

## GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2015 AT 7:30PM IN THE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD*

**Present:** Matt Rowan  
Gareth Bevens  
Sharon Tricerri  
Julie Redfern [from 8:03pm]  
Alan Cattley – Clerk

Simon Witney  
David Hall  
Neil Gregory

Twelve members of the public.

All members present signed declarations of acceptance of office

### **15/054 Election of Chairman**

Cllr. Gregory was proposed by Cllr. Bevens, seconded by Cllr. Tricerri and elected unanimously.

### **15/055. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr. Newcombe and for expected late arrival from Cllr. Redfern.

### **15/056. Declarations of Interest**

None received.

### **15/057. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2015 were signed as a correct record of events.

### **15/058. Public Forum.**

It was not known whether the June meeting of UDC's planning committee would include planning application UTT/15/0643/DFO on land north of Bartholomew Close. Several residents have registered objections and it was suggested that members of the PC's planning committee might meet residents to discuss their concerns.

A resident expressed disappointment with the delay in replacing the trees on Horse River Green. Cllr. Tricerri undertook to chase UDC's Tree Officer for recommendations of suitable species; Cllr. Redfern would be asked to progress a reply if necessary. It was noted that trees in conservation areas were subject to more rigorous control than those elsewhere.

It was announced that Joanna Francis had secured a defibrillator for the village free of charge. This would require an appropriate container before it was available for use, and it was suggested that the PC consider meeting the cost which was estimated to be approximately £500 and decide on a suitable location. It was agreed to make this an agenda item for the next meeting.

It was suggested that volunteers be sought for training in the use of the defibrillator. The Red Cross committee will be approached for suggestions and it was understood that Dr. Eaton had offered his services. A vote of thanks to Ms Francis was passed and the Chairman expressed his congratulations on securing a valuable facility for the village.

A number of residents spoke to express concern about planning application UTT/15/1193/FUL in respect of a proposed new house on land north of Dabbs House and to express support for the owner of a neighbouring property.

In addition to objections to the proposal itself, it was alleged that the neighbour was being subjected to intimidation by the owner and that no right of access existed.

It was also alleged that a neighbour's fence had been damaged and excavations had begun before permission had been decided.

It was requested that the PC support the unanimous objection of neighbours to the proposal.

In response to a question, the speaker stated that UDC's planning department had been made aware of the situation.

The chairman thanked the speakers for coming and expressed disappointment at the treatment they had reported. He also stated that the PC can only comment on planning matters and that resolving questions of contested ownership was not within the PC's power. The PC will take full account of the residents' views when preparing its response and it was likely that our District Councillor would "call in" the application for consideration by committee.

It was suggested that our local police officer be made aware of the perceived harassment and intimidation and that a record be kept of dates and times of any incidents.

[Cllr. Redfern arrived at this point]

Cllr. Redfern asked if UDC's enforcement team had been informed. In reply, it was stated that a letter and photographs had been sent and a site visit requested.

#### **15/059 Planning**

**UTT/15/1195/HHF** Single storey side extension, alterations to fenestration in rear elevation and internal alterations (revised scheme to that approved under UTT/0591/08/FUL)

**Location:** South Cottage South Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1NW

**Resolved:** No Comment

**UTT/15/1315/FUL** Erection of single storey side and rear extension

**Location:** 43 Jacksons Lane Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1PT

**Resolved:** No Comment

**UTT/15/1193/FUL** The erection of 1 no. 3 bed dwelling and alteration to access.

**Location:** Land North Of Dabbs House London Road Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NY

**Resolved:** To object

Subject to his availability on the date chosen, Cllr. Hall offered to speak at the UDC Planning Committee meeting in respect of application UTT/15/0643/DFO for the land north of Bartholomew Close

#### **15/060 Letter from Hewitsons re use of Community Land.**

A meeting with the landowner would be sought.

It was believed that the PC would be able to give the necessary assurances to enable the landowner to withdraw his objections to the use of part of the land for allotments. Cllrs. Newcombe and Witney had prepared a draft letter to give written confirmation of oral assurances, and Cllr. Hall would redraft this in "plain English" where necessary.

The chairman expressed the PC's thanks to Cllrs Newcombe and Witney for their efforts in this matter.

**15/061 Neighbourhood Plan.**

There had been no meeting of the Steering Group since the last PC meeting.

Approval of the boundaries from UDC was still awaited.

JF had met the organisers of Felsted's NP, whose biggest problem was reported to be lack of community engagement.

A meeting had also been held with Chesterford Research Park who were supportive of the Plan and it was felt that there was nothing which they required which wouldn't also be supported by us. It was likely that they would be able to provide some funding, possibly through Churchmanor Estates. They would be prepared to let us have access to the results of their traffic survey.

Three quotes had been received for Historic Environment and Landscape Character and Capacity Assessments..

Subject to UDC approval of the boundaries, the PC agreed to approve expenditure up to the value of the preferred quotes should no external funding be forthcoming. These were £5440 plus VAT for the Landscape Character and Capacity Assessments by Hankinson Duckett Associates and £5950 plus VAT for the Historic Environment assessment by Beacon Planning. The approval was proposed by Cllr. Gregory, seconded by Cllr. Rowan and agreed unanimously.

It was felt that the NP was on course and running to time.

**15/062 Finance**

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

The end of year accounts and Audit Commission return were approved and signed..

Subject to confirmation by Cllr. Hall and the Clerk that the scope of cover was comparable, it was agreed to transfer the PC's insurance from AON to Zurich Municipal.

It was agreed to authorise all councillors as signatories to the bank accounts. The requirement for two signatories for all cheques continues.

**15/063 Areas of Responsibility**

It was decided to continue councillors' areas of responsibility as last year, with the exception of Communications for which a volunteer would be sought.

**15/064 Horse River Green**

The selection of replacement trees for Horse River Green had been delayed pending a response from UDC's Tree Officer. Cllr. Redfern will chase.

It was understood that the broken branch in question had been dragged from the river, therefore action in response to wind damage was not required.

**15/065 Matters for further discussion.**

Cllr. Witney was thanked for his efforts in achieving entry for replacement swings in Aviva's ballot for funding. Councillors were urged to encourage members of the village to place as many votes as possible.

The youth football team had achieved a place in the final of the Cambridgeshire Cup. Cllr. Redfern agreed to make a donation of £50 to the club from the New Homes Bonus fund.

It was understood a planning application to develop land behind Acrecroft was imminent.

A request from the Youth Club to install a bench on the rec. will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Councillors were asked to consider possible items for further grant funding.

**15/066 Date of Next Meeting.**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June at 7:30 in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

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

**Date: 10<sup>th</sup> June 2015**