

**MINUTES of a meeting of GREAT PAXTON PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 12th September 2016 at Great Paxton School, Mount Pleasant, Great Paxton.**

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

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

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

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors W Bond, Mrs J Peters and R Widdowson. There were no declarations of interests nor requests for dispensation.

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

The Parish Council was requested to comment on the rising incidence of burglary in the village and whether the Police were taking any preventative action? Whilst there was some suggestion that the Police were aware of these incidents and appeared to have increased their presence in the village, the Clerk undertook to raise the question with PCSO Alan Newman and to report back to the resident who had raised the original enquiry.

A parishioner asked why the Village Show had not taken place over the summer. It was explained that Councillor Mrs Peters would normally lead the arrangements but had been unable to do so this year due to health issues. A Race Night was planned for November, the proceeds from which would be directed towards next year's event. The meeting understood that volunteers had come forward to assist Councillor Mrs Peters with next year's show.

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

District Councillor Mrs Boddington updated the meeting on the current status of several local highway improvement projects. In terms of the A14 - Cambridge to Huntingdon Sections, the Parish Council was informed that temporary compounds were being constructed at Brampton and Swavesey and that widening of the A1 between Alconbury and Brampton Hut would commence in December with a view to completion in summer 2018. Work on the new sections would also start in December but complete in summer/autumn 2019. The final phase would involve the removal of Huntingdon Viaduct and commencement of the new local road network from January 2020.

Regarding the improvements to the A428 Black Cat to Caxton Gibbet, the Parish Council noted the proposed timeline for consultation on scheme options (January to March 2017), announcement of preferred route (spring/summer 2017), development and formal consultation on preferred scheme (summer to autumn 2017) and after administrative procedures commencement of works in Spring 2020.

Lastly, Councillor Mrs Boddington explained that options were under early consideration for improvements from the M25 to A1 Peterborough to bring the sections between Baldock and Brampton up to motorway standard. Preferred options would then be considered, against 5 other schemes, as part of the Government's Road Investment Strategy.

District Councillor Richard West referred again to the District Council's Tree Warden Service and the suggestion that this may discontinue from March 2017. As a newly appointed member of the Overview & Scrutiny Panel (Finance & Performance), Councillor West indicated his intention to challenge this decision as, in his view, this service (together with grass cutting and refuse collection) was essential to Parish Councils.

Referring to the District Council's review of Orphan Sites and those listed in Great Paxton, Councillor West considered that it was important to identify who would take responsibility for such sites going forward.

### **County Councillor Julie Wisson**

Councillor Julie Wisson reported that she had responded positively to formal consultation in support of the scheme of improvements to the B1043, Paxton Hill.

The meeting also was informed that the Local Government Boundary Commission had published its final recommendations on future electoral arrangements for Cambridgeshire. As expected, Great Paxton would form part of a new 'St Neots East and Gransden Ward' to be represented by one County Councillor. Subject to parliamentary approval, these arrangements would be implemented at the County Council elections in May 2017.

Councillor Mrs Wisson reminded the meeting that public consultation had taken place recently on proposals for devolution of powers and resources from central government to a combined authority for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, presided over by an elected mayor. Cambridgeshire County Council would consider the outcome of the consultation at a meeting in October.

Lastly, the County Councillor made further reference to the proposed merger of Hinchingsbrooke Health Care NHS Trust and Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and advised that a meeting to discuss the proposal would take place at the Priory Centre on 19th September at 7pm. She understood that the proposals included a suggested merger of the back office and administrative operations of both hospitals which, whilst reducing overall costs, would not impact on accident and emergency support nor clinical services.

## **3. MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 11th July 2016 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Vice-Chairman.

## **4. PLANNING ISSUES**

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

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

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

**4.4 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**

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

Mindful of the attendance of Councillor Mrs J Peters at the meeting of the District Council's Development Management Committee on 18th July 2016 to speak in support of the Parish Council's objection to Application No 16/00932/HHFUL and whilst disappointed at the outcome, the Council

#### **RESOLVED**

that the decision of Huntingdonshire District Council to approve Application Nos 16/00931/HHFUL, 16/00932/HHFUL, 16/00940/HHFUL, 16/01122/FUL and 15/01895/FUL be noted.

