GREAT & LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

CLERK: Mrs Sarah Scott
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The Annual Meeting of the Parish

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	17th May 2025
Time:	7:30 pm
Under the Chairship:	John Ridge
Parish Councillors:	Cllrs Hall, Dring, Leitch, Clements, Hatt
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	Cllr McDonald
District Councillor:	Cllr Hobro
Members of the Public:	32 Members of the public
Start Time:	7:30pm

Apologies for Absence

Rebecca Pine – prior appointment

Approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish 2024

These were approved and signed by the Chair

Chairs Report (full report later in the minutes)

Following the Chairs report the following comments were made:

Will Parsons commented that the mirror at the crossroads was in the wrong place. Cllr Dring reported that a new mirror had been bought and that when it is erected and he invited him to come and help if he would like to

Ruth Dibblee asked why the lock-up had not been done-up. It was reported that it was structurally sound and secure added to this the Parish Council could not get anyone to take on the job as it was a listed building and a small job in the greater scheme of things.

Reports from the County and District Councillors (full report later in the minutes)

Following the report the following points were raised:

Cllr McDonald apologised for not being at last year's meeting. He explained he had 11 Parish Councils to cover.

He also thanked those who voted for him in the Local Council Elections. He received 1,500 vote and the Reform Party were second.

A member of the public asked who was responsible for the revision plans for the Flint Cross junction on the A505 (highways and County Council)
The junction will be upgraded (current proposal is traffic lights) towards the end of 2026 / early 2027.

A question was raised about any under spend (ie not so much gritting done this year as it was a milder winter). Cllr McDonald confirmed that underspent is carried forward to the next financial year.

Questions were raised about lorries and the damage they do to our rural roads. Cllr McDonald reported that he had put a stop ot the straw lorries but sugar beet lorries do more damage as they typically are more active in the winter. He has a good relationship with the transport manager at British Sugar and can work with them on transport routes.

New Road – a Gaist monitor is done twice a year and produces a map and an assessment. It always flags up the holes on New Road. The side edges of New Road are being filled and the road is being monitored.

Cllr Hall spoke about some drains outside Colts Croft which were cleaned and also some potholes not being filled even though they were in very close proximity. There is a new Asset Management system in place which should now be seamless.

There are new road contractors now in place and so that one company does not now have a monopoly.

Concerns were raised about all the new builds in Barkway and the impact on the A505. Cllr McDonald said that traffic modelling will have taken place.

Cllr McDonald spoke about the County Farms and how it is a way of attracting new farmers into the industry. Sarah Scott asked Cllr McDonald about the lease policy for County Farms, as she pointed out that a 5 year 'starter lease' is not long enough or feasible as an entry point to farming as it takes longer to establish a sustainable farm. He commented that County Farms are now very open about talking to farmers about extending their leases to 10 years and this was being encouraged.

District Councillor Report Cllr James Hobro

Financial Pressure and Planning

- **Council Tax**: Only a 3% rise is possible
- **Rental Accommodation**: Setting up a company for rental accommodation to ensure financial strength
- **Cost of Living (COL) Support**: Providing support to mitigate financial pressure

Corporate Plan

- **Strong Communities**: Focus on building strong communities and supporting local businesses
- **Inequality**: Addressing inequality through sustainable zero carbon grants
- **Council House Stock**: Right to buy. More houses needed in the housing stock and are being built (75-100 a year)
- **Insulation and Heating Upgrades**: £19m allocated for these improvements
- **Planning Service**: Improved planning service with an 8-week target
- **Bins**: Now a 4-day schedule. The pink bin was in the village last year and it would be helpful if it returned again
- **Mobile Warden Schemes**: Addressing the crisis in social care by enabling people to live in their own homes longer

Grant Streams

- **Annual Zero Carbon Grant**: £15,000 available, deadline end of June
- **Community Chest**: Smaller grants of £2,000 rolling over each month
- **Ad Hoc Grants**: Additional grants available

Local Plan

- **Legal Planning Framework**: Last updated in 2018, with a draft expected by the end of this year
- **Public Consultation**: Scheduled for the end of this year
- **Major Development**: No plans for major development in the area

Local Government Reorganisation

- **Combined Authority**: A communication should be received by the end of March regarding local government reorganisation
- **Cambs Position**: Cambs is low on the list, with clarity expected within a year

Additional Points raised by members of the public:

- **Green Waste**: Could there be a balance of collections with more green waste and less black waste? This had been raised with other parishes and Cllr Hobro will follow this up
- **Planning Application**: Biodigester in Thriplow update. At present no application has been made. There are concern about an increase of traffic on the A505. This type of digester does not omit unpleasant smells.

