

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 7th October, 2020 on Zoom.

Present Chair Tom Newcombe, Gareth Bevens, Mike Mitchell and Sharon Tricerri.
In Attendance County Cllr John Moran, District Cllr Richard Pavitt, one member of the public and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

20/145 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Julie Redfern.

Apologies for delayed arrival were received and note from Cllr David Hall and Cllr Rachel Thackray.

20/146 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/147 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the September Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and Chairman Tom Newcombe authorised the Clerk to sign the minutes on his behalf.

20/148 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public detailed District Cllr Pavitt's work raising awareness of bodies of water within UDC and the setting up of Cambridge Upper River Assessment Team who aim to reduce the amount of water taken out of the river and improve the quality of what goes in to the river, as 90% of what goes in is coming out of sewage treatment plants.

Cllr Wendy Martin joined the meeting.

CURAT wants to have working groups to monitor the river and improve river banks, and volunteers have been clearing a vast amount of vegetation from the river on the corner of Horse River Green. The vegetation has grown so lush as a result of the poor flow and the high level of nitrogen in the water. The Environment Agency's response to weeds clogging the river, was to spray the weeds with Round Up, but this has been met with resistance and groups are seeking alternatives to keep the flow open. Dredging is not believed to be a solution, and Cllr Bevens requested assistance in drawing up a document for ECC to consider to remove the silt and digging back the river bank to improve flow.

It was noted that to resolve the extraction issue is a 25 year process, chalk rivers are a unique habitat in the UK and resolving the current issues will be a long term project.

A member of the public objected to the proposed installation of lights on the oak tree on Coronation Green, as they do not wish to urbanise our rural village.

20/149 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

County Cllr John Moran provided an update;

i. The Highway Rangers restarted work this week, the hedging up from Jacksons Lane and ditches requiring attention are on their list and will be addressed.

ii. There has been a further meeting with Kevin Bentley regarding cycle paths, the main issue is a lack of funding and it may be necessary to get the cycle path in place in sections, starting in Great Chesterford, going north and south and finishing with Littlebury and Audley End.

iii. There is an Active Travel motion at full council 13/10/2020, to enable more people to use sustainable forms of transport.

iv. County Cllr Moran confirmed that he is the only representative from ECC to sit on the Greater Ouse Board and is happy to be involved with river issues in the area.

v. The suggested one way system past the school at certain times is unachievable and doesn't fit within the Essex Highways emergency powers, County Cllr Moran agreed to look at the issue and suggested that careful consideration with the school would be necessary, plus liaison with those who live in the area.

Cllr David Hall joined the meeting.

vi. The yellow lines on the High Street are not on the North East Parking Partnership's list of works, despite County Cllr Moran having asked for the works to be expedited, County Cllr John Moran will request an update.

Great Chesterford Parish Council

County Cllr John Moran left the meeting.

District Cllr Richard Pavitt provided an update;

vii. Uttlesford now has the highest incidents of infection of coronavirus 82/100,000 of population in Essex, with 61 current actual cases. This is a significant increase in recent weeks and the message to take additional care needs to be shared.

viii. The leader of the District Council and the finance team have worked wonders, resulting in UDC's finances improving as a result of astute investments creating income ahead of schedule, alongside further government funding.

ix. The chalk streams have a very specific river bed, you have to be very careful if you dredge them, it is better to achieve greater flow in the river to expose the bed. Affinity Water are being pushed to get some solutions in place and the Chalk Stream Summit 16/10/2020 pulls together all interested parties and should result in some solutions put in place, albeit not short term.

x. The school bus provision appear to have resolved their teething issues, with the new contractors responding well to any complaints.

20/150 PLANNING

Cllr Wendy Martin declared personal interests on agenda items 20/150 i, ii and iii as a neighbour and friend of the applicants.

The following comments were agreed in response to planning applications;

i. UTT/20/2253/LB - Mill Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford

Removal of internal wall separating corridors and bathroom. Relocation of hot water cylinder. (19/10/2020) No objections.

ii. UTT/20/2254/LB - Mill Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford

Re tile and re felt single storey extension roof. (27/10/2020) No objections.

iii. UTT/20/2237/HHF - Campden House, Carmel Street, Great Chesterford

Converting the garage attic level into an office space with Dorma and Velux windows. (14/10/2020) - The Parish Council resolved to object to this application on the basis that velux windows would be more appropriate on the road side as well as the house side of the proposal.

The following planning decisions were noted;

iv. UTT/20/2239/NMA - Glington Cottage, Carmen Street, Great Chesterford

Non material amendment to UTT/17/2672/HHF - extend flat roof round side of extension to create new log store and sliding doors in dining room - Approved.

v. UTT/20/2044/NMA - The Close, Church Street, Great Chesterford

Non material amendment to UTT/20/0256/FUL - Change in fenestration, ground floor internal layout and change in external materials of north and south elevation - Approved.

vi. UTT/20/1949/HHF - Shelfords, School Street, Great Chesterford

Replacement of single glazed timber windows and door to the rear and side of property - Approved with conditions.

vii. UTT/20/1831/DOC - Reed House, Manor Lane, Great Chesterford

Application to discharge condition 2 (flint wall details) attached to UTT/20/0977/LB - Discharge conditions in full.

viii. UTT/20/1537/HHF - The Delles, Carmen Street, Great Chesterford

Replacement of first floor front sash window - Refused.

ix. UTT/20/1503/HHF - 9 Ash Green, Great Chesterford

Garage conversion and single storey side extension - Approved with conditions.

x. Cllr Hall reported attendance at a 2.5 hour Zoom meeting today with developers, UDC, ECC and the panel of planners, where the allocation of 76 houses to Great or Little Chesterford was not addressed. A pre-application for the river side of London Road is also anticipated in November, with the expectation that a coherent plan will be shared dealing with both sides of the road simultaneously. Maria Shoemith has confirmed that the Parish Council will be invited to the pre-app meeting.

