Minutes of Parish Council Meeting

16 October 2025

Venue Village Hall, Hall Lane, Great Chishill
Time: 7:30 pm
Parish Councillors present: Simon Dring (from 7.50 pm), Charles Hall, Bob Hatt, Jenny Leitch, John Ridge (Chair)
Other Councillors present: District Cllr James Hobro (until 8:00)
Clerk/Proper Officer: Andrea Lorenz
Members of the Public: John Wahlich, Secretary Great Chishill Windmill Trust (until 8:00)

Start of meeting: 7.35 pm. End of meeting: 8.45pm.
The PC meeting was quorate.

1 Apologies for absence
Apology received from County Cllr Peter McDonald due to an evening meeting in Yeovil.

2 To receive any declaration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest of councillors.
Cllrs Ridge and Hall registered a personal interest on behalf of family members in agenda item 14, concerning the threat to historic availability of Therfield Heath for rugby practice, especially by junior players.

3 Approval of the Minutes of 11 September
The minutes of the previous PC meeting on 11 September 2025 were approved.

4 Public Participation
John Wahlich spoke in support of the Windmill trust's plans presented by Cllr Hatt (agenda item 9, brought forward).

5 District and County Councillor reports
Reports had been received and circulated ahead of the meeting.
- Cllr Hobro updated the meeting on the schedule for comments on the revised Greater Cambridge Local Plan. Public consultation on the Plan – development remit until 2041 – opens 1st Dec 2025. Before then, 2 scrutiny meetings in Nov present an opportunity for elected local officials to give input. Communication pathway: once papers have been sent out to local officials 1 week ahead of the pertinent meeting, PCs will be able to comment on the plan via email to Cllr Hobro.
- Cllr Hobro reminded the meeting of the deadline for application for free trees, 30th Nov. The Clerk is to explore the interest in free trees with Mr Scott.

9 Great Chishill Post Mill, support for minor and major projects
Cllr Hatt introduced the plans of the windmill trust for improving safety and accessibility of the Great Chishill mill site, as well as protecting residential properties close to the mill against noise/nuisance caused by misuse of the existing mill car park (Appendix 1). Planned mitigation measures include enlarging and moving the car park and its entrance to agricultural land nearby; installing a surveillance camera and potentially a timed exit barrier on the new car park. Preliminary talks with the landowner of the proposed site to secure a lease have been positive. The District Council is broadly supportive of the measures.
- Points discussed at the PC meeting: Safety benefits versus potential risk to vandalism of the proposed infrastructure (cameras, gate).
- Conclusion: the PC strongly supports the measures proposed by the windmill trust and welcomes them as a significant contribution towards improved highway/access safety.

6 Co-option of a parish councillor
Cllrs Dring and Hall are pursuing a lead each and will report on their success to the Nov PC meeting.

7 Finance
7.1. The clerk presented the finance sheet and current account bank statement for Sept 2025. These were approved and signed during the PC meeting.
7.2 Cllr Dring has now received his access and authorisation credentials from the bank.

8 Planning

8.1. There are currently no planning applications requiring a consultee response from the PC.

8.2. Cllr Ridge shared an email received from the enforcement officer with the meeting.

- Investigation into compliance issues North Hall Farm: the SCDC planning enforcement officer made a site visit to check on occupancy of the properties for which change of use is being sought currently.
- The Rabbit Residence case is being reviewed.
- Erection of a structure on land off Barley Road, with associated trenches to connect services: the planning authority is aware of the structure.

Ongoing projects: Cllr Dring made the meeting aware that neighbours have raised concerns over heavy commercial traffic to The Pudgell, as the property appears to be in business as well as residential use.

10 War Memorial

Cllr Ridge reported on his inspection of the gates to the memorial enclosure. The ironwork is fundamentally sound; replacement of the hinges (which do not match the shape of the gate uprights) should ensure usability. Cllrs Ridge, Dring and Hall volunteered to speak to local contacts with metalworking/welding expertise to obtain a preliminary quote. The meeting agreed the work would best be carried out next spring/summer.

- Remembrance Sunday: Councillors are to decide who is available to lay customary wreath this year; Clerk to procure wreath.

11 Highways: outstanding highway issues

The Clerk shared an email received from Cllr McDonald on 15/10 with the meeting. According to this communication, G Carson (South Cambridge Highways Maintenance Officer) inspected a stretch of Chishill and New Road on an unspecified date. Findings: several new potholes at the New Road junction (since marked up); no observable drainage issues.

- The meeting noticed that this inspection does not seem to have included any of the several other 'hotspots' of defective resurfacing that have been raised in emails with Cllr McDonald for many months, such as Little Chishill (frayed tarmac, pot holes) and Hall Lane towards the Essex border (storm drains covered by tarmac).
- The Clerk will forward the email to Cllr Ridge and monitor progress of inspections/remedial work.

12 Speed and Safety

Cllr Hall will deal with the response to a parishioner concerned about speeding on Hall Lane (delayed form last PC meeting by travel for work).

13 PC Car Park

Cllr Ridge has filled in the car park holes since the last meeting. He will invoice the parish for materials used.

14 Potential support for legacy users of Therfield Heath, Royston

The Clerk reported on outreach to adjacent villages (poor response).

Cllr Hall outlined legacy use of the Heath, with the Royston Rugby Club using – and materially contributing to the partial upkeep of – Therfield Heath for 60+ years. New restrictions by the Conservators mean that junior players are forced to find practice areas elsewhere, while infrastructure paid for by Royston Rugby Club (floodlights, mowing) continues to benefit other stakeholders. The restriction result in fragmentation of Rugby practice, with junior and senior players being slotted into different localities; this is likely to result in choking off the local talent pipeline and curtail the activities of local young parishioners.

- Conclusion: the PC instructed Cllr Hall to draft a letter of support for continuing legacy use of the Heath, expressing Great & Little Chishill residents' voices.

15 To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

None received.

Signed as a true account of the Great & Little Chishill Parish Councill meeting of 16th October 2025:

Cllr John Ridge, Chair

Appendix 1

Great Chishill Mill Trust projects, introduced by Cllr Hatt

The refurbishment of the windmill has been a huge success and is a considerable asset to Great Chishill and surrounding villages towns etc.

The open days have proved very successful together with special open days but this has brought with it another set of problems.

The 1st and most important is safety, it is getting dangerous turning in and out of the mill on the blind bend this is something the trustees are very aware of.

Secondly the car park can only accommodate 4 cars safely

The third matter is that we are now getting unofficial car clubs meeting in the car park in the evenings, continuing to late, these basically are hot hatches and sports cars using the mill as a pit stop. This is disturbing the immediate neighbour and gives concern about vandalism.

What can the parish council do?
The trustees would like the PC's support in some minor items and one major project.

Safety is the **major project** and the proposed solution to this is to relocate the car park allowing for approximately 15 cars on land adjoining the mill going downhill to the village of Barley.

To this end the farmer has agreed to the possible leasing of half an acre of land which will give access further down the Barley Rd.

This will enable the public to access the mill and footpath under considerably safer conditions.

The trustees considered this to be crucial in securing the future of this important landmark

The **minor projects** are:

To arrange an automatic gate to the existing mill car park but allowing pedestrian access.

This gate would be made with a time switch so allowing parking at the mill between reasonable times. The gate would be used until the new parking arrangements can be made on the adjoining land.

The provision of a video surveillance system at the mill to discourage late parking and to give some security supervision to the mill space.

The trustees are not looking for further funding for the PC but would like its support in trying to implement these improvements.