

GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at Great Paxton School, Mount Pleasant, Great Paxton
on Monday 11th May 2015 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllrs J. Peters, S. Peters, C. Wallace , R. Widdowson & J. Addison (from 7.45 onwards)
In attendance : District Cllrs Richard West & Barbara Boddington, County Cllr Julie Wisson
PCSO A Newman, Sheila Childerley (Clerk) and 6 Parishioners

In the absence of the Chairman Cllr Bond (due to illness) Cllr Wallace was appointed as acting Chairman (Prop Cllr Peters, 2nd Cllr Widdowson) unanimous.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on the 12th May 2014

The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record (Prop Cllr S Peters 2nd Cllr Wallace . All in favour.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllrs W. Bond & P. Goodyer. David Lloyd and Mr & Mrs A. Wieczorek.

3. Gt Paxton Annual Crime Report – PCSO Alan Newman

Ward H31H of the St. Neots sector is a policing area which includes the villages of Offord D’Arcy, Offord Cluny, Great Paxton, Toseland, Yelling, Croxton, Eynesbury Hardwick, Abbotsley, Great Gransden, Waresley, and Tetworth.

The crime statistics 2014 - 2015

	Ward H31H	St Neots Sector
Crimes	108	1742
Incidents	746	8245

Great Paxton:

Total 7 crimes	Burglary (dwelling)	2
	Burglary (other)	1
	Criminal Damage (inc vehicles)	3
	Theft	1

Priorities Update:

Force priorities:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Modern Day Slavery (Houses of Multiple Occupation)
- Cyber-Crime
- Safeguarding vulnerable persons/victims of crime.

Local Policing priorities:

- Preventing rural crime and providing high-visibility and reassurance in the rural areas of the sector; notably the beauty-spot car parks.
- Responding to the rise in shop-lifting in St. Neots
- Addressing community concern in relation to off-road motor-cycling within the sector

Local Policing priorities:

St Neots Neighbourhood Policing team now comprises Sergeant Kevin Thorne, plus PC's Dawn Fuller and Carl Harris, who form the St. Neots Problem-Solving Team. They are backed-up by seven PCSO's (after two recent new additions) who are responsible for minor crime enquiries, mobile and foot patrols, anti-social behaviour, parking enforcement, safeguarding visits and maintaining community contact.

Public Service Volunteers – Cambridgeshire Constabulary are recruiting volunteers to assist with all aspects of policing from vehicle tasking/maintenance to systems admin/research. Anyone interested – the jobs are being individually advertised on the Recruitment Section of our public website www.cambs-police.co.uk

Speeding – Do you have concerns regarding the speed of vehicles through the villages? In addition to enforcement regularly carried out by police officers we are committed to support work carried out by Community Speedwatch volunteers. Funding to expand the CSW scheme and to purchase additional radar equipment has been found and we offer training and support to volunteers who are interested. Statistics gathered in this way can be used to support cases for traffic calming/road safety measures with Cambridgeshire County Council. If further information is required please contact us by phoning 101. PS Kevin Thorn PCSO Alan Newman

4. Report of District Councillor Barbara Boddington.

Another year has passed and time moves on having completed my two years as Chairman of Huntingdonshire District Council – a memorable time with Civic Visits around the County and beyond. However, high on my agenda were my visits to local schools to talk about the work of the Council and also how important it is to register to be able to vote at Elections. During my term I invited Town and Parish Councils to the Council Offices to see 'how it works' and meet Officers they deal with on many issues. I raised over £7,000 in my two years as Chairman and one of my charities the St. John Ambulance awarded me their Badge of Recognition.

My work at Huntingdonshire District Council continues and I have now been made Chairman of Planning (Management & Development), also Scrutiny work plays an important part along with Safety Advisory and Tree Preservation. Attending all the Parish Council Meetings is sometimes difficult in our meeting schedule with six in the Ward, but they are of great importance and should not be missed.

For me the highlight of the year was the realisation by Government that the A428 needed upgrading – the route is being worked out and then consultation – we are awaiting the publishing of the Highways Agency Delivery plan shortly. I have campaigned in this direction since becoming a Councillor and lately with others supported the actions lobbying the Minister – I have always felt the A428 should have had more priority.

Housing is a contentious issue, and it is clear to me on listening to residents they have much concerns regarding young people being able to afford buying a home – I would urge Parish Councils to encourage any affordable housing sites – government guidelines are now given to allow some private housing within an exceptional site. This I feel is the way forward.

Gritting became another contentious issue when Cambridgeshire County Council announced proposed cuts of 30% - this was not the right way forward for our rural area

and I immediately contacted the Leader of the County Council and encouraged others to do so as well – the result being it is held for this year – another fight will continue if threatened in the future.

I admire very much the challenge of keeping The Bell Public House alive, and the thoughts now of opening a Village Shop with voluntary helpers – thanks are very much due to Simon Black for his vision of the future and obviously as Councillors will assist in any way possible.

Thanks are due to the Parish Council and their Chairman who all work together for the village of Great Paxton, not forgetting Sheila as Clerk.

May I wish the village continued success and promise my help if any way as always – my election result was welcomed 2332 votes and 463 against and my thanks to my fellow councillors for their support.

Report from your County Councillor Julie Wisson 2015

The past 12 months have seen some large commitments from the Highways Agency and the government to invest in the roads in Cambridgeshire. On April 1st 2015 the Highways Agency became Highways England with the same responsibilities and roads as the Highways Agency. Highways England is an arms length company with a 5 yearly budget that cannot be influenced by a change in government thus enabling Highways England a greater degree of certainty around their budgets and planning for the future improvement of the road network.

