

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 12th June, 2019

Present	Councillors David Hall, Penny McCullough, Tom Newcombe, Julie Redfern, Rachel Thackray, and Sharon Tricerri
In Attendance	2 members of the public, District Councillor Neil Gregory and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

19/073 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Newcombe was nominated as Chairman.

Proposed; District Cllr Gregory. Seconded; Cllr Redfern.

There were no other nominations.

Cllr Newcombe was unanimously elected Chairman and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Chairman which was countersigned by the Clerk as Proper Officer of the Council.

19/074 ELECTION OF VICE- CHAIRMAN

The council resolved that they would run with two Vice-Chairmen to enable the council to operate smoothly

Cllr Bevens was nominated as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed; District Cllr Gregory. Seconded; Cllr Hall.

Cllr Bevens was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

Cllr Mitchell was nominated as Vice-Chairman.

Proposed; District Cllr Gregory. Seconded; Cllr Hall.

Cllr Mitchell was unanimously elected Vice-Chairman.

19/075 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Mike Mitchell and Gareth Bevens.

Apologies for early departure were received and accepted from District Cllr Gregory and Cllr Penny McCullough.

19/076 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

District Cllr Gregory- member of Uttlesford District Council.

Chairman Newcombe - partner at Birketts.

19/077 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the May Parish Council Meeting were approved by Councillors as an accurate representation and signed by Chairman Tom Newcombe.

19/078 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No comments.

19/079 COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Councillor responsibilities were agreed as;

Cllr Newcombe - Chair, Planning, Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan, Nursery.

Cllr Bevens - Vice-Chair, Pensions, Contracts, Cycle paths, Footpaths, Action Group.

Cllr Mitchell - Vice-Chair, RGT, Nursery, Open Spaces, CCC liaison.

Cllr Hall - Local Plan, Genome Campus, Agri-tech, liaison with local PC Chairs.

Cllr McCullough - Highways, Pre-School, Website, Lighting, Cycle paths, Footpaths, Broadsheet, Speedwatch.

Cllr Redfern - Good Neighbours liaison, Genome Campus, Agri-tech, liaison with local PC Chairs, Broadsheet, Planning, Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan, Nursery, Pre-School.

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Cllr Thackray - Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Tricerri - RGT, WI, Open Spaces, Orchard, Allotments, Bowls Club.

19/080 DISTRICT COUNCILLOR`S REPORT

District Cllr Gregory confirmed that District Cllr Pavitt is now on the Planning Committee and District Cllr Gregory has been appointed as Chair of the Scrutiny Committee at UDC, which met for the first time last night and has agreed three streams of activity for the current year; a proposed move back to a cabinet structure, review of major planning applications procedure and a general review of the framework surrounding Uttlesford Planning. The review into resourcing, engagement with stake holders and efficiency will be carried out by three working groups and is tasked to report back by 31/03/2020.

District Cllr Gregory detailed;

- i. A ward walk about with District Cllr Pavitt and County Cllr Moran, noting that most potholes are resolved and that the current main issues are speeding and flooding, with ECC drainage contractors recently dismissed due to poor work.
- ii. Local Highways Panel meeting 17/06/19, District Cllr Gregory booked in to Rissa Long`s surgery.
- iii. Chesterford Research Park and Aviva are working to resolve the rat running through Great and Little Chesterford.
- iv. The planning proposal for Little Field is no longer confidential. Thirteen properties are proposed and Hastoe have been encouraged to engage with the Parish Council before submitting an application.
- v. UDC received an unexpected letter from the Planning Inspectors (11/06/19) noting that they have received representations raising several significant concerns about the Local Plan from R4U and also a request to speak at the hearing sessions. They also note that following the May 2019 elections most of the elected Councillors, including the Leader of the District Council, are described as `Residents for Uttlesford` on the Council`s website. The Inspectors explained the expectation that the District Council will go into the examination supporting the plan it has submitted and that the examination is not intended to allow a LPA to initiate major changes to its own plan or to finalise its preparation, and concluded by asking UDC to confirm in writing by 27/06/19 whether it continues to think that it has submitted a plan which is sound and ready for examination and therefore, whether it still supports it.

The Parish Council agreed that withdrawal of the Local Plan at this stage would result in a delay of at least a couple of years, during which time if the District Council did not maintain a position where they are delivering a five year housing plan, then parishes would be more vulnerable to speculative development going forward. District Cllr Gregory confirmed that the most recent QC advice confirmed that this action could be taken, but questioned whether the District Council would want to.

Cllr Redfern condemned the criticism of individual UDC officers in the local press.

19/088 ACTION GROUP

The Parish Council has taken the lead in responding to UDC`s Local Plan; however, very considerable support has been received for its opposition to NUGC from the Action Group, which is wholly independent of the Council. Hearings conducted by the Planning Inspectors are due to commence in July at which the Parish Council will be represented by Counsel together with transport, heritage and landscape consultants; the urgent task for the Action Group now is to support the Parish Council by raising the necessary funds to protect the Village from this unwanted development.

District Cllr Gregory left the meeting.

