# DRAFT
# GREAT EASTON PARISH COUNCIL
## Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 14th October 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, Mr P Kendall, Mrs R North, Mr & Mrs J Coningsby, Mrs G Murcott, Mr T Stellmacher, Mr & Mrs A Swami, Mr & Mrs S Lott, Mr & Mrs J Henniker-Major.

**112/24. Apologies for absence**
None.

**113/24. Welcome.**
The Chairman welcomed all to the meeting and invited Police Sgt Rob Cross, attending by invitation following the recent criminal activity in the village, to address the meeting.
Sgt Cross, who heads the Leicestershire Rural Policing Team, welcomed the opportunity to speak and made the following key points:

- the police resources are "thin" and the consequent importance of identifying "hot spots" to concentrate resources.
- the importance of reporting **all** incidents, big and small
- there is statistical evidence of a **small** increase in local incidents in Great Easton.
- there will **not** normally be an immediate follow up unless there is CCTV footage
- the need to engage with the local "beat" policeman for the local area.

The Chairman then invited questions. There was specific focus on a recent incident where clear CCTV footage was available of an intruder in a number of locations recently, 999 reporting at the time but no follow up or subsequent police visit. Sgt Cross acknowledged that follow up should normally have occurred, asked for details and agreed to obtain a response.
There was further general discussion concerning individual responsibilities and powers and the three principles: reasonable, proportionate and justifiable - were stressed in relation to any individual response.
There was subsequent discussion and support for creating a dedicated WhatsApp group, relating purely to local incidents/suspicious activity, with the local Beat police officer included in the group. Cllr Walsh agreed to initially form and administer the WhatsApp. **Action: Cllr Walsh**
It was also agreed to make further contact with the HDC Crime Prevention Team and request a publicised visit to the village. **Action: Cllr Smith**

**114/24. Declarations of Interest for agenda items.**
Cllr Hemmings declared an interest concerning the tree works application at 13 Barnsdale..

**115/24. Minutes of Previous Meeting**
The minutes of the 9th September were approved without amendment.

**116/24. Matters Arising**

- **Mobile Post Office.** The Clerk said he had followed up a request from the Chairman to re-investigate options for a mobile PO to visit Great Easton but had yet to receive a response. Cllr Wilson said he has a contact and will follow up. **Action: Cllr Wilson**
- **Controlled public access to the Eyebrook.** The Clerk said the local MP had intervened in support of the request for TATA to reinstate limited public access to the Eyebrook. TATA have since confirmed that public liaibility insurance constraints mean that authorised access is unlikely to be granted ,under any circumstances. Cllr Hemmings confirmed that similar insurance constraints apply to Environment Agency assets.
- **Archive Room – A3 photocopier.** The Clerk said that the recommended printer should be a laser jet printer because of the occasional use, which is considerably more expensive. During discussion it was noted that the printer would be available for other groups and the Clerk was asked to produce a costed option for further consideration. **Action: Clerk**

**117/24. Planning.**

Cllr Wilson reported on the following current applications and planning matters:

**-23/01380/FUL – Land behind 22 Caldecott Road to erect one B&B dwelling. P**ending. The application for the single but larger B& B, remains pending.

**-24/01201/PDN – Castle View Stables -potential conversion of agricultural building to a residential dwelling. Notification to determine if prior approval is required.** New. Cllr Wilson noted that the building has been in use for more than 10 years and the application is therefore not open to public comment.

**-24/01232/LBC – Banbury House, 11 Banbury Lane – erect double garage and various internal/external works.** New. Cllr Wilson noted that the proposed garage is within the existing LTD, the various alterations will all be subject to listed building conditions and saw no reasons to object.

**-24/01263/FUL – Land off Great Easton Road. Convert agricultural barn (Barn 4) to residential dwelling.** New.

**Afternote: 23/00616/VAC – Development off Caldecott Road. Application to vary Cond 4 to add garage doors to make premises more secure.** This application was originally refused by HDC, partly because there had been no prior consultation. Notice has now been received that a Notice of Appeal has been issued. The Parish Council had not objected to the original proposal

**-HDC Consultation on updating the HDC Local Plan to 2041.**

Cllr Wilson reported that he has received detailed guidance from Mr Martt Bills of HDC concerning the parameters to be considered in relation to updating the local Neighbourhood Plan and an indication that there will be a requirement for an additional 25-35 local dwellings. D Cllr Rickman commented that, to the best of his knowledge, the additional housing numbers have not yet been finalised.

