

**MINUTES of a meeting of GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 11th July 2016 at Great Paxton School, Mount Pleasant, Great Paxton.**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs J Addison (Vice-Chairman in the Chair), G R Addison, Mrs J Peters, S Peters and R Widdowson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** County Councillor J Wisson, District Councillors Mrs B E Boddington and R J West and five Members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors W Bond, D Beattie and P Goodyer. There were no declarations of interests nor requests for dispensation.

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

A member of the public enquired if there had been any progress on the proposed application for residential development with community facilities on the High Street. It was reported that a formal planning application had not yet been submitted. In answer to a question, it was confirmed that plans for a memorial seat to be placed on Saxon Green were still going ahead.

**District Councillors Mrs B E Boddington and R J West**

District Councillor Mrs Boddington advised the meeting that the District Councillor for Buckden had proposed that a bridge should replace the railway crossing at Offord Cluny and that the works should be undertaken as part of a wider A14 Improvements Scheme. This had arisen as a result of increasing concern at the build-up of waiting traffic and the effect on local roads when the gates were closed. Councillor West added that this proposal had also received the support of The Offords Parish Council.

Councillor Mrs Boddington also announced that Citizens Advice Rural Cambs had begun to operate some of its services from the District Council's headquarters at Pathfinder House in July. The Huntingdon office was now open to callers on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 9:30am – 12:30pm and no appointment was necessary. The CAB Office in St Neots was open to visitors during the same hours on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Together with Councillor West, Councillor Mrs Boddington reported that she would be attending a meeting on the A428 at the Priory Centre on 22nd July.

District Councillor West referred to the proposed merger of Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust and Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and a petition containing 6000 signatures opposing the merger which had been delivered to Downing Street. The main objection to the merger is the recent significant growth in Huntingdonshire and the consequential demand and essential need for the location of accessible front line services in Huntingdon and not Peterborough. Councillor West added that the campaign had the support of the local MP Jonathan Djanogly and that the merger had been proposed because of the financial situation currently faced by Peterborough. Councillor West asked those present to be proactive in protecting local health services.

Councillor West also referred to potential changes to the service previously managed by the District Council's Tree Warden although these would not come into effect until 31st March 2017.

### **County Councillor Julie Wisson**

County Councillor Wisson addressed the Council on current proposals for devolution and the suggestion of a combined authority across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. The 'devolution deal' could attract a significant contribution towards infrastructure in the region and additional funding to meet the high levels of growth and need for affordable housing given the exceptional market conditions in Cambridge. Both Huntingdonshire District and Cambridgeshire County have agreed to seek the views of local residents and businesses before proceeding further. Consultation papers on the 'Devolution Deal' were available to read on the websites of both authorities and comments have been requested from the public by 23rd August. When debated by the County Council, it was agreed that the proposal was a good idea but it was their view that creation of an elected Mayor post was not necessary.

### **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 23rd May 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

### **4. RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE**

Further to the Minutes of the last meeting, Mr M Fairs, Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee was present to update the Council on the current position with regard to the Recreation Ground and the football club.

Mr Fairs referred to the events of the 2015/16 season and the Committee's early involvement with Little Paxton FC. He was pleased to report that Great Paxton FC had now been re-established under the previous management team and that St Neots FC had agreed to occasional use of the Recreation Ground and undertaking of the grounds maintenance work. Mr Fairs described the work that had been undertaken to refurbish the Club House after it had been damaged during a break in and the security arrangements which had been put in place to prevent a reoccurrence of the incident.

The Parish Council thanked Mr Fairs for his attendance and for his positive and informative report.

### **5. LHI FUNDING – PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS TO THE B1043, PAXTON HILL**

Councillors were reminded that they had considered, at the last meeting, a series of plans prepared by the County Engineer (copies of which had been re-circulated in advance of the meeting) to implement the improvements envisaged by the Parish Council's successful LHI application for work to the B1043, Paxton Hill. The Parish Council had discussed these plans in detail but were of the view that they did not currently meet the objectives of the approved application.

The response of the County Council's Engineer to the comments made by the Parish Council had been circulated in advance. These were also read to the meeting by the Clerk. Having noted the comments made and after further discussion, it was

RESOLVED

that the Scheme as indicated in the plans prepared by the County Engineer be approved but that the County Council be advised of the Parish Council's desire for some form of highlighting, either by lighting, luminous paint or by any other alternative that the County might suggest to alert road users at the entrance to the Bridge of the danger to vehicles and cyclists caused by the slight 'kink' in the approach to this section.

## **6. PLANNING ISSUES**

**6.1 Application No: 16/00931/HHFUL – 41 Rectory Close, Great Paxton: Proposed Rear and Side Extension**

**6.2 Application No: 16/00932/HHFUL – Land at 41 Rectory Close: Demolition of Existing Garage and Erection of Dwelling and Associated Parking**

**6.3 Application No: 16/00940/HHFUL - 10 Meadow Way, Great Paxton: Single Storey Extension and First Floor Extension above Double Garage**

**6.4 Application No: 16/01122/FUL - 50 High Street, Great Paxton – Siting of a porta cabin for use as a community shop to be located in the car park at The Bell, High Street, Great Paxton**

**6.5 Application No: 15/01895/FUL - Replacement of a large shed with a Dunster House Lienne II Garden Office at 7A High Street, Great Paxton**

It was noted that all applications were still in progress with the District Council as at 11th July 2016. As the Parish Council had raised an objection to Application No 16/00932/HHFUL, the application had been referred to the District Council's Development Management Committee for determination. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillor Mrs J Peters be authorised to attend and speak in support of the Parish Council's recommendation at the Development Management Committee on 18th July 2016.

