

GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY JANUARY 13TH 2016 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD

Present: Neil Gregory (from 8:00) Julie Redfern
Sharon Tricceri Simon Witney
Collette Altaparmakova David Hall
Tom Newcombe Matt Rowan (from 8:05)
Gareth Bevens

Alan Cattley – Clerk
6 members of the public.

In the absence of Cllr. Gregory, Cllr. Redfern took the chair.

16/001. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for expected late arrival were received and accepted from Cllrs. Rowan and Gregory.

16/002. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Redfern declared herself as a member of Uttlesford District Council.

16/003. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on December 12th 2015 were signed as a correct record of events.

16/004 Public Forum

A representative of Chesterfords' Preschool identified herself and expressed an interest in agenda item 16/013.

Residents from Field Farm Drive expressed concern that plans for the proposed crematorium in UDC's planning application UTT/15/3782/FUL indicated access into what is presently a field and wished to see paper copies of the plans.

[As a courtesy to members of the public, it was agreed to take item 16/013 out of sequence]

16/013 Preschool

To receive report of meetings and consider any action necessary.

There was a further meeting planned for next week, there having been no other meetings since the December PC meeting.

Cllr. Newcombe would look at access arrangements for the proposed site. The highways search was still to be done.

Results from the questionnaire which was being circulated by the Preschool Committee (PsC) would be collated by members of the PsC rather than engaging external assistance. These results were expected soon and would be made available to the PC as soon as possible.

There had not yet been any meeting with ECC or other statutory bodies to confirm compliance with their requirements.

It was noted that the requirement for an extended preschool facilities had been identified in the Village Plan.

Although it was not yet certain that all the information a prospective funder might require was in place, templates from the Preschool Learning Alliance had been adopted and these were felt to be adequate at this stage.

16/005 Planning

To consider any comments to be returned to Uttlesford District Council (UDC) on the following application:

UTT/15/3430/HHF (Amended) Erection of garage and workshop.

Location: Luckfield House Newmarket Road Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NS

Resolved: No objection, subject to the conditions in the PC's response to previous application.

UTT/15/3782/FUL New Crematorium together with associated landscaping and access

Location: Land East of Field Farm Drive Great Chesterford Essex

It was understood that the site when working would employ three fulltime and two part time workers, would carry out a maximum of five ceremonies per day and would not operate at weekends.

In consideration of the concerns expressed by residents it was resolved to seek an extension to the comments date for this application and arrange a meeting on site with councillors and a representative (if possible) of the crematorium company.

UTT/15/3778/HHF Demolition of existing single storey extension. Erection of two storey extensions and loft conversions.

Location: 3 & 4 Bristol Cottages High Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1PP

Resolved: Objection. It was felt that the proposal was overbearing, did not match the neighbouring property, would cause a loss of character and was overdevelopment of the site. It was also commented that it was unclear from the plans whether the proposal constituted one property or two.

It was resolved to ratify the comments made by the PC to UDC reiterating our previous objections to the amended application UTT/15/3308/FUL for land behind Dabbs House.

16/006 Communications and duties

It was noted that there had been criticism at a previous meeting of the PC's methods of communicating information to the village and it was suggested that this raised two questions;

- What was there that the PC could do in greater detail and possibly more frequently?
- Was there scope for paying for external specialist help where there was insufficient time and/or expertise available from councillors?

It was noted that the PC no longer produced a periodic newsletter for circulation in the village, but the notice board was still in use, there was an entry from the Broadsheet and increasing use was being made of the village Google group.

It was suggested that the minutes from meetings could be published in draft form soon after the meetings rather than waiting for them to be approved at the next meeting. Another possibility was that a brief list of the decisions taken could be circulated via the Google group.

Preparatory work on the new village website was underway and ideas for this were solicited.

Cllr. Altaparmakova was requested to coordinate contributions to the Broadsheet.

It was agreed to review the subject at the Village Meeting.

