

GREAT ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2007 in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm

07/1 Present at the meeting.

Councillors:

Cllr C Fry (in the Chair), Cllr K Binley, Cllr P Eason, Cllr N Palmer and Cllr P Perkins OBE.

In attendance:

Mrs H Hoier (Clerk), Cllr A Langley (NCC), Mrs H Buckley (School Governors), Mrs J Mayes (School Governors and Neighbourhood Watch), Mrs M Etheridge (Memorial Hall Committee), Mr J Page (Memorial Hall Committee), Mrs J Smith (NVCA), Mrs A Adkins, Mr J Adkins, Mr D Cole, Mrs S Cole, Mr A Farden, Mr P Fiander, Mr G Hall, Mr D Newman (Hare and Hounds), Mrs D Redward, Mrs J Smith, Mr R Smith, Mrs J Thornton and Mrs A Wilkinson.

Apologies for absence:

Cllr C May (GAPC), Cllr H Mayes (GAPC), Cllr D Hughes (ENC), Mrs M Brown (Addingtons Youth Club) and Cllr B Northall (ENC).

07/2 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.

07/3 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 15th May 2006.

These minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to amending minute 06/7 c) to read "Mr M Redward" instead of "Mr M Reward".

07/4 Matters arising from the previous meeting.

The Clerk reported that Mr D Moody (NALC County Secretary) has advised that organizations should ascertain exactly what an insurer expects of trustees with regard to public liability insurance of fully equipped play areas as it is unusual to demand detailed daily inspections (please see minute 06/6). Weekly visual checks along with more detailed monthly inspections and a formal annual inspection should suffice.

07/5 Chairman's Report for 2006/07.

The Chairman began by welcoming Cllr P Eason to his first Annual Parish Meeting as a member of Great Addington Parish Council (GAPC) before thanking Mr J Hall for his valuable contribution over many years to both GAPC (as Vice-Chairman and Internal Controller) and to Great Addington (2002 Village Plan). As is customary, the roles and responsibilities of GAPC were then summarized (with particular reference to financial management, planning consultation, communication with interested parties/local organizations and donations for the benefit of Great Addington residents). The Precept for 2007/08 has been held at £6,046 (the same level as for 2006/07) and support of the Community Planning Network (funded by the Rockingham Forest Trust) continues to be an effective method of influencing any planning decisions which may affect the local area as a consequence of the Milton Keynes and South Midlands (MKSM) development. Cllr C Fry concluded his final annual report after 7 years as Chairman by thanking his fellow Councillors, the Clerk, Local Government members for the District and County Councils and all Addingtons organization representatives for their support and contributions throughout the last year.

07/6 Reports from Local Government members.

a) Cllr A Langley (NCC Irthlingborough Division).

Cllr A Langley began by summarizing his roles and responsibilities both at County Hall and within the Irthlingborough Division (with particular reference to his special interest in highway maintenance and his involvement with financial management). The potentially inadequate infrastructure funding to sustain the anticipated growth in Northamptonshire as a result of the MKSM development remains a priority for Cllr Langley, along with the preservation of green spaces around communities. Cllr Langley pledged his continued support of Great Addington as he concluded his report (referring to the current proposals to build a new school on the Addingtons Playing Field and renovate the Memorial Hall) before thanking the Councillors and the Clerk of GAPC for their co-operation over the last year.

- b) **Cllr D Hughes (ENC Woodford Ward).**
Cllr D Hughes reported that the anticipated structural reorganization of District and County Councils in Northamptonshire (please see minute 06/6) was resisted and the 3 tier system has been retained. Capital grants to rural communities/organizations are now available and Cllr Hughes was keen to promote the Volunteer Centre's Car Scheme. After summarizing his roles and responsibilities while serving on the Planning and Audit Committees as well as the Standards Board, Cllr Hughes concluded his report by thanking the Councillors and the Clerk of GAPC for their support during the last year.

07/7 Reports of Addingtons organizations.

