

# Great Chesterford Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13 September 2023

- Present;** Councillors Amanda Cooper, Penny McCullough, Mike Mitchell (Chair for this meeting), Rachel Thackray (arrived at 9pm) and Sharon Tricerri.
- In Attendance;** District Councillor Neil Gregory and Kate Stacey, Clerk to the Council and 7 members of the public.
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### **23/147 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were noted from Councillors Tom Newcombe and Julie Redfern.

### **23/148 Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **23/149 Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the 25 July 2023 Parish Council meeting were approved and signed as an accurate record.

### **23/150 Public Forum**

A member of the Village Speedwatch group presented a report noting the high incidence of speeding on London Road. A number of messages from residents had been received over the last couple of months and a number of residents also attended the meeting to raise their concerns. It was noted that speeding was an Essex Highways issue, but it was agreed that the PC would write to Cllr Gadd to fully support the recommendation for three electronic/interactive speed signs along London Road. The costs would be investigated separately in the event that ECC refused to fund this initiative. It was noted that the 30mph speed limit from the Village towards Saffron Walden would be extended to include the two new developments; the date of implementation would be investigated.

A resident attended to raise the issue of inconsiderate parking at Ash Green. It was agreed that the PC would contact Cllr Gadd to support the recommendation for the introduction of yellow lines to attempt to resolve the problem.

A resident raised an issue in relation to the cycle path on London Road; they were directed to contact Cllr Redfern who was up to date with progress.

The Clerk reported that, prior to the meeting, a resident had raised the possibility of planting trees on the verge next to Station Approach to discourage parking; it was noted that the verge did not belong to the PC and so the developer or Essex Highways would need to be approached. Another resident had raised the nuisance of dog waste on the meadow in front of the allotments; an additional dog waste bin had been put in place together with more notices.

### **23/151 County and District Councillor`s Reports**

Cllr Gadd's written report was received. The main issues addressed were that some drains in the Village had been cleared in August; a selection of the worst potholes in the Village had been put forward for repair; ECC funds were very tight; discussions were continuing in relation to a Great Chesterford to Saffron Walden cycle route.

Cllr Gregory reported that UDC's Local Plan should be proceeding to public consultation stage at the end of the month. He also reported that the planned play area within the East of London Road development had been relocated to the area away from the river nearer to wooded boundary with Little Chesterford. An application for a 350 house development at Stump Cross was expected to be presented to the UDC planning committee in November. Cllr Gregory provided residents with useful contacts in relation to the London Road speeding issue.

### **23/152 Planning**

#### **a) Current major planning issues;**

- i. London Road; two developments; 76 dwellings, South West of London Road and 111 dwellings,

# Great Chesterford Parish Council

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East of London Road.

Councillors reviewed the proposed adjustment to the Great/Little Chesterford border in relation to the above development and agreed it was accurate subject to confirmation from Little Chesterford Parish Council.

ii. Boro Farm aggregate recycling facility.

There were no updates given the current continuing appeal process.

iii. Icknield Fields, Stump Cross.

See Cllr Gregory's report above.

iv. Wellcome Trust Genome Campus, expansion at Hinxton.

There were no updates.

**b) To consider any comments to be returned to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) relating to applications;**

i. Installation of an electric car charging box to the side of the garage wall. Mill Cottage Newmarket Rd, CB10 1NS. Ref. No: UTT/23/2047/HHF. **No objections.**

**c) To note Uttlesford District Council planning decisions;**

No planning decisions had been received.

**23/153 Finance**

i. It was noted that bank statements and a review of the accounts had been received.

Income received in July related to a £50 donation from a resident towards the Hammond Garden for which the PC was grateful. Income received in August related to receipt of £100 Bowls Club rent.

It was agreed that if a cheaper solution to the printing of the Neighbourhood Plan could not be found via Cllr Newcombe then two would be purchased at approximately £26 each. These would be put in community places in the Village.

It was agreed that a small digger would be hired for two days at cost of approximately £190 to undertake drainage work at the Community Centre.

The Clerk reminded Councillors of the spending deadlines of the four currently held grants; £7,850 EEC Climate Challenge award for Hammond/Ratcliff Gardens, grant deadline 15/01/23, £500, EEC Locality funding award for Hammond/Ratcliff Gardens, grant deadline 12/12/23, £500, EEC Locality funding award for a tennis windbreak, grant deadline 20/01/23, £200, UDC funding for a Coronation tree, grant deadline 31/03/23.

ii. The following list of payments was retrospectively approved for August;

Staff costs	£2,214.40
Parkers Pitches	£550.00
Data protection fee	£35.00
CCC; Room booking July	£54.00
A&J Lighting monthly maintenance	£161.64
Cambridge Courts; Tennis post winder	£114.00
CB Mower Services; Service Mower	£1,040.85
Varnish, sandpaper (Village noticeboard)	£75.50
Npower electricity	£571.73
Playquip Leisure	£456.00

The following list of payments was approved for September;

Staff costs	£2,305.19
CCC; Room booking	£18.00
J Moralee, grass cutting, July, August	£195.73
2 Notices; clear up after your dog	£7.58

# Great Chesterford Parish Council

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6 printer cartridges	£108.46
Barker Parry, Boro Farm planning consultant	£720.00
A&J Lighting monthly maintenance	£161.64
Npower electricity	£564.96
Camsafe; Tennis Court lighting	£4,504.96
Rutters; signage, Hammond Gdn	£312.00

### iii. Request for donation to Home Start

A request for a donation to Home Start had been received. It was agreed that, given its own limited funding, the Parish Council could only commit expenditure directly related to Village needs. The PC's grant policy would be updated to reflect that the PC would not donate to charities outside the Village.