In the Autumn Statement the government announced a commitment to upgrade the A1 to motorway status from Baldock to Alconbury. I regularly attend meetings of the A1 Safety group, set up by Councillor Boddington. At the meeting recently we were told by the Highways England representative that the brief for the feasibility study on the A1 is currently in draft form. Once the feasibility study has been finished, it is expected that options for the A1 and possibly consultations will take place in the 2016-2017 financial year.

The proposed A14 scheme has been submitted by Highways England to the government for their approval and will be considered by the Planning Inspectorate later this year with a decision made before the end of 2015 as to whether or not the scheme will go ahead. The preliminary meeting of the Planning Inspector has just been announced for May 13th at the Commemoration Hall in Huntingdon. Members of the public who registered an Interest in the scheme will be able to attend.

The government have also announced that funding will be made available to upgrade the A428 and proposed plans will shortly be forthcoming. Along with my fellow district councillors I am a member of the newly formed A428/A421 Alliance group.

This is huge investment to Cambridgeshire's infrastructure and needed to support the amount of residential development proposed at St Neots, Wyton and Alconbury over the coming 5 and more years.

Set against this background are pressures on budgets from decreasing government grants to Local Authorities and increasing demographic pressures, making it more difficult to provide services in the same way that they have been delivered in the past. Efficiencies are required and also new ways of working. Local Authorities are having to look at other ways to increase their income, making their assets work better for them and looking at more efficient ways of delivering services.

The committees that I have served on this past year are the Children's and Young Peoples committee and the Health committee. The Health committee recently invited members of the Care Quality Commission to discuss the report published recently on

Hinchingbrooke Hospital. I also sit on The Fire Authority and the Foster panel, the current number of Looked After Children in the county is at an all time high of 542, and the Cromwell Museum Management Committee. The Cromwell Museum is moving forward through a transition period over the next year when it will move to charity status. The museum will need support from local residents if this important local asset is to continue to flourish once County Council funding ceases in 2017.

I would like to thank the Parish Councillors for all their commitment and hard work to Great Paxton over the past year and for some, their long serving commitment to the village.

Please contact me by email, telephone and look forward to serving the residents of Great Paxton for the next 2 years.

Report of District Councillor Richard West

I am aware that part of the village suffers from the Wind Farm noise of the turbines which was denied during the planning appeal – the experts stated this would not happen. There is ongoing activity to measure the effect of the noise to find a solution to prevent adverse effect on residents.

In every village there are residents who will seek to improve the life of villagers. An example of this is Mr Simon Black who called the inaugural meeting of the Gt Paxton Community Shop. I understand there have been eight volunteers to take forward this idea and Mr Black's involvement in the local village newsletter and public house providing an enjoyable social hub for the village.

I always enjoy my evening at the Great Paxton Parish Council and am sorry to miss meetings because of District Council duties which I will refer to at the end of my report. Under your chairmanship Councillor Bond with your fellow councillors, you look after the best interests of the village, tackle the issues and find solutions. I take this opportunity to thank your Clerk Mrs Childerley for informing me of meetings and her service to the Council after a difficult start.

I referred to duties which prevent my attending every meeting of the Parish Council, as I am a member of the Development Management Panel, Licensing & Protection Panel/Licensing Committee. I am also a member of the Employment Panel Corporate Governance Panel member of the following panels – Hinchingbrooke County Park Liaison Group and the Senior Officers Panel along with the TPO Sub Group. One scrutiny panel – Environmental Wellbeing.

5. Report of the Parish Council for 2014-2015 – In his absence Cllr Wallace gave the Chairman's report. First of all I would like to thank:-

- our parish councillors for the time and effort they devote to their duties which is on a completely voluntary basis. I was pleased to welcome two new members during the year, and hope we will find another two members to complete our numbers.
- Also our County & District Councillors and our local PCSO for their reports and the support they provide to the Council.
- Simon Black for the production and distribution of the Paxton Post, and David Lloyd for managing the village website also on a completely voluntary basis.

Precept We have had to increase the Precept to £19,000 this year to take account of future expenditure on Saxon Green Play Area, work required to trees in the village and

other costs. This resulted in an increase of approx. £10 per household per annum.

Highways/Footpaths We have had many complaints regarding speeding traffic and parking on footpaths in the village during the year, and it is hoped that Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch Groups can be established and also funding under the Local Highway's Initiative Scheme obtained to address these problems.

Defibrillator We were fortunate to receive a Community Defibrillator from the East of England Ambulance Service, and the parish council agreed to pay for the casing. This is located at The Bell and it is reassuring to know it is there should the need arise.

I think it is important to remember that the parish council is responsible for representing the entire village, and I encourage all residents to make their views known to us.

Thank you all for attending, and I hope you will join us for a glass of wine at the end of the meeting.

6. Reports from Community organisations

Gt Paxton Recreation Ground Committee:

We are struggling to get new members and have had no football team this year. It is possible that Lt Paxton may bring 3 adults clubs and will be asked to pay towards maintenance. We are continuing to raise funds for an all weather surface. The Committee would like to propose that the Parish Council take over the running costs of the ground. Formal letter confirming the above will be provided.

7. Parish Council's Audited Accounts for the year ending 2014

The audited accounts for the year ended 2014 were presented by the Clerk. The audit had been cleared by the internal and external Auditors and found to be in order. Inspection of the 2014 accounts can be arranged by appointment with the Clerk.

8. Public Forum

Items discussed following PCSO Alan Newman's report included e-cops which anyone can join by visiting their website and inserting their postcode to obtain reports of incidents in the village by email, the formation of a Speedwatch Team to monitor traffic in the village – information gathered in this way will be useful when applying for funding. Double yellow lines in areas where parked cars are obstructing vision.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30 pm