

GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14TH OCTOBER 2009 AT 7.30PM IN THE
COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD*

Present: Peter Fentem – Chairman
Susan Ross
Joanna Francis
Tim Fowell
Sorrel Gordon-Foxwell
Julie Redfern

Elaine Culling - Clerk

1 member of the public for item **09/96. Bench at Bus Stop**

Action

09/89. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from **Cllr Clark** and accepted.

09/90. Declaration of Interests

To receive any 'personal' or 'personal and prejudicial' interests relating to items on the agenda.

Cllrs Redfern and **Rolfe** declared themselves as District Councillors and Trustees of the Community Centre.

Cllr Francis declared an interest in item **09/93. Planning – UTT/1083/09/FUL.**

09/91. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2009 as a correct record of events.

09/92. Public Forum

There will be 15 minutes available for Public Forum, if required, and the opportunity for members of the public to register with the Chairman should they wish to speak on a particular agenda item.

A resident had submitted a request to the **Chairman** to attend and speak on item **09/96. Bench at Bus Stop** only.

09/93. Planning

To consider any comments to be returned to Uttlesford District Council on the following applications:

UTT/1083/09/FUL. Conversion of garage to studio/annexe. Dormer window to rear.

Location: Luckfield, Newmarket Road, Great Chesterford

Object – the scale of development being proposed is greater than suggested and represents a change of use.

TF

Cllr Fowell reported that a letter had been received, from Essex County Council Highways, asking for comments regarding the proposed removal of highway rights at land fronting Elm Cottage in Newmarket Road.

It was considered that the highway rights in question were inaccessible to the public and that a response be sent stating that the Parish Council has no objection. **Clerk**

The **Chairman** reported that South Cambridgeshire District Council had given 21 days to respond regarding the plans recently submitted by the Welcome Trust. These propose to develop the site up to the boundary with Great Chesterford. **Cllr Fowell** agreed to examine the documents and report back to the Council. **TF Clerk**
Hinxtton and Ickleton Parish Councils will be contacted for their views.

Results

UTT/0916/09/FUL & UTT/0917/LB. Replace close boarded fence on dwarf flint wall with flint facing brick wall 7.95m x 1.9m high.

Location: Carmelstead, Carmel Street, Great Chesterford

Conditional Approval

Linton Wind Farm

A pre-inquiry meeting with the Inspector, to discuss various issues in relation to the Linton Wind Farm appeal, is to be held at the South Cambridgeshire District Council Offices on 21 October 2009, commencing at 10am. Interested parties may attend.

To agree whether to send a representative.

It was considered that there was no need to send a representative provided there was an adequate presence from Uttlesford District Council.

Cllr Redfern to clarify the situation. **JR**

5 London Road

To review the paperwork regarding the recent appeal

Although it is clear that there is nothing that can be done to alter the decision, it was noted that the paperwork showed the Parish Council had submitted no comments whereas the minutes state that comments had been made.

Cllr Fowell is to check and confirm this. **TF**

09/94. Recreation Ground

Skate Board area – report circulated

It was agreed to approve the Council's contribution towards the Skate Park subject to a limit of £5,700.

It was agreed to approve the expenditure on the new Skate Park subject to a limit of £57,573.

Cllr Gordon-Foxwell was given authority to sign the contract with Maverick which will be subject to the following conditions:

The footpath to be kept open as much as possible with any damage to the surface as a result of the works to be put right.

Any damage to the CCTV pole and associated cables as a result of the works to be put right.

A percentage of the balance to be withheld for an agreed period after completion of works in order to ensure satisfaction.

Cllr Redfern agreed to contact a local company with the view to their overseeing the works in progress.

JR

Cllr Gordon-Foxwell was given a vote of thanks for all her hard work and effort in bringing the scheme to this stage.

Multi-sports

To receive a progress report regarding the funding for improvements.

The Council for Voluntary Services Uttlesford has agreed to produce the questionnaire required to provide evidence of the need to improve this facility. Although still awaited **Cllr Ross** confirmed that the grant application was not subject to any time constraints.

(Use of the multi-sports surface is on the increase with 4 out of 5 weekday nights booked. A formal booking form has also been introduced.)

Contracts for all users of the Rec

A meeting with the user groups has been arranged for Monday 19th October.

09/95. Finance – report circulated

To receive the end of 2nd quarter management accounts

*To consider and approve any expenditure on the following:
Donations*

It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 214(6) of the Local government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure:

£1000 to All Saints' Church as a contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard during both the current year and the previous year.

Clerk

It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 137 & 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure, which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

£100 to the talking newspaper

Clerk

It was resolved that the Council, in accordance with its powers under section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by Local Government and Housing Act 1989, section 38) should incur the following expenditure:

£100 to the Uttlesford Citizens Advice Bureau.

Clerk

Tree Work

£310 has been spent to date on the removal of the Willow and Alder scrub at Horse River Green.

It was agreed to proceed with the tree work as detailed in the report submitted in September by **Cllr Francis** and to engage Treecology to carry out this work.