16/007 Ditch on Horse River Green

A meeting with the PC's Flood Officer had taken place, and it was recommended that the problems causing the drain outside Moore's Cottage to overflow be dealt with first before considering deepening the ditch on HRG.

A request to Essex Highways to inspect the drain was still outstanding; the Flood Officer will attempt to identify the responsible officer in order to pursue the matter.

Once the drain has been repaired, we will monitor the situation to establish whether further work is still necessary; this may include clearing or repairing the pipe which passes under South Street to HRG in addition to clearing the ditch. It was suggested that too much increase in the depth might allow water to flow backwards from the river if the levels rose and should be avoided.

16/008 New Local Council Audit

To decide whether to opt out of the SLB audit scheme.

It was **resolved** unanimously to remain within the scheme.

16/009 Emergency and Flood Plans

To consider existing arrangements and revise if necessary.

It was understood that work had already been begun by previous council members. The clerk and Cllr. Gregory agreed to locate any existing documents and review what further work might be required.

16/010 Local Government Transparency Code 2015

To consider possible action necessary to ensure compliance with the new DCLG code.

It was considered that the required information and record keeping was already in place to meet the requirements. The clerk was requested to ensure that the information is presented at the required intervals and to ensure that provision for this is incorporated in the design of the new website.

16/011 Finance

The receipts and payments made since last meeting were noted without comment.

It was **resolved** to make a precept request for 2016-17 of £56,000, this figure representing an increase of 7½ % over last year's request in line with the increased number of properties in the village.

16/012 UDC Local Plan

To consider developments and consider necessary action.

Points made included

- The results of the Call for Sites were now known.
- It would be useful to organise attendance by representatives of the PC at meetings of UDC's Plan Policy Working Group. Cllr. Redfern would find out the dates of the meetings and ask for volunteers via the Google group.
- Anyone may speak at these meetings
- The Chesterfords' Neighbourhood Plan (NP) would need to be in place by June if it is to influence the outcome of the Local Plan although a draft could be taken into account. It was thought desirable to have a draft available in time for consideration at the Village Meeting, where a vote by residents would carry some weight.
- UDC would incur penalties if the NP deadline of March 2017 was missed.

It was agreed that Rachel Hogger would be approached to suggest companies who would be prepared to tender to assist with preparing an NP.

Cllrs. Hall and Gregory had attended a public meeting in Hinxton at which representatives from the Genome Campus outlined details of their expansion plans. They reported that there was widespread concern from residents about the proposals, in particular a perceived lack of detail about transport plans, flood prevention, unsociable hours and the likelihood of some of the housing being released on the open market rather than being reserved for staff.

Further concern was expressed that the proposal might increase the chances of the Smith land also being approved for development. It was understood that Hinxton PC was appreciative of the presence of parish councillors from Ickleton and Great Chesterford; it was noted that there was no visible representation from UDC.

16/014 Allotments

A letter had been received via solicitors from the landowner stating a qualified retraction of his objection to use of the land for allotments. Work could now proceed with transfer of the land into PC ownership and clearance of the site.

Contractors had been appointed for the work, but were having to wait for the land to dry out before starting. It was hoped that this should be completed by mid-March.

It was resolved to instruct Birketts LLP to undertake the legal work.

Cllr. Hall was to write to the former landowner to express thanks on behalf of the PC.

16/015 Neighbourhood Plan.

Covered as part of 16/012.

16/016 Matters for information or further discussion.

It was hoped that arrangements for locating the second defibrillator should be completed soon.

A second new swing should be installed during February.

The parish is to lose the services of a community Police Constable.

Suggestions were requested for new features for the new website.

The increased number of patients attending the village surgery following the reorganisation in Saffron Walden was causing traffic problems.

The possibility of providing a beacon to mark the Queen’s birthday would be discussed at the next meeting.

ECC’s enforcement of the order to remove the decking outside the village shop was very unpopular with residents. Cllr. Redfern would give Cllr. Newcombe contact details to see if anything can be done.

15/017 Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 13th January 2016 at 7:30 in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 10:15pm

Signed (Chairman).....

Date: 10th February 2016