

GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY MAY 14th 2014 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD

Present: Gareth Bevens
Sharon Tricerri
Julie Redfern
Simon Witney

Howard Rolfe
Tom Newcombe
David Hall
Neil Gregory

Alan Cattley – Clerk
5 members of the public.

14/064. Election of Chairman.

Cllr. Gregory was proposed by Cllr. Bevens, seconded by Cllr. Tricerri and elected *nem. con.*

14/065. Co-option of new Councillor.

Simon Witney was co-opted as a member of the Parish Council and signed a Form of Acceptance

14/066. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr. Rowan were received and accepted.

14/067. Declaration of Interests

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

Cllr. Bevens declared a personal interest as a family member of one of the speakers from the public forum in favour of item 14/081

14/068. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The Chairman signed as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 9th April 2014.

14/069. Public Forum

A member of the public spoke to suggest that the Council consider the provision of a “Community Shelf” of the type already implemented in Shelford, Chesterton and elsewhere. This would be a publicly accessible space where unwanted items could be left and collected.

This was accepted in principle, and it was suggested that volunteers be sought via the village Google group.

Another member of the public spoke to suggest that part of the land to be acquired adjacent to the recreation ground be used for an outside learning area as already implemented in Ashon as a “Forest School”. The head and staff of GC Primary Academy were reported to be supportive of the project. It was suggested that the Scouts and Brownies might like to make use of it, and it would be open to the public at times when no organised use was taking place.

14/070. Planning

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

UTT/14/1279/FUL Two storey rear extension, replacement of 2 no. UPVC windows with timber framed windows to the front elevation. Internal alterations.

Location: White House High Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1PL

UTT/14/1280/LB Replacement of 2 no. UPVC windows with timber framed windows to the front elevation. Internal alterations.

Location: White House High Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1PL
Resolved: To submit no objection in principle, but to note that further comment was not possible in the absence of fuller detail.

UTT/14/1199/FUL Erection of 1 no. detached dwelling

Location: Land Rear Of 5 London Road Great Chesterford Essex.

Resolved: To submit no objection subject to the conditions that access to the property should only be allowed from London Road and that the planting scheme be submitted in advance.

14/071.Areas of Responsibility

Cllr. Gregory will circulate notes with suggestions for discussion at the next meeting

NG.

It was agreed that improved communication with the public was necessary and that an overhaul of the website might be one way of achieving this. Cllr. Redfern and the Clerk were asked to pursue this further.

JR/AC

14/072. Finance

The report of receipts and payments made since last meeting and end of year accounts were noted and accepted.

The annual return to the Audit Commission was approved, and it was agreed that the Chair should sign them after approval by the internal auditor.

It was agreed that unspent funds from the New Homes Bonus should be allocated to the 1st Essex Scout group.

It was suggested that in future, each budget holder should decide on the detailed use of funds within their allocated budgets. Cllrs Hall and Bevins were asked to examine the existing arrangements and make proposals for changes that might be required.

14/073.Essex Playing Fields Association

While it was felt that the Council had not benefitted from membership recently, it was understood that the EPFA had been useful with projects in the past. It was agreed to take advice from former councillor Sorrel Gordon-Foxwell who had worked with them on these projects and only to renew the subscription if she could envisage any likely benefit in the future.

14/074.Grant Applications

It was suggested that any projects associated with the newly acquired land at the recreation ground might be suitable candidates for grant support.

14/075.Review of Insurance Requirements

It was agreed to renew our policy with Aon for just one year, and to review our requirements later in the year.

14/076.Permission for Steam Up

It was agreed to grant permission, subject to the condition that the organisers take precautions to protect the path on Horse River Green from damage by heavy vehicles and agree to meet costs in the event of any damage.

14/077.Use of Land behind the Recreation Ground

Cllr. Gregory was to meet UDC's assistant director of planning and building control who had agreed to draw up plans for consideration.

It was understood that the plot would be handed over initially as a grassed area with provision for allotments.

It was agreed that this represented a substantial project which was beyond the capacity of any individual on the Parish Council, and that wide consultation and a team of volunteers would be required.

It was decided to make this topic a regular agenda item for future meetings.

14/078.Breaches of Planning Conditions

Cllr. Newcombe agreed to take responsibility for dealing with breaches of planning conditions.

14/079.Revised Standing Orders

The revised standing orders were agreed and adopted.

14/080.Poppy Planting.

It was agreed to proceed with the planting of commemorative poppies, and to apply for UDC’s offer to provide seeds.

14/081.Community Shelf

It was agreed to support the proposal, subject to a six month trial period. Cllr. Bevens to draft an email for circulation on the Google group.

GB

14/082. Items for Information

1. 13/30 Proposed Cycle Path

The proposal is progressing well. Sustrans are awaiting funding, and the scheme is designated “shovel ready”, after which will come the design and consultation stage.

It was proposed to contact the Wellcome Trust to seek their assistance.

14/083. Matters for further discussion.

It was suggested that the village might seek a road closure order for roads through the village during the Tour de France; the clerk to investigate.

AC

Cllr. Redfern offered to contact local businesses to ascertain their intentions for the day.

JR

It has been discovered that the lease for the Bowls Club land had not been dated correctly and the PC’s copy was missing. Cllr. Hall will pass a copy to Cllr. Newcombe for resolution.

DH/TN

Following investigation, Cllr. Newcombe has ascertained that Station Road is unregistered and probably belongs to Network Rail. It is understood to be leased to Abellio Greater Anglia. All other properties are leasehold and none has maintenance responsibility; the assumption is therefore that Network Rail is responsible. Cllr. Newcombe will contact the leaseholders for confirmation.

TN

14/063. Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 11th June 2014 at 7:30pm in the Sports Lounge at the Community Centre

Meeting Closed at 9:50pm

Signed (Chairman).....

Date: 11th June 2014