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GREAT HOLLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

of the MEETING on

 SATURDAY 14th January, 2017 at 10.30am in the Village Hall

1. Preliminary

Before proceeding to the Agenda, the Chairman began with a discussion on the proposed closure of Clacton Minor Injuries Unit. This had been suggested by the Treasurer, Denys Strich. A leaflet was distributed setting out the dates of the Public Consultation Meetings organised by North East Essex Clinical Commissioning Group and residents were directed to the on line survey by the same Group and to the National Petition organised by 38 Degrees, a non-party group. The residents voted unanimously against closure.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Eddie and June Forrest, Sue and Keith Hockley, Judith Little, Hazel and David Martin and John Poulton.

1. Minutes of the Meeting of meeting 15th October 2016

The minutes were approved.

1. Matters Arising from the Minutes

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Roger Freer, the manager of Frinton Farm Partners regarding the speed of farm vehicles in Church Lane, Manor Road and Rectory Road. Roger confirmed that his drivers were instructed to drive with care as were other persons using the livery facilities, but he undertook to speak to people concerned.

1. Planning Report

In the absence of Eddie Forrest, he asked the Chairman to read his written report to the meeting.

The former village shop was being converted to residential use.

The report summarised a number of other local applications.

The pending applications in Church Lane, “Mon Reve” and the land adjacent to “Farndon” were all causes for concern which were outlined to the meeting.

The date of the next Local Plan Meeting on 19th January was announced, together with objections from local developers trying to include land to the east of Westbury Road and also north of Little Clacton Road in The Preferred Options Local Plan. The meeting voted unanimously for GHRA to object to the inclusion of these two pieces of land.

The target date is June 2017 with the consultation completion date of July 2017. Following this the submission to the Secretary of State is expected in October 2017 with full adoption of the Plan by September, 2018.

1. PSCO Report

Paul Brassey and Robert Diss attended. Paul Brassey delivered the report that the area had been thankfully free of any serious incident. An elderly driver had been reported as driving at 10 mph and had been spoken to. A 999 call had been made by a child playing with a phone. Two ponies had been reported wandering into the road. There were reports of late night speeding which could not be followed up as no registration numbers were available.

The Community Speed Watch team has been very active and reported dozens of incidents, some of whom were local village drivers. Questions were raised about the ineffectiveness of policing speeding vehicles and the history of Essex County Council’s refusal to spend money on any effective measures was again reviewed. With the present guidelines, only a series of fatalities would change the situation. Paul encouraged the audience to report any speeding incidents to the Local Council. Paul encouraged the residents to contact them with their concerns on pcsopaulbrassey@twitter.

In response to a question about hare coursing, Councillor Bucke explained that there was a dedicated officer for wildlife crime who was particularly keen on clamping down on this illegal activity.

A resident asked that bollard signs in Thorpe be cleaned.

The supply of window alarms had been sold out and new supplies were not anticipated although they can be purchased for approx. £10 in B & Q.

1. Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer reported the current balance of £3410.83 plus £40.80 cash totalling £3451.63. Although there had been no time to count properly, a further sum of around £100 in membership subscriptions had been taken today.

1. Bob Seago on Great Holland Pit Nature Reserve in Winter

Bob gave a short, illustrated talk which was much appreciated by members. Bob summarised the history and layout of the site before detailing some of the flora and fauna through the seasons. Of particular interest were the large number of Goldcrests to be seen in winter, sometimes flying with the more rare Firecrest. More surprisingly, the Woodcock can be seen by the observant. Adders can be found and two species of bumblebee, even on warmer winter days when they visit Gorse flowers for nectar.

1. Date. Time and Venue of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Great Holland Residents Association will be held on Saturday, 3rd June at 11.30 am after Homemade Hour, subject to approval by Sue Jenkins and the Committee.

This meeting will be the AGM when all officers need to be elected.

1. Any Other Business

Councillor Bucke agreed to investigate a further no parking sign for the Greensward in The Close.

A resident asked for assistance in dealing with excessive growth on neighbouring land. A plan and photo will be provided to the Chairman to consider what further action is appropriate.

There has been no further progress on the children’s play area as difficulties had been encountered with grant. £10,000 is available but £80,000 is required.

The chaos near the bridge was discussed.

It is possible that access from the proposed new estate to the east of Halstead Road will be to Frinton Road via the new cul-de-sac opposite the fish and chips shop.

The layby near Prospect Park has been resurfaced. The need for this was caused by local contractors and Councillor Bucke agreed to investigate who was bearing the cost.

A street lamp in Rectory Road required repair.

A question was raised about the lack of security to the layby across the marshes which has resulted in a series of break-in to a hut.

Lots were drawn for the winner of the raffle.

The Meeting closed at 12.00 noon.