

MINUTES of a meeting of GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 9th January 2017 at Great Paxton School, Mount Pleasant, Great Paxton.

PRESENT: Councillors W Bond (Chairman), G R Addison, D Beattie, P Goodyer, Mrs J Peters, S Peters and R Widdowson.

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Mrs B E Boddington and four Members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence from the meeting were presented on behalf of Parish Councillor Mrs J Addison, County Councillor Julie Wisson and District Councillor R J West.

There were no declarations of interests nor requests for dispensation.

2. COMMENTS AND OBSERVATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Councillor Mrs Barbara Boddington

Further to the information presented to the last meeting, Councillor Mrs Boddington reported that she had, together with local MPs, recently attended several meetings relating to the proposed improvement scheme for the A428. Mrs Boddington confirmed that it was still the intention to announce route options in February/March and to commence work on the scheme in 2020. She undertook to keep the Parish Council informed of progress.

The meeting was advised of the District Council's decision to launch a public consultation exercise following a review of car parking charges in the District. Following concern expressed by Councillors, businesses and the public a decision to increase charges had been put on hold pending the outcome of the review which would be led by a Cabinet Member. It was the expectation that once concluded the opportunity to respond to the outcome through the public consultation exercise would be widely publicised.

Observation from the Public

A member of the public drew attention to maintenance required to a footpath to the rear of Toseland Hall. Having established the location, the Clerk undertook to report the issue to the County Council.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 14th November 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. NEW PCSO – ST NEOTS SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

The Chairman welcomed Richard Braddick, newly appointed PCSO to his first meeting of the Parish Council. PCSO Braddick explained that he had transferred from North Yorkshire Police and had several years' experience working with rural communities. Working with the St Neots Safer Neighbourhood Team, he now had responsibility for 28 villages and that given the size of the area he needed to cover he could not dedicate time to specific communities. The PCSO indicated his willingness to contribute to the 'Paxton Post' once this was back in circulation and

spoke of his experience of visiting primary schools to talk to children about bullying and internet safety. In the meantime, he would forward reports to the Parish Clerk to publish to the village website. In terms of Great Paxton, PCSO Braddick assured the Parish Council that although the village, together with The Offords, appeared to be relatively crime free this should not prevent people from keeping an eye on things! He recommended that the public should use 101 to report any issues of concern however insignificant they might consider them to be. Councillors agreed to post the PCSO's contact details on the Parish Council's Facebook site to encourage this.

During open discussion, a member of the public drew attention to the continuing problem of excess speed used by vehicles driving up Paxton Hill. Although this was not an issue over which he had any direct jurisdiction, PCSO Braddick encouraged villagers to report all incidents either to him by email, via e cops or by dialling 101. Reports would be collated and if it seemed that there was a specific issue on Paxton Hill, the police would respond proactively, patrol and seek to target offenders. Regarding parking issues, PCSO Braddick reported that whilst prepared to consider reports of parking on the corners of Adams and Church Lanes, he had observed both locations on several occasions and had not noticed a particular problem. However, he accepted that parking on pavements appeared to be an issue in the village and undertook to pursue the problem such that buggies and wheel chair users could pass more easily. In response to a question regarding access for emergency vehicles, the PCSO undertook to pursue an example raised on London Lane.

5. PLANNING MATTERS – APPLICATION NO. 16/02700/HHFUL

Having considered a proposal for a frontage porch at 6 Rectory Close, Great Paxton (a copy of the planning application having been circulated in advance to Councillors), the Parish Council

RESOLVED

that the District Council be advised that the Parish Council had no objection to Application No. 16/02700/HHFUL – Frontage Porch at 6 Rectory Close, Great Paxton.

6. DRAFT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Having reviewed the content of a draft Safeguarding Policy that had been prepared to support an application for funding to the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (a copy of which had been circulated in advance to Councillors) and in the absence of any further comments, it was

RESOLVED

that the Safeguarding Policy be formally adopted by the Parish Council.

7. UPDATES (IF ANY)

- i. **Paxton Post Editor** – It was reported that Longsands Academy had responded positively to the suggestion that a media or IT student might be interested in the role of Editor as project work and that the idea was to be discussed with teaching staff and post 16 students early this term. In the meantime, it was mentioned that some interest also had been expressed by an individual in the village so the Clerk undertook to make enquiries, in this respect, with the former Editor.

