lock-up and Plaistow Ownership</p> <p>Cllr Murgatroyd stated that it has now been established that the Plaistow was registered as a Village Green by the Parish Council in 1968 and the Parish Council now holds this documentation. Cllrs Scott and Murgatroyd will get together before the next Parish Council meeting to discuss the Lock-Up and report back at the next meeting.</p>	Cllrs Scott and Murgatroyd
13.	<p>Broadband</p> <p>The Clerk reported that once again Mr Hatt had requested that the Parish Council write to BT about Broadband. The Chairman said that this was not a village issue and the Parish Council has done all it can on this matter. The Clerk stated that the Chrishall Exchange is up to date and the copper cables had been replaced with fibre optics ones.</p>	
14.	<p>Chalk Pit</p> <p>Cllr Scott reported that Charlie Shickell is happy to undertake a survey / appraisal of the Chalk Pit for his Duke of Edinburgh Award. Cllr Scott to progress.</p>	Cllr Scott

		ACTION
15.	Correspondence The Clerk went though the correspondence which was attached to the agenda. Janet Erskine had written to Andrew Lansley re Youth Group. The Clerk requested a copy. Cllr Dibblee took on the two health related consultation papers to read and action as necessary.	Cllr Erskine Cllr Dibblee
16.	Matters for Future Consideration	
16.1	Cllr Cartwright asked if some consideration for implementing a Residents at Risk Register for those vulnerable or without support in bad weather.	
16.2	Mrs Coxall informed Cllrs Erskine and Dibblee that a couple of Youth Group members had been chasing around Wallers Close one Youth Group night. The Cllrs thanked Mrs Coxall and will investigate.	Cllrs Dibblee and Erskine
16.3	Cllr Scott asked if the Parish Council could try and co-ordinate fundraising for the many committees. It may be worth asking the PFA, Village Hall, Youth Group and Playground committees to the next meeting. The Clerk also said that she is still awaiting insurance documents from the Village Hall Committee and Football Club.	
16.4	Cllr Scott ask Cllr Van den Ven if the stock market crashes of recent times meant that there was a pension short fall, hence the lack of funds. Cllr Van den Ven said that she would put the question formally to the meeting on 16 th February.	Cllr Van den Ven
16.5	The Clerk will have a schedule of meetings in place for the next meeting.	Clerk
17.	Date of Next Meeting Monday 8 th March, 7:30 in the Village Hall.	

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20:56