DRAFT
GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12th February 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Long (Chairman), B Wilson, L Walsh, C Johnston, F Smith and D Gibley (Clerk)
In Attendance: None

14/24. Apologies for absence
D Cllr M Rickman and Cllr B Hemmings.

15/24. Welcome.
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

16/24. Declarations of Interest for agenda items.
Cllr Walsh declared an interest in the planning application at Foxhollow Farm, High Street.

17/24. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of 8th January were approved without amendment.

18/24. Matters Arising
- **Former village shop.** No reply has been received concerning the request for an update on the former Village Shop.

19/24. Planning. Cllr Wilson reported on the following current planning applications, noting that there has been no change of the status of the original pending applications since the previous report.:
-23/01134/NMA and 23/01532/LBC – 22 Broadgate – reduce ridge height. Remains pending.
-23/01667/FUL – Land off Great Easton Road – revised application to convert existing barns to 3 dwellings. Remains pending.
Afternote. The application has since been updated to convert the three barns to four dwellings not three.
-23/01380/FUL – Land behind 22 Caldecott Road to erect two B&B dwellings. Remains pending.
-23/01798/FUL – Poplars Farm, Caldecott Road – erect two "eco-pod" timber cabins for short term holiday lets. Remains pending.
Afternote. Since withdrawn.
-24/00033/FUL – Foxhollow Farm, 17 High Street – replace barn and add ancillary residential accommodation. New. Following discussion, whilst supporting the application, it was agreed to object to the proposed timber cladding, particularly on the frontage facing onto the High Street to ensure consistency within the conservation area. **Action: Cllr Wilson**

-24/00052/FUL – 18 Home Close – replace existing gates and posts. New. Following discussion, it was agreed to object to the proposed high solid wooden gates as being out of keeping with the surrounding conservation area and open space. **Action: Cllr Wilson**

-HDC Consultation on updating the Local Plan to 2041.

Cllr Wilson had previously circulated a proposed response, following attendance at an initial HDC consultation, which has requested an initial response to the Options for housing growth within the HDC area. A response is required by 27 February. He added that there will a requirement to update the Great Easton Neighbourhood Plan to cover the same timescale to 2041, noting the importance of the local Neighbourhood Plan and the HDC Local Plan being in tandem if they are going to be given the appropriate weight for planning decisions.

It was agreed in principle to follow the previous structure of a Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group as a sub-committee of the PC, to be chaired by Cllr Wilson. Cllr Wilson added that he will wait for any comments/advice from D Cllr Rickman before submitting to HDC.

-Updated draft Great Easton Conservation and Management Plan 2023.

Cllr Wilson reported that HDC has recently completed a draft update on the Great Easton Conservation Area which included a well attended presentation in the Village Hall earlier this month. HDC are updating all current Conservation Area plans and the Great Easton update is one of the first to be completed. The report acknowledged the valuable assistance of the local History Society and the helpful information provided by Mr and Mrs Hill from Bringhurst.

20/24. Flood Alleviation

Nothing further to report.

21/24. Financial Matters.

The RFO reported on the following financial matters:

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

-£818.40	Areta re V Hall (NB V Hall refund £682.00)
-£6.00	Leics Footpath Ass – annual membership
-£40.00	T Smith – internet repair connection
-£72.00	V hall cooker repair (V hall refund £60).
-£210.00	HDC Election invoice.
-£50.00	NatureSpot -annual fee for one page advert
-£185.85	GE Matters No 2 -printing costs

22/24. Arboreal Matters and Conservation.

-Pruning Works to Tree Applications

-24/00024/TCA – 18 Home Close. New. Cllr Johnston said the application relates to removal of overhanging branches from the neighbouring property and reducing the crown of a hornbeam by 3 metres, which she would be checking whether this might be excessive.

-24/00163/TCA – 2 Brookdale. New. Pruning two fruit trees and removal of one apparently dead cotoneaster. Cllr Johnston said she had no comments.

- **Trees for which the PC has responsibility.** Cllr Johnston said she has arranged for an LCC arborist to visit and inspect all those trees for which the PC is responsible and also the overhanging

tree on Moulds Lane and the ash tree on Brook lane. She noted there would be a fee for the professional report.
- West Mercia Rivers Trust. Nothing further to report.

23/24. Community Actions and Police.
- Recreation Field Fence. Cllr Wilson said he had successfully advertised the redundant fencing on Nextdoor and Gumtree and a community allotment project in Nottinghamshire has expressed an interest. This was agreed, noting the importance of ensuring the fence posts are fully removed, **Afternote:** The fencing and posts have since been removed.
- Equipment annual inspections. The invoice for the implementation of last year's inspection has been received totalling £9,140.67 plus vat. The Clerk said he is liaising with Mr Jefferson and will report back at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk**
- Police Liaison. Nothing further to report.

11/24. Website and Communication.
- Website. It was noted that the website needs updating in a number of places. **Action: Cllr Walsh**

-Village Communication Update – Mailchimp. Cllr Walsh reported that the village take-up of Mailchimp continues to gradually increase, noting again that Mailchimp can include any relevant village news in addition to PC business.

-Great Easton Matters. The Clerk mentioned that the second edition of Great Easton Matters appears to have again been very well received and he has thanked Mr Chapman on behalf of the PC.

24/24. AOB.
- **80th D Day Anniversary Commemoration.** The Chairman said that the Rector has suggested holding a service at the GE War memorial on Thursday 6th June, exact time to be finalised, with welcome involvement from Bringhurst school, to be followed with refreshments in the village hall. The question of a beacon was discussed and Cllr Smith said that a beacon in the normal location above Rectory Farm would be agreed, with assistance from those previously involved. The question of hot dog type refreshments was deferred to the next meeting.
-**Village transport service for older people.** The Clerk said that nothing further has been received concerning the previously reported proposal**.**
- HDC Environmental Grant. Details of a recently announced HDC environmental grant have been circulated. One suggestion was made for possible solar panels on the Village Hall roof. The Clerk agreed to contact the Village Hall. **Action: Clerk**

-.**25/24. Date of next meeting**
- Monday 11th March 2024 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

DAC Gibley (Clerk) Cllr P Long (Chairman)