

MINUTES of a meeting of GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 10th July 2017 at Great Paxton School, Mount Pleasant, Great Paxton.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Mrs J Wisson, District Councillor R J West and eight Members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Apologies for absence from the meeting were presented on behalf of Parish Councillors Mrs J Addison, G Addison and P Goodyer and District Councillor Mrs B E Boddington.

Councillor R Widdowson declared a non-statutory disclosable interest as Chairman the Community Shop Committee in Minute Item No 5(iii).

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

District Councillor R J West

Councillor West informed the meeting of two new District Council initiatives. The first entitled 'Commercialisation' would enable the Council to develop a range of commercial, income generating activities from which profit generated could be invested back into services. This project had emerged as a result of the potential for further reduction in government grant. As a first step, the Council would consider whether CCTV and Printing Services could be competitively sourced. Councillors have also considered how best the District Council could serve Parish Councils in the future and how to encourage and support 'Community Resilience'.

County Councillor Mrs J Wisson

County Councillor Wisson drew the meetings' attention to the launch of public consultation by the County Council on options for a new foot and cycle bridge over the river Great Ouse in St Neots. Four options were under consideration. Three of these related to the location of a new bridge and the fourth suggested improvements to the existing town bridge. The consultation closes on the 7th August and views on the options can be expressed via the County Council's website or by attending an exhibition in the Priory Centre, St Neots on 26th July (between 9-5pm) or 1st August (between 4-8pm). In response to a question as to how the footbridge was to be funded, Mrs Wisson advised that it was likely that the cost of the new bridge could be met from Section 106 contributions secured against new housing development in the town and from other capital funding sources.

Observations from the Public

The attention of the Parish Council was drawn to an increase in the incidence of dog fouling in the village and the alleged presence of an intestinal disease which meant their faeces carried harmful bacteria. Bearing in mind other recent concerns about dogs not being restrained by lead in and around the Saxon Green Play Space when children were playing, Councillor West undertook to clarify the current regulations relating to 'dogs on leads' from Environment Health at the District Council. It was suggested that a note reminding dog owners of their responsibilities could be placed in the next edition of the 'Paxton Post'.

3. MINUTES

Subject to the following amendments –

- The deletion of the word ‘the’ and the insertion of the words ‘sections of the proposed’ after the word ‘used’ in the final sentence on page 2; and
- The addition of the words ‘, although it was noted that the Club would continue to use local roads and not the cycle path’ to the end of the sixth paragraph on page 3 (in relation to St Neots Cycling Club);

the Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 19th June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. PLANNING APPLICATION: 2 STOREY SIDE AND PART REAR EXTENSION TO DWELLING, 21 BROOKSIDE, GREAT PAXTON (17/01054/HHFUL

Copies of the application and plans having been circulated in advance to the Parish Council and having been advised that Councillors Mr and Mrs Addison and Goodyer had no objection to the proposal, Councillors

RESOLVED

that Huntingdonshire District Council be advised that the Parish Council had no objection to Application No - 17/01054/HHFUL.

5. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Having received correspondence from the Secretary to the PCC, the Chair of Great Paxton Recreation Ground Committee and the Secretary to Great Paxton Community Village Shop requesting financial support from the Parish Council in 2017/18 (copies of letters having been circulated in advance to Councillors) and having been reminded of the provision made in the budget for such donations and been advised that the Community Shop was close to opening, it was

RESOLVED

- i **that a donation of £1250 be awarded to the PCC, Holy Trinity Church for upkeep of the Churchyard;**
- ii **that a donation of £1250 be awarded to the Great Paxton Recreation Ground Committee as a contribution towards the maintenance and improvement of the Recreation Ground as an asset for the village; and**
- iii **that, as provision had not previously been included in the Council’s 2017/18 budget, a contribution of £1500 be approved, in principle, to the Community Shop Committee subject to consultation with those Parish Councillors who were not present at the meeting.**

6. ONGOING ISSUES/CORRESPONDENCE

- a. **Impact of Signs on Corners: Review** - As it appeared from observations around the village that the advisory signs placed on the corners of Adams/Church Lanes were having an impact, it was agreed to continue with the initiative for the time being but to ensure that signs were removed/replaced when damaged to maintain the good appearance of the village.

- b. Dogs off Leads in Saxon Green Play Space** – agreed that this subject had been discussed earlier in the meeting under Item No 2.
- c. Textile Recycling Bank** – The meeting understood that the District Council had requested the Parish Council to consider whether it would be possible to locate an additional textile recycling bank in the village. The Parish Council would receive £150 per tonne collected in 2017/18 and credits would be paid on an annual basis. Although there was some uncertainty whether there was still a Recycling Bank on the school site, the Parish Council expressed an interest in the opportunity provided a suitable location for the container could be found. As it would be convenient to drop off/collect from the Ibbetts Car Park, the Clerk was requested to establish whether the company would permit the placing of the recycling bank at that location.
- d. 30mph signs on Wheelie Bins** – Councillors were advised that a resident had drawn attention to a scheme supported by Mick George Ltd and Community Road Watch through which speed signs were provided to stick on wheelie bins as another way to remind drivers of speed limits in villages. The scheme had already been taken up by parishes in Colne, Wyton on the Hill, Haddenam and Warboys. Although mindful that the stickers could only be used by residents on the High Street, the Parish Council agreed that it might be a good idea and asked the Clerk to pursue it on their behalf.

