

**Groton Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held at 7 pm Wednesday 6 September 2017 at Groton**  
**Village Hall, Broad Street, Groton**

**Present:** J Osborne, C Fraulo, D Wills, P Roberts, A Dixon-Smith, N Cox, R  
Cheeseman

**In attendance:** A Robinson (Clerk); B Hurren (BDC)

1. **Apologies for absence** – none.
2. **Councillors' declarations of interest** – none.
3. The **Minutes** of the meeting of 5 July 2017 were approved and signed.
4. **Reports** – B Hurren (BDC) advised that the move to Endeavour House has been delayed to the first week in October. The boundary review proposals have been controversial as some take no account of interaction between villages, including the separation of Groton and Edwardstone from Boxford, though there are alternatives which aim to keep them together. J Osborne has sent a note to the Boundary Commission with his views on this. B Hurren said there will be a further opportunity to comment once the Boundary Commission has made its recommendations in November. There is nothing in the draft Joint Local Plan that affects Groton directly. The phone mast on the A1071 has now been turned on and signals in Boxford and around are much improved. The proposals for Groton Manor were approved at the planning meeting. Boxford PC is still hoping to take proposals for a Neighbourhood Plan forward and he will ensure that Groton is invited to any meetings on this. The Konings application for Boxford Farm (Copella) is proving controversial due to potential additional heavy vehicle movements.
5. **Reports and questions from Councillors** – J Osborne advised that Martin Wood had let the Clerk have an old Parish Council folder of Minutes which has been helpful in finally establishing the position regarding the Parish Fields. J Osborne has compared the Minutes of Groton PC and Groton United Charities and it is clear that the Parish fields were vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands in 1913, as recently confirmed by the Charity Commission. This land is sometimes described as Powers Land. There is therefore no doubt that responsibility is firmly with Groton United Charities and the Fields can be removed from the Parish Council Asset Register.
6. **Electoral review** – dealt with at 4 above.

- 7. Planning Matters**
- 7.1. **Applications received** – none.
- 7.2. **Planning decisions received** – Groton Manor – approved; Oakwood Lodge, Daisy Green – approved; The Old Rectory Cottage, Groton Street – approved.
- 7.3. **Parish boundary issues** – there had been concern about potential changes to the local boundaries but this was a misunderstanding and there is nothing of concern.
- 7.4. **Local housing update** – J Osborne reported that he had chased Hastoe Housing Association and they assured him they are still committed to the project. They will revert once documentation is in order.
- 7.5. **Community Emergency Plan** - The Clerk has updated the draft and it was approved. D Wills will discuss with the Village Hall Committee at the next meeting.
8. **Chairman’s and Clerk’s reports and correspondence** – The Clerk reported that she had a hard copy of the Joint Local Plan which can be borrowed. She will order a poppy wreath for Remembrance Day.
- 9. Highway and Footpath matters**
- 9.1. **Footpath cutting** – J Osborne reported that he and C Fraulo had liaised and approached 3 people for quotes. One has been received so far. The Clerk is to advise SCC that Groton PC wishes to take over the budget from April 2018.
- 9.2. **Park Corner** – the Clerk will chase the outstanding drainage work in a few months.
- 9.3. **Other Highway or Footpath matters** – The Clerk will again report the appalling state of Howe Road, particularly from The Spong to Castlings Heath. There are many yellow markings but no sign of any work taking place.
- 10. Financial matters**
- 10.1. The Statement of Finance and Orders for Payment were approved as under, proposed by P Roberts and seconded by R Cheeseman.

Reserve account as at 4 August 2017	£3518.60
Current account as at 4 August 2017	<u>£4092.13</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£7610.73</u></b>

**Payments received**

28/7/17 HMRC VAT refund	£125.17
24/7/17 HMRC tax refund from 2015	£68.20

<u>Cheque no</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Purpose</u>
000745	£22.66	Anita Robinson	Clerk’s expenses July-Aug 2017
000746	£196.27	Business Services at CAS	Insurance Premium
d/d	£35	Information Commissioner	Data Protection Annual Registration

- 10.2. The adequacy of the budget was considered and approved.
- 10.3. The insurance quote was considered and approved.
- 10.4. The external auditor’s report was considered and approved.
11. Future agenda items were agreed as footpath cutting, local housing update, proposed dog waste bin for near the Village Hall.
12. The next meeting will be on 1 November 2017 at 7pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm.

Chairman

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