

GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT CHESTERFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9TH 2016 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, GREAT CHESTERFORD

Present: Neil Gregory
Julie Redfern
Simon Witney
Tom Newcombe
Alan Cattley – Clerk

Sharon Tricerri
David Hall
Gareth Bevens
Matt Rowan (from 8:05pm)

Five Members of the public.

16/162. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Collette Altaparmakova.

16/163. Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr. Gregory declared an interest in item 16/166 item 1 as owner of the property

16/164. Minutes of the Last Meeting.

The minutes of the meeting held on October 12th 2016 were signed as a correct record of events.

16/165 Public Forum

In regard to the proposals for a new preschool development, a representative of the Bowls Club commented that it was not yet clear where the road would be positioned and suggested that there may need to be some loss of hedges or fencing. He requested that the Club be consulted before any final decision was made and indicated that the Club might be agreeable to a land swap if necessary. It was also observed that drainage might prove to be a problem, and it was suggested a consultant might be engaged to investigate this.

It was understood that the lease was now in place, and the Chairman thanked the Bowls Club for its positive approach and stated that nothing will happen until appropriate advice had been taken.

16/166 Planning.

UTT/16/2898/HHF Erection of single storey side extension.

Location: Hills Cottage Carmen Street Great Chesterford CB10 1NR

Resolved: Approve

UTT/16/2997/LB Replacement roof tiles to rear extension.

Location: White Gates School Street Great Chesterford Saffron Walden Essex CB10 1NN

Resolved: Approve subject to the conservation officer being satisfied that the scale was appropriate for a listed building

UTT/16/2999/CLPLB Demolition of East & North external walls and re-construction with suitable foundations. Replacement garage floor with 125mm RC concrete slab

Location: The Old Vicarage Church Street Great Chesterford Essex CB10 1NP

Resolved: No Comment

16/167 Emergency Plan.

It was noted that two volunteers had come forward and offered to begin work on revising the Plan. This offer was gratefully accepted.

16/168 Neighbourhood Plan.

There was to be another meeting of the Steering Group next week.

The Landscape assessment needed examination; Cllr. Rowan will do this.

The potential conflict of interest presented by UDC's engagement of Navigus Planning who were also working for the Chesterfords' plan was noted and will be considered at next week's meeting.

It was not yet possible to estimate a completion date for the Plan.

16/169 Local Plan.

It was reported that the Local Plan had been paused as a number of questions had arisen to which UDC members felt answers had not been received.

The planned closure of Carver Barracks in 2031 was not within the timeframe of the Plan.

It was understood that UDC were engaging a QC and that S.Cambs DC, Cambridge CC and Highways England all had concerns about the draft Plan.

Cllrs Redfern and Gregory would draft a response to be delivered at UDC's extraordinary meeting. Attendance by councillors was to be confirmed and volunteers from the village sought via the Google Group.

16/170 Preschool

In the absence of Cllr. Altaparmakova, Elfreda Tealby-Watson reported to the meeting on behalf of the steering group and was thanked by the Chairman for her hard work in bringing the project forward.

The outline planning application had been submitted and it was not expected to be called in to committee.

In response to a question, the group was satisfied that the successful applicant was well qualified to undertake the project and had five other sites in operation, all of which were rated as 'outstanding'

Cllr. Redfern expressed concerns about the chosen access route via the Community Centre access road and asked why this had been chosen over Meadow Road.

In response, reasons for the selection included cost, inconvenience to Meadow Road residents, conflict with the rural aspect of the allotments and pedestrian access.

It was pointed out that it might be possible to change access arrangements in the future.

It was asked that a formal costing of access via Meadow Road be obtained as this could be challenged at the planning stage.

The blue line on the plan needs to enclose only the portion belonging to the village.

Vehicular access to the allotments would need to be available.

It was questioned whether the proposed one-way access route would be adequate to cope with the likely volumes of traffic. It was expected that there would be a spread of starting times rather than a single rush of arrivals.

Cllr. Hall agreed to write to the owner of the surrounding land to make him aware of developments.

ET-W commented that the scheme could be modified as it progressed and it wasn't essential to decide all points of detail at this stage.

Work on the draft lease was under way, and the PC would review this when available.

It was understood that external funding was conditional upon the facility being ready for use in the next academic year.

It would be necessary to check that an agreement for the lease would be sufficient to allow progress.

16/171 Highways.

No response had been received to our request for a meeting with The Crocus Medical Practice.

The clerk was asked to pursue this.

It was asked whether extra parking could be made available at the rear of the surgery and staff requested to park elsewhere.

Results were awaited of the traffic survey in Spencer Road.

16/172 Community Governance Review.

Three possible options were identified:

- Respond to the Boundary Commission Review and request to be considered for change.
- Ask for a Community Governance review. This would require a petition after which UDC would be obliged to undertake.
- Remain as present.

The majority of those present felt that a change was not appropriate now or in the near future and it was resolved not to pursue any such change.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr. Bevins for his work in investigating the options.

16/173 Outdoor Gym.

It was noted that Derek Jones had agreed to help assemble a group to advise on use and assist with the selection of suitable equipment.

A message would be placed on the Google group to encourage residents to vote for our application for funding from Aviva.

16/174 Finance.

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

The purchase of Edge IT financial software at an annual cost of £245 plus setup charges was approved.

It was decided to approve an employer's contribution of 12½% to the clerk's pension to be backdated to commencement of employment.

Committee budget holders were requested to prepare proposals for detailed consideration at the December meeting.

16/175 New Website.

Progress had been delayed due to other commitments, but it was hoped to be ready by the end of the year.

16/176 Community Orchard

A team of helpers had been recruited and three people had attended a training course.

A tree specialist from Audley End had agreed to advise.

The location of the trees was still to be decided and it was suggested that no trees should be ordered until this was finalised.

It was suggested that an unplanted strip be left to allow for the possibility that access to the preschool site might be required at some time in the future. A plan would be submitted to the PC for approval.

Thanks were expressed to the team for their work so far, and the Council was looking forward to seeing the plans.

16/177 Matters for further discussion.

None

16/178 Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the Parish Council is to be held on Wednesday 14th December 2016 at 7:30 in the Community Centre.

The meeting closed at 9:50pm

Signed (Chairman).....

Date: 14th December 2016