A Report from The Pheasant Public House – Martin Prescott (summary – full report in later in the minutes)

Fundraising and Improvements

- **Fundraising**: Raised £48k through Nutwood Club Points
- **New Software**: Implemented new software for the pubs
- **Staff Changes**: Liam has moved on, but Gina is still in situ
- **Improvements**: Added decking, trees, and furniture

District Council Initiatives

- **Highstreet Improvements Grant**: Efforts to improve the high street include restorative work, sign maitenance, new low-level lighting in the car park, and garden maintenance with new plants

Not-for-Profit CIC

- **Community Support**: The CIC is taking shape, focusing on gifting time and space for communities, such as organizing Bonfire Night
- **Charity Criteria**: 1% of turnover is allocated to charity
- **Fundraising Packages**: Available for local organisations, and open to new ideas

Remodelling and Events

- **Upstairs Remodelling**: Plans to remodel the upstairs area to include an events space, snug bar, fire escape, private room with AV equipment, and a loo
- **Office for Mike**: An office has been assigned to Mike
- **Garden Party**: Scheduled for 2nd August, featuring an outside bar, barbeque, Tom Huttleston, Party Factory, and two bands in the evening
- **Autumn and Christmas Events**: Plans are in progress for these events, including a Christmas Community Lunch where people can be nominated to attend

Community Engagement

- **Newsletter Submission**: Please submit any relevant new or information to Mike for the newsletter
- **Expansion**: Plans for a third and fourth pub
- **Appreciation**: Thanks for the warmth and support from the community

A Report from Fowlmere School

No report was received.

A Report from the PFA – the Clerk read the report (see later in the minutes)

There were no comments.

A Report from the Village Hall Committee - the Clerk read the report (see later in the minutes)

There were no comments.

A Report from the Windmill Committee – Nigel Parslow (Summary below, report included later in the minutes)

Fundraising and Events

- **Fundraising**: Raised £180k during David McKeown's time on the committee
- **Snow Drop Event**: Raised £1k
- **Open Days**: Neil arranged open days, generating £100 each Sunday this happens
-

Strategic Review and Plans

- **Strategic Review**: The plan is to keep the windmill in full work condition. It cost £6k a year to maintain
- **Windmill Operation**: The sails rotate when the wind blows it the next goal
- **Site Extension**: Peter Gale had offered a field to extend the site for picnic and car parking. A pre-application was sort from SCDC but was rejected
- **Cast Iron Wind Shaft**: Costs £150,000, with an additional £50k needed to extend the site

Community Engagement

- **Website and Local Community**: Updated website is up and running. Continuous engagement with The Pheasant and the local community is happening
- **New Bench**: Lynn Owen contributed a new bench
- **Car Park Safety**: Concerns about the dangerous car park entrance; a new site would be better, but the pre-application was rejected

A Report on the Children's Playground (Jenny Isted)and Youth Group (read by Sarah Scott)

There were no comments.

A Report from the Bell Ringers – Helen Whitehead (Summary)

Overview and Achievements

- **Highest Bells In South Cambs**: Four of the bells were made in 1686, and the 5th in 1841 and the final one added in 2022
- **Project Completion New Bell**: The project was completed with a budget of £100k
- **Community Support**: The community has been generous and supportive, with 26 services held either here or in Chrishall, including 2 weddings, a concert, a funeral, and a New Year's Eve event 1.

Bell Ringers and Activities

- **Growing Bank of Ringers**: The group includes members from primary school children to retirees
- **DBS Checks**: All ringers undergo DBS checks
- **Training Period**: It takes a year before a ringer can participate in a service
- **National Association of Ringing Teachers**: The group is affiliated with this association
- **Social Activities**: Members go on tours, visit pubs, and have curry nights
- **Rewarding**: The group is well-run and everyone finds the activity very rewarding
- **Ringing Practice**: There are 22 people waiting to ring the bells, which can make it crowded!
- **Ringing Floor**: There are no current plans to extend the ringing floor, but it is up for discussion

Maintenance and Future Plans

- **Clock Winding**: It will cost £10k to replace the clock winding mechanism. If this was done it would make it less cramped in the ringing chamber. There is currently a rota for winding the clock

There being no other questions or reports, the Chair thanked every for their participation and closed the meeting at 21.02

Outgoing Chair's Report for APM - May 2025

Good evening, everyone and welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Some refreshments are available, please help yourself.

As some of you may know, all Parish and Town Councils throughout England are required by law to hold an Annual Parish Meeting

The main purpose of this meeting is for the Council to report what it has been doing over the last year and to give the electors (i.e. you) an opportunity to hear about the work of the Council and its associated committees.

