

# Great Chesterford Parish Council

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## Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th April, 2020 on Skype.

<b>Present</b>	Chair Tom Newcombe, Councillors Gareth Bevens, David Hall, Wendy Martin, Penny McCullough, Mike Mitchell, Julie Redfern and Rachel Thackray.
<b>In Attendance</b>	District Councillors Neil Gregory and Richard Pavitt, and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

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### **20/058 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Sharon Tricerri.

### **20/059 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Martin declared a personal interest in agenda items 20/063i, as a neighbour of the applicant.

### **20/060 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the 01/04/2020 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.

### **20/061 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Members of the public had raised the following matters to the Clerk;

i. Request for additional dog waste bins at the top of the High Street and by Little Paddocks, due to the increase in walkers up Cow Lane and Susan Hill. It was resolved that the Clerk would liaise with the District Council regarding siting an additional dog waste bin at the top of the High Street and report back with quotes at the next meeting. AL

ii. Chair Newcombe read out an extensive email from a resident Consultant with significant experience in anaesthesia, who has held multiple positions in intensive care units throughout the world, who is receiving daily scientific updates on the Covid-19 pandemic and has attended several webinars chaired by leading experts as well as NHS training on the topic. The resident notes that they wholeheartedly support aspects of the Good Neighbours initiative, but raises concerns regarding the recent provision of lunch services by Good Neighbours. It was agreed that Chair Newcombe would reply to the email, note that Good Neighbours is not a Parish Council initiative and invite the resident to share her informed observations as guidance for the village, through the Google Group. TN

The Council acknowledged the huge value of the Good Neighbours initiative at this time, and noted receipt of several positive responses detailing the positive mental health impact of this village led initiative. Cllr Redfern confirmed that there is no intention for the Good Neighbours initiative to provide any further meals at this time.

### **20/062 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

District Cllr Gregory confirmed that;

- i. The garden waste collections will recommence 20/04/2020.
- ii. 22/04/2020 Full Council Meeting, members of the public will be able to register to speak via remote means.
- iii. 30/04/2020 Extraordinary Council Meeting proposing to withdraw from the Local Plan and start again.

District Cllr Pavitt noted that;

- iv. Other councils are finding Zoom an improved platform to Skype. The clerk detailed a discounted rate available to Parish Councils of Zoom Pro-Plan, at £7.99/month.
- v. The North Essex Economic Strategy, although a fait accompli, has opened up the focus for debate regarding what UDC should focus on within the new Local Plan.
- vi. A recent planning appeal on the Quendon side of Newport, which the Planning Inspector upheld, and gave significant weight to Newport's emerging Neighbourhood Plan.

### **20/063 PLANNING**

The following responses were agreed to be returned to Uttlesford District Council relating to applications;

# Great Chesterford Parish Council

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- i. UTT/20/0793/LB - Mill Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford  
Removal of kitchen wall, installation of oak clad steel structure for structural reinforcement and relocation and replacement of hot water cylinder to utility room. No objection.
- ii. UTT/20/0710/HHF - Chesterleigh House, Carmen Street, Great Chesterford  
Section 73A Retrospective application for the erection of timber clad shed to front garden. It was agreed that the Council objects to this retrospective application, the Council considers the shed is located too far forward, too close to the wall, forward of the building line, and would be better sited behind the cart lodge. The council is also concerned that the footings could have a detrimental effect on the trees on site.  
The following planning decisions were noted;
- iii. UTT/20/0464/HHF - Carmelstead, Carmel Street, Great Chesterford  
Removal of existing precast concrete coping stones and erection of new facing brick wall to North West boundary - Approved with conditions.
- iv. UTT/20/0435/LB - Carmelstead, Carmel Street, Great Chesterford  
Removal of existing precast concrete coping stones and erection of new facing brick wall to North West boundary - Approved with conditions.
- v. UTT/20/0377/DOC - Mill Cottage, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford  
Application to discharge Conditions 2 (external materials) attached to UTT/19/1489/LB - Discharge conditions in full.
- vi. UTT/20/0360/FUL - Land Adjacent Fairacre, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford  
Construction of 2 no. dwellings, new vehicular access and associated parking and landscaping - Refused.
- vii. UTT/20/0226/HHF - 10 Pilgrims Close, Great Chesterford  
Erection of two storey side and single storey rear extensions. Erection of front porch - Approved with conditions.
- viii. The District Council's update on planning processes during the Coronavirus Pandemic were noted.

## **20/064 BOUNDARY MOVE**

Cllr Refern confirmed that UDC have confirmed their power to carry out a Community Governance Review (CGR) to re-align parish boundaries, under the Local Government and Public Involvement and Health Act 2007. This is a formal procedure with a consultation period that will undoubtedly be impacted by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The clerk has summarised and circulated the 53 page Guidance on Community Governance Reviews.

Cllr Bevens raised concerns that undertaking a CGR could unnecessarily restrict the Council's ability later on, if they wished to consider leaving Essex and joining Cambridgeshire.

It was agreed that the clerk would confirm Great and Little Chesterford Parish Council's request to commence the process that can move the parish boundary, and that Cllr Bevens would provide a detailed proposal regarding his suggested separation from Essex, for consideration at a future Council meeting. AL/GB

## **20/065 NOTICE BOARD RENOVATION**

Cllr Mitchell confirmed that the notice board will be replaced as soon as is feasible. MM

*District Cllr Gregory left the meeting.*

## **20/066 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr Thackray provided an update, detailing the additional site assessment work that has been generated by feedback highlighting an additional site and the division of one plot. It is hoped that site selection should be finalised next month, although progress has been made in other areas. £1976 has currently been spent of the £7500 grant.

## **20/067 NURSERY**

i. Cllr Mitchell confirmed that there has been no further communication from Essex County Council regarding the post-mediation discussions or financial settlement, and Cllr Redfern agreed to contact County Cllr Ray Gooding. Cllr Mitchell noted his daily checks of the Nursery, and confirmed that it is in good condition.

ii. Cllr Mitchell agreed to review the security fencing around the nursery. JR/MM

## **20/068 OPEN SPACES**

Cllr Mitchell confirmed;

# Great Chesterford Parish Council

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- i. The play parks, skate park and gym remain closed to the public. There have been isolated incidents, which the Community Policing Team have attended, but the tape on the skate park is currently still in situ, and the vast majority are following government guidance on social distancing at the Recreation Ground.
- ii. The work in the orchard has been successfully completed. ROSPA have indicated that they would be attending in May to carry out their inspections of the PC equipment and access would be permitted within the Government Guidelines.
- iii. The budget of outstanding open space works will be carried forward, ring-fenced into the 2020/21 accounts.

## **20/069 COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Cllr Mitchell confirmed that the Council insurance provider would not sanction the proposal to block the entrance to the Community Centre to prevent unwanted access.

## **20/070 PILGRIM CLOSE PLAY AREA**

It was agreed that the clerk would liaise with Royal Mail and propose a cost of £60 for four hours work and materials, to repair the damaged fence panel, given that it is not practicable to obtain three quotes at this time.

AL

## **20/071 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION**

- i. Stay at home street party to commemorate VE Day. Decorate your own house and enjoy a picnic in your own garden.
- ii. Flag competition winner has been selected, alongside the amalgamation of 7 entries into the final flag. Chair Newcombe to design and forward to Cllr Martin to finalise and forward to Cllr Mitchell for printing.

TN/WM/MM

- iii. Agritech Appeal has been refused on character and appearance.

## **20/072 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 29th April, 2020. Platform to be agreed.

## **The meeting closed at 21.17**