

GREAT COATES VILLAGE COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of Great Coates Village Council Meeting held at 7.00 pm in the Village Hall, Cooks Lane, Great Coates on 26th October 2017

Present:

Councillors S Thomas (chair) , Cllr G Mumby, Cllr K Green, Cllr Masterton, Cllr Cutting, Cllr Redgrift
Cllr Lawrance, J Waite (Clerk) , Cllr Barber, 1 member of the public.

1 To Receive apologies and reasons for absence, Ref 17/129

None given

2 To receive declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011 – being any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Members' Register of Interests. Ref 17/130

Cllr Thomas - planning application for 71 Station Road.

3 To approve the draft minutes of the Meeting held on 28th September 2017. Ref 17/131

Resolved to approve as a true record of the Meeting held on 28th September 2017.

Proposed Cllr Masterton, seconded Cllr Green . All in favour.

4 Public Questions. Ref 17/132

No questions raised.

5 Parish matters – To receive any report or consider any appropriate action. Ref 17/133

a) Council magazine - Submission date for the next issue is 17th November, with publication 1st December.

b) War Memorial - No further information has been received. Remembrance service 12th november, 9.30am at the church, 10.45am at the war memorial.

c) Casual Vacancy - There are currently two vacancies to fill. One nomination has been received, and was invited to attend tonight but due to family illness

d) Community event on October 15th - was well attended, and residents were happy with the work done on the ceiling. £15 was donated towards the cost of tea and coffee and this will be added to the budget for the next community event at Christmas.

e) Christmas Carols - December 9th - preparations have started for the carols at the tree event, with refreshments and Santa at the hall afterwards. A planning meeting is to be held on 1st November, 7.30pm at the hall. It was suggested to look at the possibility of a permanent tree in the hall grounds.

f) Grounds maintenance - The contractor has been contacted and council is waiting for notification of the date the work is to be done. The problem with the thermostats/heating has been reported.

6 Committee Reports. Ref 17/134

Cllr Sutton has requested from NELC a review of street lighting on footpath 49, as concerns have been raised that the Meadowbank end of very poorly lit - Cllr Barber informed council that this is now to be installed. Vegetation obscuring the existing lights was reported.

There are some daffodil bulbs available to the council for planting around the village - Cllr Lawrance to liaise with Cllr Barber to collect and organise planting.

7 Clerks Report. Ref 17/135

The village council website was discussed, as it is dated and the methods to update information are not straight forward. It was proposed to obtain quotes to look at improvements.

A reply has been sent regarding the Freedom Of Information request. A reply and the fee have not yet been received. The matter is now considered closed.

The data protection policy is to be looked at next meeting.

A complaint about speeding motorbikes has been received, and passed on to the police.

An email has been received raising issues as to the external audit. The questions raised were discussed and the points answered as follows:

a)The agenda was put on the website, but as it is sometimes not clear where, a new section has been added to the pages tab with the current agenda on.

b)The audit was discussed at the last meeting, (see min **Ref 17/124**). The audit was received by email on September 27th, in order for the legal deadline on 30th september for publication to be met. The original paper copy will be returned to the council in due course.

c)The issue of the word " unfounded" was discussed in the closed session of the meeting held on 31st August (see min **Ref 17/116**). There was no guidance or advice issued from the External Auditor suggesting changes to the way the Council finances are managed, in fact, improvements were noted.

d)The additional fees charged for the audit for 2016/17 were generated by the work done by the External Auditor in order to examine the challenge made by the resident. Therefore, the charges are directly related to the challenge being made, irrespective of the outcome of the challenge.

e)Section 1 assertion 4 was submitted as yes, and the external auditor's report have made recommendation that this should have been answered no. There was provision made for the correct amount of time for the public right to inspect the accounts in 2016, but as the accounts were held up by the internal audit, the period of the first 10 days of July was not within the inspection period advertised. This was noted by the External Auditor. The deadline of 30th September was not met in 2016, as the audit was held up by the challenge made and not returned to the council until March of 2017, hence the copy of the report emailed this year so that this deadline could be met.

f)Section 1 assertion 7 was submitted as yes, and the external auditor's report have made recommendation that this should have been answered no. This is in relation to the VAT reclaim being carried out, which has been done but was not shown in that years accounts, as it was after the 31st March year end.

g)All items asked for at the inspection were provided, and then provided again to the External Auditor, who found no issues with the way the financial aspects of the council are run or minuted.

h)The statement made in the email " As a member of the public I would like to have some assurance that these mistakes don't keep happening causing ongoing fines to the Parish Council. " is not correct. The Village Council have not been handed any fines by the External Auditor, the charges relate to the amount of work and correspondence entered into in order to complete the challenge made by the resident.

8 Finance. Ref 17/136

Schedule of payments was circulated and approved for payment. All payments were approved .

Proposed Cllr Green. Seconded Cllr Thomas. All in favour.

The budget update was given, with the current account standing at £41,202.13 and the reserve account standing at £30,372.38.

It was resolved to move £11,202 to the reserve account with the higher interest rate. The money in this account is ring fenced for Capital Projects, such as refurbishments to the hall and grounds.

A finance briefing meeting is to be held on November 15th at 7.30pm.

8 Planning Application Received. Ref 17/137

Application DM/0862/17 - No comments or objections
Application DM/0874/17/ADV - No comments or objections
Application DM/0840/17/FUL - No comments or objections

Chair closed the meeting and moved to closed session.

Meeting ended 9.05pm

Present:

Councillors S Thomas (chair) , Cllr K Green, Cllr Masterton, Cllr Mumby, Cllr Cutting, Cllr Lawrance Cllr Redgrift. J Waite (Clerk).

1 To Receive apologies and reasons for absence, Ref 17/138

None given.

2 To receive declarations of interest under the Localism Act 2011 – being any pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in agenda items not previously recorded on Members' Register of Interests. Ref 17/139

None received.

3 Resolve to formulate ready for release a statement relating to the facts and costs of the removal and re-sighting of the war memorial. Ref 17/140

Resolved to take legal advice on the wording of the written statement. The advice will be discussed at the meeting on November 23rd 2017.

Meeting Closed 9.35pm

Date of next meeting to be held at Great Coates Village Hall, Cooks Lane, Great Coates, Thursday 23rd November 2017 at 7.00pm.