At the meeting an Annual Report is given by the Chairman of the Council and by each of the Chairs of the Council's Committees and organisations in the village. The written reports will be made available in the Minutes of the meeting and will be presented to you tonight.

You can also ask questions, either after each group representative has finished speaking, or informally at the end.

Firstly I will provide the Chairman's Report, summarising some matters in which the Parish Council have been engaged over the last 12 months.

Chairman's Report 6 May 2025

It's a pleasure to be given the opportunity to talk on behalf of the Parish Council and to highlight some topics the Council have been involved in over the last 12 months. I'll touch on Planning, Highways, Council finance and some other topics of note.

A brief aside on the split of responsibilities. We work alongside the District Council and the County Council, represented here tonight by Cllr Hobro - our District Councillor - and Cllr McDonald - our County Councillor. The precise split of their respective obligations is too long to list out now, suffice to say that in terms of the meatier topics - planning is part of the DC's work, and Highway's part of the CC's work. That's pretty reductive, and I'll get stern looks from both councillors, but a useful start point.

Planning

Planning is part of the District Council's remit and the PC expresses an opinion on all planning applications in the parish.

When it came to small developments within the village, the PC continued to receive and review our steady small stream of applications this year, trying, as we always do, to maintain a consistent and unbiased approach to comments on planning applications.

We have also kept our eye on the larger topics with respect to planning. Whilst month by month different topics bubble to the top of our radar, the general picture remains the much the same as it did 12 months ago.

There is a Local Plan in place for SCDC that lays down a clear development plan for the area, and no version of the Plan (neither the one in place, nor the one slated to replace it) includes any large development in this area.

One area worthy of comment is the application to allow the field between Wallers Close and Colts Croft to be developed. The developers have been fairly communicative with us and I'm sure many of you will have had your say already. As of now, the application is still under consideration by the council with an extension until the end of June.

Finance

The PC finances remain healthy and well managed. I say that every year, and the auditors approve our books too, so you don't need to rely solely on my word. We always maintain a reserve of at least half a year's precept in line with good practice. The clerk reports the detail in our regular meetings, and any of you are welcome to review the finance papers published after every meeting if you would like more detail.

This year the PC took the decision to keep the precept at the same level as in previous years, maintaining the PC's annual income from tax at £23,500. We took this decision as despite the cost of everything going up, we've kept sufficient in reserve to demonstrate that there is no immediate need for more income.

The purpose of the money raised through the precept is obviously to benefit the whole parish. Arguably the PC's most important job is therefore to distribute that money to support the community groups and projects that benefit the community in all manner of ways (and about which you will hear more over the course of the evening).

I'd also like to thank Jeff Gill from Blanche & Co who has, once again, supported us with our annual audit processes, which we have once again sailed through in large part thanks to Sarah's efforts. Jeff has audited us for years, and he will be stopping this year, so thanks from all of us for your work over the years.

Highways

Highways is part of the County Council remit.

One perennial area of focus for the PC is trying to keep the highways and paths around us in a reasonable state. We do our best to continually and repeatedly request that the various roads around here are prioritised. We are pleased that Hall Lane was resurfaced last year.

We do not always succeed in getting all the action we want to address the issues we raise, but rest assured we are trying as hard as we can. This is also an area in which we'd like to enlist all parishioners' support. There is an online tool for pothole reporting, and repeated use of that tool to report the potholes that have opened up is a good route for ensuring attention is kept on the roads in the parish.

Other topics of note

Whilst our conversations at the PC are many and varied - and open to all to attend - there are some topics which remain on our agenda.

Parish Facilities

One of our roles is the stewardship of some village assets, responsibilities which are often delegated to various committees you will hear from tonight. Included among those assets are the village lock-up, the Plaistow, phone box and cross-roads flower beds.

Another community asset of note is The Pheasant, whilst we have no formal remit to cover the pub, we are delighted that it continues to thrive and is so-well frequented. And thanks to Martin and the team there for engaging with the community so well.

Promotion of the village

Many of you will have seen the charming map we have commissioned as a design for the village. Hopefully you will have purchased and used the notelets or displayed the picture - copies are still available. We'll be erecting a larger copy of this design in the bus shelter, so that village visitors are pointed to interesting locations in the parish. Thanks to Cllr Hall for driving this forward and producing the first version.

Thanks

I would now like to issue some thanks to those who keep the community and the PC running.

Thanks to our District Councillor, James Hobro who is helpful and supportive on all SCDC matters, particularly planning. He makes regular trips up the hill to attend our meetings. And thanks also to County Councillor Peter MacDonald who works on our behalf with the County Council. You will hear their reports later.

Now let's turn to some parishioners who have contributed to the quality of village life.
First, thanks to Will Parsons who does such a great job of putting out a friendly newsletter to the entire village every month.

