

## GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

### *MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 13th 2013 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD*

**Present:** Joanna Francis  
Gareth Bevens  
Sharon Tricerri  
Matt Rowan

Howard Rolfe (from 8:10)  
Neil Gregory  
Julie Redfern

Alan Cattley – Clerk  
John Lodge – Essex County Councillor  
Seven members of the public.

#### **13/174. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Hall.

#### **13/175. Declaration of Interests**

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

Cllr. Redfern declared herself as a member of Uttlesford District Council.

Cllr. Gregory declared himself a parent of a member of the Scouts.

#### **13/176. Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The Chairman signed the minutes of the meeting held on October 9th 2013 as a correct record of events.

#### **13/163. Public Forum**

Councillor Lodge responded to questions received in advance from councillors and invited questions from those present.

In response to a question about cycle paths and what was being done about sustainable transport, Cllr. Lodge (JL) replied that he had asked ECC and in his opinion the response was unsatisfactory and did not compare favourably with Cambridgeshire County Council. They (CCC) were receiving national funding for this but ECC have stated that this is not their policy.

JL was urged to propose to ECC that they adopt a similar strategy to CCC's market town strategy, and was asked if he could make contact with counterparts on CCC. Cllr Redfern commented that she had already made contact with Mr. Topping at CCC.

When asked his position on proposals for a single settlement near Great Chesterford JL stated that he would support this if in his opinion the evidence showed this was the best solution for the district as a whole.

JL stated that he supported proposals to scale back provision of transport to selective schools, and that the changes would not apply to current pupils. It was understood that DofE support was not now to be cut.

ECC were to make cuts of £235m from a total budget of around £2bn; no services were to be "ring fenced" and further cuts were expected in the future.

ECC's "supporting people" subsidy to UDC housing had been withdrawn.

Cllr. Francis requested that ECC be asked to assess the state of the pavements in the village.

JL requested that he be copied in on requests to ECC Highways for work to be carried out.

When asked about the perceived poor state of maintenance of roundabouts in the area, JL replied these did not fall within the Highway Rangers' remit and ECC had changed their policy of private sponsorship of roundabouts.

A member of the public commented that although apparently neglected roundabouts might not be visually attractive, they provided a valuable habitat for wildlife and urged caution with any policy which might cause ecological damage.

JL was thanked by the meeting and left at this point.

### **13/178 Village Plan.**

Mr Colin Day presented a progress report to the meeting, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.

Thanks were expressed to the four members of the Village Plan Committee for their hard work in bringing the Plan to its current advanced stage.

It was resolved to underwrite the shortfall in funds for the costs of preparing the Plan in the event of external funding not being forthcoming.

It was suggested that printing by UDC might be possible as a means of reducing costs.

A team consisting of Cllrs. Francis, Redfern and Bevens was appointed to consider the PC's response to points arising from the completed questionnaires and to draft an action plan.

{Cllr. Rolfe arrived at this point}

### **13/179. Planning**

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

**Ref. No: UTT/13/3008/HHF** Replacement of 2 first floor windows..

**Location:** Omega Cottage Newmarket Road Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NS

**Resolved** to object on the grounds that PVC being used for the replacement windows is not appropriate for a house within the Conservation area and included in the Great Chesterford Article 4 Direction.

**Ref. No: UTT/13/2718/HHF** Revised scheme to that approved under UTT/0732/10/FUL to include new ensuite window..

**Location:** Green Meadows High Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden CB10 1PL

**Resolved** no objection.

### **13/180 Finance**

The report of receipts and payments made was noted without comment.

Funding for additional tree work in Pilgrim Close was approved.

It was resolved to renew the PC's subscription to Campaign to Protect Rural England.

It was resolved to make grants under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as follows:

£100 to Essex Air Ambulance

£600 to All Saints P.C.C.

### **13/181 Rôles and responsibilities**

The following responsibilities were confirmed:

Highways:	Cllr. Bevens
Finance:	Cllrs. Rowan, Francis and Hall
Community Centre Liaison:	Decision deferred

### **13/182 Proposed Development on New World Timber Site.**

Concerns were expressed on density, green space provision and the proposal for three-storey dwellings. Cllr Francis agreed to submit comments.

**JF**

### **13/183 Improvements to Rose Lane footpath.**

It was decided to accept an offer by Scouts to rake up leaves.

A resident had offered gravel for the project, and it was agreed to approach the farmer of the adjoining land to ask for the loan of equipment and a driver to prepare the surface.

**JR**

### **13/184 Scout Hut**

It was noted that none of the difficulties concerning the hut was attributable to Mark Benfold and Saffron Walden District Scouts.

A vote of thanks was proposed and agreed to Mr. Benfold for his professionalism and integrity throughout the negotiations.

It was proposed subject to ratification by the Scouts to accept the surrender of the lease and payment of £2,000 in respect of the unexpired portion of the lease and accumulated maintenance costs.

It was understood that the Scout Association had passed the matter to their solicitors and that the paperwork could be prepared relatively quickly.

It was noted that Mark Benfold had tidied the hut, but there were remaining Health and Safety concerns and it was estimated that rectification of these could cost between £3k - £5k.

Although no-one felt it to be an entirely satisfactory solution, it was agreed by 5 votes to 2 to accept the proposal.

### **13/185 Chapel Garden**

To consider any possible action required to ensure that the Chapel Garden remains an attractive feature of the village.

It was proposed to organise a team of volunteers to undertake maintenance tasks.

**JR**

It was also suggested that the owners be contacted to ascertain whether they might be prepared to consider the sale of the garden.

**JF**

### **13/186. Items for Information**

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

The clerk was asked to pass a copy of the current Standing Orders to Cllr. Hall for consideration.

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

It was understood from UDC that when the land behind the Community Centre becomes available under the s.106 agreement it would be possible for it to be made available on a rolling basis for allotment provision.

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

Cllr. Bevens reported that ECC's Highways Panel was currently overwhelmed with work and that the feasibility study had been transferred to their Infrastructure team with a brief to identify a suitable route. It was suggested that ECC should adopt a Sustainable Transport Policy similar to that of Cambridgeshire C.C.

**13/172 Matters for further discussion**

*To consider topics for possible discussion at future meetings*

It was observed that the PC’s statement about the village shop had been well received and that several residents had requested lifts to Ickleton as a result.

It was noted that Ickleton Post Office had appointed an assistant.

It was noted that wet leaves were posing potential hazards on footpaths in parts of the village. The clerk was asked to post a message on the Googlegroup asking householders to consider sweeping paths adjoining their properties.

**AC**

Cllr. Redfern advised that the salt spreader had been retrieved from the shop and was now with her.

It was noted that the PC noticeboard was in need of renovation or replacement. The clerk was asked to investigate prices.

**AC**

**13/173. Date of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 at 7.30pm in the Sports Lounge at the Community Centre

**Meeting Closed at 9:45 pm**

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

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013**