

A Meeting of GREAT AND LITTLE CHISHILL PARISH COUNCIL

Venue:	Village Hall
Date:	11 th July 2024
Time:	7:30 pm
Chair:	Vice Chair Pine
Parish Councillors:	Leitch, Clements, Ridge, Hatt
Clerk / Proper Officer:	Sarah Scott
County Councillor:	Not Present
District Councillor:	Not Present
Members of the Public:	Three trustees of the windmill
Start Time:	7:30pm

1. Apologies for Absence (and reasons)

Clr Dring – previous engagement
 Cllr Hall – previous engagement
 Cllr Hobro – previous engagement
 Cllr McDonald

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

There non received.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the APM 2024

These were considered a true and accurate account of proceedings and were signed by the Vice-Chair.

4. Public Participation.

There was no public discussion.

5. Correspondence Received (already circulated)

There were no questions. The Clerk said that she had also received a complaint from a horse rider that Chalky Walk is impassible to riders. The Clerk had reported this to on the highways reporting page.

6. District and County Councillors Report (already circulated)

There were no questions relating to these reports.

7. Highways / Transport

- Highways issues – Great Chishill (Cllr McDonald). Hall Lane is in the process of being resurfaced and Cllr McDonald had explained the process in an email which had been circulated. New Road is still in a state of disrepair with some large potholes still in situ. The finger post at the bottom needs straightening and the 40mph signs need reciting. These have all been reported numerous times.
- Highways Issues Little Chishill. Cllr Ridge recounted an incident whereby straw lorries have been coming through Little Chishill and because it has been so wet and the trees are overhanging more, there have been instances where they have taken trees down and blocked the road. Cllr Ridge has kindly been out and cut the trees so they can be removed. Also because of this, there is lots of debris on the road. A sweeper has been sent out on several times but it gets blocked / full very quickly. John O'Brien has sent Cllr Ridge an email relating to the resurfacing that is taking part on Hall Lane.
- All verges out of the villages are overgrown. These are normally cut in August by highways. The Clerk to chase this.
- Cllr Hatt asked if we could undertake some of these jobs ourselves and it was reported that we had asked in the past and were told no due to PL insurance etc.

Post meeting information: Michael Wiseman contacted the Clerk re the Hall Lane resurfacing. He said that the as you head out of the village towards Essex all the drain covers had been tarmacked over. The Clerk met with Michael and had a look and indeed this is the case. She messaged Cllr McDonald who said that there were more drainage works to do on this stretch of road. The Clerk enquired if the tarmac will be removed and the answer was yes. As a follow up, the Clerk sent Cllr McDonald some pictures of the drains before the works (when they were blocked).

8. Planning

- 24/00809 – Kennels View, garden room extensions. There were no objections from the Parish Council
- Land in Village. The Clerk had forwarded an email to the Council. At present the developer cannot find an affordable housing partner for the site due to some changes in planning.
- North Hall Farm – The Planning Officer is currently away.
- Bridgefoot Farm – The appeal is still in progress. A change of use application had been approved. The Clerk reported that an Art Gallery had opened in the barn.
- Rabbit Residence. There will be an enforcement notice issued for the caravan to leave the site. The Rabbit Residence is looking to vacate the premises but needs to find £100k to purchase a new site.
- Wallers Close. The resident has not responded to any communications and has not answered the door when visited by the Council.

9. Finance

- Finance Sheets. There were signed by the Vice Chair.
- It appears that the audit is now concluded as the external had emailed the clerk.
- A discussion took place about grants for various village organisations. The Clerk took the Council through the spreadsheet she had put together. The Village Hall had said that they don't need a grant this year. Cllr Pine commented there are enough funds to undertake the proposed kitchen refit. The Council to request a copy of their accounts (as we have done and received from other organisations).

Grants 2024-25 – approved at the meeting:

Windmill Group – same as last year
 PFA – same as last year
 Youth Group - £750
 Village Hall – N/A
 Playground – ring fenced £3k
 St Nicholas Grass cutting - £300
 St Swithuns Grass cutting - £300
 2 x parties - £250 (when requested)

10. Speed and safety

- Speed Watch – no update.
- Mirror – no update.

