

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GREAT COATES VILLAGE COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 28TH NOVEMBER 2013 AT 7.00 PM AT GREAT COATES VILLAGE HALL, GREAT COATES

Present: Cllr. Maasdam (Chairman)
Cllrs. Cutting, Winterburn, Redgrift, M Frankish, C Frankish,
Bagley and L Winterburn

Apologies: Cllr. Souter-Smith

In Attendance: Cllrs. Barber and Sutton (Ward Cllrs., NELC)

There were four members of public + Stephen McGrath (NELC), Cllr. M. Archer (Chair, Waltham Parish Council) + Simon Faulkner from Telegraph

13/101 To receive and accept apologies

Apologies received from Cllr. Souter-Smith due to work commitments – accepted.

Resolved: That apologies be received and accepted

13/102 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Code of Conduct 2012)

Cllr. Maasdam declared prejudicial interest in Newsletter distribution due to family member; Cllrs. Cutting and C. Frankish declared personal interest as members of WI on any WI matters and also personal interest as members of Village Hall Committee.

13/103 To approve the minutes of the previous meeting

Cllr. Redgrift advised Cllrs. that with regard to correspondence to Grass, minutes had recorded that he himself had said that he had seen a copy of the correspondence but he now wished to advise that he was incorrect and had not seen it, however he has seen it since – this was just for purposes of note.

Chairman read out e.mail from Cllr. Souter-Smith which had also been circulated to all members regarding proposed amendments to minutes. Chairman had returned to recording of meeting and listened three further times to the relevant items and the minutes reflected what was contained in the recording. Chairman asked for seconder for Cllr. Souter-Smith's proposal but there was no seconder therefore proposal failed. Show of hands as true record and signed by the Chairman.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting be accepted as true record

Public Break

Resident present regarding planning application for new dwelling. Taken advice from NELC and asked to present changes to VC meeting before submitting formal application to NELC. NELC Conservation Officer had recommended different design and this had moved doors and windows, taken away a separate driveway, lowered side lift and used brick rather than cladding. Asked to remove fences to divide driveway so it looks as it does now. Visually acceptable. Large garden. In principle Cllrs. had no issues with design.

13/104 Police Report for information

No police presence and no written report or information received. Cllr. Sutton (NELC) advised that he too had concerns at non attendance by police and lack of information and would be following this up. Agreed Clerk to chase for information.

Resolved: That Clerk request information from Police

13/105 Highways/Footpaths

- a) To receive update on transfer of land from Linden Homes and agree any necessary action

Transfer now completed. Agreed that once a month cut be undertaken in growing season and less during winter periods and basic maintenance price per cut obtained so that work can be done on request.

Resolved: That Clerk obtain quotations for grass cutting/general maintenance

- b) To receive NELC Draft Public Rights of Way Enforcement Policy
Clerk had circulated and Cllrs. to make comments as appropriate.

- c) To receive Clerk's report on general highways/footpaths/traffic issues
Nothing to note and any minor matters passed to appropriate bodies.

13/106 Great Coates Village Hall

- a) To receive minutes/report from Village Hall Committee Meeting and to consider any recommendations made inc provision of budget for Committee and provision of specified equipment

Minutes from Committee meeting had been circulated. Cllr. Cutting advised on community event – entertainment being sought and she would like to serve warm mulled wine and mince pies with £2.00 to include the refreshments. Quarterly events decided upon as fundraisers for the village hall and general community cohesion. March 2014 will be music event; international/cultural event in Summer; Autumn Drama and Dance and Christmas event in winter. Priority item for fundraising - Handwashing sink would be priority then storage and other kitchen facilities, more tables and chairs and lawnmower and metal shed outside.

Cllr. Cutting was trying to source a PA system and Cllr. Barber mentioned possible funding and answer to this request awaited. Clerk advised all hygiene bins now in place. Ladies fashion event being organized; regular table top sales; Over 50's club; luncheon club and ongoing advertising of the hall required especially advertising events further afield and any budget for "funding pot" for events etc. would be discussed as part of budget deliberations.