19/081 PLANNING

- i. UTT/19/1152/HHF - 12 Pilgrims Close, Great Chesterford
Proposed single-storey front (infill corner), side and rear extensions, proposed first-floor front extension, new ground floor side window and internal alterations. No objections, subject to no loss of parking.
- ii. UTT/19/1144/HHF - Fairacre, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford

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Erection of garage and carport with first floor recreation room. No comment.

The following planning decisions were noted;

iii.UTT/19/0683/HHF - 9 Ash Green, Great Chesterford

Proposed single storey front extension, garage conversion and alterations - Refused

iv. UTT/19/0548/HHF - The Old Tower, High Street, Great Chesterford

Section 73A Retrospective application for the erection of fencing- Refused

v. UTT/19/0436/FUL - Land at Acrecroft, High Street, Great Chesterford

3 new dwellings with associated garages from new access at land rear of Acre Croft (re-submission of previously approved scheme under references UTT/15/1424/OP and UTT/16/0328/DFO)- Refused.

19/082 FINANCE

i. Receipt of the Internal Audit report was noted.

ii. 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 and signed.

The following transactions;

300228 - Birketts LLP - Pre-School lease legal fees - £3554.40

300229 - Birketts LLP - pre-School lease disbursement fees Counsel - £3000.00

300230 - Mr Moralee - grass cutting and fuel costs - £181.01

300231 - Birketts LLP - Pre-School lease legal fees - £1973.40

300232 - Chesterford Community centre - hall hire - £71.00

300233 - Mrs A Lindsell APM expenses - £157.91

300234 - Mrs Y Morton - Internal Audit - £50.00

300235/236/237 - Salaries & Expenses May 2019 - £1542.76

300238 - Essex Pension Fund May 2019 - £447.71

300239 - Neighbourhood Plan Co-ordinator - £132.75

300240 - FOWAC - donation grass cutting - £250.00

300241 - PlaySafety Ltd - ROSPA Report 2019 - £391.80

were approved for payment from the Parish Council current account alongside the following online payment and direct debits;

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

DD - A + J Lighting - call out and fitting (inv 32869) - £305.82

DD - E.On streetlights - £481.28

OP - Headland Archaeology - Local Plan Meeting - £1800.00

The following transaction;

300033 - CR Hampson - skate park repair - £1065.00

was approved for payment from the Recreation Ground Trust account.

iii. The Risk Assessment Policy was agreed and adopted.

iv. It was agreed that the PC grant to the Recreation Ground Trust would be delivered so that VAT incurred in the transactions can be reclaimed by the Parish Council.

v. It was resolved to revisit excel training for the clerk.

19/083 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

i. Cllr Thackray provided an update and confirmed that the Community Survey will be despatched on 10/07/19 and requested that volunteers with the Good Neighbours project make clear that they are separate to the Neighbourhood Plan team. Cllr Hall invited Cllr Thackray to meet to view the consultation undertaken by UDC with reference to flood and noise risk, that may be relevant for the Neighbourhood Plan.

ii. Cllr Thackray confirmed that known costs to date stand at £766.75 and the Council agreed expenditure up to £1500.00

19/090 DOG FOULING

As a result of an increase in complaints relating to dog mess, the Council resolved to purchase neon bio-degradable marker paint to highlight the issue, encourage dog owners to behave responsibly and clear up

after their pets, and prevent people treading in the mess. It was agreed that Cllrs McCullough and Redfern would send a message on the Google Group to this effect.

Cllr McCullough left the meeting.

19/086 ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

It was agreed that the Clerk would submit the following nominations for Assets of Community Value; Horse River Green, Coronation Green, Rookery Close open space, Pilgrims Close open space x 4, Primary Academy, Academy playing field, The Plough PH, The Crown & Thistle PH, Community Centre, Recreation Ground, School Street Surgery, High Street Surgery, Phone Box, Shop on School Street, Stanley Road play area, Allotments, Orchard, Nursery field, The Crown House Hotel, Thorpe Lea open space and the horse field parallel to Carmen Street. It was resolved that the clerk would complete the 8 page form for each asset and that Cllr Redfern would provide the details "demonstrating the community value of the asset" and "how the asset could be acquired and used in future."

19/087 EMAIL ADDRESSES

It was agreed that the clerk would arrange Gmail email addresses for the council and that the switch to Gmail would occur before the July meeting.

19/089 PARISH ONLINE

It was resolved that the Neighbourhood Plan preferred ArcGIS to Parish Online.

19/091 CHESTERFORDS COMMUNITY CENTRE

It was agreed that Cllr Mitchell would arrange a meeting for all users of the Community centre to review potential use/requirements for the next five years.

19/085 NURSERY

The Council resolved to accept the quotations for design reviews.

The Council approved the letter for despatch to CML, subject to Cllr Mitchell's consideration of strengthening or omitting paragraph 10.

19/092 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- i. Tennis courts.
- ii. Google group.
- iii. Flooding of sewage pumping station.
- iv. Parking on pavements.
- v. Notice board.

19/093 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 10th July, 2019.

The meeting closed at 10.45pm.