

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 9th March 2022.

Present	Chair Tom Newcombe, Councillors Simon Cleary, David Hall, Mike Mitchel, Penny McCullough, Julie Redfern, Rachel Thackray and Sharon Tricerri.
In Attendance	County Councillor Paul Gadd, District Councillor Neil Gregory, Clerk to the Parish Council, Kate Stacey and six members of the public.

To start the meeting the Chair acknowledged the situation in Ukraine noting that the Parish Council stands against all forms of oppression and tyranny. All agreed that Ukraine had their utmost support and sympathy. Cllr Redfern noted that two events were planned within the village to raise funds for Ukraine, the first on 2 April and the second on a date to be confirmed and it was acknowledged that others in the village already had great success in fundraising and obtaining donations to the appeal for Ukraine regarding which we were very proud.

22/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from District Cllr Richard Pavitt.

22/22 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Hall noted that he had a personal interest in agenda item 22/27 i as the appeal applicant. Cllr Thackray noted that she had a personal interest in any matters arising related to GC Primary Academy as a school governor. Cllr Newcombe declared he is a Partner at Birketts LLP

22/23 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 9th February Parish Council meeting were approved by Cllrs as an accurate representation and signed by the Chair.

22/24 Co-Option of New Councillor

Chair Newcombe reported that discussions were continuing with two individuals who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. Clarification was being sought as to whether the number of Cllrs could be increased.

22/25 Public Forum

A resident on School Street reported that the situation regarding traffic and inconsiderate parking on School Street at the beginning and end of the School day was becoming seriously dangerous. It was noted that inconsiderate parking was becoming an issue in the Village in general. One serious concern is that inconsiderate parking could prevent access by emergency vehicles.

District Cllr Gregory reported that a Council site visit was planned to assess the situation with reference to the addition of increased housing on London Road. It was agreed that the Parish Council would write once again to the School to flag its own concerns.

A young resident had asked whether the earth mounds near to the new Nursery could be used for bike jumps. It was agreed that although the PC was supportive of this idea in principle this could not be brought forward at the current time given the current situation with the area around the Nursery which was still 'in limbo' with respect to development. Once plans are finalised for the nursery and works resume, a comprehensive plan for the rest of the land will be worked on.

A resident had asked whether a bike rack could be installed near to the village shop. The PC agreed that although they were supportive, the PC did not own the land and previously the ECC had objected to items on the pavement. The PC recommended that the cyclist be asked to approach the shop and their neighbours.

22/26 County and District Councillor's Reports

County Cllr Gadd's report had been received (see Attachment 1). County Cllr Gadd would discuss drains with Cllr Mitchell. Cllr Gadd noted that the proposed cycle route from London Road to Saffron

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Walden had been put on hold; he would investigate whether any progress was being made.

District Cllr Gregory reported that the Local Plan was progressing to time and that next month would see a call for sites. The results of the scrutiny enquiry into the development of Stansted were imminent.

22/27 Planning

The following comments were agreed in response to planning applications;

i. **Appeal**; Like-for-like replacement bedroom and bathroom window. **The Close** Church Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1NP – The Parish Council supported the original application and cannot see why it was refused. The Parish Council is sympathetic to the appeal being made in these circumstances.

ii. Proposed removal of existing porch and erection of new porch. **4 St Johns Close** Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1PB. Ref. No: UTT/22/0270/HHF – No comment.

iii. Proposed 1st floor extension to sides & rear, new entrance door/window following demolition of existing porch/removal of chimney. **7 Rookery Close** Gt Chesterford Essex CB10 1QA. Ref. No: UTT/22/0315/HHF – No comment.

iv. Loft conversion with new rear facing rooflight windows. **9 South Street** Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NW. Ref. No: UTT/22/0323/HHF – No comment

v. Proposed removal of interior bathroom wall and installation of extractor fan through external wall. **Mill Cottage** Newmarket Road Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NS. Ref. No: UTT/22/0505/LB – No comment.

vi. Application to discharge condition 3 (materials) 4 (joinery details) 5 (archaeology) 8 (ecology) 9 (lighting) attached to UTT/21/3231/HHF. **Flint Cottage** Newmarket Road Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NS. Ref. No: UTT/22/0528/DOC – No comment.

The following planning decisions were noted;

i. Removal of three tree branches. **The Gables** Carmel Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden CB10 1PH. Ref. No: UTT/22/0268/TCA. **No Objections.**

ii. Non-material amendment to UTT/21/2113/FUL - Trees behind Plots 12-13 to be removed, revision to French doors of plot 10 and roof tile specification. **Land North Of Bartholomew Close** Great Chesterford. Ref. No: UTT/22/0041/NMA. **Split Decision (removal of trees refused).**

iii. Proposed works to ceiling/floor joists and chimney breast top plate. **May Cottage** Carmel Street Great Chesterford CB10 1PH. Ref. No: UTT/21/3413/LB. **Refused.**

22/28 Finance

i. The Clerk presented a statement of accounts and reconciliation to cash books for the Parish Council current and deposit accounts which were agreed and signed.

