

Great Chesterford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11 January 2023

Present	Chair Tom Newcombe, Councillors Mike Mitchell, Julie Redfern and Rachel Thackray (the latter arrived at 9pm).
In Attendance	Two members of the public, District Councillors Neil Gregory and Richard Pavitt and Kate Stacey, Clerk to the Council.

23/01 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Penny McCullough and Sharon Tricerri.

23/02 Declaration of Interests

Cllr Newcombe declared that he was a partner at Birketts Solicitors.

23/03 Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of the 12 December 2022 meeting were approved and signed as an accurate record

23/04 Public Forum

Two residents attended the meeting and as the matters of interest were included on the agenda they were discussed as the meeting progressed.

23/05 County and District Councillor's Reports

Councillor Gadd could not attend the meeting; his written report was received.

Councillor's Pavitt and Gregory gave verbal reports. In particular it was noted that the footpath from Cottenham Park through the newly developed area at Rookery Close was now in place. It was noted that staffing issues were delaying progress with UDC's Local Plan. It was noted that UDC officers may be willing to meet and assist the PC in relation to the Icknield Fields planning application.

23/06 Planning

a) Comments to be returned to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) relating to applications;

i. Stumps Cross/Icknield Fields (Land between Walden Rd and Newmarket Rd. Ref. No: UTT/23/2997/O)

It was confirmed that planning consultants had been engaged to draft a response on behalf of the PC. Cllr Pavitt would confirm the UDC deadline date for PC comments.

ii. Consultation on County Council Appln ESS/109/23/UTT - Change of use of land to allow the construction of a recycled aggregate production facility including storage bays and HGV parking, Boro Farm Newmarket Rd Gt Chesterford, CB10 1FN, Ref. No: UTT/23/3414/

iii. County Council consultation on ESS/112/23/UTT - Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use for aggregates and aggregate creation by way of screening, storage, importation and distribution, Boro Farm Newmarket Rd Gt Chesterford, CB10 1FN. Ref. No:UTT/23/3325/CC.

It was confirmed that a planning consultant had been engaged to draft a response on behalf of the PC in relation to the above two Boro Farm applications.

b) The following Uttlesford District Council planning decisions were noted;

i. Single storey rear extension, single casement rear window replacement, re-roofing service range, re-render rear walls and new garden room outbuilding. **Old Post Office**, South St Gt Chesterford CB10 1NW, Ref. No: UTT/23/2376/; **Approved**.

ii. Single storey rear extension, single casement rear window replacement, re-roofing service range, minor internal alterations, re-render rear walls and new garden room outbuilding. **Old Post Office** South St Gt Chesterford, CB10 1NW, Ref. No: UTT/23/2377/; **Approved**.

Great Chesterford Parish Council

23/07 Finance

i. The statements, review of accounts and list of payments for approval were received. It was noted that a UDC grant of £300 had been received towards the senior's Christmas lunch and £301 had been received in bank interest. The following payments were approved;

Electricity used for Jubilee event	£9.00
A&J lighting, monthly maintenance charge	£161.64
Memory sticks x 2 (reimburse Clerk)	£9.99
EALC Courses x 3 attended by Clerk	£252.00
Recorded Post (reimburse Clerk)	£6.85
Spring Cottage Landscaping, ditch clearance	£420.00
EALC, Election briefing course, Clerk	£54.00
The Great Outdoor Gym Co, maintenance	£933.60
Petit Fours, Jubilee Christmas lunch	£13.58
Tree stakes (reimburse Mr Palmer)	£16.81
CCC room hire, December 2022	£54.00
Staff salaries and expenses	£1,689.30
Pension to LGPS	£503.18
Grass cutting, J Moreley	£274.50
Skate park repairs	£500.00
Jetting drains, CCC	£360.00

ii. The precept for 2023/24 was confirmed and signed off as £97,810 (nil increase/decrease to residents).

iii. Quotes for a wind break for the tennis court were received. Cllr Redfern agreed to seek advice on suitability.

