

DRAFT
GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
2nd June 2014 in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr B Tyler (Chairman), D Gibley (Clerk) Cllrs: L Parker, A Murdock, N Clarke and G Vizma and 15 members of the public

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr P Long

2. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting, noting that he understood the public attendance was primarily concerned with the status of Brook Lane Paddock and, as customary, he would take this item first.

3. Brook Lane Paddock

Cllr Parker explained the history of the nomination of the important Open Spaces within Great Easton, which had begun with HDC's identification of both Barnsdale and Brook Lane Paddocks as important local open spaces in 2001. HDC is now formalising the status of the Open Spaces and has been conducting a consultation process with the interested parties. This will lead to the formal incorporation of the Open Spaces within the HDC Local Plan, anticipated in late 2015.

Following the application from Mrs Clarke and Mrs Kingston for a small piece of land to be excluded from the important Open Space, detailed measurements of the requested area were requested and presented at the May meeting of the PC. Concern was expressed by the Council that the area in question covered one third of the paddock area. Councillors subsequently walked the site in order to fully appreciate the scale of the area in relation to the surrounds and also to assess the possible impact on the character of the area, should planning permission for development be granted at a future date.

As a consequence of the size of the area involved, the likely adverse impact on the character of the Conservation Area should that piece of land be developed, the danger of setting a precedent for other pieces of important Open Spaces and lastly, in the light of numerous objections to releasing part of the area that the Council has received, the Parish Council decided by a majority vote not to accede to the exclusion request.

The Clerk was asked to read a letter which had recently been sent to Mrs Kingston and Mrs Clarke, which had explained the Council's decision. Following discussion, it was clear that this explanation had addressed the main concerns of the public attending the meeting, who then left.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 5th May 2014.

The minutes, previously circulated, were approved and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- **Poor's Charity.** The Chairman reported that he was having difficulty identifying a suitable Solicitor and this remained work in progress. **Action: Chairman**
- **Broadgate Bench repair.** Cllr Parker reported that, despite assurances, the repairs had not been completed but hoped that the work would be finished prior to the village perambulation. **Action. Cllr Parker**
- **Molesworth Charity.** Cllr Clarke said that the options for winding up the small Charity are not yet finalised. **Action: Cllr Clarke**
- **Lampposts.** Cllr Vizma reported that she will be liaising with Mr Luscombe for the initial inspection of the lampposts. **Action: Cllr Vizma**

6.Planning Matters

- **Proposed Broadgate Development.** Cllr Parker reported that the Appeal against the HDC decision to refuse planning for the 13 homes would be held on the 1st July. The Clerk added that HDC had been requested to forward the relevant submissions once they were available.
- **13 Deepdale.** The Chairman said that he had been informed that several trees had been removed , apparently without planning permission, at 13 Deepdale. Cllr Murdock agreed to investigate prior to the Clerk writing to HDC. **Action: Clerk**
Afternote: Cllr Murdock has since reported.

7. Financial Matters

- **Annual Accounts - Audits.** The Clerk said that Mrs Iris Ward had completed the internal audit of the 2013/14 PC accounts. He circulated the annual financial governance statement ,which was approved and signed by the Chairman. The Annual return, once signed by the RFO, will now be forwarded to Grant Thornton, the external auditor.
- **Insurance.** The Clerk confirmed that the Public Liability insurance was for £5M and that the cover is appropriate. He added that work was on-going with the Village Hall and Recreation Field committees, to see whether there were financial savings from amalgamating the three separate insurance policies and he would report back in due course. **Action: Clerk**
- **Cheques.** The following cheque payment was authorised:
100937 £50.00 Mrs Iris Ward - Internal audit

8. Police, Community and Heritage Matters

- **Police Liaison Officer.**Cllr Clarke said that she would be meeting with the new police liaison officer in the near future, adding that Great Easton was regarded as a "low" crime area, with some 6 crimes reported last year.
- **Moulds Lane Car.** Cllr Clarke agree to check on a car which is regularly parked half way along Moulds Lane and may be restricting access. **Action: Cllr Clarke**

9. Arboreal matters.

- **War Memorial Hedge.** Cllr Murdock agreed to liaise with Mr Luscombe to tidy up the hedge surrounding the War Memorial. **Action: Cllr Murdock**

10.AOB

- **Little London Footpath.** The Chairman said that he had written to LCC drawing attention to the overgrown vegetation along the footpath from Little London to the Village Recreation Field. The footpath is partly owned by LCC and Mrs J Clarke. It was agreed to delay contacting Mrs Clarke until the LCC had responded.

- **Annual Peregrination.** The Chairman reminded Cllrs of the annual peregrination, beginning at Cllr Murdock's at 6.15 on Monday 16th June. **Action: All**

- **Notice Board.** The Clerk reported that the draft minutes, once cleared by the Chairman, would be displayed on the Village notice board, as well as the website.

11.Date of next meeting.

Monday 7th July at 7.30 in the Village Hall

DAC Gibley
(Clerk)