

**ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING**  
**convened by**  
**GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Wednesday 14th March 2012, at 7.30pm**  
**in the Community Centre**

**Present for PC:** Joanna Francis – Chairman  
 Sharon Triccerri  
 Sorrel Gordon-Foxwell  
 Gareth Bevens  
 David Hall  
 Wazz Mughal  
 Julie Redfern – also Uttlesford District Councillor

Elaine Culling – Clerk

**Present Other:** Robert Chambers – Essex County Councillor  
 John Pashley – Great Chesterford Bowls Club

83 members of the public

**1. Chairman's Introduction**

The **Chairman** welcomed everyone to the meeting; the Clerk and those members of the Parish Council present stood to introduce themselves followed by the village's County Councillor **Robert Chambers**.

**2. Minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting**

The minutes of the 2011 Annual Parish Meeting were approved.

**3. Uttlesford District Council LDF Housing Consultation**

**Cllr Redfern** outlined the process which is currently at the half way stage. The first consultation (now closed) was in relation to The Role of Settlements and Site Allocation across the district with an exhibition being held at the Community Centre.

Seven locations in Great Chesterford had been identified as possible development sites and all residents were invited to submit comments regarding the suitability of these sites. In addition those residents who attended the exhibition were given 3 red dots and 3 green dots to place directly onto maps showing the sites with a red dot representing a site considered unsuitable for development and a green dot representing a site suitable for development.

The maps in question were on display for attendees to view.

The next stage is for Uttlesford District Council to agree the sites to go forward as part of a new Local Plan which will then form the basis for the second consultation due to start sometime in June.

The Parish Council has agreed that it is comfortable with development at three of the seven sites:

- the New World Timber site,
- the Greenhouse site, and
- the land behind Chesterford House

Some discussions with the owners and representatives of these sites has taken place ahead of any planning applications and as a result the owners of the New World Timber and Greenhouse sites have in principle agreed to allow local need affordable housing to be a part of their development. The agents acting on behalf of the owners of the site behind Chesterford House have been asked to consider building bungalows as part of any development.

The **Chairman** stood to add that the next consultation period runs from the 8th June 2012 to 23rd July 2012 and that a corresponding exhibition will be held at the Community Centre on 27th June 2012.

#### **4. Affordable Housing**

Item already covered as part of item 3.

#### **Citi 7 Bus Service**

Since the agenda had been published Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) had announced that it was cutting the subsidy to the Citi 7 bus at the end of August, putting the service between Whittlesford, Sawston and Saffron Walden under threat.

The **Chairman**, conscious that the loss of the bus service would be a blow to those in the village that use it, wished to reassure residents that at this point in time Essex County Council were not intending to cut their subsidy of the service and were looking at ways in which the route could continue to be viable; in addition Stagecoach has not said that it will cease to run the service to Saffron Walden following withdrawal of the CCC subsidy.

**Q.** Why don't they use smaller buses?

**A.** Smaller buses are not being considered at the moment.

**Q.** Why use a double decker bus when as it drives through the village it seems nearly empty?

**A.** Although not full as it runs through the village it can often be full during other parts of its journey. Also it is not that much more expensive to run a double decker bus than it is to run a smaller vehicle.

**Cllr Redfern** added that at this point in time it is not known what will happen to this service however should it come under serious threat that will be the time to get involved and the Parish Council will need to know who in the village uses the service, when they use it and what for.

#### **5. Bowls Club**

**John Pashley** stood to give a short presentation on the club which was originally set up in 1923 on land adjacent to Chesterford House. In the 1950's it moved to a new location on Rose Lane and then moved again to its current location at the Recreation Ground in 1976. Residents might be interested to

know that its club house is an old site hut left over when they were building the M11.

They currently have about 40 members and are always looking for more; they offer beginners courses all the way up to match bowls, alongside which they also offer a varied social calendar of events.

**Q.** Is this information on the village website?

**A.** Yes.

#### **6. Chairman's Award**

The **Chairman** explained that in this jubilee year she had felt that it would be good to recognise those in the village who 'do' things for the benefit of others, often without being asked. Accordingly it had been agreed to establish an annual award as a way to acknowledge and thank them for what they do.

Anyone could nominate someone and 16 names had been put forward. It had been difficult to choose a winner and in the end the **Chairman** had decided in this inaugural year to present 2 awards.

The winners of the 2012 Chairman's Award were **Barbara Norris** and **Pam Maskell**.

#### **7. Diamond Jubilee Celebration**

**Cllr Redfern** explained that the intention is to hold a village event at the Recreation Ground on Sunday 3rd June 2012. Effectively it will be a 'Street Party' held on the Rec, with 1 or 2 representatives from each street being enlisted to organise their road. A number of volunteers had already come forward, however more are needed.

#### **8. Free Tennis Coaching at Easter**

**Cllr Gordon-Foxwell** explained that as part of the recent Lottery Grant to refurbish the Multi-Sports courts a Sustainability Grant had been awarded to encourage future use of the facility.

Accordingly it has been arranged to provide some free tennis coaching over the Easter holidays for both children and adults alike. Booking forms are available from the back of the hall or via the village website.

#### **9. General Q&A Session**

Before this session got underway **Robert Chambers** stood to announce that it might be useful to know now that Uttlesford District Council (UDC) is to place £500,000 of New Homes Bonus into a Jubilee Fund of which £250,000 can be applied to by Town and Parish Councils and £250,000 by Community Groups.