### **5. LOCAL HIGHWAYS INITIATIVE**

#### **i. Proposed Improvements to the B1043, Paxton Hill - Progress**

The Parish Council noted that consultation on the scheme of improvements to the B1043 Paxton Hill had commenced and would continue until 28th September 2016. This would involve advertisements in local newspapers and notices in the village. If no objections to the scheme were received, it would proceed as indicated in the updated plans circulated to Councillors. Any objections submitted would require to be considered by a meeting of the County Council. Further to the comments of the Parish Council at its last meeting, it was reported that the County Engineer had added bridge parapet warning signs to the scheme to make drivers more aware of the narrowing of the bridge section. Despite misgivings, it was acknowledged that were the scheme to progress it could not accommodate a further reduction in the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph.

#### **ii. Application Process 2017/18**

The Parish Council noted that the County Council had launched its Local Highway Improvement Initiative for 2017/18 and that the closing date for applications was 30th November 2016. Having been reminded of several potential items which had arisen during discussion over the year and wishing to build on the improvements that were already underway as part of the 2016/17 application, the Council indicated their support for the installation of two 'priority give way traffic islands' to be located at both ends of the High Street. As the deadline for applications was some way off, the Parish Council requested the Clerk to invite a County Engineer to the next meeting to discuss a potential scheme in more detail.

### **6. County/District Council/Other Correspondence**

#### **i. Review of Orphan Sites – Request For Meeting**

The Parish Council was made aware that the District Council had recently undertaken a review of the ownership and maintenance of orphan sites. These were sites that were not on the Land Registry as owned by any party and/or had been left after development had taken place. Two sites of this nature had been identified in the village and both were located in Towgood Way. The District Council had recommended that future legal responsibility for both these sites should rest with the County Council. Although not yet aware of the County Council's response to this recommendation, the Parish Council did not

consider it necessary to meet the District Council to consider their conclusions at this stage. However, the Parish Council considered that it would be courteous to inform neighbours to the sites in question of their potential change in ownership and Councillor West undertook to contact the relevant Executive Councillor at the District Council for an update on progress of the review.

## **ii. Community Highways Volunteering Scheme (CCC)**

Councillors considered a request received from the County Council to encourage Community Highways Volunteering and to set up a scheme in the parish which would enable volunteers to undertake certain routine maintenance activities such as siding out, cutting back vegetation, sign cleaning and litter picking. As Councillors were unsure as to the likely response to a request for volunteers, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that information on the scheme and, particularly the litter picking element, be placed on the Parish Council's Facebook site to measure the response likely to be received to a call for volunteers and dependent on the outcome, to invite a Local Highways Officer to attend and give advice to a future meeting of the Council.

## **iii. Cambridgeshire ACRE – Membership Renewal**

After discussion, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that the Parish Council's annual membership of Cambridgeshire ACRE be renewed at a cost of £54.

## **7. COUNCIL INSURANCE – RENEWAL**

Having been advised that, in accordance with the Council's long term agreement with Came & Company, the Council had received an insurance renewal quote in the sum of £1,091.86 including insurance premium tax and having received a copy of the proposed policy for the year commencing 1st October 2016, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that a proposal to renew the Council's insurance arrangements with Came & Company for a premium of £1091.86 be approved.

## **8. FIELDS IN TRUST**

At the request of the Chairman, the Parish Council discussed an Initiative led by Fields in Trust, in partnership with the Royal British Legion, to secure Saxon Green as a recreational space in perpetuity in memory of those who lost their lives in World War 1.

Having regard to the eligibility criteria, the Parish Council had doubts whether Saxon Green had 'a tangible link to World War 1' and, in terms of the promise of legal protection, asked the Clerk to look into the legal status of the land should the application be supported. It was agreed to reconsider the matter again at a future meeting.

