DRAFT
GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 11th March 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs P Long (Chairman), B Wilson, C Johnston, F Smith, B Hemmings and D Gibley (Clerk)
In Attendance: D Cllr M Rickman and Mrs M Law.

26/24. Apologies for absence
Cllr L Walsh..

27/24. Welcome.
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting.

28/24. Declarations of Interest for agenda items.
None.

29/24. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of 12th February were approved without amendment.

30/24. Matters Arising

- **Former village shop.** No reply has been received concerning the request for an update on the former Village Shop. It was agreed that this item should remain on the agenda.
- **Litter Bin.** Cllr Wilson has been successful in potentially locating a replacement litter bin, to be positioned outside the Village Hall.

31/24. Planning. Cllr Wilson reported on the following current planning applications::
-23/01134/NMA and 23/01532/LBC – 22 Broadgate – **reduce ridge height.** These applications have now been approved.
-23/01667/FUL – Land off Great Easton Road – revised application to convert existing barns to 4 dwellings. Remains pending.
-23/01380/FUL – Land behind 22 Caldecott Road to erect two B&B dwellings. Remains pending. Cllr Wilson noted the comprehensive archaeological and environmental report, which has detailed stringent conditions prior to any development work taking place.
-24/00033/FUL – Foxhollow Farm, 17 High Street – replace barn and add ancillary residential accommodation. Pending. Cllr Wilson said that a revised drawing has been submitted which shows stone cladding on the wall facing onto the High Street and appears to have addressed the previous concerns.
-18 Home Close – replace existing gates and posts. Cllr Wilson noted that this application has now been withdrawn.
-24/00180/FUL – 5 Stockerston Lane – erect replacement garage/carport. New.

-HDC Consultation on updating the HDC Local Plan to 2041.
Cllr Wilson said that comments have been submitted concerning both flooding and inadequate sewage/drainage infrastructure which need to be fully taken into account if/when potential new housing developments are proposed for Great Easton. He added that a further comment on the housing options to be considered in the consultation process has been forwarded, recommending sites with an "urban area focus" and "more strategic sites" as the preferred focus for delivering the anticipated requirement for increased housing within the HDC geographic area.
Cllr Wilson stated the need for a partial update of the local Great Easton Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it is in accord with the extended timescale to 2041 and any new housing numbers, noting this will be an important task in the coming months.
D Cllr Rickman said that HDC is likely to schedule a meeting in April as the next step in the consultation process.

-Updated draft Great Easton Conservation and Management Plan 2023.
It was agreed to place a copy of the recently completed Great Easton Conservation and Management Plan 2023 on the website.
D Cllr Rickman reported that HDC has recently agreed to reinstate the HDC Conservation officer post.

32/24. Flood Alleviation
Cllr Hemmings briefed on his involvement with Anglian Water concerning the recent flooding along Brook Lane, adding that their response had been prompt and effective. He said that rainfall this winter has been more than twice the yearly average and the frequency of the local flooding has increased. He agreed to follow up the further work needed from Anglian water, including improving the effectiveness of the relatively recent fitted non-return valves and ensuring the existing drains are flushed regularly to remove debris. There then followed a general discussion on the channelling of the stream of water flowing from Stokes Rise and the inadequate diversion at the time of the new development. It was agreed that this longstanding problem should continue to be pursued.
Separately Cllr Hemmings agreed to liaise with the LLFA concerning the progress of the proposed flood alleviation measures with the relevant landowners. **Action: Cllr Hemmings**

33/24. Financial Matters.
The RFO reported on the following financial matters:
- **Payments.** The following payments, inclusive of VAT where applicable, were authorised:

-£271.20	Areta re V Hall (NB. V Hall refund £226.00)
-£26.00	Grass
-£360.00	BCP Arts re V Hall (NB. V Hall refund £300.00)
-£520.50	Clerk wages Jan-Mar 24
-£130.12	PAYE
-£618.00	LCC re Tree survey

34/24. Arboreal Matters and Conservation.
-Pruning Works to Tree Applications
-24/00024/TCA – 18 Home Close. Approved.
-24/00163/TCA – 2 Brookdale. Approved.
-24/00277/TCA – 29 Brook Lane. New. Fell a norwegian spruce tree.
- **Trees for which the PC has responsibility.** Cllr Johnston said she had accompanied a tree surveyor from LCC, who had assessed all the trees for which the PC is responsible and additional trees within the village. A full report will be received and it was agreed that the report will be placed on the website. The survey cost is £618, which was approved. The anticipated cost for the tree works will be c£1500 plus vat, which has been included in the budget.
- West Mercia Rivers Trust. Nothing further to report.

35/24. Community Actions and Police.
- Recreation Field Fence. Cllr Wilson said that after the removal of the fencing around the new play equipment, potentially dangerous holes were left following the removal of the posts which have now been filled in. He noted the assistance of former Cllr P Brittain.
- Equipment annual inspections. The actions and responsibilities concerning the equipment inspections remains to be resolved. The Clerk said he would liaise with Cllr Hemmings and Mr Jefferson. **Action: Clerk**
- Police Liaison. Cllr Smith agreed to be the police liaison contact and Cllr Hemmings said he would forward the relevant contact information **Action: Cllrs Hemmings and Smith**

36/24. Website and Communication.
- Website. The Clerk said he had met with Cllr Walsh and the necessary updating of the website is in hand.
-Village Communication Update – Mailchimp. The Clerk said that the Mailchimp news issues, produced by Cllr Walsh, continue to be well received. The Chairman added that the Mailchimp information also includes relevant village news in addition to PC information.

37/24. AOB. 80th D Day Anniversary Commemoration. Cllr Smith confirmed that the beacon in the normal location can go ahead. It was agreed to defer any decision concerning hot dog type refreshments to the next meeting.
- HDC Environmental Grant. The Clerk confirmed that details of a recently announced HDC environmental grant have been forwarded to the Chairman of the Village Hall, who is considering a possible application for funding for solar panels on the Village Hall roof.
- Rutland and Stamford constituency. D Cllr Rickman confirmed that the new constituency boundary of Rutland and Stamford will include the rural villages, adding that the potential MP Alicia Kearns has lobbied hard for this change. He added that the MP would be willing to visit if invited.

-**.38/24. Date of next meeting**
Monday 8th April 2024 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

DAC Gibley (Clerk) Cllr P Long (Chairman)