**Cllr Redfern** added that she had received £1,000 of New Homes Bonus during the current financial year which she had used to part purchase with the Parish Council a new Salt Spreader, to replace the 2 that had proved 'not fit for purpose', an Oak Tree to be planted as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations, and a plant pot and water butt for the village station. She also hoped to persuade Little Chesterford to have an Oak Tree as well. She has been allocated £2,000 from next

Year's New Home Bonus and welcomes suggestions on how this would be best spent.

**Q.** How many allotments are there now as there doesn't seem to be as many as there were.

**A.** There are actually no allotments at the moment although there are 13 people on the waiting list. Ideally a local land owner will be persuaded to lease a plot of land for allotments and it could be that a suitable site might be made available as part of any new development.

**Cllr Redfern** confirmed that one of the site owners has been asked to consider providing land for allotments as well as land for a new village school as part of any development.

**Q.** Does the New World Timber and Greenhouse sites fulfil the housing numbers required for Great Chesterford?

**A.** No, as a key village we will be expected to provide about 110 new homes, however with the addition of the site behind Chesterford House it is expected that together the 3 sites will fulfil the need.

**Q.** Does the Parish Council have any influence on the rail company when it comes to providing a customer information board?

**A. Isabella Warren** stood up as one of the village's Station Adopters to say that she had been assured that Great Chesterford Station was top of the list to get one however the recent changes in train companies made it difficult to pin down a date for installation.

**Q.** We were recently asked to complete a survey regarding the Village Shop; can you tell me what happened as it seems to be struggling.

**A.** The Parish Council collated the responses received into a report which was then handed over to the shop keepers for them to act upon.

**Q.** In connection with the shop, the Post Office is a vital part of the community; is anything known regarding its future in the village?

**A.** The **Chairman** stated that the recent Localism Act enabled communities to establish a Community List of Assets on which it would make sense to have the village shop along with the 2 pubs. Inclusion on this list provides communities with time to act should an asset be under threat.

**Cllr Hall** stood to add that although the shop lacked sufficient local support it was not thought that the Post Office was under immediate threat. There are also examples of communities which have successfully run village shops as a viable business.

**Robert Chambers** stood to add that with the village set to grow this could only be good news for the future of the village shop; however it came down the old adage use it or lose it.

**Q.** With new development coming what is UDC doing regarding any Section 106 money?

**A.** Any Section 106 money will be allocated to those areas where development is taking place.

**Q.** How much will this Section 106 money be?

**A.** That depends on the number of dwellings across the district a developer builds.

**Q.** Who negotiates this Section 106 money?

**A.** Officers at UDC.

**Cllr Redfern** stood to add that as part of meetings with site owners, ahead of any planning applications, she and the **Chairman** were pushing for such things as a pedestrian crossing on the B1383 and access to the station from the back of the New World Timber site.

**Q.** Is the Parish Council doing anything for the Olympics?

**A.** The **Chairman** explained that this was looked into however it was decided to concentrate on celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee.

The questioner added that residents might be interested to know that **Cllr Rolfe** as a member of UDC is involved and that all villages are invited to join in the celebrations being held in Saffron Walden.

**Q.** Can anything be done about the inconsiderate parking on the roads near to the school by parents of the children?

**A.** It is known that **Cllr Rolfe** has asked the police to attend to monitor this situation.

A resident added that they had spoken to the police and been told that it is nothing to do with them and to speak to the Parish Council.

Another resident added that it seem that as the years have gone by less people are walking their children to school.

The **Chairman** added that more villagers now drive their children to school because they are then going straight onto work.

**Q.** It is known that the school bus can block the road whilst the children are getting out however it would help if the owners of the parked cars that contribute to any blockage would move their cars away as soon as possible.

**A.** The **Chairman** agreed to take this matter up with the school.

**Q.** Has there been any progress regarding the resurfacing of the tarmac area adjacent to the small Play Area at Pilgrim Close?

**A.** **Cllr Gordon-Foxwell** explained that although a number of quotes had been obtained any grant applications had been put on hold due to other priorities. In the meantime however local residents should be encouraged to fund raise themselves as this will look good when applications for grants are made.

**Cllr Redfern** stood to ask the resident whether she lived in the area; she did. **Cllr Redfern** added that the UDC Jubilee Fund might well be suitable for this sort of project.

**Cllr Tricerri** stood to add that just the previous week the first meeting of the Pilgrim Close Community Group had taken place at which this item was discussed.

At the end of this Q&A session a resident stood to say that she wished to congratulate **Cllr Gordon-Foxwell** and her team for all the marvellous work achieved at the Recreation Ground; this was followed by a round of applause by all those present.

**Cllr Mughal** extolled the benefits of the GoogleGroup as a means of circulating information to the village and encouraged all who could to sign up.

**Cllr Redfern** stood to state that following the success of last year’s litter pick it was intended to hold another one this year, details to be made available soon.

**10. Chairman’s Concluding Remarks**

The **Chairman** thanked everyone for attending and added that they were welcome to attend any of the Parish Council meetings which going forward were now to be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

The **Chairman** then asked whether residents were happy with what the Parish Council was doing; those present implied that they were.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm.

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

**Date: 2013**