- b) To receive concerns from resident re gravel on Cooks Lane from Village Hall car park
Respond to resident and advise to keep watching brief.

Agreed to ask the Caretaker to sweep back the gravel and it was hoped that in time as more gravel bedded in, that this would be less of a problem. Clerk to advise resident and invite watching brief from resident to alert if problem maintained.

Resolved: that Caretaker be asked to assist with this and situation monitored

- c) To receive report on electrical works carried out and agree any necessary actions

Clerk advised that all outside lights now in place and works completed. Clerk also advised on situation with electrics related by Architect that electrical guarantees might be invalidated by further work from different contractor. Cllrs. were dismissive of this and advised any further works should not affect guarantees from previous contractors for separate works etc.

Ward Cllrs Report (b/f)

Cllr. Sutton advised no police presence at FF meeting either. Partly supporting the VC in writing to ask for presence at meetings and/or report, but also asking VC to be kind as well due to demands on Police time. He would like to be kept informed. Have approved £200 towards Christmas tree and carol singing expenses. Ward Cllrs. have been talking about sound system and have been considering it and when they have checked on ward funding amounts they will reach decision. Resident from public present very kindly said he could lend the VC a sound system. Matters from NELC were mainly matters concerning next year's budget. Issues of note are common area between Ferndown and Great Coates and still working with Hunters Copse re enforcement issues regarding Greenbelt etc. Cllr. Barber added that residents had been taking rubbish and dumping it on f/p 49 and NELC had cleaned it all up .

13/107 Planning Matters

The following planning applications were considered -

DM/0867/13/FUL Aylesby Road, Land West of Pyewipe Farm – erect wind turbine with hub height of 50 metres, Blade tip height of 77 metres and generation capacity of 900 kw

No objections.

To consider any other planning matters and/or receive correspondence

None.

13/108 Great Coates War Memorial

To receive information from specialist conservators on war memorial state, information re possible design for war memorial relocation project and agree any further action required

Chairman advised of quotation from specialist conservators which Clerk had obtained for repairs to border of memorial and also for cleaning/refurbishment prior to its resiting. Also initial, ball-park figure quote for more than £50k received for a proposed granite memorial as per the design favoured by NELC Officers. Cllrs. agreed that this cost would be prohibitive but the size of any memorial siting would be dictated by the size of the memorial to be resited. Clerk requested to send all information through to NELC, perhaps request further meeting and await response.

Resolved: That clerk send all information through to NELC for consideration

13/109 Future Dates

Next Meeting Date – To set date for December meeting – Thursday 19th December 2013
Carol Singing/Christmas Tree event – Saturday 7th December 2013

Clerk to purchase 70 selection boxes plus tea/coffee/milk/mince pies and allow for 100 approximately. Event to take place in village hall after carol singing around the tree - Santa and bell ringers to be present. Chairman and Cllrs. to organize visit from Father Christmas.

Resolved: That Clerk purchase refreshments and selection boxes.

To date for budget meeting - 19th December

NELC Governance Review, final quarterly meeting – 19th December

13/110 Reports

Remembrance Sunday – 10.11.13

Chairman advised that service had been held in Church as it had been previously. Usual format - Preceded by Sunday service and then special service after break for Remembrance Service – well attended and nice service. _Cllr. Cutting asked if any GRASS members had been present and Cllr. Bagley advised that they had not been in attendance.

Any other reports

Cllr. Winterburn reported on Liaison Meeting that had been held at the Hall. She had stepped in at last minute for Cllr. Redgrift. Reps from Novartis, BlueStar and Catch and Lenzing and new website for group would be live from 02.12.13. Novartis had diabetes testing session on world diabetes day; Bluestar being mothballed with 23 members being left on site and mothballed rather than shut down with natural wastage achieving most job losses; Lenzing on target and restructuring. Next meeting will be March, July and September of next year. Any companies who would like to join would be welcomed. Cllr. Winterburn added that safety leaflet would be distributed also.

