

DRAFT
GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on the 7th April 2020
by teleconference call
at 2.00 pm

Present: Cllrs: P Long (Chairman), P Brittain, G Vizma, C Johnson, G Vizma, R Wilson and D Gibley (Clerk).

In attendance: D Cllr M Rickman.

25/20. Apologies for absence

None

26/20. Welcome.

The Chairman welcomed all to the teleconference meeting, noting that this is a “first” for the Parish Council. He explained that recent regulations during the current Covid-19 pandemic permit Councils to conduct business by teleconference call and thanked Cllr Walsh for facilitating the meeting. The Chairmen thanked all members for their excellent support in carrying out a wide variety of roles in support of the community during the current crisis.

27/20. Declarations of Interest for agenda items.

None

28/20. Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 10th February were approved without amendment.

29/20. Matters Arising

- **Neighbourhood Plan -Re-wording of Policy E2 – Support for new Employment.** Cllr Brittain said a reply had been received from HDC. After discussion, he agreed to circulate a summary of the current position with comment on the next steps. The requirement for community consultation and possibly a village referendum remains unclear at this stage and further advice will be required from HDC.

Action: Cllr Brittain

- **VE Day cancellation.** The VE day commemoration weekend events, planned by Mrs Eve Atkin and her committee, had become one of the numerous cancelled events because of the need for community isolation during the Covid-19 pandemic. The VE day committee recommendation to donate the remaining raised funds after cancellation expenses to the Village Hall was endorsed. The Clerk noted that HDC had stated that its £500 grant towards the commemoration should be retained by the PC at this stage and added that the grant has been transferred to the reserve fund.

30/20. Planning

Cllr Brittain, reported on the following current planning applications:

-19/01947/LBC – 16 Broadgate – front elevation and internal works. Approved.

-20/00201/AGR – Land off Stockerston Road – erect agricultural building. Refused.

Cllr Brittain noted that HDC require a full planning application to be submitted.

-20/00255/FUL – 5 Stockerston Road – Discharge of Condition 3. Pending.

-20/00345/FUL and 20/346/LBC – The Sun Inn – Erect internal staircase and other works to increase seating capacity. Pending.

Cllr Brittain said that the agreed Parish Council comment to support the application but to restate the community concerns about dangerous parking in the vicinity of the Sun Inn, had been submitted to HDC. HDC has since acknowledged the need to consult with LCC Highways Authority and Cllr Brittain was requested to ask for PC involvement in the discussions, in conjunction with Mr Uppal.

Action: Cllr Brittain

Planning paperwork. HDC have advised that paper copies of planning applications will no longer be sent to Parishes. The weekly lists of planning applications and decisions will continue to be sent by email but applications will then need to be accessed on the HDC planning website.

- **Flood Alleviation.** The Clerk reported that the LLFA has recently informed him that the WSP report will be soon forwarded to the PC and a tele conference arranged to discuss the report and how it should be progressed.

31/20. Financial Matters.

The Clerk/RFO reported on the following financial matters:

- **Payments.** The following payments, inclusive of VAT where applicable, were authorised:

March 2020. (There was no PC meeting in March)

£466.50 Clerk's wages Jan-Mar 20)

£116.50 PAYE

£6.00 Leics footpath Association -annual membership

£50.00 Remembrance wreath and donation

£22.50 L Robbins – village grass cutting

April 2020

£151.20 Community Heartbeat -annual subscription-Year 3

£229.72 LRALC – annual subscription

- **Audit.** The RFO said that the accounts for the previous year will be prepared for audit in the next 2/3 weeks and Cllr Brittain stated his willingness to again facilitate the internal audit.

Action: RFO/ Cllr Brittain

32/20. Arboreal Matters.

Cllr Johnston reported the following:

- **Pruning Works to Tree Applications**

-20/00042/TCA – 5 Castle Lane. Approved

-20/00106/TCA – 14 Broadgate. Approved

-20/00165/TCA – Yew Tree Cottage, Brook Lane. Approved

-20/00323/TCA – 5 Stockerson Lane. Approved

-20/00336/TCA - 3 Musk Close. Approved

-20/00380/TCA – 48 High Street. Pending

-20/00469/TCA – Rosebrook Cottage, Little London. Pending

Cllr Johnston noted that there were no tree conservation issues with any of the above applications.

- **Grass Cutting and Wild Flowers review.** Cllr Johnston said that LCC had agreed two areas – Pitcher's Lane and Church Bank - for wildflowers and these will be incorporated into the 2020 grass cutting plan. She confirmed that local information on how this would be managed will be produced and publicised on Nextdoor and the website. Cllr Johnston added that she would be preparing a grant application to fund the purchase of wildflower seeds and equipment and the potential community involvement will be widely publicised. The Chairman warmly thanked Cllr Johnston.

- **Maple Tree.** Cllr Johnston said that Mr Brian Drew had kindly donated a maple tree and the preferred location had been the Recreation Field where it is now planted.

33/20. Police and Community Matters

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the many people in the community who had stepped forward to support others in a wide variety of ways during the current Covid-19 crisis and his wish that the support and thanks of the PC should be recorded on Nextdoor and as widely as possible. There was unanimous recognition of the invaluable role being provided on a daily basis by the Village Shop and the wish that this recognition will be sustained after the present crisis is over. The Chairman agreed to draft a message for insertion on Nextdoor. **Action: Chairman**

34/20. Reports

-**Website and Covid-19.** It was agreed to prepare a Covid-19 page on the Parish Council website which seeks to pull together the wide variety of information now being produced from a variety of agencies relevant to Covid-19. Whilst much of the information is publicised on Nextdoor, it can be quickly “lost” and overtaken by more current information. The Covid-19 page(s) on the website would provide a single reference point, similar to the Neighbourhood Plan information. This was agreed and the Clerk and Cllr Brittain, working with Cllr Walsh, undertook to pull this together.

Action: Cllr Brittain/ Clerk

35/20. AOB

-**HDC Community Hub.** D Cllr Rickman stated that the HDC Community Hub is now up and running. This is designed as a backstop for anyone to access who is not receiving the support they need at this time during the current crisis. It can be accessed on the HDC website – Community Hub. D Cllr Rickman added that it would be helpful if the Hub coordinator had the contact details of one contact in the village. The Chairman agreed to be the initial point of contact and to liaise with HDC.

Action: Chairman

- **Defibrillator checks.** Cllr Wilson queried whether the weekly checks are up to date. Cllr Walsh said she would liaise with the shop and Cllr Wilson to revise and implement the check rota.

Action: Cllr Walsh

- **Electoral rolls -2020.** The Clerk said he had printed off copies and would distribute by hand.

- **Planters at the Sun Inn.** Mr D Hankey had sent a letter requesting the planters, originally supplied by the PC, be repositioned at the Sun Inn. The Clerk had previously advised Mr Hankey that now is not the time to pursue this; advice which Mr Hankey does not accept. A further reply was agreed, endorsing the Clerk’s previous advice, explaining that with The Sun Inn shut and ongoing conversations “on hold” concerning the parking hazards, it is unclear whether the planters will continue to serve their original purpose. It was also noted that the original concrete planters are now out of keeping with the improved appearance of the immediate area in front of the Sun Inn.

Action: Clerk

36/20. Date of next meetings.

- **Monthly meeting.** Monday 11th May 2020 at 7.30pm

- **Annual Parish Meeting.** Monday 8th June at 7.30 NB This is one month later than normal but is permitted under the current Covid-19 regulations.

DAC Gibley
(Clerk)

Cllr P Long
(Chair)