### iv. Gmail storage

It was agreed that the PC would purchase additional Gmail storage for the Parish Clerk.

### v. GCPC Credit Card

It was agreed that the PC would apply for a Parish Council Credit Card.

## 23/154 Recreation Ground play area

### i. Recreation Ground Report

The recreation ground report was received.

### ii. Safety Inspection report for the Recreation Ground and Pilgrim Close

Safety inspection reports on the Village's play and sports equipment were received. It was agreed that the broken gates on the Recreation Ground play area would be replaced to include 'stops' to avoid future damage. Quotes for the repairs required to the play equipment and broken gates had been received amounting to £5,830 excluding vat; this work would be progressed excluding the installation of bonded mulch which would be budgeted for in the next financial year.

Cllr Mitchell reminded the PC that £50,000 S106 funding from the London Road developers would soon be forthcoming towards play equipment and that this could be used to update play equipment on the Recreation Ground and Pilgrim's Close and might provide helpful 'matching funding' for grant applications.

## 23/155 Open Spaces

### i. Open Spaces Report

The open spaces report was received. The scouts had been successful in a grant application for a number of trees and their planting plan around the Recreation Ground was approved. The scouts had confirmed that they would undertake the planting and watering. It was noted that a bike rack would be installed near to the Village noticeboard on School Street on 21 September. The Welcome Trust's building contractors would be undertaking the work and had donated the bike rack.

A quote for work to the ash trees at the back of Wakefield Close on Jackson's Lane, the limes on Horse River Green and the dead elms near the Recreation Ground had been received. It was agreed that the Jackson's lane and Horse River Green work would be undertaken in due course. The elms were not on PC land and so the land owner would need to be contacted.

### ii. Hammond and Ratcliff gardens

Cllr Thackray reported on the progress that had been made. The next community event would be on 1 October when planting would be undertaken.

### iii. Christmas Tree

It was agreed that, given Cllr Redfern's absence, this item would be held over until the next meeting.

## 23/156 The relationship between GCPC and the Recreation Ground Trust

Cllr Mitchell reported that he was due to meet with Birkett's solicitors to progress this issue which would be brought back to the next meeting.

## **23/157 Stansted Airport Draft Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 (consultation document)**

It was agreed that the PC had no particular comments to put forward.

## **23/158 The Harts and Nash Foundation Trustee nomination**

It was agreed to renominate the current incumbent as the PC's nominated trustee of the Harts and Nash Foundation for the next three years.

## **23/159 Communication with residents**

Following wide ranging discussion it was agreed that Cllr McCullough would draw up a proposal for getting information on Parish Council matters to the largest number of residents possible including appropriate timings and media/fora for resolution at the October meeting.

## **23/160 Polling review**

The PC agreed that there was no reason to change the current Community Centre location for the purpose of polling.

## **23/161 Parking at Ash Green**

It was agreed that the Parish Council would support residents request for yellow lines to assist with parking difficulties. This would be conveyed to Cllr Gadd for action.

## **23/162 Parking at Icknield Rise**

Given the absence of Cllr Newcombe this item was deferred to the October meeting.

## **23/163 GCPC Safeguarding policy**

The policy was reviewed and confirmed.

## **23/164 GCPC CCTV policy**

A previous policy drafted in 2019 was received. Cllr Mitchell agreed to update it and bring it back to the October meeting for confirmation.

## **23/165 Fraud Prevention Presentation**

It was reported that a presentation by a police officer specialising in fraud prevention would be held in the Village on 20 October. A Community Police Constable would also be in attendance.

## **23/166 Nursery**

i. It was resolved to carry out agenda item 23/166 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. Cllr Mitchell gave an update on progress.

## **23/167 Matters for Further Discussion**

It was agreed that the following items would be raised at the next meeting;

Assets of Community Value (To confirm the list of the Village's assets).

Parish standards training (Clerk's feedback).

CiLCA training (Clerk to update PC).

Parking at Icknield Rise (To receive feedback in relation to the posting of parking notices).

Communication with residents (To confirm information strategy).

Christmas tree (To discuss).

The relationship between GCPC and the Recreation Ground Trust (To receive an update on progress)

GCPC CCTV policy (To review and confirm).

## **23/168 Date of Next Meeting;**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 11 October 2023.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

**Approved as accurate; Wednesday 11 October 2023**

**Chair;**