

## GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2013 AT 7:30PM IN THE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD*

**Present:** Matt Rowan  
Sharon Tricerri  
Julie Williams  
Joanna Francis

Howard Rolfe  
Julie Redfern  
David Hall  
Neil Gregory

Alan Cattley – Clerk

8 members of the public, including John Lodge, Independent candidate for Essex County Council.

### Action

#### 13/56. Election of chairman for the meeting

Cllr. Hall was elected to take the chair.

#### 13/57. Apologies for Absence

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

#### 13/58. Declaration of Interests

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

**Cllrs. Rolfe and Redfern** declared themselves as members of Uttlesford District Council

#### 13/59. Co-option of Councillor.

Joanna Francis accepted co-option to the Council and signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

#### 13/60. Minutes of the Last Meeting

**Resolved** to approve and sign as correct records the minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

#### 13/61. Public Forum

A resident spoke to request that the sign on Horse River Green requesting dog owners to clean up after their dogs be reinstated.

It was asked whether the Fun Fair would be appearing on Horse River Green before the Steam Up. The clerk confirmed that the owner had been offered a single day rather than the three days which had been requested. The owner had indicated that this would not be cost effective and it is now unlikely that any further request will be made.

It was suggested that a sign be erected on Horse River Green to warn of the presence of nesting swans on the river bank. The clerk was asked to pursue this.

A question was asked about progress on the project to improve access on Horse River Green. Cllr. Francis stated that new benches have been received, existing ones will be restored and that a proposed layout was in preparation. The grant offer covering costs for this work expires in March 2014.

Further to the problem of dog fouling, Cllr. Rolfe suggested that a campaign to engage public participation be initiated, using the website and the village email group and possibly inviting the school to participate.

A representative of Walden Wanderers FC raised a number of concerns about the club's use of the rec. including perceived shortcomings with pitch markings and grass cutting arrangements. It was agreed that these concerns would be addressed at a meeting between the PC and representatives of all sports clubs using the rec. to be convened for a date in May.

John Lodge spoke to state that one of his main reasons for standing for election was to attempt to influence ECC to increase their focus on the villages of this area. He invited those present to raise questions and a short debate followed.

### **13/62. Finance**

The list of payments made since last meeting was noted without comment.

The decision on earmarking funds and possible reallocation of funds to the Horse River Green project was deferred until more detailed information was available.

Suggestions for future projects which might be eligible for grant funding were made including:

- Play panels in one of the Pilgrim Close Sec 106 tarmacked areas
- Pedestrian crossing on London Road
- Safety surfaces below play equipment
- Replacement swings

It was noted that the Small Grants Scheme would be operating again this year, and it was suggested that the Stansted Airport Fund be considered and noted that the Council for Voluntary Services had a database of funding sources available. Cllr. Gregory would circulate a list of suggestions.

**NG**

### **13/63. Scouts**

Cllr. Gregory reported that he had spoken to the Acting Group Leader. The intention was to discuss informal proposals, but to date no firm plans had been made.

It was noted that no reply had been received to the PC's letter to the Scout Association, and the former Scout Leader had heard nothing further from them.

No progress on arrangements for use of the hut or funds had been possible as the details were still with the S.A.

It was suggested that the Council investigate the possibility of releasing the lease on the hut. Cllr. Hall was asked to write to the Scout Association suggesting this.

**DH**

### **13/64. Recreation Ground**

In addition to the points raised in the public forum, it was noted that:

- The pitch is in need of work.
- There is an imbalance of effort towards pitch maintenance between the users.

- An accurate estimate of the true cost of maintenance is required.
- There are problems with dog fouling.

It was resolved to bring forward the annual meeting with users to a date in May. The clerk is to arrange a suitable date. AC

**13/65. Superfast Broadband Project.**

Cllr. Rolfe to seek clarification from UDC.

**13/66. Flood Officer**

It was resolved to accept Mr. Phil Hunt's kind offer to act as Flood Officer,

**13/67. Meeting with the Genome Campus**

Cllrs. Francis, Gregory and Redfern and the Clerk agreed to attend.

**13/68. Letter to UDC concerning open spaces.**

It was resolved to write to UDC's Assistant Director of Planning requesting that open spaces which are registered as Assets of Community Value should be registered as protected open spaces in the Local Development Framework. Cllr. Rowan offered to produce a draft. MR

**13/69. Refuse Bins**

Cllr. Redfern stated that anyone who has difficulty moving the standard size bins can register for a smaller bin. Cllr. Rolfe stated that UDC was not aware of a change in practice. Cllr. Redfern will investigate and report back. JR

**13/70. Roles & Responsibilities.**

It was decided to ask Cllr. Francis to prepare an amended list for consideration at the May meeting.

**13/71. Items for Information**

1. **12/35. Council Standing Orders**

Review is underway.

2. **11/85. Allotment Proposal**

On hold until an appropriate piece of land can be secured.

3. **13/30 Proposed Cycle Path.**

It was reported that our ECC councillor had been asked to confirm that the school bus from Littlebury would still be continued if the path project goes ahead.

A meeting with ECC and Sustrans had taken place.

It was suggested that the possibility of assistance might be raised at the meeting with the Genome Campus.

**13/72. Matters for further discussion**

The following topics were raised as possible topics for future meetings:

- Highways panel scheme.
- Pedestrian crossing on London Road.
- Review of Open Spaces maintenance.
- Review and comments of draft Parish Plan questionnaire.
- Policy regarding dog shows on the recreation ground.
- Reinstatement of the position of Vice Chairman

**13/73. Election of chairman**

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate councillors requesting nominations for Chairman and Vice Chairman. AC

**13/74. Exclusion of the public and press due to the confidential nature of item 13/75**

The remaining members of the public left the meeting at this point.

**13/75. Village Shop**

A discussion took place.

Under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 section 1(2) this item is not minuted.

**13/76. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013 commencing at 7.30pm in the Sports Lounge at the Community Centre

**Meeting Closed at 9:45 pm**

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

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2013**