Cllr Hall noted that the developer stated that the Parish Council will undertake the maintenance of the woodlands, and this claim was not challenged.

Cllr Bevins proposed that Great Chesterford Parish Council request that Uttlesford District Council undertake a Community Governance Review on London Road at the boundary of Great Chesterford and Little Chesterford.

Chair Newcombe seconded the proposal and Councillors voted unanimously in favour.

Cllr Rachel Thackray joined the meeting.

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Cllr Hall noted that Maria Shoemsmith was asked in a letter from the Parish Council (23/03/2020) what steps were needed to allocate the 76 approved dwellings in to Great Chesterford parish. It was agreed that Cllr Hall would forward details of the letter to the clerk to request an update.

20/151 FINANCE

i. The clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books for the Recreation Ground Trust and Parish Council Current and Deposit accounts which were agreed.

The following transactions;

OP - James Stevenson Flags Ltd - £187.20

DD - A&J Lighting - call out - £157.14

DD - A&J Lighting - monthly maintenance - £161.64

DD - E.On - Streetlights September - £480.53

DD - Unity Trust Bank - quarterly service charges - £18.00

OP - Spring Cottage Landscaping - ditch clearance/hedge cutting - £700.00

OP - Grafton Merchandising - nursery fencing - £172.85

OP - Grafton Merchandising - nursery fencing - £432.12

OP - Bryan Lecoche Ltd - concrete block hire - £201.60

OP - T Revell Carpentry - nursery break in repair - £200.00

OP - Salaries September 2020 - £1630.14

OP - Essex Pension Fund September 2020 - £496.68

OP - HMRC quarterly PAYE/NI contributions - £527.99

OP - Chesterfords Community Centre - electricity charge multi-sports/scout hut/gym - £85.71

were agreed for payment from the PC and RGT current accounts.

ii. Cllr Hall proposed a £50 budget for the proposed purchase of a memorial wreath for Remembrance Sunday, which was seconded by Chair Newcombe and Councillors voted unanimously in favour. It was agreed that Chair Newcombe would confirm the price and location for the wreath.

iii. Cllr Bevens provided a budget update and stressed the importance of spending budget allocations.

v. The Council agreed to finance a further Good Neighbours newsletter if considered necessary.

20/152 OPEN SPACES

i. The Council ratified restorative works carried out to the Horse River Green river bank, and agreed to consider the river banks as part of the Parish Council's open space responsibility.

Cllr Mitchell requested a report detailing Parish Council responsibilities and expert review on actions being proposed to ensure the Parish Council are taking appropriate action and consideration of the impact of possible action consequences.

District Cllr Pavitt confirmed that the Environment Agency now imposes riparian responsibilities, home owners with a river bank on their property are responsible for the maintenance of the bank.

ii. It was agreed that the proposed installation of power to Coronation Green would not be necessary.

iii. It was agreed that Cllr Bevens would research solar powered tasteful seasonal lights for erection within the oak tree on Coronation Green, for consideration at the November meeting. GB

iv. The Council noted receipt of a communication requesting the Parish Council considers the erection of a community pump track on the area next to the orchard.

v. Cllr Hall proposed a budget of £1800 + VAT for the installation of bollards at Horse River Green. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Bevens and Councillors voted unanimously in favour. MM

vi. Cllr Mitchell provided an Open Spaces update (Appendix 1)

It was resolved that Chair Newcombe would despatch a communication from the Parish Council, detailing the varied issues surrounding the allocation of land, storage and best use proposals. TN

20/153 RECREATION GROUND TRUST

i. No update provided.

20/154 LOCAL PLAN CONSULTATION

i. Chair Newcombe proposed to circulate a response to this consultation for approval and ratification at the November Meeting. Cllr Hall seconded the proposal and Councillors voted unanimously in favour. TN

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Cllr Hall agreed to attend UDC's Community Stakeholder Forum meeting 12/10/2020 but noted that volunteers from Great Chesterford will need to step forward to ensure the best interests of the local community are adequately represented and protected going forward.

Cllr Hall agreed to draft a short email for Chair Newcombe to rally support from the parish.

DH/TN

ii. The Council resolved to send a follow up letter to UDC regarding compensation relating to Local Plan expenditure.

20/155 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Thackray confirmed that it is hoped that all policies will be drafted and site selection finalised by the November Council meeting, with out-reach to the parish also being underway.

20/156 VILLAGE AWARD

A budget of £100 was agreed for the Village Award, and the Council resolved to announce the winner at the November Council meeting.

Chair Newcombe suspended the meeting for part two, and the public left the meeting.

20/151 FINANCE

iv. The Council noted Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2020/2021 and review salaries in line with the National Salary Award Scales received from the National Association of Local Councils for salary pay scales for Clerks and other employees, to be implemented from 1st April 2020.

The Council resolved to implement the minimum wage hourly rate of pay for casual workers.

20/153 RECREATION GROUND TRUST

ii. The Council agreed to transfer the business grant to Great Chesterford Bowls Club.

20/157 NURSERY

Cllr Mitchell provided an update and awaits a full report from ECC.

20/158 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

i. Neighbourhood Plan

ii. Local Plan

iii. Tap

iii. Solar panelled Xmas lights.

20/159 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 11th November, 2020.

The meeting closed at 22.12.