We would also like to thank Peter Johnstone who keeps the flower beds at the crossroads tidy and has done an enormous amount of litter picking all around the area.

There are many other community groups who make a difference to village life, and you will hear from some of them over the course of the evening, thanks to all such groups and their members.

I'd also like to express my thanks to my fellow Parish Council colleagues who volunteer their time to come together to do good work in support of the villages and community.

This is a year of change in the composition of the Parish Council. Rebecca Pine, who has served on the PC for many years, has chosen to step down this year, and we'd like to thank her for her work. Simon Dring has stepped down as Chair, although remains on the Council.

Perhaps more seismically, Sarah, who has for many, many years acted as Parish Clerk, has decided the time has come to move on from the role. She'll be stepping down in September this year. She regularly goes above and beyond the formal brief, working longer hours than she is required to and we will miss her efforts and community knowledge enormously. More will be said on this subject in the months to come, but for now can I extend the thanks of the Parish Council to her at this last Annual Meeting of the Parish for her in this role.

As a result of these changes, there are vacancies on the Parish Council, for councillors and for a clerk. The clerk is a paid and required role, and we are advertising currently for a replacement, if you, or anyone you know would be interested, please encourage them to apply. No previous local government experience is required, and training is available.

As to Councillors, there are regular nomination and election processes, I believe the formal nomination cycle will start again next year, but outside of those timelines, we are able to co-opt those who wish to join the PC. I believe the years have passed where we could press gang people with the King's shilling, and we now look for volunteers rather than dragoons, but I can commend it as a way to be involved in supporting this parish that we enjoy living in.

If you have any questions about the work of the PC, ask now, or at the end of individual reports or at the end of the evening.

Great Chishill County Council Report 2025
The key thing to update residents is the proposed budget for 2025/26 so I summarise here.

County Council Budget 2025/26

- The county council has shared its proposals to continue delivering its vision of a creating a greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire. Part of these proposals will identify the Council's priorities for where to spend over £1billion to deliver services and support for people and communities across the county. Priorities included with the draft Business Plan and Budget are:
- Investing £21 million into the county's 4,500 miles of road network, footpaths, cycleways, and drainage systems in 2025-26, with a further £20 million being invested in 2026-27.
- Investing £20 million over the next 3 years to support providers of adult social care services to pay care workers the Real Living Wage, helping to recruit and retain people to deliver these essential services.
- Investing £6.8 million in low carbon heating for schools and council buildings and £8.7 million being invested to deliver enhanced and upgraded household waste recycling centres in Milton and March.
- However, rising demand for the services we provide, along with the costs of those services also rising, continues to impact the county council's available funding, just as is the case with many other local authorities. That means we also must continue to make difficult choices about where we spend and where we make savings.
- This means we have a budget gap of £34.2 million in 2025-26 which needs to be closed.
- As part of the report to be discussed by councillors, this includes a proposed council tax increase of 4.99% for 2025-26. This increase, if approved, would generate around £20 million in additional funding, not only helping the council to balance the books and set a legal budget, but more importantly, meaning we can commit to:
- continuing the record level of investment in the county's highway and cycleway network that we started last year.
- ensuring that adult care services can continue to support and protect vulnerable adults by investing over £30 million to meet rising demand and costs and supporting the social care workforce.
- funding almost £0.8 Billion investment in capital expenditure to build vital schools, investing in care and community facilities, including libraries, and continue to deliver our ambitious net zero target.
- provide £2.5m to maintain holiday school vouchers for those most in need.
- sustaining home to school transport for children in education right across the county by a further £4.7 million in additional funding to help meet rising demands and costs.
- helping to provide extra capacity to support children and young people in care and children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- In our pre-budget engagement exercise, just over 50% of respondents supported an increase in Council Tax of up to 4.99% to help maintain or improve essential services.
- In reports, published for the Strategy, Resources and Performance committee, councillors considered:
- Progress to date and key investment areas for 2025/26 aligned to the council's recently updated and approved Strategic Framework – setting out how the authority will deliver its vision of a creating greener, fairer and more caring Cambridgeshire through its seven ambitions and responding to the needs of residents gathered through its annual Quality of Life Survey.
- The proposed council tax increase of 4.99% and what this additional funding will mean in terms of helping to meet some of our increased costs, as well as additional investment in priority areas.

- The council's long-term approach to changing the way it operates so that it can improve efficiency, value for money and productivity. This means getting the basics right and innovating the way services are delivered so the council can maximise the value of every pound it spends. This work includes saving £1.5m from rationalising office accommodation, and £0.5m from making greater use of technology.

