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GREAT HOLLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES

of the MEETING on

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

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Robert Bucke, Linda O’Reilly, Ingrid Harding, Alan and Jeanne Large.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 13th May, 2017.

The minutes were approved.

Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Councillor Mark Platt.

Councillor Mark Platt introduced himself to GHRA and explained his three roles on the town, district and county councils.

He dealt firstly with the boundary changes for the local elections, which were in fact considerably overdue, the average being about fifteen years to reflect demographic changes in the area.

The total number of councillors has been reduced from sixty to forty-eight. The argument to keep Great Holland within Frinton had been lost and we were now part of a rather sprawling, rural area to include Thorpe-Le-Soken. It is difficult to predict the effects, apart from the obvious that the Councillor was unlikely to be as local as previously. However, Great Holland would continue to be represented on FWTC.

Secondly, Councillor Platt went on to explain his particular interest at County level in highways. He explained the cumbersome system for dealing with local complaints and suggestions as well as the more obvious financial constraints. He had had some success with repairs to local road furniture. He expressed strong views that the online reporting system for ECC was not fit for purpose.

The issue of speed cameras in Little Clacton Road had now reached the Local Highways Committee. This was only the start of a process taking two to three years with an uncertain outcome.

Concern was expressed about the narrow junction between Sladbury Lane and Great Holland Common Road. There was no consensus regarding widening this (a straw poll showed nine members against) and the conclusion was that slow signs might assist, together with more frequent pruning of the hedges.

A properly organised traffic survey was in progress on Pork Lane and the outcome of the request for a weight restriction would be known before too long. A request for tractor warning sign near the farms would also be taken forward.

Members much appreciated Councillor Platt’s attendance and informative talk.

PCSO Report.

Robert Diss gave the report on this occasion from early June to the present time.

There was a burglary in Little Clacton Road resulting in a theft of a considerable number of items and the culprit has not yet been apprehended.

A minibus was stolen from the village.

There was a disturbance at the village hall following a party, but there were no fights and no arrests.

A fifteen year old runner became lost and his parents raised the alarm. He was found safe and well at Clacton Sailing Club.

There were two accidents in Little Clacton Road, one involving a drunk driver and the other a vehicle in a hedge.

There were two separate incidents of a cow being loose on Little Clacton Road.

A number of elderly residents were concerned at the approach of registered hawkers from Nottingham Knockers. They found it disturbing to be told that the person was newly released from prison and the offences committed. Investigation showed the hawkers to be genuine.

(Paul Witham reported a series of scam phone calls claiming to be from Microsoft and others to deal with a virus on personal computers).

Planning Report

Eddie Forrest ran through the various applications which have been refused by TDC e.g. Kirby Road, Hamilton Road and Pork Lane. It was possible to say that the Council had been feeling more confident to refuse, as they now claim to have a five year supply of housing land. However, this was not accepted in the successful appeal for the development on Centenary Way. TDC has appealed the Inspector’s decision and the outcome is awaited.

The refusal of a third house on the nursery site has been appealed.

There is a consultation process by the owners of Beaumont Care Home, with a view to an application for 41 further units.

The next Local Plan Committee Meeting will be on 2nd November at the Princes Theatre in Clacton at 6 pm.

Councillor Platt intervened to explain a policy operated by some Councils whereby developers donate dwellings to the Council to be available to let to local people.

Sandra Mooney asked that we check whether the original permission for the development of the care home included a requirement for a bus lay-by.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer reported the current balance of £3578.88 pus £10.07 cash totalling £3588.5 plus the fees from six new members who paid their subs today.

Date, Time and Venue of next Meeting

The next meeting of the Great Holland Residents Association will be held on Saturday, 13th January, 2018 at 10.30 am.

Any Other Business

Sandra Mooney announced a fund raising quiz at 7 pm. on 18th November in aid of redecorating the village hall.

John Radcliffe expressed his concerns about the Sladbury Lane junction and proposed that it should be widened. After a short discussion, it was concluded that there was no consensus, some residents being concerned that this would merely increase the speed of vehicles.

There was a proposal to deal with parking congestion in Manor and Rectory Roads by asking for a one way system. A number of members objected and it was clear that there was no consensus.

Further concerns were expressed about the parking by the Manor Pub. It was concluded that no action could be taken.

It was agreed that Councillor Platt would ask the Town Council to reduce the height of the hedge around the playground at the end of Pork Lane, as the present height obstructs vision for cars waiting to turn out on the main road.

Denys Strich expressed his concerns about the need to back up on occasions when vehicles with right of way were passing a continuous line of parked cars. Again, no acceptable solution was forthcoming.

Denys Strich summarised the contents of a letter he had received from a local resident who is not a member of the GHRA. The letter took up again the question of reinstating an all weather surface to the footpath from the farm to Frinton tennis courts. There was no consensus that this surface had ever been in place (one long term resident said that they remembered it and another that they did not). It was decided to ask the meeting whether they wished the GHRA to press the matter with ECC. Only one vote was cast for the proposal and it was declared that no further action would be taken.

The Meeting closed at 12.15.