

GREAT ADDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 20 May 2015

Present at the meeting.

Council members: Cllr A Fischelis, Cllr C May, Cllr H Mayes, Cllr N Palmer and Cllr M Scott.

Also in attendance: Mrs E Scott (GAPC Chairman for 2014/15), Mr C Fry (GAPC Vice-Chairman for 2014/15), Mrs H Hoier (Clerk), Cllr D Hughes (ENC Woodford Ward), Cllr S Hughes (NCC Irthlingborough Division) and six members of the public, including representatives of Addingtons organisations.

15/1 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.

15/2 Apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs J Thornton (Addingtons Amblers).

15/3 Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 19 May 2014.

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

15/4 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 along with ensuring the community and its facilities are sustainable when presenting her report for 2014/15 (minutes 14/5 and 14/8 refer).

15/5 Chairman's Report for 2014/15.

The Chairman 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. Mrs Scott noted that Cllr H Mayes is the longest serving member of GAPC (since 1974) and welcomed Cllr C Wilkinson who has been elected for the first time this year following an uncontested election. The Chairman then thanked Mr C Fry for his valued input while serving as a member of GAPC since 1999. As in previous years, traffic calming schemes, planning/enforcement, community facilities, highway/environmental maintenance, broadband quality/speed as well as community sustainability were confirmed as priorities for the forthcoming year. Mrs Scott 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 her report by thanking her fellow Councillors, the Clerk; representatives of Addingtons organisations, the County, the District and the Police for their support and contributions throughout 2014/15.

15/6 Reports from Local Authority representatives.

a) Cllr D Hughes (ENC Woodford Ward).

Cllr D Hughes began by 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 the Rushden Lakes Development which has now been approved should boost the local economy. 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 2014/15.

b) Cllr S Hughes (NCC Irthlingborough Division).

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 improving its services, particularly for young people. Cllr Hughes explained that a new more effective model for providing services is currently being developed. Grants continue to be available (including the Empowering Councillors and Communities scheme) to improve community facilities throughout Northamptonshire. Cllr S Hughes concluded her report by thanking the Councillors and the Clerk of GAPC for their co-operation throughout 2014/15.

15/7 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.**
Mr C Fry 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 T Frost.
- h) **Great Addington CEVA Primary School Governors.**
The report of Great Addington CEVA Primary School Governors was read on behalf of Mr R Meekings.
- i) **Great Addington Memorial Hall Committee.**
Mrs E Scott presented a report on behalf of Great Addington Memorial Hall Committee.
- h) **Ringstead Grange Quarry Liaison Group.**
Cllr H Mayes presented a report on behalf of Ringstead Grange Quarry Liaison Group.

15/8 Village issues.

- a) **Traffic calming schemes.**
Cllr A Fischelis reported on the activities of the Traffic Calming Workgroup which has been created to monitor current resources and seek new affordable options. It was acknowledged that participation in Community Speed Watch (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 14/5 and 14/8 refer).
- b) **Slow speed/poor quality of broadband.**
It was acknowledged that the slow speed/poor quality of broadband has been an issue of concern for Great Addington residents for several years and the availability of an upgraded service by the end of the year was welcomed by everyone present.
- c) **Disruption to digital television services and mobile networks.**
A concern was raised regarding disruption to digital television and mobile networks but it was acknowledged that this could be site specific because no similar issues have been reported by Great Addington residents in the past.
- d) **Pet fouling.**
It was noted that although the purchase of two dog bins has helped to address the problem of dog fouling, some pet owners continue to act irresponsibly. Residents have found cat faeces in their gardens and dog waste bags in their wheelie bins (minute 14/8 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 8.40 pm.

These draft minutes are subject to approval at the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 18 May 2016.