13/111 Parish Matters

- a) **To agree report for submission to final Community Governance Review Meeting in December**

List of questions had been received from NELC and Chairman had checked on some queries and then distributed them to all Cllrs. for answers from VC as a whole.

Chairman went through questions and responses resolved as such –

Recommendation 1

- 1) We have reviewed documents advised Cllr. Frankish and as they are standard documents, the VC has changed a few of the details but they are model documents. Cllr. Redgrift said the Council was more aware of them and informed of them and the exercise had reminded the Cllrs. of them.
- 2) Cllrs. agreed that the finance regs which had been formally adopted dictate what the Council could or could not do and again, review of them had made Cllrs. more aware.
- 3) Cllrs. unsure as to what more they could do. On the whole it felt it had good relations with resident but that there was an element within village that the VC are having problems with. How the VC goes forward is for the Council to decide. Cllr. Redgrift advised that in his opinion a particular group of residents were thought to be digging their heels in and although the VC have invited them to work together, the VC was giving but they were not taking and were more wishing to “have a go” at the Council rather than trying to negotiate or conciliate. VC were criticized but dialogue requires two sides.

- 4) FOI – Clerk to answer that only one had gone over the time but this had been acknowledged within the proper time limits – all others had been dealt with according to requirements. The Clerk stressed to Cllrs. that not all of the requests called “FOI requests” were actually such.
- 5) Documents on website.

Recommendation 2

Advise NELC that the VC already has a press policy and has done so for many years, before the issue of the Hall arose, the press policy was already in place.

Role of Chairman

Reiterate Advanced Chairmanship – this had been undertaken by the Chairman and she had carried out the full, nationally accredited Advanced Chairmanship training course.

Training

Cllrs. agreed that what was covered was a very useful “refresher”

General report

Remembrance Service has taken place and the answers should make reference to questions from GRASS.

- b) To receive correspondence from GRASS regarding membership of Village Hall Committee and consider and agree any action

Cllrs. agreed that details of names and addresses of residents who had approached the Council could not be revealed due to data protection issues. Cllrs. thought that letter was simply fuelling the issue further. Agreed response from the Council that the information cannot be given out and that it should be taken on trust if the Council has reported it has had such approaches. Grass had now confirmed that it did not wish to join the Hall Committee.

IT was agreed that the request for revenue for hall be run quarterly via the magazine. Regarding the request from GRASS that the war memorial image be removed from the current VC website as it showed disrespect and was insensitive now that the memorial was no longer in situ – Cllrs. disagreed with this and advised it is a historical picture only. Cllr. Cuting advised that GRASS’s concern for the war memorial did not seem to fit in with the fact that no representative from the organization had turned up for the Remembrance Sunday service. The Councillors agreed it would be more disrespectful to remove the picture.

Resolved: That the clerk respond to GRASS with the above points

13/112 Information Update

- a) Information received from NELC, ERNLLCA inc details/reminder of Cllrs. access to ERNLLCA website including members pages

All in circulation bag and Clerk reminded Cllrs they were free to log into the members pages of the ERNLLCA website when passwords had been refreshed – ERNLLCA were about to launch new website.

- b) Input from Ward Councillors if present

Covered earlier in meeting.

13/113 Great Coates Community News

Next edition – February/March 2014 - Closing date – 15.01.13

13/114 Finance

To approve cheques for authorisation as per list presented

List circulated and all accounts approved for payment.

Resolved: That payments be made as per list distributed

To receive six monthly/half yearly accounts for fy 13/14

Clerk had presented half yearly accounts for fy 13/14 and these were formally received and approved.

Resolved: That half yearly accounts for fy 13/14 be formally received and accepted

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.56pm