## **9. UPDATES**

### **i. Proposed Cycle Link – Progress**

Councillor Beattie reported that he had met Julia Watt, Land Architect from Groundwork and that following a tour of the village she had undertaken to prepare a proposed feasibility study for a cycle path. Given the tight timescale now for applications to the A14 Community Fund (15th September deadline), Councillor Beattie reported that he would hope the Council would be in a better position to apply for the next round of funding in November.

### **ii. A428 Improvement Scheme Community Forum**

Councillor Beattie reported on his attendance, on behalf of the Parish Council, at a meeting of the Community Forum on 21st July 2016. He explained that options for a proposed route were still under consideration and that further meetings would be held to discuss the scheme as matters progressed.

## **10. REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Further to Minute No 4 of the meeting held on 11th July 2016, in the light of the report received by the Parish Council at that meeting and having been assured that provision for the sum requested had been allocated in the budget, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that a donation of £1250 be awarded to the Recreation Ground Committee for 2016/17.

## **11. UPDATES**

### **11.1 Village Shop**

In the absence of Councillors Mrs Peters and Widdowson, the Vice Chairman invited Mrs Hall to update the Parish Council on progress with the Village Shop. Mrs Hall reported that the Committee had applied for funding to the A14 Community Fund, that shrubs, vegetation etc were to be cleared from the site on 24th September and that £3620 had been raised through the issue of share certificates. The opportunity to invest remained despite the closing date having passed. Further fundraising would take place in November together with the Annual General Meeting. In response to a question from the Vice-Chairman, it was understood that the Committee would await the outcome of their grant funding application before purchasing the shop unit.

### **11.2 Village Website**

On behalf of David Lloyd, Editor, the Clerk reported that the village website was running without issues and that the visitor count for August was 216. The Parish Council noted that the Editor planned to introduce links to 'What's On' in nearby towns such as St Neots, Huntingdon, Cambridge, Bedford etc (within 30 minutes travelling time from Great Paxton) to encourage increased visits to the site.

### **11.3 Saxon Green – Routine Inspection and repairs**

In terms of routine inspection of the play area, Councillor Beattie reported that he had recently visited the site and had not observed any issues requiring attention.

Having been reminded that some minor repairs had been recommended by ROSPA following their annual inspection of Saxon Green play area in April and having been advised of the quotations received from AOL Solutions for repairs to be undertaken with/without labour, the Parish Council

**RESOLVED**

that AOL Solutions be invited to undertake recommended repairs to Saxon Green play area and the quotation received for parts and installation labour in the sum of £241.56 be accepted.

**11.4 Highways, Footpaths, Trees etc**

There was nothing to report.

In response to matters raised by a Councillor and a member of the public, Councillor S Peters undertook to investigate the condition of the road surface on London Lane and the condition of the white lining at the 'stub' end of Rectory Close and advise the Clerk if any works were required at these locations.

**12. FINANCE MATTERS**

Having noted the financial statement for the period to 29th July 2016 and in addition to the payments authorised during the course of the meeting, it was

**RESOLVED**

that the following invoices and payments be approved –

11th July – Great Paxton Primary School (Hire of Meeting Room x2)	£24.00
24th August - xpress (Newsletter Print)	£118.00
31st August – K Fergusons Ltd (Grounds Maintenance Contract)	£932.97
Mrs C Brandon – Reimbursement of expenses (Norton Anti-Virus Annual Subscription)	£39.99
Mrs C Brandon – Quarterly Working At Home Expenses	£97.00
Mrs C Brandon – Salary from 11th July to 9th September 2016	£630.00
Great Paxton Community Shop Committee - donation (Approved 11.07.2016 Min No 8(ii))	£1000

**13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 24th October 2016 at 8pm.

#### **14. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

##### **RESOLVED**

that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted which contains information of a personal nature and employment related issues.

#### **15. EMPLOYMENT MATTERS**

The Parish Council noted its legal responsibilities in relation to workplace pensions under the Pensions Act 2008. The remaining business under this item was deferred in the absence of the Chairman.

**Chairman**