

Groton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7 pm Wednesday 6 July 2016 at Groton Village Hall,
Broad Street, Groton

Present: J Osborne (Chair), P Roberts, C Fraulo, N Cox, A Dixon-Smith

In attendance: A Robinson (Clerk), B Hurren (BDC)

1. Apologies for absence – there were none
2. Councillors' declarations of interest in items on Agenda – there were none.
3. The Minutes of the meeting of 4 May 2016 were approved and signed, proposed A Dixon-Smith, seconded P Roberts.
4. Casual vacancies – 4 people had put their names forward and after discussion the Council unanimously agreed to co-opt Debbie Wills and Roland Cheeseman. Thanks were expressed to all candidates for their interest.
5. Reports and questions from Councillors and members of the public – C Fraulo had attended the SALC meeting and reported that they had promoted the Dial-a Ride bus service. J Osborne had attended the Boxford Community Council meeting and reported that 2017 is the 50th anniversary of the Playing Fields. Celebrations are planned and Groton PC will be happy to support these. J Osborne also attended the Babergh Town and Parish Liaison Meeting which had covered devolution (although plans are now in disarray following the rejection of the scheme by several Councils) and the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). He had also attended the Village Hall AGM and is involved with the Hadleigh Boxford Group Practice's Patient's Group.
6. Reports
 - 6.1. J Finch (SCC) was not in attendance.
 - 6.2. J Osborne welcomed B Hurren (BDC) back after his recent illness. B Hurren said that the Chief Executive of BDC is leaving and her Deputy is taking over until a replacement has been recruited. He reported uncertainty following the referendum. The new CIL is now in place. There are benefits to those parishes who have a neighbourhood plan- B Hurren will put J Osborne in touch with Boxford regarding this. The Quay Theatre has recently been working with 6th form students who have come up with some good business ideas. The allocation of properties at Station Field will take place shortly. There is some progress on the mobile phone mast issue and he hopes to report further at the next meeting.
7. Planning Matters
 - 7.1. No planning applications had been received.
 - 7.2. The planning application for Sadlers Nap, Milden (B/16/00345) for the erection of a single storey extension with balcony over has been approved.
 - 7.3. Local housing update – C Fraulo reported that Hastoe Housing were continuing negotiations with the landowner but there is no further news.
 - 7.4. Community Emergency Planning – it was agreed to leave this over until the next meeting.
8. Correspondence - The Clerk drew Councillors' attendance to the SNT Police Report which had been circulated. This is available via Suffolk Constabulary's website <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods.aspx>. She reported that she had completed the pension declaration now that the PC's staging date had passed, in order to comply with requirements, although she does not work enough hours to be entitled to a pension.
9. Highway and Footpath matters.
 - 9.1. Footpath cutting – A Dixon-Smith reported that he had now cut all the footpaths on his land in Groton. He had liaised with SCC regarding their cutting but was unable to meet them. The PC resolved to request SCC to hand over the budget for footpath cutting for the 2017-18 financial year and the PC will then make its own

arrangements for cutting, in order to have more control.

9.2. Dog fouling issues – The PC resolved to purchase a green dog waste bin to be situated on the highway in Groton Street near the entrance to The Croft. The Clerk and Chairman will liaise with BDC regarding the siting. The Clerk reported that she had attended a course the previous day where it was explained that Dog Control Orders had now been repealed and replaced with Public Spaces Protection Orders which cover any nuisance. PCs can liaise with the Rights of Way officer at SCC and with BDC to request such an order which can cover, for example, the number of dogs people can walk at any one time. The Clerk will provide C Fraulo with the details and the matter will be considered further.

9.3. Other highway matters – David Stiff from SCC had emailed regarding the query raised about flooding at Park Corner. The response is confusing and the Clerk and Chairman will liaise further about this.

It was noted that Groton Street has now been resurfaced and Councillors were pleased to note that the 30mph roundels had been repainted. However, the contractors had left potholes by the side of the road in a few places.

There was a report of someone regularly driving down Butchers Lane very quickly, which was dangerous for pedestrians, cyclists and other motorists. It was resolved that the Clerk would put a note in the BRN regarding this issue.

R Kelsey had advised J Osborne that she had raised the issue of littering and dog fouling in Groton Wood with Suffolk Wildlife Trust, who had told her that a local volunteer would be needed to walk the wood regularly and report any issues. C Fraulo offered to do this.

10. Financial matters

10.1. The Statement of Finance and Orders for Payment were approved as under, proposed by P Roberts and seconded by C Fraulo.

Reserve account as at 3 June 2016	£3517.57
Current account as at 3 June 2016	<u>£4526.55</u>
Total	£8044.12

Cheque no	Amount	Payee	Purpose
712	£20.05	A Robinson	Clerk's expenses May-June 2016
713	£249.99	A Robinson	Laptop for PC purchased with Transparency Fund Grant
714	£440.54	A Robinson	Clerk's salary April-June 2016
715	£1.40	HMRC	Tax on Clerk's salary
716	£127.68	SALC	Subscription for 2016/17

10.2. The PC resolved that the Clerk could purchase Microsoft Office 2016 for the new PC laptop on a yearly basis.

10.3. The Clerk reported that since her annual contractual salary increase had been agreed at the last meeting, the NJC had finalised negotiations for the annual increase in rates for the Spinal Column Point from 1 April 2016. The Council resolved that the Clerk's salary, at SCP 18, should include this increase backdated to 1 April 2016.

10.4. The Clerk reported that she had received confirmation from the bank that the bank mandates for signatories had now been completed and all was in order.

11. Future agenda items were agreed as dog bins, footpaths, Park Corner junction.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.14 pm.

Chairman

Date