## **7. ELECTORAL REVIEW OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE - NEW DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Councillors considered draft recommendations published by the Local Government Boundary Commission on the future electoral arrangements for Huntingdonshire District Council. It had been proposed that a new Ward of Great Paxton would be created comprising the parishes of Great Paxton, Abbotsley, Great Gransden, Toseland, Waresley and Yelling and that Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy would switch to a new Godmanchester & Hemingford Abbots Ward. The new Great Paxton Ward would be represented by one rather than two District Councillors as at present.

Whilst there was some regret at the loss of one District Councillor, the Parish Council was of the view that the village sat naturally with those to be included in the new Ward. Having also received advice from the District Councillors present that close contact could be maintained with the Parish Council through attendance at meetings and correspondence with the clerk, Councillors

RESOLVED

that no representations be made to the Local Government Boundary Commission on the Electoral Review of Huntingdonshire.

## **8. REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

### **(i) Holy Trinity Church, Great Paxton**

The Parish Council considered the content of a letter received from the Secretary to the PCC requesting grant assistance of £1500 towards the upkeep of the Churchyard. Having been reminded that the Council had set aside £1250 for this purpose in the 2016/17 budget and whilst sympathetic to the increasing costs borne by the Church, it was

RESOLVED

that a donation of £1250 be awarded to the PCC, Holy Trinity Church for upkeep of the Churchyard.

### **(ii) Village Community Shop**

A letter from the Secretary to Great Paxton Community Shop Committee had been circulated in advance to Councillors. The Committee had requested a financial contribution from the Parish Council towards purchase of the shop, fixtures and fittings. Jude Hall, Secretary was present to answer questions from the Parish Council. Although indicating their support for the enterprise, Councillors were mindful that three Members were absent from the meeting and therefore, it was

RESOLVED

that a one off contribution of £1000 be approved, in principle, for the Community Shop Committee subject to consultation with the Chairman, Councillor Bond and Parish Councillors Beattie and Goodyer.

### **(iii) Hunts Society For The Blind**

### **(iv) Cambridgeshire Lowland Search & Rescue**

Having received requests for donations towards a building project and running costs respectively from the aforementioned organisations and been reminded of the Council's policy only to support organisations in the village, Councillors

RESOLVED

that the Hunts Society For The Blind and Cambridgeshire Lowland Search & Rescue be advised that their request for donations had not been supported by the Parish Council.

### **(v) Recreation Ground Committee**

In the light of the presentation made to the Parish Council earlier in the meeting and whilst pleased with the Chairman's report and the progress made by the Committee, the Parish Council agreed to defer consideration of the 2016/17 donation to the Recreation Ground

Committee to the next meeting in September when it was anticipated that the Chairman and Councillors Beattie and Goodyer would also be present.

## **9. PROPOSED CYCLE LINK – UPDATE**

As Councillor Beattie was absent, discussion on this item was deferred until the next meeting.

## **10. CORRESPONDENCE**

### **10.1 Highways England: A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet Scheme: Parish Forum (St Neots)**

Councillors noted that the Parish Council had expressed an interest in becoming a Member of the A428 Improvement Scheme Community Forum and that the Chairman had undertaken to represent the Council at the inaugural meeting to be held on 20th July 2016.

### **10.2 Internal Audit**

Councillors were pleased to note that the Internal Auditor, Mrs V Seekings had indicated that she would again undertake the Internal Audit for the Parish Council for the financial year 2016/17.

## **11. PARISH COUNCIL'S FACEBOOK ACCOUNT**

As Councillor Goodyer had previously indicated his willingness to set up a Facebook account on behalf of the Parish Council and as two items had arisen since the last meeting which had been appropriate for posting, it was

RESOLVED

that the proposal to set up a Parish Council Facebook Account be approved.

## **12. UPDATES**

### **12.1 Village Shop**

The Parish Council noted that the Community Shop Committee had now established its own Twitter and Facebook accounts and that the Planning Application for a 'portakabin' to act as the Community Shop had been submitted and was now under consideration by the District Council. Fundraising was now underway with £10,000 already raised against a target of £40,000. At the suggestion of Councillor Mrs Boddington, the Committee had submitted a request for financial assistance under the District Council's Community Chest and a grant of £5000 had recently been awarded to the Committee under this scheme. A share offer with a closing date of 16th July had been delivered to every house in Great Paxton, Toseland and Yelling and a potential concern with the location of the shop had been overcome when the future of The Bell had been resolved.

### **12.2 Village Website**

On behalf of David Lloyd, Editor, the Clerk reported that the village website was running without issue although the total number of visits had fallen to 175 in June, a decrease in comparison with previous months. Total hits to June were recorded at 11948.

### **12.3 Saxon Green – Repairs update and routine inspection**

The Clerk undertook to check the position with Councillor Beattie.

**Highways, Footpaths, Trees etc.**

There was nothing to report.

**13. FINANCE MATTERS**

Having noted the financial statement for the period to 30th June 2016 and following approval of a donation to the PCC, Holy Trinity Church for 2016/17, it was

**RESOLVED**

that the following invoices and payments be approved –

30th May – K Fergusons Ltd (Grounds Maintenance Contract)	£621.98
PCC, Holy Trinity Church – Donation	£1250
Mrs C Brandon – Reimbursement of expenses (Postage, 2 x Print Cartridges, A4 Office Paper, 2 x storage boxes, Annual parish meeting expenses and mileage (20 miles))	£86.64
Mrs C Brandon – Salary from 23rd May to 8th July 2016 (7 weeks)	£490

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12th September 2016 at 8pm.

**Chairman**