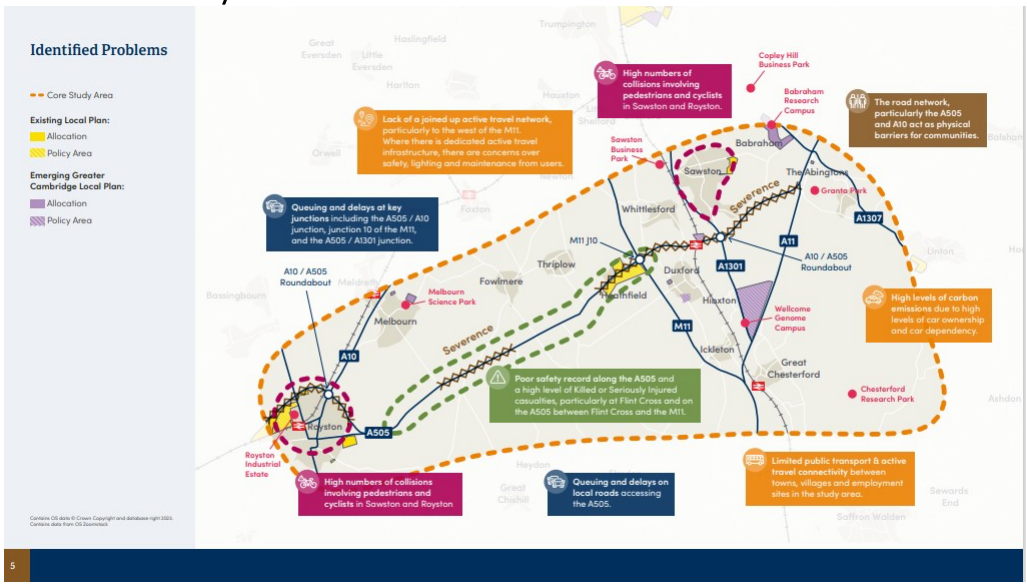
- Have your say - complete our consultation survey.

Chishill Transport Issues:
Key things have been:

- Re-surface Hall Lane c.£350k
- Repairs junction New Road c £35k
- Repairs along New Rd- c.20 done
- Re surface May St/ Little Chishill- on going

A505
A study was commissioned to look at the A505 and connectivity. Plans are being prepared to signalise Flint Cross.

A 505 Study – Problems & Solutions



Council Tax Split

Council Tax Breakdown Band D 2025/26

Authority	Amount
Cambridgeshire County Council	£1,431.19
Cambridgeshire County Council: Adult Social Care Precept	£269.45
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£175.40
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner	£299.43
Cambridgeshire Fire Authority	£87.21
Mayoral Combined Authority	£36

Chishill £71

Peter McDonald May10th 2025

Martin Prescott – Nutwood
Some highlights from the year just passed . . .

We've staged countless events (public and private), including regular monthly quiz nights, the very popular Fishy Fridays and a particularly busy bonfire night;

Across the Group in the 12month to March 2025, we gifted Nutwood Club points to the value of over £48,000
Although it's fair to say the switchover to a snazzy new software platform on 1st March was not entirely seamless;
Liam has moved on to a new job (and has been complaining that he's having to work his socks off), but we've held on to his partner Gina as a hostage for his eventual return;
You will have noticed the installation of two new front sundecks, including olive trees and flower troughs, with more tables and arriving soon. I didn't take long for somebody to drive into one of the side posts, but repairs are already underway;
We recently received an 'Improving the High Street' grant from South Cambridge DC, with many thanks for your kind endorsement;
With the benefit of that grant, the entire front of the pub has been patched and painted, with seals around all front windows being repaired or replaced;
The pub sign has been cleaned and re-finished, but NOT altered in any way (the tractor is still in the field);
We're in the process of installing new low-level lighting to both sundecks and the car park, with new spotlights for the pub sign;
We've upped the garden maintenance schedule for the new season, and new planting is now underway to front and sides, as well as to the recently-cleared side bed by the lower patio;
and I'm delighted to report that the house martens have arrived back for the summer;

