**Notes from the joint meeting of local Parish Councils held at Chelmondiston Village Hall on Tuesday 19th March 2023.**

**Present:** Cllr John Ambrose (JA - Holbrook PC), Cllr Darren Cooper (Stutton PC) Jo Hazlewood (JH - Clerk Holbrook & Freston PC), Cllr Rosie Kirkup (RK - Chelmondiston PC), ), Cllr Chris Leach (CL - Stutton PC) Cllr Alison Looser (AL - Harkstead PC), Cllr Simon Pearce (SP - Woolverstone PC), Cllr Christopher Price (CP - Chelmondiston PC), Cllr Richard Wrinch (RW - Shotley PC)

1. **Welcome**: John Ambrose welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were exchanged.
2. **The draft Terms of Reference** as circulated were adopted – **all agreed**
3. Update from Parish Councils:

* Stutton – DC said there was nothing exceptional to report at the moment – they were having the usual issues of parking and speeding
* Woolverstone - SP reported that Woolverstone have made an application to County to reduce the speed from 60 to 40 between Chelmondiston and Woolverstone, which it was believed would help alleviate speeding through Woolverstone. He also said that Woolverstone were unable to afford a clerk and he felt that this had not been taken into consideration by Government for very small parishes. SP believed that the variation order recently circulated to parishes for HM Ganges, was so different from the original planning application that they felt it warranted a completely new application, rather than a variation to conditions. He suggested that this group should lobby Babergh about this. There would be D-Day celebrations at Woolverstone Hall on 8th and 9th June as part of the national D-Day celebrations. The Woolverstone celebration would reflect the part Woolverstone played in D-Day.
* Harkstead: AL said Harkstead also struggle to pay for a clerk with such a small precept. Harkstead have looked at the variations in the Ganges applications and have reiterated their original objection.
* Shotley: RW reported that the broad feeling about the changes in the plans for Ganges re housing and demolition have been accepted, but not yet voted upon. The biggest concern for Shotley was the lack of the Spine Road. It is possible that without the Spine Road Shotley would not support the variations, but this has yet to go to a vote. There will be some advantages to residents in Shotley from the development, such as a reasonable sized Co-op. On the subject of clerking, RW wondered if the larger parishes could help the smaller parishes. It was agreed that it would not be acceptable to use one parish’s precept to help clerk another parish, but it is possible to share expertise and to see if existing clerks could help out smaller parishes, if required, on an ad hoc/hourly basis, paid for on a needs basis by the smaller parish’s which would be considerably cheaper than employing a permanent clerk. RW also said that Shotley had had lots of complaints about the state of their footpaths, including the sea wall paths, and some of their roads; they are finding it very difficult to get anything done about it. Other parishes reported similar issues.
* Chelmondiston: RK reported that they had found it difficult to find a clerk. They are very concerned about the speed of traffic through the village. CP reported that they had investigated various speed signs which records the data and had recently discovered that there was a good discount if the parish bought two SIDs. RW said Shotley are having a SID fitted soon. JA said Holbrook has a battery operated SID which alternates between 4 sites. CP said that security cameras have been installed at the Recycling Centre in Chelmondiston which are solar operated and use 4G and this had deterred fly tippers from leaving rubbish outside the Recycling Centre. RK said that the development at Ganges owes 106 monies for road safety, but there had been no indication of when these monies would be released. Chelmondiston were undertaking a public involvement exercise to seek a wide range of views of what can be done to improve Pin Mill Common. They hope to get a grant from the National Landscapes fund to carry out improvements. Chelmondiston were also involved in promoting the Shotley Peninsula cycling campaign.
* RW reported that money for a safe route from Shotley school to Ganges would come from the development. Shotley will be seeking SFI funding for public access and tree planting - possibly available in June.
* Fly tipping has been an issue in Shotley, Chelmondiston and Harkstead, including drug related fly tipping.
* Holbrook: JA reported that Holbrook’s Neighbourhood Plan, having been adopted, has been ignored by the planning authority when making decisions about certain planning applications. The latest one being the approval of change of use of The Compasses. Holbrook PC had requested a meeting with a planner to try and establish how effective NPs are and what, if anything, can be done to ensure PCs opinions at grass roots carry the right weight. It was agreed that site visits from highways, etc. are essential, rather than basing reports on Google Maps. JA said that Freston crossroads is an ongoing issue – SP believed that Section 106 monies should be available to fund improvements for the Crossroads. CL reported that some time ago a roundabout was discussed and SP said the crossroads need to be re-designed. £120,000 had been put aside some years ago. RW believed that 101 houses from the Ganges development is the trigger to release the money. SP will forward the Section 106 agreement to JH which can be circulated to the group.

JA said that Holbrook’s district councillor suggested that we should inform Babergh about the Alliance, as Babergh were interested in the formation of similar groups. In Holbrook Parking is a huge problem with the two schools and a large number of out of catchment pupils. He asked if the other PCs had found solutions to similar problems? Chelmo has looked at other options as a result of the Red Lion car park, such as lodging an option to buy land, but this was likely to be far too expensive for any PC. All Parishes have had consistent complaints about parking and have come to the conclusion that there is little that can be done by Parish Councils. RK said that the parked cars on the main road through Chelmondiston at least had the effect of slowing the traffic down. All Parishes had registered for the ANPR scheme.

Finally, JH reported about the Water testing which had been taking place around the peninsula with funding from County Councillor Simon Harley. There are sufficient funds to carry out fortnightly testing until September of this year, but if it were to continue into next year, a new funding stream would be required. Currently the rivers are being tested at Woolverstone, Chelmondiston, Lower Holbrook, Harkstead and Shotley. E-Coli has been detected at Woolverstone and Lower Holbrook and Holbrook were liaising with County Cllr Harley how, and what, information should be published.

1. **Collaborative strategies**:

* To establish how and when Parish Councils can access the promised 106 monies
* To arrange a meeting of the Alliance with the planning department
* Cycle strategy – to support the development of cycling on the peninsula
* To advertise the Alliance and its purpose locally: Holbrook will prepare a draft press release which could be circulated to all parishes and, when agreed, could be included In Touch and in parish magazines or used wherever appropriate

1. **Date of next meeting**: 11th June 2024 at Stutton Village Hall 7.30 p.m. Cllr Darren Cooper to Chair the meeting.