JF

Hall Garden

It was agreed to defer any work to this area to the next financial year.

Lighting at Community Centre

It was agreed to proceed with the repair to the light in the car park.

Clerk

The work to improve the lighting at the Community Centre will only be carried out if the projected reserves do not fall below £4,000.

SR

09/96. Bench at Bus Stop

To further consider the provision of a bench in light of the letter received objecting to its installation.

The **Chairman** explained that the installation of a bench had been fully considered and that its provision would meet the need of a number of the older residents in the village.

The member of the public present for this item explained that she was concerned the bench would encourage people from the pub, as well as youths, to hang around and cause a nuisance at night.

The **Chairman** stated that the possibility of future problems should not preclude provision of this amenity.

The site of the bench in relation to the adjacent properties was discussed along with the design of the bench.

It was agreed to continue with the provision of a bench

Clerk

09/97. Matters Arising/Items for Information1. *Update on recruiting new councillor.*

A number of names were put forward and initial approaches will be made. The Chairman will then contact any candidates expressing an interest.

2. **09/78. Public Forum – bus service**

The Chairman to report back regarding his enquiries on how the service could be improved.

Essex County Council has confirmed that there is little chance of improving the bus service from the current one an hour. There might be the possibility of establishing a ‘shopper’s service’ although this would require further investigation.

3. **09/78. Public Forum – security of children on bridges at rec**

Cllr Gordon-Foxwell to report back regarding the opinion of Essex County Council in this matter.

A letter has been sent and a response is awaited

4. **09/78. Public Forum – letters to residents regarding overhanging trees/shrubs**

Cllr Francis/Clerk to report on progress.

Suitable letters are nearing completion and will be sent out to the relevant properties shortly.

JF/Clerk

5. **09/79. Planning – Meeting with Regard to School being Over-Subscribed**

Cllr Redfern to report regarding progress on organising initial meeting

Carried forward to the next meeting

6. 09/59. Parish Plan

The Clerk to report back on whether the resident identified by Cllr Fowell is still willing to take this on.

The resident concerned has still expressed an interest and accordingly an example Parish Plan has been delivered in order to show the sort of document required.

Clerk

7. 09/58. Scout Hut Contract

Cllr Ross to report on progress.

This is nearing completion; however it has come to light that there is a need for a similar contract for the Bowls Club.

SR

8. 09/48. Litter Pick

Cllr Redfern to report on progress in arranging a date.

It was agreed that Uttlesford District Council be asked to carry out this work.

JR

9. 09/50. Matters Arising

Cllr Rolfe to report back on whether any further action need be taken with regard to the parking issue in Carmel Street.

It was last understood that the situation had improved. However Cllr Rolfe will make further contact to ensure that this is still the case.

HR

10. 09/69. Planning: Earthworks at the Chesterford/Ickleton Border

To receive an update regarding the submission of a retrospective planning application

Cllr Redfern agreed to ask our County Councillor Robert Chambers to pursue this matter on our behalf.

JR

11. 09/87. Matters for Further Discussion

Cllr Gordon-Foxwell to provide feedback from the stall, held to encourage more involvement in village groups at the recent Steam-Up.

No interest was forthcoming.

12. Neighbourhood Watch

To receive an update regarding establishing the scheme in Great Chesterford.

Following the recent meeting held at The Plough pub, Louisa Atherton of 6, The Willows has volunteered to become the local co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch in the village. It was considered that there was reasonable support throughout the village to assist her.

09/98. Matters for Further Discussion*

For Councillors to raise any items that may need to be discussed at a future meeting.

To discuss the consequences of the lack of a volunteer to continue the Youth Club and the demise of the older persons' Friendship Club.

It was agreed to approach Essex County Council for advice about the Youth Club. The possibility of employing a Youth Worker to run the club will also be explored.

JR/HR

To consider applications to the Community Initiatives Fund for highways.

It was agreed to submit an application to install a footpath at the top of the High Street outside The Water Tower.

HR/Clerk

To reflect on the village perception of the Parish Council and consider what steps might be taken to improve it.

Two suggestions were made:

To resurrect the practice of delivering a twice yearly newsletter to the village.

To establish an afternoon ‘surgery’ session at the Community Centre to also include computer access and refreshments (which may provide a replacement for the Friendship Club).

SR/JF/PF

Cllr Rolfe asked that the provision of Allotments be considered at a future meeting.

He also wished it noted that there was a need to clear out the ditch beyond the B1383 culvert and along the back of Hyll Close and for an end of season weed at Fag End.

Cllr Francis to contact the farmer about the ditch.

**JR
Clerk**

The **Clerk** to request the end of season weed.

The annual planting of daffodil bulbs was discussed and it was agreed to continue with the planting at the Recreation Ground

Clerk

Cllr Rolfe asked that a letter be sent to the new property at Horse River Green to express the wish that now the works were coming to an end that the area outside will be restored to its previous condition.

Clerk

09/99. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 11th November at 7.30pm at the Community Centre.

Meeting Closed at 10.15pm

Signed (Chairman).....

Date: 11th November 2009