- a) **Addingtons Horticultural Society (AHS).**
Mrs J Tattersall reported that the AHS has enjoyed yet another very successful year with a consistently high standard of speakers along with several enjoyable events and visits. There are still over 50 members and the finances remain healthy. The Annual Show (which had an all time record number of entries) was particularly successful and the involvement of pupils from Great Addington CE (VA) Primary School was a welcome addition to this event.
- b) **Addingtons Ladies Group (ALG).**
Mrs M Hulatt reported that the ALG has enjoyed another interesting year with a varied range of speakers and visits. The ALG has thrived since its separation from the Women's Institute and the membership has now risen to over 30.
- c) **Addingtons Parent and Toddler Group (APTG).**
Mrs H Hoier reported that the APTG meets regularly in the Memorial Hall and occasionally at the Playing Field or in the garden of the Hare and Hounds. The APTG provides an informal environment for young children and their parents to meet and make lasting friendships.
- d) **Addingtons Playing Field Association (APFA).**
Mr M Redward was pleased to report that younger residents of the Addingtons (the Holiday Club and the APTG) along with pupils from Great Addington CE (VA) Primary School have made use of the Playing Field on many occasions during the summer months. Mr Redward referred to the current proposal to build a new school on the Playing Field and hoped that this might result in enhancements to the existing facilities (subject to approval) together with renewed interest from parents in joining the APFA (please see minutes 05/7 and 06/6).
- e) **Addingtons Pre-School (APS).**
Mrs H Hoier reported that Mrs S O'Connor and her team (supported by the enthusiastic and hard working Committee) provide an excellent environment for children to learn through play. The APS has managed to remain positive throughout 2006/07 despite significant challenges. A Finance and Fundraising Group has recently been formed to address financial difficulties and Mrs O'Connor is confident that the APS is fully prepared for Ofsted.
- f) **Addingtons Stitchers (AS).**
Mrs J Woodward was pleased to report that the original group of 6 members has now trebled and this success has prompted the AS to offer additional sessions to any craftsperson. The AS also plans to organize an exhibition to raise funds for the renovation of the Memorial Hall.
- g) **Addingtons Youth Club (AYC).**
Mrs M Brown was pleased to report that membership of the AYC has now increased to 40 and a varied programme of activities has been offered. The AYC provides a safe meeting place with a Christian ethos in which young residents of the Addingtons may socialize.
- h) **Great Addington CE (VA) Primary School Governors.**
Mrs J Mayes was proud to report that the School has enjoyed yet another successful year under the popular and dynamic leadership of Mr R Meekings despite the difficulties caused by the building's size and age. Ofsted has awarded Grade 1 (Outstanding) to the School for developing 'skills that will contribute to future economic well-being' and Grade 2 (Good) for all other categories. Mrs Mayes referred to the current proposal to build a new school on the Addingtons Playing Field and welcomed any comments/ideas regarding this.

07/8 Village issues.

- a) **Village Shop in the Hare and Hounds.**
Mr D Newman attended the GAPC meeting held on Monday 19th February 2007 to inform the Council of his intention to apply for a 'Pub is the Hub' Village Shop Scheme grant (to sell basic provisions from the Hare and Hounds) and to ask for feedback regarding this. GAPC considered Mr Newman's proposal to be of benefit to Great Addington residents and this view was unanimously supported by all those present.

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- b) **Neighbourhood Policing.**
PCSO G Cross attended the GAPC meeting held on Monday 16th April 2007 and introduced himself as a representative of the East Northants Central Safer Community Team (ENCST). PCSO Cross advised that all parts of the County are to have a SCT (to tackle the crime and disorder problems identified as the most relevant to a local community) and requested the Council's assistance to determine the 3 most important issues in Great Addington. It was unanimously agreed by all those present that motorists exceeding the 30 mph speed limit and/or parking inconsiderately cause the most concern to residents of Great Addington and this information will be passed on to the ENCST.
- c) **Relocation of the School to the Addingtons Playing Field.**
Mrs H Buckley summarized the latest details of the current proposal to build a new school on the Addingtons Playing Field and Cllr Langley explained that the safety implications of this (with particular reference to the width of the footway) would need to be carefully assessed. GAPC has considered the School Governors' proposal to be of benefit to Great Addington since receiving Mrs J Mayes' presentation at the meeting held on Monday 26th June 2006 and this view was supported by the majority of those present.
- d) **Renovation of the Memorial Hall.**
Mr J Page summarized the latest details of the current proposal to renovate the Memorial Hall and explained that this is a significant undertaking with an estimated cost in excess of £60,000. Capital grants are available (please see minute 07/6) and fundraising events have been planned. The Quiz Night held on Friday 13th April 2007 was particularly successful (a total of £600 was raised) and a Race Night at the Hare and Hounds has been arranged for Saturday 30th June 2007. Mr Page's report was favourably received by all those present.
- e) **Preparation of a Parish Plan (PP).**
Cllr N Palmer explained the purpose of a PP and appealed for volunteers to assist with the preparation of a questionnaire for this. A PP is a 'blueprint' for the future which defines the issues, needs and aspirations of a community for the next 5 years and it enables a Council to make informed decisions in order to provide a better service for local residents.
- f) **Paving and bollards along the Main Street verge.**
GAPC considered the installation of bollards and a cobbled surface along the Main Street verge to be of benefit to Great Addington at the meeting held on Monday 16th October 2006. This view was supported by the majority of those present (subject to available funding) as it would discourage motorists from mounting the kerb.
- h) **Other suggestions for village improvements.**
It was unanimously agreed by all those present that the service to clear the footways could be more efficient (with particular reference to Lower Street and the footway between Great and Little Addington) and this was acknowledged by GAPC.

07/9 Conclusion.

An expression of thanks was given to all those who contributed to the meeting (the original reports will be retained with the minutes).

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

Signed by Cllr K Binley (Vice-Chairman) at the APM held on Monday 12th May 2008.