Looking to the future . . .
The recently-formed and not-for-profit Nutwood Community CIC is now starting to take shape, and we are about publish eligibility criteria for our modest grant-giving initiative. We may soon be looking for a trustee or two anyone would be interested;
We are also finalising details of dedicated packages we will be able to offer to local organisations wishing to make use of our venues for their own fund-raising purposes. More on that to follow.
In case you haven't experienced the banging and crashing from upstairs at the pub, we've now embarked upon an extensive and (in my opinion) long-overdue re-modelling. The 1st floor works are expected to be completed by the start of autumn (fingers crossed), and will include:
A new entrance to the upper floor from the restaurant, plus a fire escape out and down to the lower patio;
A large (approx 60-cover) dining/function and events space, with separate 'snug' bar and 'universal' rest room;
A smaller private room (for dining, meetings or training), which will be available complete with TV/projector and a variety of furniture available to suit any possible uses;
A new Manager's office.
This year's Pheasant Summer Garden Party will be held on Saturday 2nd August from noon; an exciting date for your diaries that will include:
Children's entertainment – courtesy of the Party Factory and a face-painting artist;
Marquee for those wishing to keep out of the typical English summer sun (haha);
Facilities will include the outside bar and a sizzling BBQ all afternoon and on into the evening;
You can enjoy the dulcet tones of regular performer Tom Huttlestone during the daytime;
And there's a band (to be confirmed) in the evening; Robyn was asking about the lyrics to Mamma Mia the other day, but I'm not making any promises ☐
Best of all, free entry for everyone (dogs included).

Natalie and Robyn are already working on our autumn and Christmas calendar of events, which will include favourites like the bonfire night fund-raiser and the old folks Christmas Community Lunch, plus a few new ideas that we'll be asking for your opinions on in the coming months.

I trust you continue to enjoy what we offer at both the Pheasant and the Woodman, and you are always more than welcome to contact me or any of my team with comments, suggestions and criticisms (constructive, preferably). We aim to provide a warm and comfortable home-from-home, so please let us know if you feel there's something missing, or anything we could do better.

I brought a long a small quantity of our latest newsletter – hot off the press – and you can also access the digital copy by going online to the Nutwood website – www.nutwoodpubs.com We're always looking for new content for our newsletter and social media feeds, so if you have anything you'd like to share, and especially photos of people and pets (which are always popular), please feel free to drop in to Mike at the pub, or email to news@nutwoodpubs.com

You'll also note from the newsletter that Nutwood Group is now taking a few tentative steps to grow, with one (and possibly two) new pub/restaurants joining us in the next few months. It's been a long and somewhat arduous process, and it never ceases to amaze me how much of a mountain our legal and finance advisors can make out of what I had thought to be a modest molehill. We're not there yet, but hopefully not too far now.

Lastly, I'd like to express heartfelt thanks once again, personally and from the entire Nutwood team, for all the warmth, friendliness and support we continue to enjoy from the good folks of Great Chishill and surrounding villages. We are well aware that our little pub would be nothing if it wasn't for you.

Thank you.

PFA VILLAGE MEETING May 2025

REPORT
Summary

I am pleased to say that we have had a very successful 12 months since I last reported.

We are continuing to look at ways of improving the facilities in a sustainable way. Last year we maintained the number of users.
We remain in a good stable financial position.

Facilities
Pavilion
The pavilion remains in a good state of repair. We have had a few issues with some of the plumbing which have been rectified. I am currently investigating replacing the main door as we have had a few issues. I would like to thank Ed Hanson who has responded very quickly when we have had issues.

Sports facilities
The goal posts are used regularly by football teams and by local youngsters and not so young. As a result some repairs will be required before the start of next season.

Equipment
Our ground equipment is starting to show its age with a number of breakdowns. I would like to thank Marvell services at Melbourn for their very quick response when we have had issues.

At one point we thought we may have serious issue with the mower. Fortunately a solution was found which did not require an expensive repair.
I have asked Marvel to make me aware of any newer but affordable mower that may become available.

Playing surfaces.
We have had a few challenging years weather wise. We had a few years of very dry weather and more recently months of very wet weather. The wet weather made cutting of the grass very difficult with clumps wet grass lying on the surface. As a result the playing surface have deteriorated a little.
This spring we will be getting the field treated for weeds and fertilised.

Pavilion users
The nursery uses the pavilion for 4 days a week during term time.

The cricket club uses the facilities for their games on Saturday afternoons and for coaching juniors on Saturday mornings. These Saturday morning sessions have been a great success with very good attendance.

Royston football club now regularly use the pitch on Saturday mornings for the under 16 girls and boys games. It has quickly despite the slope become one of their favourite pitches. Positive feedback has been received on the condition of the playing surfaces and the facilities.

During the year a couple of cycling groups have also used facilities as a feed station on several rides.

During the winter this year we cut down a further 3 dead trees. We have also replanted a further 6 new trees supplied by SCDC (south cambs district council). Thank you to Tim Scott for helping cutting the trees down and for liaising with the council regarding the supply of the replacement trees.

In summary the pavilion and playing fields are used on a regular basis. The fabric of the building and the condition of the playing surfaces and ground keeping equipment is good.

I have included our last full accounts for the years March 23/24 which were submitted to the charity commission.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are appreciative of the grant given to us by the parish council.

THANK YOU.