11. Pink Bin

The Clerk reported that the pink bin is being used but would soon be moving on.

12. Barley Surgery

The Vice Chair is written again and is awaiting a reply.

13. Promotion of Parish

Next stage is to transfer the map to make some permanent feature in the village either in the bus shelter or on The Plaistow. She will also look at getting some tea towels and mugs printed to sell to raise money for groups in the village.

14. EV Charging

Clr Clements explained how the chargers work and the different speeds of charger. The Clerk to look into getting one or two charging points next to the bus shelter at the PC car park. Post meeting note: The Clerk has submitted an application.

15. Emergency Plan

The Clerk had submitted a Civil Contingency Plan to the Parish Council. This was approved (with the addition of St Nicholas Church). The Clerk will add to the policy document and circulated to those organisations who are listed as safe spaces.

16. To Accept Notices & Matters for the next Agenda

Village Hall to be an agenda item

There being no further business the Vice Chair closed the meeting at 20:30.

County Council Report

New operator and timetable for 26 bus route

The 26 bus route, which had been operated for the past 2 years by Centrebus under tender from the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), has now been taken on as a commercial route by local bus operator A2B. A2B have expressed their wish to bring gradual improvements to the service. Initially they had decided to remove Fowlmere from the route, but after representation from Cllr Hobro, Cllr van de Ven and myself they agreed not to do this, as the service between Fowlmere and Cambridge is very well used, and there is no rail alternative. There have been some teething problems with the handover, most notably the fact that the 26 service has disappeared from live tracking apps. We are working with A2B to bring the live information back, as many people rely on this to have confidence in the bus service. All single fares cost £2, and £1 concession fares are available for under-25s. Some services now additionally stop at the station and Tesco in Royston. One daytime service also runs via Shepreth and Meldreth.

HAF Programme

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is offering funded holiday scheme places for children in Cambridgeshire this summer who are eligible for free school meals.

This initiative by Cambridgeshire County Council offers primary and secondary school children in the county the chance to enjoy exciting experiences at a wide range of holiday schemes. With a focus on providing healthy meals alongside activities, the programme is ideal for children who want to stay healthy and active during the summer school holidays. Any child receiving benefit-related free school meals is eligible for the programme, which will run between 23 July and 30 August. Approximately 19,000 HAF eligibility vouchers were sent to families on 10 June. Each voucher offers 64 hours of access, for no charge, to a HAF scheme during the summer holidays.

The programme will be delivered by approved providers, co-ordinated by Cambridgeshire County Council. The council is working with schools, childcare providers and voluntary and community organisations to deliver the programme.

As part of the programme, eligible children will be able to access:

- Fun and entertaining opportunities or new experiences that help children to develop their skills and knowledge
- A variety of holiday schemes including sports, playschemes, drama, technology, outdoor adventure and youth schemes
- At least one meal a day
- Guidance on increasing awareness of healthy eating, lifestyles, and positive behaviours
- Parents will be supported with information and signposting to other services and support which might be helpful to families
- Further information can be found at HAF Provider Directory | Cambridgeshire County Council <https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/council/communities/support-with-the-cost-of-living/holiday-activities-and-food-programme/haf-provider-directory>

Coffee Pod Re-Cycling

This week, we've introduced coffee pod recycling at all nine of our Household Recycling Centres. The new coffee pod bins offer residents an environmentally friendly way to separately dispose of both aluminium and plastic coffee pods.

Over 1 billion coffee pods are sold each year in the UK alone. Waste from these 'single-use' pods will lead to a huge environmental impact if not recycled properly, in the UK and globally.

