

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Draft Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 29th April, 2020 on Skype.

Present	Chair Tom Newcombe, David Hall, Mike Mitchell, Julie Redfern, Sharon Tricerri and Rachel Thackray.
In Attendance	District Councillors Neil Gregory and Richard Pavitt, and Amanda Lindsell, Clerk to the Council.

20/073 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and noted from Cllr Wendy Martin.

20/074 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/075 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the 15/04/2020 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.

20/076 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Clerk read out concerns forwarded for consideration within public participation regarding agenda item 20/078i - UTT/20/0775/FUL. The resident requested that the Parish Council strongly objects to the application as the proposal represents a major change of use from agricultural to industrial. Concerns included;

- i. The introduction of 80 containers and associated buildings representing a major intrusion into the landscape.
- ii. Increased traffic into the site from the lay-by on Newmarket Road.
- iii. Intrusive signage in the rural setting at the entrance to the lay-by.
- iv. Security lighting at night time bringing significant light pollution to the countryside.

Cllr Gareth Bevens joined the meeting.

20/078 PLANNING

County Cllr John Moran joined the meeting.

UTT/20/0775/FUL - Land to the West of Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford

Change of use of a redundant farmyard for the positioning of circa 80 storage containers to provide a self storage facility and the erection of a 2.4m high welded mesh fence. (20/05/2020) It was agreed that the Council do not object to this application, subject to the implementation of detailed conditions in relation to access, lighting, screening and use being limited to storage.

To note the following planning decisions;

- ii. UTT/20/0418/HHF - 25 Jacksons Lane, Great Chesterford

Proposed demolition of existing conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension. Works to loft including raising the height of the rear gable's eaves and ridge, new roof lights and a hip to gable roof conversion to the side. Approved with conditions.

20/077 COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

County Cllr John Moran confirmed that he has been promoted to the role of Deputy Cabinet Member for Health and Adult Social Care.

Essex County Council through good management and foresight, six years ago established a commercial office in China and as a result have been able to purchase sufficient PPE for staff, care homes and community care staff. Covid-19 continues to dominate the Council's work, although the main issues are in the south of Essex, where the infection and death rate increases. Princess Alexandra Hospital (PAH) currently has 21 ventilators, with 7 in use 29/04/2020 am. At the start of the pandemic ECC, within two weeks had secured an additional 1200 beds for patients being discharged from hospital, 550 of those beds have been used and two hotels have been obtained to house NHS and Community Care staff. County Cllr Moran welcomed questions. District Cllr Gregory noted how impressed he was with Essex Social Services response to the pandemic and County Cllr

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John Moran agreed that officers have been amazing, working twelve hours a day, seven days a week to help maintain services.

Cllr Julie Redfern congratulated County Cllr John Moran on his promotion and wished him well in his new role. County Cllr Moran confirmed that PAH is likely to be rebuilt in the next seven years, and agreed that the lack of input for Uttlesford residents on the future of their nearest hospital, Addenbrookes, needs addressing. Cllr Hall praised the specialist services that Addenbrookes offers and noted the convenience of using their excellent local facilities over the tired, limited facilities at PAH that often necessitates travel to London hospitals to access appropriate treatment not available at PAH.

Cllr Bevens detailed his frustration at a small number of residents persisting with bonfires, despite public health advice recommending otherwise, and questioned whether a bylaw could be passed banning bonfires. County Cllr John Moran advised that this would not be possible and that he has been advised that Parish Councils should lead on anti-social behaviour, although a discussion with the Community Policing Team could be beneficial. It was agreed that Chair Newcombe would include a message regarding considerate, appropriate behaviour, in his next village message. TN

District Cllr Richard Pavitt noted his support of the Parish Council requesting reimbursement of the legal costs incurred objecting to the Local Plan, and detailed Stop Stansted Expansion's recent press release suggesting that Manchester Airport Group do not delay any further as there is £1.7m sitting in UDC's reserves.

District Cllr Pavitt noted the interesting principles that the Inspector took on board, despite the five year land supply pressure, when considering a recent Newport planning appeal, although this is unlikely to have a significant impact on any London Road site applications.

District Cllr Neil Gregory noted the pressures on UDC's revenue and budget;

i. Car parking down 75%, worth 12% of Council tax income.

ii. Planning application receipts down 50%

iii. Costs through the roof, with a current suspected deficit of £3m.

The government allocated £1.6b to Councils last week, of which UDC received £26k, another £1.6b is allocated this week, with UDC to receive £900k.

District Cllr Gregory praised UDC's director of finance and his team, and noted their emergency meeting this Friday.

20/079 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 and signed.