I would like to express my thanks to our volunteers (Martin Hague, Simon Coxall, Jeff Gill and Tim Scott) who have helped maintain the pavilion, playing fields and equipment.
Tim Scott for cutting the grass in The Plaistow.
Peter and Michael Wiseman for their help in keeping our grass cutting equipment running .

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS WISHING TO SERVE

Alan Ferrie CHAIR/SECRETARY
Jeff Gill VICE CHAIR/TREASURER
Martin Hague. CC REP
Alastair Cockerton CC REP
Angus Gent. CC REP

Like the other committees we are struggling to get volunteers to join us.

I hope that you will adopt this proposal

Alan Ferrie

Great & Little Chishill Village Hall
Report to the Annual Parish Meeting - May 2025
We're delighted to report that we've had another busy year in the village hall.

Many local clubs and groups use the hall throughout the week. Exercise classes take place most mornings, as well as yoga group on Monday evenings. We have Art Club and Badminton on Wednesdays, Bowls Club on Thursday evenings, Bridge Club and Kurling on Fridays. The WI hold their meetings here once a month and Youth Club meet up twice a month on Tuesday evenings during term time.

We've also been the venue for many popular village events. There was the Summer Barn Dance in July organised by the Bell Ringers, a Ceilidh in October raising funds for Khandel Light, the Annual Cricket Club Dinner and Crafts on the Hill in November, as well as the Children's Christmas Party.

A new event last year was the very popular Artisan Fair in aid of the playground project and Brain Tumour Research, and there are plans to do another one in the Autumn.

In March this year, villagers had the chance to put their dancing shoes on for the annual St Patrick's Day Dance in aid of St Swithun's, and earlier this month the playground project hosted an indie-rock Bands Night to raise more funds towards new play equipment.

On top of all the village events, we continued to see good numbers of bookings for private events and children's parties.

During the year, we did lots behind the scenes to keep the hall in good order: getting plumbing issues fixed, upgrading the electrics, having the external doors reset, adding door stops in various places to help prevent wear and tear, as well as having some of the internal doors trimmed and rehung so they open and close more freely. Other jobs on our 'to do' list include some general redecorating and progressing our plans to refurbish the main kitchen.

If there are other improvements anyone would like to see, please let us know!
We are continuing to take care of the hall's finances and manage our spending in a responsible way. Last year we were just able to cover our running costs from hire fees, which we continue to keep as low as we can – even though some of our bills, particularly

our energy costs, have gone up considerably in the last few years. Repairs and improvements were funded from our reserve funds.

As the hall is currently in good financial shape, the committee unanimously agreed not to put the hall forward for a Parish Council grant last year. The committee also agreed not to request a grant again this year. We hope this frees up funding for other village projects that have greater need.

Our committee members over the year were: Andrew Brown, Anna Coney, John Crawley, Andrea Hamblin, Gillian Philpott, Rebecca Pine and Nigel Russell. Sadly, Rebecca will be leaving us this year because she is stepping down from her role on the Parish Council. We have really enjoyed having Rebecca on the committee and would like to thank her for all her support over the past few years. Hopefully a new PC rep will be joining the committee soon and we look forward to welcoming them on board. Finally, we'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who's organised or come along to events at the hall this year.

It's fantastic to see it being so well used and we hope to see many more events up at the hall in the year to come.
Anna Coney
Chair - on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee

Great Chishill Windmill Trust
Report to Parish Council May 2025
The Great Chishill Windmill Trustees thank the Parish Council for their continued support of this treasured village asset.

The general maintenance of the Windmill costs about £6500 each year so the annual grant from the Parish Council is much appreciated.

There have been changes to the Trusteeship of the Windmill in the last year. David McKeown, who was key to the most recent renovation of the windmill, has stood down as a Trustee as he has moved from the village. His contribution is very much appreciated.

The Trustees organised our third and very successful snowdrop viewing at meadows just outside Harston thanks to the owner who is a keen supporter of the village and the Windmill. £960 was raised from donations, a lower amount than last year due to the inclement weather.

The Windmill opened for tours (10:00 to 16:00) every other Sunday from the start of April through to the end of September and continues in this vein in 2025. Volunteer guides (three in the morning and three in the afternoon organised by Neil Heywood) are available to answer visitors' questions and provide tours. These continue to prove very popular. Although we don't charge, visitors have been very generous with donations, and we have windmill themed sale items available. Takings so far have averaged just over £100 for each Sunday. We are always on the lookout for more guides.

We have re-vamped the windmill website and plan further publicity to maintain visitor numbers.

The car park associated with the mill has seen some anti-social behaviour and we have agreed with Ann Lillicrap that we will install a CCTV camera. We have also been in communication with the Police.