23/08 Recreation Ground

A report on the Recreation Ground was received. In particular it was reported that the drains under the car park had been jetted but that one needed further work for which the Community Centre was obtaining quotes. The maintenance work undertaken on the football pitch had proved successful over the last year and SWPSG were seeking grants to contribute towards future maintenance. It was noted that it would be helpful if a grant could be sought for the refurbishment of the skate park.

23/09 Open spaces

A report on open spaces was received. It was agreed that Cllr Gadd, ECC would be reminded about the faulty light on the High Street.

23/10 Land East of London Road, 124 (now 111) houses; Ref. No: UTT/20/2724/OP

It was agreed that meetings would be arranged between a PC subcommittee and stakeholders in relation to the S106 issues (pedestrian and road access to the village centre).

It was agreed that the PC would write to UDC to ask for a boundary change between Little and Great Chesterford so that the new development fell within the Great Chesterford boundary (as is the case for Chesterford Meadows on the opposite side of Walden Road) and also request that the woodland planting buffer zone at the Little Chesterford end be included in the Little Chesterford jurisdiction.

It was noted the Cllr Mitchell was seeking clarification in relation to the S106 Early Years funding associated with the development.

It was also noted that a S106 sum of £20k in relation to the Chesterford Meadows development had been forwarded to ECC for the provision of a ramp on the railway footbridge to facilitate bikes and pushchairs. It was agreed that the Clerk would draft a letter to ECC requesting the initiation of the project.

23/11 Footpath from upper Stanley Road estate past the new houses in Rookery Close

It was reported that the footpath from Cottenham Park through the newly developed area at Rookery Close was now in place.

23/12 Relationship between GCPC and the Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Mitchell reported that he had started on this project and was collating information and seeking advice. Cllr Mitchell would report back at the next meeting.

23/13 Open space (smaller play area) at Pilgrim Close

Cllr Thackray reported that she had met with the resident leading the project (who was in attendance at the meeting) and reported that progress had been made. Cllr Thackray was working on a relevant community/biodiversity related grant to fund the development of the area. The resident agreed to convene a working group to clear and make plans for the site. It was agreed that, as the PC owned the land, the PC would contribute towards an element of maintenance but that it was expected that 'day to day' maintenance and planting would be the responsibility of the residents. It was agreed that bin shelters would be permitted but not funded by the PC.

23/14 Website hosting and the Google Group email facility

The issue regarding the email facility for village communications had been resolved thanks to Tony Redfern's assistance; 'Google groups' had been replaced with 'mailman lists'.

23/15 King Charles III Coronation

It was reported that the WI would be willing to contribute to an event, but not to run it. It was agreed that conversations would take place with groups in the village who also may wish to contribute.

23/16 Councillor recruitment

Cllr Thackray reported that she had met with an individual who might be willing to join the PC; she would progress this.

23/17 Appraisals of staff

It was agreed that appraisals of staff would take place in February.

23/18 Nursery

i. It was resolved to carry out agenda item 23/18ii 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.

23/19 UDC new model code of conduct

It was noted that although the PC already had a code of conduct in place based on the EALC template, it was agreed that the PC would adopt the UDC's new model code of conduct for consistency.

23/20 20's plenty initiative

Although it was noted that the majority of roads within the village were already at the 20 mph speed limit, it was agreed that, in a gesture of solidarity, the PC would join the "20's Plenty for Us", national campaign to make 20 mph the default speed limit where people and motor vehicles mix.

23/21 Matters for Further Discussion

Items to be included on the next agenda were agreed as;

Open space (smaller play area) at Pilgrim Close

To receive a costed plan for the redevelopment and to agree an action plan.

Relationship between GCPC and the Recreation Ground Trust

To receive an update on resolving the relationship between GCPC and the RGT

King Charles III Coronation

To receive an update on plans for an event

Yellow lines on the High Street

To decide whether to adopt the current arrangement

Bike rack

To consider the potential location next to the village noticeboard.

Lights on the High St

To consider whether the PC should take over the maintenance of the High Street lights (currently the responsibility of ECC) in return for funding.

Grit bins

To consider the purchase of additional grit bins.

Scout Hut

To finalise the lease

Wind break

To receive feedback from Cllr Redfern.

23/22 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council would be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8 February

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

DRAFT