

## GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

*MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2011 AT 7.30PM IN THE  
COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD*

**Present:** Joanna Francis – Chairman  
Tim Fowell  
Howard Rolfe  
Sorrel Gordon-Foxwell  
David Hall  
Sharon Tricerri  
Julie Redfern

Elaine Culling – Clerk

Robert Chambers – Essex County Councillor

1 member of the public

### Action

#### 11/74. Apologies for Absence

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

#### 11/75. Declaration of Interests

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

**Cllr Rolfe** and **Cllr Redfern** declared themselves as District Councillors.

The **Chairman** declared herself as Chairman of the Chesterfords Community Centre Management Committee

#### 11/76. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The **Chairman** signed the minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2011 as a correct record of events.

#### 11/77. Public Forum

*There will be 15 minutes available for Public Forum, if required, and the opportunity for members of the public to register with the Chairman should they wish to speak on a particular agenda item.*

#### **20mph limit in village and other road safety measures**

The following views were expressed by the resident in attendance:

- Concern about the safety of driving within the village and also along the B184 and B1383.
- Crossing the B1383 in particular is not easy and yet is done regularly by those accessing the railway station and by those crossing the other way to gain access to village facilities.
- Sight lines at various junctions within the village, for example the bottom of Rose Lane where it joins the High Street and the junction of Jacksons Lane with Carmel/Carmen Street, are bad with near misses not unusual.

- The school would be very supportive of any traffic calming scheme and are willing to write a letter accordingly.
- The end of Jacksons Lane where there is no pavement is particularly hazardous for pedestrians
- What has happened in regard to the proposed 20mph limit.

Robert Chambers stated that he had come to the meeting primarily to apologise for the lack of progress with the scheme explaining that it had been put on hold awaiting the outcome of a pilot scheme in Chelmsford. This urban pilot scheme however bears no resemblance to the rural situation in Great Chesterford and as such he was of the opinion that there was the chance that the proposed scheme at Great Chesterford could be put forward as an additional “rural” pilot scheme.

**Cllr Redfern** questioned whether a 20mph limit was actually effective and was concerned about the number of repeater signs required throughout the village should the scheme go ahead.

**Robert Chambers** acknowledged that any speed limit tends to be exceeded at times but that a 20mph limit normally means that drivers keep well below 30mph. In respect of the number of repeater signs he will check whether painted signs on the road are an alternative.

The **Clerk** stated that Essex Highways were confident that no additional posts would be required for the repeater signs as there were sufficient existing posts that could be used.

**Cllr Rolfe** stated that he was very much in favour of the scheme and believed **Cllr Redfern** was in the minority with her view regarding the 20mph limit.

With regard to the need for a pedestrian crossing along the B1383 **Robert Chambers** was in full agreement and felt that the right location would be by the greenhouse site should this proceed to residential development. Experience however has shown that to secure a new pedestrian crossing can take a number of years.

**Cllr Hall** asked whether this crossing would be pelican or traffic light controlled. **Robert Chambers** stated that it would be a pelican crossing.

It was agreed that in order to try and progress matters in relation to the 20mph limit and the need for a pedestrian crossing on the B1383, **Robert Chambers** will invite the Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Highways to visit Great Chesterford in order to see matters first hand.

### **Community Speed Watch**

**Cllr Fowell** asked **Robert Chambers** why Great Chesterford, despite being given the go-ahead and having a number of volunteers, had repeatedly failed to make any progress in getting a scheme up and running in the village.

**Robert Chambers** stated that the scheme was a victim of its own success and that there wasn't sufficient money to support all applicants. It was pointed out that a grant had been secured 2 years ago to pay for this scheme, a grant that has since been withdrawn due to the lack of progress. **Robert Chambers** suggested that a letter be written to the Chief Inspector explaining the history of this, asking that the scheme be progressed as a matter of urgency and that in light of the lost grant that the police now fund it.

**Clerk**

**Traffic Cones**

The **Chairman** asked **Robert Chambers** if he knew where the organisers of the Chesterford Steam-Up could obtain some traffic cones and it was suggested that they ask the Police and emphasise that they are required for a charity event.

**11/78. Planning**

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

**UTT/1308/11/LB.** Proposed replacement of 3 no. windows.

**Location.** The Gables, Carmel Street, Great Chesterford.

**No objection**

**TF**

**Results**

**UTT/0818/11/FUL.** Erection of rear conservatory.

**Location.** Beorcham, London Road, Great Chesterford.

**Conditional Approval**

**UDC - Draft Affordable Housing Policy Update Statement Consultation**

*To consider and agree whether the Council should submit any views regarding this consultation which ends on 29th July 2011.*

As it was understood that this document represented hardly any change to existing policy and would only apply for a short period of time, it was agreed to not submit any comments.

