DRAFT
GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 9th September 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs J Boulter (Chairman), R Wilson (Vice Chairman), B Hemmings, F Smith, L Walsh, C Johnston and D Gibley (Clerk)
In Attendance: D Cllr M Rickman.

99/24. Apologies for absence
None.

100/24. Welcome.
The Chairman welcomed all to his first meeting as Chairman.

101/24. Declarations of Interest for agenda items.
None.

102/24. Minutes of Previous Meeting
The minutes of the 8th July were approved without amendment.

103/24. Matters Arising
- **War memorial.** The Council agreed to record its thanks to Chris Page, who is leaving the village, and his team for the excellent maintenance of the war memorial grounds.
- **Litter Bin.** Cllr Wilson said the replacement litter bin outside the Village Hall is now in situ.
- **Defibrillator pads.** Cllr Wilson said the replacement defibrillator pads have been supplied and fitted.
- **Archive Room – A3 photocopier.** The Clerk said he had circulated a request to purchase an A3 photocopier, to be positioned in the Archive room but available to other users, which had been agreed.

104/24. Planning.
Cllr Wilson reported on the following current applications and planning matters, which remain relatively quiet:
-23/01380/FUL – Land behind 22 Caldecott Road to erect one B&B dwelling. Pending.
The application for the single but larger B& B, remains pending.
-23/00619/VAC – Development off Caldecott Road. The planning variation to clad the recently constructed garage and add garage doors making it secure, has been refused.
-23/00796/FUL and 21/00797/FUL – 21 High Street – minor variations to an existing rear extension. The application has been approved.

-HDC Consultation on updating the HDC Local Plan to 2041.
Cllr Wilson reported that he has been in further contact with Mr Matt Bills at HDC concerning the potential impact of additional housing requirements, which remains unknown, noting that this will be a major determinant concerning the potential revision of the current Neighbourhood Plan.
Cllr Rickman confirmed that HDC has not yet been informed of the future housing needs and where the additional housing will be concentrated. D Cllr Rickman added that there is a Parish Liaison meeting scheduled for 10 September, focussing on accessing grants.
Afternote. Mr Bills has since forwarded a comprehensive document outlining the options for amending the current Neighbourhood Plan, which will be discussed at a future PC meeting.

105/24. Flood Alleviation
Cllr Hemmings reported that measures to implement rainwater retention works on the Neill Holt estate are progressing

106/24. Financial Matters and Insurance.
The RFO reported on the following financial matters:
- **Payments.** The following payments, inclusive of VAT where applicable, were authorised:

-£72.00	Grass – four invoices
-£346.71	Refund to V hall
-£1,356.60	V hall picnic tables (V hall refund - £1,130)
-£669.00	Clerk wages – (Jul-Sep)
-£167.25	PAYE
-£20.39	Domain name -annual renewal
-£40.00	V hall re Y Group rent for July

-Audit. The RFO said that the auditor has requested additional information concerning the PC financial reserves, which has been provided.
- **Annual Village Perambulation.** The RFO reported that the annual village perambulation, an insurance risk assessment requirement, took place on the 22 July and Cllr Walsh has since circulated a summary document. Overall the village is "in good order". One outstanding matter concerns the the dilapidated garages at Lounts Crescent and the adjacent land owned by Platform Housing association. One resident has requested that the PC investigates the possibility of acquiring the land. The Clerk said he would attempt to contact the Housing Association with the aim of obtaining clarification of their current plans for the area, noting that the garages, largely now vacant, contain asbestos. **Action: Clerk**

107/24. Arboreal Matters and Conservation
-Pruning Works to Tree Applications
- No new applications.
- **Wild Flower areas.** Cllr Johnston thanked Fay and the team at Rectory Farm for collecting the cut wildflowers, following the well supported village clearance on the 27 July, with a subsequent clearance for the wildflowers at the top of the Recreation Field. Cllr Johnston re-affirmed the importance of all the wildflower areas, including the Recreation Field.
- **Village trees for which the PC is responsible.** Cllr Johnston said that following the LCC survey, the agreed pruning works will shortly be completed by LCC.
- **Bio-diversity.** Nothing further to report.

- West Mercia Rivers Trust. Nothing further to report.
- **Walk on the Wildside.** The PC agreed to record its thanks to Mr Bob Mitchell, who is leaving the village, for the outstanding contribution the various Walk on the Wildside initiatives have made during the last two years, thanks to his enthusiastic leadership.

108/24. Community Actions and Police.
Recreation Field- Equipment annual inspections. The follow up to the recent equipment inspection, which highlighted the need for potentially expensive repair or replacement to a number of items, remains outstanding. Cllr Wilson said that the Recreation Feld committee currently envisage funding the essential repairs from their own financial resources.
- Repairs/Mowing rotas. The basket ball hoop has been replaced and the mowing rota is working well
Police Liaison. Nothing further to report.
Afternote: There have been three recent robberies and attempted break ins which will need to be widely publicised within the village.

109/24. Defibrillator, Website and Communication.
- Website. Cllr Walsh said the website has been recently updated..
- Mailchimp. Cllr Walsh said that there are now over 100 on the mailchimp distribution adding that publicity to increase the uptake needs to continue **Action: All**
- Great Easton Matters – Parish Council Profile.. The Chairman proposed that each Cllr draft a brief note stating their responsibilities and particular interests, to be included in the next edition of GE matters. He suggested the notes be forwarded to the Clerk. The copy deadline is 22 October, so the notes should please be forwarded to the Clerk by 14 October. **Action: All**

110/24. AOB.
-Thank you event for former Chairman. It was agreed to combine this event with the annual invitation to former Cllrs and their wives, to be held at the end of the scheduled December meeting.
-Pop-Up Bar –" Final Friday Social". Cllr Wilson said that the first of the pop-up bars run by the village hall in August had been successful, with the next one scheduled for Friday 27 September.
- **Village Hall Fire Safety Regulations.** Cllr Wilson said that the village hall regulations are being updated and asked Cllr Walsh if she would assist in the final review, which was agreed.
- **Volunteer Event.** It was agreed to arrange a second village volunteer evening, possibly combined with a pop-up bar, in the Autumn 2025.
- **Mobile Post Office.** The Chairman said he would forward a contact to the Clerk to re-open the dialogue to see if a mobile PO could visit Great Easton weekly.
- **Eyebrook access.** The Clerk reported on his unsuccessful further attempt to obtain limited access for walkers to the Eyebrook, despite the support of the local MP.
- **School Parking.** It was agreed to write to the Headmistress, saying that the PC is aware of the parking concerns and asking if we can assist? **Action: Clerk**

111/24. Date of next meeting
Monday 14th October 2024 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

DAC Gibley (Clerk) Cllr J Boulter (Chairman)