The County Council is partnering with Podback to provide coffee pod recycling services. Podback was initially created by Nespresso, NESCAFÉ Dolce Gusto and Tassimo to help their customers recycle their coffee pods and is now supported by many more coffee brands. Podback recycles coffee pods in the UK, to reduce waste and saving on new materials. Collected pods are shredded and cleaned of coffee. The shredded pods can be made into new products, while the coffee grounds are used to help create renewable energy and soil improver.

Did you know?

You can recycle a huge variety of items at our Household Recycling Centres from aerosols, batteries, and cooking oil, to mobile phones, soil and vapes.

There are nine Household Recycling Centres across Cambridgeshire, run by Thalia, with locations in Alconbury, Bluntisham, March, Milton, St Neots, Thriplow, Whittlesey, Wisbech and Witchford.

July 6th 2024.

District Councillor Report

General election on 4 July

As a result of the rules governing the pre-election period, some local government meetings, consultations (including consultation on the GCP Greenway scheme in Foxton), and announcements scheduled for June have been postponed until after the general election.

New operator and timetable for 26 bus route

The 26 bus route, which had been operated for the past 2 years by Centrebus under tender from the Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA), has now been taken on as a commercial route by local bus operator A2B.

A2B have expressed their wish to bring gradual improvements to the service. Initially they had decided to remove Fowlmere from the route, but after representation from Cllr McDonald, Cllr van de Ven and myself they agreed not to do this, as the service between Fowlmere and Cambridge is very well used, and there is no rail alternative.

There have been some teething problems with the handover, most notably the fact that the 26 service has disappeared from live tracking apps. I am working with A2B to bring the live information back, as many people rely on this to have confidence in the bus service. I would be grateful for any feedback on the transition, and will pass on any comments to A2B to help improve this crucial bus service for Foxton and Fowlmere.

The current timetable is available here. All single fares cost £2, and £1 concession fares are available for under-25s. Some services now additionally stop at the station and Tesco in Royston. One daytime service also runs via Shepreth and Meldreth. Cllr McDonald, Cllr van de Ven and I will keep a close eye on how the new service is working and will work constructively with A2B to help bring improvements for residents.

Rural Exception Site information

The council is working with Cambridgeshire ACRE to provide more information to Parish Councils about providing affordable housing through the Rural Exception Site process. As part of this, Cambridgeshire ACRE are hosting a tour of local rural exception sites on Thursday 11 July, aimed at helping Parish Councillors to learn more about these sites. Please book your places here. The Housing Strategy Team are always happy to come to Parish Council meetings. Please contact Strategic.Housing@scambs.gov.uk .

Funding for green space improvement

South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently working on a green space improvement project, utilising funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural England Prosperity Fund.

All Parish Councils are invited to submit a bid for a site they feel could be improved. Applications must be received by Thursday 1 August 2024. At least four sites will be selected for improvement out of the applications received, and project costs could range from small works up to around £15,000 per site. We are particularly keen on working with Parish/Town Councils who have volunteers interested and keen to support the green space improvements.

The aim of the scheme is to provide a higher quality and/or more useable green space in your area. The works undertaken may include but are not limited to:

- Tree planting/hedging
- Seating areas/benches
- Wildlife habitat improvements
- Wildflower planting
- Repair work to existing structures.
- Paths and resurfacing

To submit your application, please complete the application form.

New e-bulletin for Parish Clerks

Following feedback from the recent peer review, and a discussion with a group of clerks in February, the council is seeking to make improvements to its communication and support for clerks. This includes a new clerks' e-bulletin. I would be grateful for any feedback from clerks on this new initiative.

Market Trader Support and Youth Engagement Programme

The council is jointly organising two initiatives funded by the government's Shared Prosperity Fund:

- 20 traders in South Cambridgeshire will be able to access advice and support to enhance their current business operations, and may be eligible to apply for £1,000, grants to help develop their business.
- A Youth Enterprise Support Programme will support young people who want to start their own business. The programme will work with people aged 16–25 to develop essential skills, knowledge and will include opportunities to gain real market experience. Candidates will also have the opportunity to apply for £1,000 grants to transform their business ideas into local market ventures. Candidates can register for the programme here.