Cllr Wilson said that he considers that it would be timely to now begin the process of forming a small Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Group to review the existing Neighbourhood Plan and to be able to respond to HDC as the Local Plan to 2041 is gradually developed in the coming months, adding that he will welcome any residents willing to be involved in this group.

**Action: Cllr Wilson**

**118/24. Flood Alleviation**
Cllr Hemmings reported that measures to implement rainwater retention works on the Neill Holt estate are continuing. Separately he noted that localised flooding is now occurring at the bottom of Brook Lane following the removal of a drain by Anglian Water. The need now is to allow the water to flow into the Brook and he has requested LCC Highways to construct a simple gulley drain to resolve the new problem..

**119/24. Financial Matters and Insurance.**
The RFO reported on the following financial matters:
- **Payments.** The following payments, inclusive of VAT where applicable, were authorised:

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| -£16.00 | Grass cutting |
| -£252.00 | Moore auditors |
| -£750.00 | Youth Group – annual donation |
| -£228.00 | HDC re annual eqpt safety inspections |
| -£80.00 | V hall re Youth Group rent for Sep |
| -£750.00 | Church donation towards clock tower repairs |

**-Audit/Reserves.** The RFO said that the auditor's report has been posted on the website. The one comment concerned the auditor's recommendation that reserves should not exceed four months spending. The RFO said the current policy is to hold not more than one year's expenditures, noting that this allows the PC to respond positively to unexpected requests. This was agreed.

**120/24. Arboreal Matters and Conservation**
**-Pruning Works to Tree Applications**
Cllr Johnston reported on the following applications:
**-24/01101/TCA** – **11 Banbury Lane.** New. No comment.
**-24/01108/TCA** – **Rosedene, Pitchers Lane**. New. No comment.
**-24/01239/TCA – 13 Barnsdale.** New. Cllr Johnston confirmed that after consulting the PC she has submitted an objection to the felling of the ancient and historic apple tree, on the grounds that no evidence of subsidence or potential subsidence has been submitted with the application.
**- Trees for which the PC is responsible.** Cllr Johnston confirmed that the LCC pruning works are scheduled for the 6th November.

- **Bio-diversity.** Nothing further to report.
**- West Mercia Rivers Trust.** Nothing further to report.
**- Insurance cover for volunteers.** Cllr Johnston said she would be contacting the Clerk to confirm that the PC liability insurance cover is in place for volunteers who assist with grass cutting and wildflowers planting/clearance.

**121/24. Community Actions and Police.**
**Recreation Field- Equipment annual inspections -follow up.** Cllr Wilson said he had tightened the zip wire and reviewed the play area equipments following the recent safety inspections, noting that all equipments appear to be securely fastened into the ground.
**Police Liaison**. Nothing further to report in addition to creating the dedicated WhatsApp and liaison with the HDC Crime Prevention Team.

**122/24. Defibrillator, Website and Communication.**
**- Website**. Cllr Walsh said the website has been recently updated.
**- Mailchimp.** There was general acknowledgement that Mailchimp is proving to be an effective communication tool and all Cllrs were urged to help increase the take-up. **Action: All**
**- Great Easton Matters – Parish Council Profiles.** The Clerk said he would forward the received profiles to GE Matters. **Action: Clerk**
- **Village Hall Facebook Page.** Cllr Wilson said the village hall has asked that the village hall Facebook page could be publicised in the next Mailchimp; the aim being to promote the hall as a Community Hub. **Action: Cllr Walsh**

**123/24. AOB.**
**-Remembrance Sunday and 11th November.** The Clerk said that the annual remembrance services will be held on Sunday 10th November and 11th November, when Year 6 pupils from Bringhurst School will participate, followed by refreshments in the Henniker-Major's barn. Cllr Hemmings said he hoped the traffic would be stopped for at least the two minutes silence and it was agreed to marshall this informally, wearing high visibility jackets.

**-Waste land near cemetery behind Lounts Crescent**
Mrs Harrison-Butlin has written to the PC suggesting that the waste land next to the cemetery behind Lounts Crescent would potentially make an ideal location for a Remembrance Garden. There are queries concerning ownership of the land and Cllr Johnston raised the potential issue of longer term maintenance. The Clerk agreed to liaise with Mrs Harrison -Butlin and report back. **Action: Clerk**

-1**24/24. Date of next meeting**
Monday 11th November 2024 at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

DAC Gibley (Clerk) Cllr J Boulter (Chairman)