7. UPDATES

7.1 Proposed Cycle Link

In terms of an update, Councillor Beattie reported that Sustrans had requested information on ownership of land effected by the recommended route. In response to a question, Councillor Beattie suggested that costings would be based on the price per acre of the land required. A member of the public offered to help identify the relevant landowners outside the meeting. It was noted that the first stage payment of £1200 for the undertaking of the Feasibility Study had been requested.

7.2 Village Shop

On behalf of the Village Shop Committee, Councillor Widdowson reported that fundraising had continued, that the shop building was now in place and that shelving and fixtures and fittings had been purchased. Fridges, freezers and air conditioning units were also required. It was envisaged that a further £15,000 was needed before the shop would be ready to open. Councillor Widdowson was hopeful that this target would soon be achieved. A sum of £1500 had been raised in response to a letter sent to residents encouraging the purchase of extra shares, first time investment and further donations. The Committee was also awaiting an indication from Tesco as to how much had been raised by the 'token' initiative and anticipated that this might be another £2000.

Lastly, Councillor Widdowson reported that the Prince's Trust, Leicester Office was to visit the village on 25th July to consider whether they would be in a position to offer any financial support. If this was forthcoming, it would ideally be directed towards stock for the shop and the employment of a permanent manager. It was the intention that volunteers from the village would also be invited to help out in the shop.

7.3 Speed Watch

Councillor Mrs Peters was pleased to report that six residents had come forward to join the Speed Watch Scheme. The Clerk undertook to contact the Local Police Neighbourhood Team to organise training and equipment for the volunteers.

7.4 Saxon Green Repairs

Having considered options/quotes for the repair/replacement of the toddler swing following recommendation contained in the recent Safety Inspection Report and having concluded that, given the age of the equipment, that it would be more cost effective and better value to replace rather than maintain the item, the Parish Council

RESOLVED

that, in accordance with Financial Regulations, the Clerk be requested to seek three competitive quotes for the replacement of the 1 Bay, 2 seat (2200mm) toddler swing at Saxon Green Play Space.

7.5 Highways, Footpaths and Trees

Having had their attention drawn to overgrown shrubs and trees at various locations in the village, the Clerk undertook to follow up the meetings' concerns with the County Council and house/land owners at the following locations – The Bungalow, High Street; Paxton Hill; 48 High Street and the Horse field.

7.6 Website Report

On behalf of the Editor, the Clerk reported that the website was running well, that the number of visitors had increased for the month, that the target time for updates was 4 days and that whilst the current Editor would continue to maintain the site for the time being the Parish Council still had to secure a replacement Editor for the role.

7.7 Upcoming Planning Seminars

In response to invitations received from the District Council and CPRE, the Parish Council

RESOLVED

that the following Councillors be nominated to attend

- **the District Council Seminar on the Local Plan on either 2nd or 8th August - Councillors Mrs J Peters, S Peters and P Goodyer; and**
- **the CPRE Planning Seminar on 2nd November – Councillors Mrs J Peters and P Goodyer.**

8. FINANCE MATTERS

Having noted the financial statement for the period to 30th June 2017 and following approval of donations to the PCC, Holy Trinity Church and Great Paxton Recreation Ground Committee earlier in the meeting, it was

RESOLVED

that the following invoices and payments be approved –

16th June – K Fergusons Ltd (Grounds Maintenance	£ 932.97
Contract for January to March and April to June 2017)	£1017.00
26th June - Sustrans Ltd	£1200.00
10th July - Great Paxton Primary School – Hire of accommodation	£60.00
(5 x meetings)	
10th July – PCC, Holy Trinity Church Donation	£1250.00
10th July – Great Paxton Community Recreation Ground	

Committee Donation **£1250.00**

**Mrs C Brandon – Reimbursement of expenses
(Laminated Sheets x 2 (3.90), Print Cartridges (£38.77) and
Mileage (10 miles @ .45 = £4.50))**

£47.17

HRMC (PAYE – Mrs C Brandon)

£268.00

**Mrs C Brandon – Salary from 15th May to 7th July 2017
(8 weeks)**

£401.92

9. NOTICE BOARDS

Having been advised that the Parish Council's Notice Boards required some remedial attention, the Parish Council authorised Councillor Mrs Peters to arrange for the replacement of the safety glass and maintenance of the wood frames by a village handy man.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th September 2017 at 8pm.

Chairman