The **Chairman** raised concern over the number of trees being felled in the Conservation Area and it was agreed that clarification of policy in these matters will be sought from **UDC**.

**JR**

**Cllr Rolfe** pointed out that the planting of trees is to be part of the Queens Diamond Jubilee celebrations and that perhaps Great Chesterford could get involved.

An informal discussion was had at this point regarding the greenhouse site in London Road.

**Cllr Rolfe** informed the meeting that due to the need for **UDC** to identify a number of potential sites for housing across the district that the possibility of changing redundant employment sites to residential sites was now being considered. This opens up the potential for the greenhouse site in London Road to be used for residential development although it will not be known until the next meeting of the Local Development Framework whether this site will go forward for residential development.

**Cllr Redfern** stated that should the greenhouse site be allowed to go for residential development that **UDC** had agreed that the affordable element of that development can be restricted to local people in perpetuity. **Cllr Hall** asked that written confirmation of this be obtained.

The owners of both the greenhouse site and of New World Timber have been informed of these potential changes and any progress in this matter, should the site be converted to residential, will be in their hands.

**11/79. Finance – report circulated**

*To receive the end of 1st quarter accounts*

Received and noted

*To note the schedule of cheque payments/receipts since previous meeting.*

Noted

**11/80. Voluntary Code of Conduct**

*Uttlesford District Council has asked the Council to indicate whether it intends to sign up to a voluntary Code of Conduct if the current ethical framework is abolished as proposed by the Localism Bill. If agreed to do so there will be a statutory duty to consider whether allegations of a breach of the Code should be investigated and if so how and what steps should be taken in the event of a findings of a breach.*

It was agreed that it was the Council's intention to adopt a voluntary Code of Conduct once the Localism Bill becomes law.

Clerk

**11/81. Thomas Hyll and other Charities**

*To confirm the appointment of Valerie Cook, Anne Wood and David Hall as the three Nominative Trustees of the Thomas Hyll and other Charities as stipulated by its governing document.*

All three appointments were confirmed by the Council.

DH

**11/82. Multi-Sports**

*To consider who might be secured to open the upgraded courts at the launch to be held in September.*

**Cllr Gordon-Foxwell** explained that arrangements for the launch were well under way apart from securing someone, ideally someone of note, to open the upgraded courts. Members agreed to give this some thought and to make enquiries.

All

**11/83. Junction of Rookery Close and Pilgrim Close**

*Following concerns raised regarding the accident potential at the junction of these 2 roads, to consider and agree whether to request that white lines be painted at the junction in order to provide priority to one of the roads.*

Agreed.

*If agreed, to decide which road should have priority.*

It was agreed that this should reflect the view of the residents in that area and once known this will be passed to **ECC Highways** for action.

ST

**11/84. Uttlesford Association of Local Councils (UALC)**

*Membership of the UALC lapsed, by agreement of the Council, at the meeting held on 8th September 2010.*

*The constitutional aims of the UALC are as follows:*

- *To establish a two-way communication between local councils and Uttlesford District Council (UDC) and any other body in order that both parties have a better working relationship.*
- *To act for the mutual benefit of all local councils, putting united opinions and views to the officers and councillors of UDC on topics of general interest and concern*
- *To assist local councils in the performance of their duties, and promote a widespread interest in local government.*

*To consider whether to now resume the Council's annual subscription (£25).*

It was resolved not to resume membership at this time.

**11/85. Allotment Proposal – revised copy circulated**

*To consider and agree the revised proposal to be circulated to local landowners.*  
The revised proposal was agreed and will now be circulated to local landowners for their consideration.

DH

**11/86. The Essex Playing Fields Association – information circulated**

*To consider whether the Council should become a member of this organisation.*  
It was resolved to become a member for the coming year in order to assess the benefits and to gain access to their services.

Clerk

**11/87. Neighbourhood Action Panel**

*Following the decision, taken at the June meeting, to invite the police to attend the Annual Village Meeting and 2 further Parish Council meetings, rather than to hold the proposed Neighbourhood Meetings, to further consider how to proceed in light of the news that Essex Police do not think this is suitable.*  
It was agreed that further clarification should be sought from the police in this matter and accordingly to invite them to attend the next Council meeting in order to discuss.

