

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 8 March 2023

Present Councillors Tom Newcombe (Chair), Mike Mitchell, Julie Redfern, Rachel Thackray and Sharon Tricerri.

In Attendance District Councillor Neil Gregory and County Councillor Paul Gadd, Kate Stacey, Clerk to the Council and three members of the public.

23/53 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr McCullough.

23/54 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Newcombe declared that he was a partner at Birkett's.

23/55 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 8 February 2023 Parish Council meeting were approved and signed as an accurate record

23/56 Public Forum

A member of the public enquired about progress with the issue of the Boro Farm aggregate recycling facility planning applications. Cllr Newcombe reported that the two planning applications had now been refused however there was still the possibility of an appeal. An enforcement notice was in place and the site should be returned to its original state otherwise a criminal prosecution could be taken forward.

Cllr Thackray reported that she had received an enquiry from the Friends of the GC Primary Academy regarding the possibility of a donation towards a Year 6 Leavers' event; it was noted that a grant application form should be submitted to the Clerk.

Cllr Thackray had also received an enquiry about basketball training; it was noted that the individuals should submit the relevant booking form to the Clerk.

23/57 County and District Councillor's Reports

A report was received from Cllr Gadd.

A report was received Cllr Gregory.

23/58 Planning

a) The PC considered comments to be returned to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) relating to;

i) Reinstatement of section of roof structure, minor repairs to internal damaged areas to first floor area and replacement of timber staircase following fire and water damage. Station House, Station Approach, London Rd, CB10 1NY. UTT/23/0093/LB. No comment.

b) There were no planning decisions to note.

c) Boro Farm aggregate recycling facility

This item had been addressed under agenda item 23/56 Public Forum.

d) Welcome Trust Genome Campus (application to South Cambs District Council (SCDC);

The PC noted the Welcome Trust bridges application (SCDC Reference; 23/00482/FUL). It was agreed that the PC would contact SCDC to seek reassurances in relation to traffic management during the construction period, in particular to eliminate the risk of traffic increasing through the Village. The PC had no comment on the application for the bridges themselves.

23/59 Finance

i) The bank statements and accounts were received and the following list of payments was approved;

Staff salaries and expenses	£1,681.33
Survey Monkey; subscription renewal	£384.00

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Pension to LGPS	£489.07
Tim Chapman, photos of Hammond Park	£50.00
UDC, 22/23 garden waste collection service	£2,866.50
Firlands Transport Planning, Transport report re; Catesby planning appln	£1,440.00
EALC, 2 x courses; Cllr Mitchell	£216.00
EALC, 2 x courses; Clerk	£168.00
CCC recharge, hedge cutting	£75.00
CCC; room hire, Jan & Feb	£108.00
Cllr Redfern reimbursement, expenses	£144.35
Barker Parry; objection letters re; Icknield	
Fields planning appln	£561.00
David Perring; trenching at CCC	£4,200.00
Springwell Nursery; Hammond gdn plants, soil	£450.00
The Chesterfords Community	
Preschool; coronation donation	£100.00

Income received in February included; £230.83 for the reimbursement of electricity to the scout hut, £2,200 from SWPSG towards pitch maintenance and £406.73 to reimburse Neighbourhood Plan expenses.

ii) It was agreed that the hire rates for the recreation ground and multisports area would not be increased for the forthcoming financial year 2023/24. It was agreed that communication to users via the website and noticeboards required updating.

Cllr Redfern reported that she was progressing with the issue of windbreaks and winders for the tennis court and would bring a quote to a future meeting.

23/60 Recreation Ground play area

A report was received.

i) CCTV, electrical distribution box and floodlights at Multisports– Recreation Ground

It was agreed that the issue of an additional camera looking at the height limiting barriers would be held over to the next meeting.

23/61 Open spaces

A report was received.

i) Trees – health check

A quote had been received with an option of two alternative levels of health check on PC trees. An additional quote was awaited. It was agreed that as this issue was urgent the simple health and safety risk assessment would be requested as soon as possible whilst the more comprehensive survey would be budgeted for at a future point when the next check was needed. It was noted that the large horse chestnut tree near the Crown & Thistle was rotten and would have to be felled shortly.

ii) Hammond Garden (the smaller Pilgrim Close area)

Cllr Thackray directed attention to the PC website where the development of plans and progress could be seen. Cllr Thackray reported that residents have agreed to clear the area by 3rd April 2023.

Cllr Thackray raised the question about use of space and it was agreed that the proposals were an appropriate use of space for the whole community.

23/62 Relationship between GCPC and the Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Mitchell reported that he was continuing to gather documentation regarding the relationship between GCPC and the RGT. It was noted that expert help with this project would be needed once the groundwork had been done to organise the paperwork.

23/63 Scout Hut Lease

Cllr Newcombe reported that the wording on the lease and licence had been agreed; he would

circulate the two documents to the PC as soon as possible. If no negative comments were received within a week after their circulation they would be taken as agreed.

23/64 Highways

i) Salt/grit bins

It was agreed that the PC would purchase a grit bin for Thorpe Lea Close (as a result of residents' requests) and also request that ECC add it to their list of bins to be filled periodically. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Essex Highways with a request to replace all the broken grit bins in the Village.

ii) Jackson's Lane speed limit

Cllr Gadd had noted in his report that the police had previously objected to the proposal to reduce the speed limit on Jackson's Lane to 20mph and recommended that, until ECC revisit their policy, there was little point in reapplying.

iii) Speed watch report

A report from the Village speed watch group was received. It was noted that the group had recorded 42 speeding motorists in 58 minutes for a period of 8.30-9.30am. It was agreed that the PC should monitor this and ask for regular reports from the speed watch group.

iv) Street Lights on the High Street

It was agreed that whether it was advantageous for the PC to take over the maintenance of the five street lights on the High Street (currently the responsibility of ECC) would be investigated initially with a proposal to ECC for the PC to repair the longstanding broken street light (with ECC reimbursement). It was noted that eleven lights in the Village were currently awaiting repair.

v) Chapel Garden litter bin

It was agreed that the PC would purchase a new litter bin for the Chapel garden (with reimbursement from the Chapel) to replace the current broken bin. The bin would continue to be emptied by Mr Howe.

23/65 Coronation

i) Update on plans

Cllr Redfern reported that plans were on-going although there had been little positive feedback from the Village. It was agreed that the PC would make funds available to the planning group for the event.

ii) Mementoes

It was agreed that the PC would donate £100 to the Pre-School to contribute towards suitable mementoes for the children.

iii) Coronation Flag

It was agreed that a Coronation flag (blue with multi-coloured logo) would be purchased.

23/66 PC communication routes with residents

It was agreed that this item would be carried over to the next meeting.

23/67 Nursery

i) It was resolved to carry out agenda item 23/67 ii) in closed session in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

ii) An update was received.

23/68 Staff

i) It was resolved to carry out agenda item 23/68 ii) in closed session in accordance with Section 1 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

ii) An update on recent staff appraisals was received and salary issues resolved.

23/69 Matters for Further Discussion

The following items would be carried over to the next agenda;

PC communication routes with residents

CCTV, electrical distribution box and floodlights at Multisports– Recreation Ground

Lights on the High St - update

Tennis courts – update

Hammond Garden (the smaller Pilgrim Close area) - update

23/70 Date of Next Meeting;

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday 12 April 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Approved as accurate; Wednesday 12 April 2023

Deputy Chair;