The following transactions were approved for payment;

Treecology	£1,392.00
A&J Lighting	£161.64
Employee Salaries and expenses	£1,375.97
Tree guard	£111.60
CCC room hire	£51.00
EALC - Course (Clerk)	£84.00
Padlock	£40.32
Printer ink	£39.80
Stationery	£15.48

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SLCC - Course (Clerk)	£24.00
SLCC – ICA Course (Clerk)	£120.00
Essex Pension Fund	£581.98

22/29 Christmas Tree

Following the receipt of a number of residents objections to the planting of a permanent Christmas Tree Cllr Redfern agreed to revise her suggestion for resubmission to the next meeting.

22/30 London Road Housing Development

The Chair had received a number of suggestions for road names from Cllrs; these would be submitted to the developer within the next week.

22/31 Major Planning Issues

i. The decision of the Secretary of State to issue a Designation Notice putting UDC in Special Measures regarding applications for planning permission for major developments was discussed. It was agreed that it was difficult to assess whether the outcome was positive or negative for major developments in this area.

ii. The outline planning application (UTT/20/2724/OP) for up to 124 dwellings on the Land East of London Road, Little Chesterford was discussed. Following extensive discussion it was agreed that whether GCPC maintained its objection or not would be revisited at an Extraordinary Meeting to be held once a revised offer for mitigation had been received from the developers. A decision would be required before the application was discussed at a UDC planning committee on 16 March 2022.

iii. It was agreed that the PC would not wish to take on the management of the Woodland/Open Spaces element of the development at the London Rd site currently under development.

iv It was noted that several Cllrs would be attending a Zoom presentation on 14 March to receive feedback on the archaeological dig at Stumps Cross.

22/32 Recreation Ground Trust

A report had been received (see Appendix 1). With respect to item 10 it was agreed that verti-draining, fertilizer and sand would be applied to improve the grass on the recreation ground at a cost of around £4,390.

22/33 Open spaces

A report had been received (see Appendix 1). It was agreed that a fence would be erected to protect the flagpole on Coronation Green. It was reported that, following a tree survey, a large tree at the Pilgrim Close play area would unfortunately have to be felled.

It was agreed that as no real objections had been put forward to the plan for the redrawing of the yellow lines on the High Street it would be taken forward. This is a matter which has been debated at previous Parish Council meetings and whilst no solution will be perfect, the proposed revisions represent the best solution we have.

22/34 Jubilee celebrations

Cllr Cleary reported that he would be meeting with the WI in the next week to discuss their plans for a Jubilee event. Cllr Redfern reported that the Jubilee beacon had been found and would be lit on Coronation Green. Chair Newcombe would write to the village encouraging input into plans for Jubilee celebrations.

22/35 Pilgrims Close Open Space/Fence

A number of residents had raised objections to the removal of the fence at Pilgrims Close. As no residents had attended the meeting to discuss plans for improving the space it was agreed that the Council would write again to those who had raised objections inviting them to the next meeting to present their plans for improvements and also to ask residents to remove their personal items from the area which, it was noted, belongs to the Parish Council.

22/36 Village meeting

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It was agreed that a Village meeting would be held in the near future. The desired date was Wednesday 30 March 2022 subject to the availability of a meeting room.

22/37 Grant applications

It was agreed that the three grant applications (Cricket Club, Jubilee celebrations, GC Primary Academy Year) would be considered in April as per the Council's grant awarding policy.

22/38 Neighbourhood plan

The Chair reported that the Neighbourhood plan was nearing completion and should be submitted within the next fortnight. The Parish Council noted particular thanks to Cllrs Newcombe, Redfern, Thackray, Wilkinson (Lt Chesterford) and also Hannah Helliar and Nick Burton who had given up huge amounts of their spare time including meeting on most Mondays over the last two years to complete the task.

22/39 Local Plan

There was nothing to report under this item.

22/40 Nursery

- i. There was no business that required a closed session.
- ii. Chair Newcombe reported that he had recently sent out a full update on progress to the village (Appendix 2) and feedback had been overwhelmingly positive. A survey would be undertaken by Essex County Council inviting expressions of interest from contractors for the build, consultation would shortly be undertaken in relation to funding and borrowing. The PC would then seek a Nursery provider. It was noted that a resident had asked that the roofing be considered from a visual perspective. Cllr Mitchell reported that the building would be constructed to an ecologically sound model.

22/41 Matters for Further Discussion

There were no items put forward for the meeting in April.

22/42 Date of Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th April 2022. An extraordinary meeting would be held within the next week (date and location to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 10pm.