

GREAT ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Monday 19 May 2014

Present at the meeting.

Council members: Cllr K Binley (in the Chair), Cllr C Fry, Cllr C May, Cllr H Mayes, Cllr N Palmer and Cllr E Scott.

Also in attendance: Mrs H Hoier (Clerk), Cllr S Hughes (NCC Irthlingborough Ward) and four members of the public, including representatives of Addingtons organisations.

14/1 Introduction and welcome.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited members of the public to participate by asking questions or raising issues whenever they felt that this was appropriate.

14/2 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr D Hughes (ENC Woodford Ward) and Mrs J Thornton (Addingtons Amblers).

14/3 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 May 2013.

These minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14/4 Matters arising from the previous meeting.

There were no specific matters arising from the previous meeting but the Chairman will refer to utilising the vehicle activated sign (VAS) and other available traffic calming schemes; monitoring of planning/enforcement and highway maintenance issues; campaigning for effective broadband quality/speed together with ensuring the community and its facilities are sustainable when presenting his report for 2013/14 (minutes 13/5 and 13/8 refer).

14/5 Chairman's Report for 2013/14.

Cllr K Binley began by summarising the roles and responsibilities of GAPC (with particular reference to financial management, planning consultation, communication with interested parties, working in partnership with local organisations together with awarding grants for the benefit of Great Addington residents) and the latest details of the Council's current activities were provided. As in previous years, effective traffic calming schemes, broadband quality/speed, planning/enforcement, highway maintenance as well as community sustainability were confirmed as priorities for the forthcoming year. Cllr Binley complimented residents of Great Addington and the local surrounding area for their commitment to their community and for their various achievements throughout the year. The Chairman concluded his report by thanking his fellow Councillors, the Clerk; representatives of Addingtons organisations, the County, the District and the Police for their support and contributions throughout 2013/14.

14/6 Reports from Local Authority representatives.

a) Cllr D Hughes (ENC Woodford Ward).

Cllr D Hughes was unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report summarising the activities of ENC. As in the previous year, Cllr D Hughes reported that ENC continues to face challenges and financial constraints but confirmed that it has been able to fulfil its responsibilities. The waste/recycling collection service is efficient both in terms of financial and environmental cost while proceeds from the sale of unwanted capital assets have been used to improve leisure facilities. ENC Development Control has been successful recently in protecting Lyveden New Bield from the development of a proposed wind farm which would have an adverse effect on the surrounding countryside, however there are delays regarding the Rushden Lakes Development. ENC supports various voluntary services and grants continue to be available (including the Member Empowerment Fund) to improve community facilities throughout East Northamptonshire. Cllr D Hughes concluded his report by thanking the Councillors and the Clerk of GAPC for their co-operation throughout 2013/14.

b) Cllr S Hughes (NCC Irthlingborough Ward).

Cllr S Hughes reported that NCC also continues to face challenges and financial constraints but confirmed that it has been successful in fulfilling its responsibilities as well as achieving national recognition for its achievements. The Highways Maintenance Initiative is the most notable with pothole related claims against NCC decreasing from 97% to 45% and several other authorities adopting the same approach. Other innovative schemes including Superfast Northamptonshire and the Northamptonshire Enterprise Partnership have been

successful, with libraries being utilised to provide advisory services to families and businesses. Youth unemployment has decreased significantly and research has concluded that Northampton is the best place in the country for business. Investment in leisure provision and tourism has continued and grants to improve community facilities within Irthlingborough Division (including via the Empowering Councillors and Communities scheme) are available. Cllr S Hughes concluded her report by thanking the Councillors and the Clerk of GAPC for their co-operation throughout her first year of office.

14/7 Reports of Addingtons organisations.

- a) **Addingtons Amblers.**
The report of the Addingtons Amblers was read on behalf of Mrs J Thornton.
- b) **Addingtons Artisans.**
The report of the Addingtons Artisans was read on behalf of Mrs M Derwin.
- c) **Addingtons Horticultural Society.**
The report of the Addingtons Horticultural Society was read on behalf of Mrs G Underwood.
- d) **Addingtons Ladies Group.**
The report of the Addingtons Ladies Group was read on behalf of Mrs B Shawyer.
- e) **Addingtons Parent and Tots Group.**
The report of the Addingtons Parent and Tots Group was read on behalf of Mrs R York.
- f) **Addingtons Playing Field Association.**
Cllr C Fry (GAPC) presented a report on behalf of the Addingtons Playing Field Association.
- g) **Addingtons Pre-School.**
The report of the Addingtons Pre-School was read on behalf of Mrs J Johnson.
- h) **Addingtons Youth Club.**
The report of the Addingtons Youth Club was read on behalf of Mrs A Little.
- i) **Great Addington CEVA Primary School Governors.**
The report of Great Addington CEVA Primary School Governors was read on behalf of Mr R Meekings.
- j) **Great Addington Memorial Hall Committee.**
Cllr E Scott (GAPC) presented a report on behalf of Great Addington Memorial Hall Committee.

14/8 Village issues.

- a) **Traffic calming schemes.**
The latest Community Speed Watch (CSW) data box results were noted along with the fact that 62 warning letters were sent to drivers who were identified speeding at 35 mph and over. It was acknowledged that participation in CWS is worthwhile because of the additional benefits of follow up visits and continued support from Northamptonshire Police but that more volunteers trained in using the equipment are needed (minutes 13/5 and 13/8 refer).
- b) **Grass verge mowing.**
Concerns were raised regarding the poor quality and infrequency of grass verge mowing by the current grounds maintenance contractors and it was acknowledged that this is having safety implications for residents living near the bank in Lower Street.
- c) **Footpath maintenance/routes.**
Concerns were raised regarding the maintenance/routes of some footpaths in Great Addington and it was acknowledged that it may sometimes be unclear whether an issue is the responsibility of the landowner and/or the highway authority.
- d) **Dog fouling.**
It was noted that dog fouling continues to be an issue of concern for residents and that the purchase of two dog bins has been approved. It was acknowledged that the location of the bins must be considered carefully so that they are as effective as possible in controlling dog fouling (minute 13/8 refers).

14/9 Conclusion.

In conclusion, the Chairman reiterated that residents of Great Addington and the local surrounding area should be very proud of their community and of their achievements throughout the year before thanking all those who had contributed to the meeting (the original reports will be retained with the minutes).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm.

These draft minutes are subject to approval at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 20 May 2015.