SGF

**11/88. Pilgrim Close/Rookery Close Area**

*To consider ways in which this area could be improved in light of the poor state of some of the roads/pavements/open spaces*  
It was resolved to carry out a survey of the area to include suggestions of ways in which it could be improved. Once completed this will be circulated among the residents concerned in order to canvass their views, and to assess their enthusiasm for establishing a Residents Association.

DH/ST/WM

**11/89. Boot Scraper at Community Centre – location map circulated**

*To consider and agree the proposed site for the boot scraper.*  
It was resolved to allow the boot scraper to be located at site A as shown on the map circulated and also to suggest that the Community Centre consider a notice prohibiting all persons from entering the building whilst wearing studded boots.

JF

**11/90. Matters Arising/Items for Information:****1. 11/60. Public Forum**

The **Chairman** confirmed that an email has been sent to New World Timber.

**2. 11/63. Great Chesterford Steam-Up - Saturday 8th October 2011**

The **Chairman** to report back regarding the request for cones to be used in the High Street to prevent nuisance parking.

**See 11/77. Public Forum**

**3. 11/64. Eco Mission Collection Bank**

*A letter has been sent to confirm that it can remain at the Recreation Ground for the time being.*

**4. 11/65. Recreation Ground**

*Flood Defences - Chairman/Clerk/Cllr Fowell to provide an update on the condition of the flood defence ditches along with the provision of some suitable signage/flood defence strips.*

UDC has now inspected the ditch behind Hyll Close and has agreed to cut back the growth where it could potentially cause the build up of debris resulting in obstruction of the ditch. In addition UDC is to contact Anglian Water regarding the outfall headwall which has detached from the main construction at the B184 end of the ditch.

**Play Area** - Removal of the old equipment has been carried out and the new Picnic Bench has been delivered and installed. Safe & Sound are due to begin work the w/c 18th July 2011.

**Multi-Sports** – It is expected that work to upgrade the courts and fencing will begin the 1st or 2nd week of August.

**Bowls Club/Scout Hut Leases** – Advice has been received that before the Recreation Ground Trust can grant Leases of this type the Council will need to:

- obtain and consider a written report regarding the level of rent and terms of the lease from a qualified surveyor;
- give public notice of the disposal in the Broadsheet; and
- agree that the proposed terms are the best that can reasonably be obtained;
- if the lease is for more than 7 years it would also need to be advertised.

It was agreed to seek a volunteer from the village to help in this matter first.

**DH/Clerk**

5. **11/66.Grass Cutting of Open Spaces**

The **Clerk** is in the process of obtaining quotes from 2 companies.

One quote has been received to date the cost of which was noted.

6. **10/22. Community Speed Watch**

**Cllr Fowell** to provide any update.

See 11/77. **Public Forum**

7. **10/79. Matters for Further Discussion - 20mph limit**

**Cllr Rolfe** to provide any update regarding the proposed scheme.

See 11/77. **Public Forum**

In addition **Cllr Rolfe** reported that ECC Highways are addressing:

- the poor state of the footpath alongside the B184 between Great and Little Chesterford,
- the sign at the top of the High Street which is too low,
- the sign on the B184 opposite the end of Jacksons Lane that has been knocked into,
- the surface of the B184 either side of the strip recently resurfaced.

8. **10/153.Matters for Further Discussion – UDC Big Clean Up**

The **Chairman/Clerk** to provide an update following the recent meeting with ECC and National Express East Anglia at Chesterford station.

ECC have agreed to replace the existing bike racks, at the same time increasing the number provided, and to provide a rail to allow bikes to be wheeled up and over the bridge rather than be carried over.

On the advice of the Station Manager an email is to be sent to Sir Alan Haselhurst asking for his support for a new shelter on the north bound platform and inviting him to visit the station to discuss further ideas.

**Clerk**

**11/91. Matters for Further Discussion\***

*For Councillors to raise any items that may need to be discussed at a future meeting.*

The **Chairman** reported that:

- the first PC sponsored awards, for sustained effort whilst attending the village school, had been presented that morning during their assembly
- An initial payment of £50 has been received towards payment of the debt owed by Sporting Hinton Football Club.

**11/92. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 7th September 2011 commencing at 7.30pm in the Community Centre.

As not all members are able to attend, it was agreed to defer any decision relating to the proposed site for affordable housing until the October meeting.

**Meeting Closed at 10.10pm**

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

**Date: 7th September 2011**