

# DRAFT

## GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

### **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July 2014 in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr B Tyler (Chairman), D Gibley (Clerk), Cllrs: A Murdock, N Clarke, P Long and G Vizma and 4 members of the public

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Cllr L Parker

#### **2. Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and said that, as customary, he would take those items of public attendance first.

#### **3. The Village Shop.**

The Chairman said he had received notification of the imminent sale of the Village Shop, with closure, if not sold beforehand, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The Rev Barriball was invited to address the meeting. He expressed concern at the very short notice and noted the importance of the Post office and Shop for the Village and immediate local communities. He hoped that at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour a temporary solution might be found to allow time for a Community Shop or other options to be explored and requested Parish Council support.

Following discussion, it was agreed that whilst there was full support in principle for any actions leading to the Village Shop and PO continuing, any detailed consideration could only be made when a firm proposal had been presented.

#### **4. Brook Lane Paddock Update**

Mrs Sue Kingston was invited to address the meeting. She circulated a revised plan for exclusion of part of the Open Space which she indicated was approximately half of the previously requested area, equating to approximately 1/6<sup>th</sup> of the total area and requested Parish Council support for this revised request.

The meeting was reminded of the exchange of correspondence with HDC following the last meeting and that HDC had indicated that “there will be another opportunity for all interested parties to make representations during the pre submission consultation”.

It was agreed to circulate the plan of the revised request and discuss at the next meeting.

**Afternote.** The question of ascertaining the opinion of the wider village community before reaching a Parish Council decision has been raised and member’s views on this requested, including how to best conduct this exercise if it were decided to proceed.

#### **5. Minutes of Previous Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2014.**

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

## 6. Matters Arising from the Minutes.

- **Poor's Charity.** The Chairman said that he had identified a solicitor to confirm the title of the land owned by Poor's Charity. The total cost of fees and registering the title would be approximately £750, which would have to come from PC funds as Poor's Charity only had an income of approximately £315/year.

This was agreed.

**Action: Chairman**

- **Molesworth Charity.** Cllr Clarke said that the options for winding up the small charity remain to be finalised.

**Action: Cllr Clarke**

- **Lampposts.** Cllr Vizma said that she and Mr Luscombe had inspected the PC owned lampposts. It appeared that one of the wooden lampposts at the junction of Deepdale and Broadgate was rotten and would require replacement. The Parish Clerk was asked to ascertain costings.

**Action: Clerk**

- **13 Deepdale.** HDC had been contacted concerning the alleged unauthorised removal of trees and confirmed that they were aware. Cllr Murdock advised that it appeared that only one tree had been removed and after the village inspection it was agreed not to pursue the matter further.

- **Police Liaison.** Cllr Clarke said that she had contacted but not yet met the new police liaison officer.

**Action: Cllr Clarke**

- **Moulds Lane car.** Cllr Clarke had confirmed that if the car is parked well to the side then there is adequate room for free passage.

- **War Memorial.** Cllr Murdock said that she and Mr Luscombe had removed the daffodils, which would be replanted outside the railings in the Autumn. Thanks were expressed.

- **Little London footpath to recreation field.** The Chairman had contacted LCC who had responded promptly. The path is now clear and Mrs J Clarke was aware of her responsibility for her part of the footpath.

## 6.Planning Matters

- **Proposed Broadgate Development.** It was reported that the Appeal against the HDC decision to refuse planning for the 13 homes had been duly held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July but the outcome was not yet known.

**Afternote.** The Parish Council was notified on the 10<sup>th</sup> July that the appeal had been allowed and outline planning permission granted for up to 13 dwellings.

Copies of the Appeal decision were circulated to Cllrs on the same day.

- **Easton Square.** The Chairman said he had contacted HDC following concerns at the inappropriate naming of the Caldecott Road development. HDC had confirmed that the addresses of the 4 houses are 32-36 Caldecott Road, that "Easton Square" is only for marketing purposes and that the PC would, as normal, be consulted prior to any street naming, required when a development exceeds 5 properties.

## 7. Financial Matters

- **Annual Accounts – External Audit.** The Clerk said that the accounts had been forwarded to Grant Thornton, the external auditor.

- **Insurance.** The Clerk confirmed that the work to identify savings from combining the insurances for the PC, Village Hall and Recreation Field had identified potential annual worthwhile savings. This would be proposed when renewing policies in 2015.

- **Cheques.** The following cheque payments were authorised:

100938	£29.70	Mr J Wright	- Church Bank Bedding plants
100939	£179.34	Mr G Robbins	- Bench repair
100940	£400.00	Clerk's salary	- Apr- Jun
101041	£27.00	B Penfold	- Bus Shelter

- Financial report. The Clerk suggested that 6 monthly update financial statements might be helpful. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk**

## 8. Police, Community and Heritage Matters

Nothing separate to report

## 9. Arboreal matters.

Nothing separate to report

## 10. Village Annual Inspection

The following matters arose from the annual Risk Assessment of the Village, held on the 16<sup>th</sup> June:

- BT Box at Shop. BT to be contacted concerning repairs. **Action: Clerk**
- Barnsdale House. Owner to be contacted to request action concerning the external appearance . **Action: Clerk**
- Caldecott Road Graveyard. B Penfold to be contacted concerning maintenance. **Action: Clerk**
- Banbury Lane Sign. Requires either replacing or removal **Action: Cllr Murdock**
- Ponds Lane sign. The sign is hidden behind foliage.
- Kerbside weeding of Jitties. Contact Highways Dept **Action: Clerk**

## 11. Grass Cutting

The LCC who are contractually responsible for the grass cutting of the verges between the 30mph road signs have advised that this service will cease from 2015, with Parish Councils invited to make their own arrangements. Additional funding would be provided on the basis of the present contracted costs for 5 cuts per year for the grass verges and 3 "strims" of the jitties. The PC has been requested to indicate whether it wishes to participate in the new scheme by 31 July.

After discussion, it was agreed that there might be advantages in having more responsive control with a local contract and in principle, we should indicate our agreement.

It was additionally decided to form a small sub-committee of Cllrs Clarke and Long and the Clerk, to carry out the detailed work and report back to the PC in due course. Cllr Murdock said she would be happy to also assist. **Action: Sub Ctee**

## 12 Road Safety

- **Road priorities at the War Memorial.** The Clerk was invited to speak to state his concerns at the increasing hazard of parked cars and the poor line of sight for cars coming from Drayton turning right opposite the Sun Inn. Many local residents currently go to the left of the war memorial before turning right, because of the potential danger,

and making this obligatory could help reduce the hazard. It was noted that this had been proposed previously and turned down by the Highways Dept because of the absence of reported accidents. Nevertheless it was agreed that this should be raised again, partly because of the increased parking arising from the rejuvenated Sun Inn. **Action: Clerk**

- **Bringhurst School Parking.** Cllr Clarke spoke of her concerns at the dangerous parking above Bringhurst School and the potentially very serious car accidents which had already occurred. She added that the present non statutory no parking signs were often ignored. After discussion about concerning ways to reduce the number of cars, it was agreed to contact the school and also liaise with Bringhurst and Drayton Meeting as the school is within their jurisdiction. **Action: Cllr Clarke and Clerk**

## **10.AOB**

-**Broadband.** Cllr Long said that he understood that the introduction of fast broadband remained on course for later this year.

- **Recreation Ground finances.** The Chairman said he had attended the AGM of the Recreation Field Committee and reported that the current agreement allowed for £12,000 /year for 10 years and the committee planned to hold one event a year.

## **11.Date of next meeting.**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 7.30 in the Village Hall

DAC Gibley  
(Clerk)