Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 15h January 2026

Present: Cllrs Clements, Dring, Hatt, Leitch, Ridge (Chair);
District Cllr J. Hobro (from 8.15pm); County Cllr Peter McDonald (until 8 pm)
Members of the public: Angus Gent on behalf of the combined PFA and Playground committees
Minutes: A Lorenz, Parish Clerk

1 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Hall

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

None received.

3 Approval of the Minutes of November 2025 PC meeting

The minutes were approved by the meeting and subsequently signed by the PC Chair.

4 Public Participation

A. Gent spoke about the fundraising efforts of the combined Children's Playground and PFA Committee for remodelling the existing Great Chishill playground and asked for a PC contribution to be factored into future budgets.

- To date ca 29k have been raised. Since the quote previously obtained has increased by 15k to 75k, this still does not reach the 50% of costs that are a prerequisite of going down the grant application route.
- The committee seeks either a grant towards reaching the match funding threshold or a grant towards annual maintenance costs for the PC.
- The PC is broadly supportive of the remodelling effort and will consider contributing within budgetary constraints. Grants to other local associations are within a £1000-£2500 range; grants larger than that would commit a significant proportion of the annual precept.
- The meeting suggested a couple of avenues for additional fundraising: approach Heydon PC, since that village has no playground of its own – and residents are likely to benefit from new Gt Chishill facilities – and applying to the South Cambs District community chest for a 2k grant (recommended by Cllr J Hobro).

5a District and County Councillor Reports

Reports had been made available ahead of the meeting.

6 Local Elections

The meeting voted unanimously to hold PC elections in May 2026.

5b Presentations by County and District Cllrs

---- County Cllr P. MacDonald reported on plans to establish an aviation technology nucleus near the IWM Duxford in several years' time, which would affect traffic flow on the A505 in due course.

He also confirmed that he had expressly requested that traffic lights at the Flint Cross junction be put back on the programme of works of the Combined Authority (local representation Mayor Paul Bristow may help to re-enforce the urgency of calming this particular incident hotspot). PC Cllrs will reach out to acquaintances in neighbouring villages who share their desire to see these traffic lights installed.

Local elections will be held on May 7th (the County decision making the requested input by the PC to the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Communities redundant).

Due to a directive by the Secretary of State to consider development within a 1m radius of railway stations (at Whittlesford, for example), additional pressure on the A505 may arise in the future.

There is no realistic prospect of major road upgrades/dualling within the County for some time, while the County budget shows a significant deficit (legal commitments to adult social care being one of the major contributory factors).

Highways maintenance: the County is locked into a contract with a single provider until the end of 2026. Since that monopoly provider has proved unsatisfactory, the County intends to give 12 months' notice of not renewing the contract and will endeavour to make contractual arrangements that result in a much-improved standard of work.

There will be a 4.9% increase in council tax in for the next financial year.

---- District Cllr J. Hobro summarised his monthly report. The deadline for input into the Local Plan is the end of January. There are no components of that Plan affecting the parish of Great & Little Chishill, the nearest area earmarked for development being at Great Abington. May 2026 local elections are likely for 1 year only, since the unified authorities are due to be formed in 2027.

There is a question mark over how the Cambridge Growth Company (essentially a quango) is supposed to interact with elected regional bodies and the Local Plan. CGC is supposed to have a remit for co-ordinating funding for infrastructure (roads, water etc) but it is not clear how this will pan out in practice.

7 Finance

1. The Clerk presented the finance sheets for Nov and Dec 2025. These were accepted and signed.
2. The meeting accepted the quote for additional work on the Plaistow by Herts Tree Care (£420).
3. The Clerk reported to the meeting on spend to date in the financial year 2025-26 and on invoices expected until the end of March. Between fixed costs, grants to local associations and expenditure on facility upkeep (Plaistow, outdoor gym) spend will exceed the annual precept. In order to maintain some flexibility in making local grants and to ensure a prudent financial reserve, the PC voted to increase the precept for 2026027 by £1000 (to £24,500).

8 Planning

1. There are no open planning applications requiring PC input. Cllr Clements reported on attending the planning meeting re proposed houses on Hall Land in Sept 2025 and shared his impressions on the main concerns that lead to split meeting vote against the planning application (flooding risk, impact on landscape).
2. An email from Chris Braybooke regarding the rabbit residence (1), North Hall Farm (2) and Windmill Hill (3) was entered into the record. Action re (1) is due in 02/2026; the others are under review.

9 PC website

The Clerk will take steps to synchronise IT subscriptions (domain, email hosting, website hosting) and liaise with Cllr Dring (community website admin) in order to achieve a good value package for all three. The meeting expressed a preference for a new domain name.

10 Highways

Dealt with under previous agenda points.

11 Speed and Safety

The Clerk reported on the two schemes under which local councils can apply for speed reduction measures, the Local Highways Improvement Initiative (LHI) and the separate 20mph scheme. The latter is less onerous, with a lower threshold of incident evidence needed for an application. The meeting took the view that only physical measures such as road surface modifications (speed cushion etc) would

stand a chance of making a genuine impact. As these can only be applied for under the annual LHI round (applications closed for 20-26-27) and would commit the PC to significant partial contribution towards installer costs, the meeting did not consider this a realistic avenue.

12 Cllrs' Surgery 7th February

The upcoming surgery with County and District Cllrs needs to be publicised more widely. A notice will appear in the February village newsletter; local councillors will post news on the local Facebook Group (clerk does not have access).

13 Notices and matters for the next agenda

Co-option of councillors/ candidates for PC; quote for war memorial repair; traffic lights Flint Cross.

These minutes have been approved as a true account of the Parish Council meeting held on 19th March 2026.

Signature: Date:

John Ridge, Chair of the Parish Council

Appendix 1: Budget and Precept 2026-27

2025-26 spend to date: 23,868.62	
Expected invoices to end March 2026	total ca £ 3000
Expected VAT reclaim:	ca £ 1300
Grant for Children's Christmas party, reimbursement	200
Plaistow work	420
Clerk's salary	1,731
Bus shelter light repairs	70
Village newsletter	96
Domain renewal re-imbursement	20
GSuite via Weebly (if continued)	420
Electricity bills	60
Unusual expenses 2025-26	
Fresh Air Fitness, open air gym repairs 2,600	
Fixed costs per financial year	
12 x newsletter =	576
12 x salary =	6,924
Liability insurance	1,517
IT expenses	£600
Payroll management	210
External auditor	250
Herts&Cambs Gound Maintenance (verges) 3x 445 =	1,335
St Swithun, St Nicholas grass cutting 600 (offset by a Highways grant?)	600
PFA grass cutting	750
Electricity ca	175
Play Safely certification	100
	Subtotal ***13,037***
Likely grants:	
Windmill Trust	2500
Children's Playground	1000
Youth Group	1000
PFA	1000
Children's Xmas party	200
	Subtotal ***5700***
Next year: plus VH grant	6700

Annual spend on 'expected costs' £ 19,700;

If any additional costs for tree maintenance or PFA maintenance were to occur, precept income as currently set is exceeded …+ £ 1,900 on Plaistow + £ 2600 = 24,200)