

## **GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL**

### *MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11<sup>TH</sup> 2015 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD*

**Present:** Neil Gregory  
Matt Rowan  
Gareth Bevens  
Sharon Tricerri

Howard Rolfe  
Tom Newcombe  
Simon Witney

Alan Cattley – Clerk

Two members of the public.

#### **15/014 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Bevens, Hall and Redfern.

#### **15/015. Declaration of Interests**

Cllr. Rolfe declared himself as a member of Uttlesford District Council.

#### **15/016. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on January 13<sup>th</sup> 2015 were signed as a correct record of events.

#### **15/017. Public Forum**

A representative of the Bowls Club spoke in support of their request for a contribution towards the cost of a replacement mower.

It was asked whether the PC knew how much work and cost would be involved in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. It was stated that there was an urgent need to know that there was a deliverable outcome for the money available and asked whether it was the right thing for the parish.

It was stated in reply that on the basis of current knowledge it was considered to be a reasonable use of public funds. It was stated that it was essential that the process of preparing the plan should be clear and transparent, and that if there were no plan there would definitely be considerable further development.

#### **15/018. Neighbourhood Plan.**

It was reported that a meeting had taken place between Cllr. Redfern, Joanna Francis and Alison Tills of Little Chesterford PC to discuss boundaries.

It was stated that the preparation of the Plan must be an open process, and should be evidence led with no preconceptions or prejudice.

It would be necessary to consider the station and access from South Cambs.

The Steering Group will be holding a meeting to make suggestions for the boundaries.

A draft statement of intent was shown to the meeting and amendments were suggested.

The text of the revised statement is as follows:

" 'Great Chesterford is not against sustainable development, we have already worked with developers to bring forward up to 100 houses in 2 developments and will continue to do so on a sustainable level in clusters of houses of no more than 30 houses, but not strategic single plot large scale development. Limiting the geographical spread of housing locations to within the existing core settlement locations is integral to this view.'

Note

For the avoidance of doubt we would clearly state that this is an interim statement of intent which will

continue to be in place until the results of consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan have been undertaken and published and or other such actions arising from the Neighbourhood Plan process that would require this statement to be amended. Any amendment to this statement will require majority approval of the Steering Group.”

#### **15/019 Request for funding**

To consider a request for funding by the Bowls Club for a contribution to the cost of a new mower. It was resolved to decline the request, but it was suggested that other bodies might be able to assist, including the Small Grants Fund.

#### **15/020 Preschool.**

Following a recent meeting it was reported The Montessori Group had expressed an interest, and had requested discussions on the basis of a possible lease. It was felt that this was premature at this early stage. More information would be needed; Cllrs. Rowan and Newcombe would prepare a response **MR/TN**  
The PC was in principle supportive of the preschool, and it was felt that dialogue should continue with both Montessori and Wellcome.

Cllr. Gregory would write to Michelle at Montessori. **NG**

It was suggested that Wellcome should be made aware of the existence of interest from other parties. It was suggested that subsidised places should be made available as part of the terms of any lease.

#### **15/021 Village Plan.**

It was reported that the Plan was ready to go to press once the PC's responses had been received. It was intended to deliver a copy to every household in time for the Village Meeting. 700 copies would be printed. It was asked that credit be recorded to Jon Beard who had edited the document.

Cllr. Gregory was to prepare the PC's response. **NG**

#### **15/022 Finance**

Receipts and payments made since last meeting were noted.

The review of the Asset Register was complete with the exception of very recent acquisitions. Copies would be circulated once these additions were made. **MR**

#### **15/012. Matters for further discussion.**

It was reported that grant applications had been made for replacement swings.

Gratitude was expressed to UDC for all their efforts in preparing the community land for allotment use.

A “wish list” for further improvements included:

- Rabbit-proof fencing
- Bark chips for paths
- A communal shed

It was reported that a resident had offered horse manure for allotment use.

It was suggested that an allotment users' group should be established and that it would need an elected committee and a constitution.

Cllr. Newcombe offered to draw up a draft lease. **TN**

It was reported that a “planting party” would plant the hedges supplied by the Woodland Trust during the weekend of March 14<sup>th</sup>.

Cllr. Newcombe reported that no positive response had been received from Abellio in respect of Station Road and that a survey would be needed. Cllr. Newcombe will continue to press for action.

**15/013. Date of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7:30 in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 8:55 pm

**Signed (Chairman).....**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> March 2015**