- ii. **LHI Application 2017/18** – It was noted that Councillor Mrs J Peters would speak in support of the Parish Council's 2017/18 LHI Application at the meeting of the Huntingdonshire Panel on 11th January 2017.
- iii. **Cycle Path** – Councillor Beattie announced that the Parish Council had been offered, subject to conditions, a grant of £3000 from the A14 Community Fund towards the undertaking of a feasibility study into options to provide a safe alternative for cyclists to the B1043. As the grant was required to be spent by 30th September 2017, Councillor Beattie was authorised to accept the offer on behalf of the Parish Council and to progress an enhanced feasibility study with Groundworks as a matter of urgency.

In accordance with the project's conditions and having expressed their pleasure at the success of the application and authorised the Chairman and Councillor Beattie to be official signatories to any future documentation required, the Parish Council

RESOLVED

that it be formally recorded that the Parish Council acknowledge the grant received from the A14 Community Fund, a fund managed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation.

- iv. **Community Shop** – Councillor Widdowson was pleased to report that the Community Shop also had been awarded grant funding of £9960 by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation making a total of £23,000 raised towards the Shop project. He added that the 'Beetle & Bingo Night' held on 26th November had been well received and that all but one village calendar had been sold. In terms of further fundraising, a band concert had been provisionally arranged for a weekend in March and the Committee was awaiting the outcome of one grant application and were about to submit applications for two other grant opportunities. Aware of the requirement to use some of the funding already received by 31st March and as the project was still some way short of the amount required, Councillor Widdowson explained that the Committee would soon have to decide whether to commit to the supply, delivery and installation of the shop unit at an estimated cost of £28,000 including VAT. Whilst he was hopeful that sufficient additional funding would be forthcoming over the next few weeks it was suggested that the Parish Council might consider making a temporary loan to the Committee to make up the shortfall in funds. It was agreed to reconsider this matter at the next meeting in the light of the Project's current financial position and information on the potential for the Parish Council to make a short term loan of this nature.
- v. **Village Website** - On behalf of the Editor, the Clerk reported that the website was operating satisfactory and had received 2580 visits in 2016. In the absence of the 'Paxton Post', two requests had been received from businesses wishing to advertise on the site and in liaison with the Chairman and the Parish Clerk, a short protocol had been produced to set fees and to guide potential advertisers in these circumstances. Contributions to the site were welcomed and any requests for items to be posted were encouraged and should be made by contacting the Editor.
- vi. **Saxon Green** – Councillor Beattie reported that repairs to the gate post had been completed and that other than cleaning, there appeared to be no other maintenance concerns. Given the success of the Council's recent grant application to the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, Councillor Beattie undertook to submit a further

application during the next tranche of funding towards the cost of replacement play equipment.

- vii. **Highways, footpaths, trees etc** – The Clerk reported that Global Tree Solutions had undertaken to survey trees on parish land and that a response on the outcome was awaited. Councillor Mrs Boddington informed the Parish Council that a final decision on whether to continue to support the cost of the Tree Warden Co ordinator had yet to be made by the District Council.
- viii. **Tree Planting Scheme** – The Clerk reported that she was awaiting a response from the owner of land at Mount Pleasant, at the top of Adams Lane on the potential for additional tree planting at that location. Following advice from the Tree Warden Co ordinator, Councillor S Peters undertook to re consider the species and number of trees suitable for planting on Saxon Green.
- ix. **Defibrillator** – Having been reminded that a defibrillator was located at The Bell Public House, Councillors suggested that the Parish Council Facebook page be used to publicise the availability of the equipment in the village with information as to how it should be used in an emergency posted on Notice Boards and the Facebook site. As training on the defibrillator had taken place over 12 months ago it was also suggested that should there be sufficient interest in refresher courses these could be organised again for residents.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

Having noted the financial statement for the period to 30th December, 2016, it was

RESOLVED

- a) that the following invoices and payments be approved –

28th Nov - AEL Solutions, work at Saxon Green Playground	£286.80
3rd Dec - K Fergusons Ltd, Grounds Maintenance Sept – Dec 2016	£1243.96
9th Jan - P. Simpson, emergency tree works	£100
SLCC – Membership Fee (Renewal)	£93.00
Mrs C Brandon – Reimbursement of expenses (Fasthosts payments for renewal of domain name (£14.39) and business silver account (£96.59), postage (£3.30), A4 Office Paper (£1.85) and mileage (£4.50))	£120.63
HMRC – PAYE (Mrs C Brandon)	£331.60
Mrs C Brandon - Back pay from 1st April – 11th November 2016 (£0.363 x32 weeks)	£11.62
Mrs C Brandon – Salary from 14th November 2016 to 6th January 2017 (8 Weeks)	£331.60

- b) that the Diamond Jubilee Account be closed and the remaining balance transferred to a new account set up for the Cycle Path Project.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th March 2017 at 8pm.

Chairman