The following transactions;

OP - Nursery roof repair - £150.00

OP - Neighbourhood Plan leaflet - £234.70

OP - Postage of Neighbourhood Plan consultation documents - £29.70

OP - Neighbourhood Plan co-ordination - £447.75

OP - CCC Hall Hire March 2020 - £11.00

OP - Grafton Merchandising Ltd - nursery fencing - £144.38

OP - Grafton Merchandising Ltd - nursery fencing - £472.63

OP - Grafton Merchandising Ltd - nursery fencing - £189.06

OP - Grafton Merchandising Ltd - nursery fencing - £57.76

DD - A&J Lighting (monthly maintenance 33951) - £161.64

DD - E.On - Streetlights April 2020 - £481.28

OP - GNU Media - website hosting and domain - £460.80

OP - EALC/NALC 2020/21 Affiliation - £414.34

OP - April salaries and expenses - £1617.37

OP - Essex Pension Fund April 2020 - £502.83

were agreed for payment from the Parish Council current account.

It was agreed that the Clerk would request an update from A&J Lighting. AL

ii. Cllr Mitchell detailed the ongoing Community Centre Grant issues and it was resolved that the Clerk would clarify with EALC the Council's powers to give grants, for review at the next Council meeting. AL

Cllr Mitchell resolved to converse with the Community Centre regarding their loss of income during the pandemic and offer support and advice regarding grants available. MM

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20/080 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Cllr Thackray provided an update and confirmed that the site assessments should be concluded in May, site selection to follow, with the overlay of policies over the assessed sites to create the final possibilities. The first three draft chapters of the Neighbourhood Plan have been reviewed, and policies will begin to be written up and amended where appropriate in the coming weeks, and a new Community Engagement planned. Cllr Thackray noted Hannah Helier's contribution through the Neighbourhood Plan process and Chair Newcombe expressed the Council's thanks to both Hannah and Cllr Thackray for their continued diligence and hard work.

20/081 LOCAL PLAN

It was agreed that Cllr Hall would submit a request to UDC for the reimbursement of the £87,821 legal costs incurred by Great Chesterford Parish Council during 2018 and 2019 objecting to the Local Plan, who's flaws identified by the Planning Inspectors in their January 2020 response to the Plan, had in the main, been raised to UDC by Great Chesterford Parish Council some years earlier, during the initial stages of the Plan. DH

20/082 NURSERY

- i. Cllr Mitchell provided an update regarding communications with Essex County Council, and noted that the financial contribution is still anticipated and that hopefully an online meeting will be arranged to move the nursery project forward within the next week.
- ii. It was agreed that post-Covid19, a tidy up session would be arranged for the nursery site.

20/083 OPEN SPACES

Cllr Mitchell confirmed;

- i. Royal Mail have paid £60 in final settlement for the repair of the Pilgrim Close play area.
- ii. Aubrey is costing the provision of a safety barrier at the footpath to Rose Lane/,Manor Farm, once Ridgeons opens next week.
- iii. Cllr Tricerri reported concerns that children are riding the earth mounds near the nursery. It was agreed that Chair Newcombe would include a message regarding personal responsibility and accountability, as well as encouraging kindness and respect for others, in his next village message. TN
- iv. Cllr Mitchell detailed Chesterford Cricket Club's request for reimbursement for £270 costs incurred cutting the grass whilst they have no income. The reimbursement was agreed in thanks for the 38 year arrangement, and Cllr Mitchell resolved to obtain receipts and invoices for the transactions. MM

20/084 PARISH COUNCIL GMAIL ADDRESSES

Chair Newcombe requested that the Council uses only their GCPC Gmail addresses for Council communications, to ensure compliance with GDPR and Data compliance.

ALL

20/085 STAY AT HOME STREET PARTY TO COMMEMORATE VE DAY

The clerk lost internet signal and left the meeting. The clerk rejoined the meeting by telephone.

It was agreed that the Council supported the Stay at Home Street Party on Friday 8th May to commemorate VE Day, being promoted by the Royal British Legion. Celebrations include residents decorating their houses in red, white and blue, listening to the BBC broadcast at 3pm, followed by a picnic in their gardens.

Following lengthy debate, it was agreed that the Good Neighbours Action Group's initiative to provide a cream tea to older residents, as supported by UDC's Community Health and Wellbeing Manager and Environmental Health Team, is not a matter for Parish Council consideration.

20/086 MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

- i. Chair Newcombe message to the Village to cover; bonfires, phone box, earth mound, footpath cycling complaints and VE Day. TN
- ii. Clerk to forward to Chair Newcombe a list of parishes who contributed financially towards to Local Plan objections. AL
- iii. Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Parish Council Meeting.

20/087 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 13th May, 2020.

The meeting closed at 22.12