The maintenance of the mill (led by Nigel Parslow) has continued during the year with regular greasing of the main bearing and fan tail mechanism and repairs to ensure the Windmill remains watertight. We have recently put out a request for volunteers to help us with grass cutting at the mill and have plans to seed a part of the site with wildflowers.

A new bench has been added to the site in memoriam to Lyn Owen whose grant kick started the renovation of the windmill. This bench will be dedicated to his memory on 25th May.

We submitted a pre-planning application to SCDC to make use of the land to the west of the windmill which the owner has generously offered to lease to us. We would plan to use this land for car parking and for occasional fund-raising activities. The planning officer advised us on what we would need to include in a formal application for this to be acceptable.

Additional fund raising will be required to take the windmill to its next stage of renovation with rotating sails. We have had discussions with a local millwright to understand what is required to achieve this. This is our long-term objective. The mill wright also pointed out some immediate items we need to attend to for the windmill to continue to be a real asset for the village. These include re-painting which we hope to complete in the summer.
Nigel Parslow (Chairman) / John Wahlich (Secretary)

Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting May 2025
Great Chishill Playground Project
Chair: Emily Brown **Secretary:** Claire de Froberville **Treasurer:** Jenny Isted
Other Committee Members: Trudie Adcock, Lisa Beard, Anna Coney, Jasmine Sideravicius, Stephanie Weatherly, Celia Woods-Hall
The playground group formed in 2023 to raise money for a newly designed play area. Our aim is to completely renovate the current playground so that children of all ages can continue to use and enjoy this space for many more years to come.

Having gathered quotes and design ideas from a number of different playground suppliers, we set ourselves a fundraising target of £60,000. In our first year we were very busy organising events. Since the last AGM we have run three successful events and partnered in the village Artisan Evening. The Pheasant helped organise a brilliant Bonfire Evening, popular with young and old alike. The evening with Peter Wiseman celebrating our village history welcomed over 120 people and was a wonderful community event. In May we held a 'Bands Night' with several live bands and lots of enthusiastic dancing.

We'd like to thank everyone who helped or supported these events in any way – either by helping us organise them, making cakes, lending us decorations, or just buying a ticket and coming along!
On top of all the support for our events, we've also been overwhelmed by all the other wonderful things our community are doing to support the playground project and raise money for us in different ways. Our particular thanks go to: Harriet Scott for donating the proceeds of her Tomato Plant Sale; the wonderful team who led the Artisan Evening in October, Angus Gent for the Christmas Tree sale; The Pheasant for hosting and supporting the Bonfire Night and the Bridge Club.

Thank you so much to everyone involved. Our fundraising total now stands at over £23,000. We are now focusing our attention on applying for grants. In the autumn we applied for our Charity Status and are waiting to have this confirmed. This will open up more funding opportunities and potentially allow us to claim GiftAid. We are principally looking at local grants and also companies who may be able to donate even a small amount to help us.

We are very thankful to the Parish Council in organising to take down the fort, which sadly had become a danger. During the coming year we may have to look at taking down further equipment or maintaining it depending on the designs of the new playground.

As you know we are the same team who organise the Children's Christmas Party at the Village Hall. Stripey Wipey was back by popular demand and Santa made a special visit too! It was a wonderful afternoon and lovely to see so many Great Chishill and Heydon families having such a great time.

As ever, we'd like to say a huge thanks to the Playing Field's grass cutting team for keeping the play area neat and tidy, and to the Parish Council for their ongoing financial support for the playground project and the Children's Christmas Party.

We will be planning more events soon, so please keep an eye on the newsletter for updates. And if you have any good fundraising ideas, we'd love to hear them!

Report for Great & Little Chishill Annual Parish Meeting May 2025
Gt Chishill Youth Club
Chairperson: Amy Tait
Secretary: Vacancy
Treasurer: Emily Brown
Youth Workers: Dan Horne

Great Chishill Youth Club offers a local meeting place for young people aged 10 to 17, every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month in the village hall.
Dan Horne is still in place as our Youth Worker, supported by extra volunteers on club nights. We also currently have a local Year 12 student with us volunteering with us. As always, we desperately need extra voluntary support and continue to encourage parents to get involved.

The club continues to offer a variety of activities including lots of sports and games, food and theme nights, fun competitions, cooking, crafts, and plenty of free play! We are keen to raise awareness amongst our members about local charities and the needs in the wider community and ask for food bank donations in exchange for the end of term Christmas and Summer party treats.

Our great thanks go to the Parish Council for their continued funding support, without which we would not be sustainable. Our thanks also to the village hall committee for the continued provision of storage space for our equipment.

These minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2025 were approved as a true record of that meeting at the Annual Parish Meeting on 15th May 2026 and signed by the Meeting Chair, Cllr John Ridge.