

## Minutes of the Great Staughton Parish Council Meeting

held on 9 November 2023 – 7.30pm

### **Present:**

R Jewell (BJ)            G Brittain (GB)            N Yates (NY)            W Mumford (WM).  
H Glanville (HG)        H Hopperton (HH)        J Duberly (JD)        David Moore (DM)  
  
Ian Gardener (IG)  
J Russel – Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence** – L Goody (LG) Stephen Cawley (SC)

2. **Declarations of Interest** – HH - East Park Energy Farm

*WM - Dog Field submission on planning*

3. **Resident's Forum** – no one attended

4. **Reports from District and County Councillors** -

**Ian Gardner** – a new Highways Officer has been appointed, Karen Safwell. She will meet with Ian every 6 weeks to discuss any issues. A new Rights of Way officer has also been appointed, Dan Wiggs. Ian has arranged a meeting with him on 21 November to discuss the issues raised by GSPC. WM will meet him as well to discuss the blocked highway in Perry. Regarding the weeds, HDC have reported that the growth has hampered their ability to clean the roads. CCC are therefore reviewing matters in Jan 24 and IG will report back. The planning application in relation to Five Acres is still being worked on. Delays have been caused by the surveys but these should be finalised in the next 4 weeks. IG reminded the PC the deadline for LHI Bids 24/25 is 12 January 2024. In relation to our bid for 23/24 IG confirmed that we can commission work outside of the scheme prepared by the lead officer and pay for the scheme part LHi and part paid directly by the PC.

In relation to the 20mph scheme the details have now been circulated to the PC. The designers have not made Cage Lane a part of the 20mph zone. We will ask the officers if it can be reduced to 30 or 40mph though. Will also ask if the 40mph can be moved beyond the crossroad at Dillington.

**Stephen Cawley** – was not present this evening but sent a report. See attached.

5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 14 September 2023** – approved.

6. **Matters arising:**

- a. Blocked footpath (40) near 5 Acres Salvage yard – see above
- b. Gigaclear – still no response. Clerk will chase.
- c. HDC Electric Vehicle Pilot – BJ applied for this but unfortunately, we were not successful.

- d. Footpath 23 – Clerk has spoken to Crown Estates and this work has been carried out.
- e. Trees in Beachampstead – this work has been done.

7. **Attendance at other meetings** – BJ attended the HDC Planning meeting. They have now employed more staff and the backlog to date has been reduced from 1434 to 761.

## 8. Highways

- a. Current LHI bid 24/25 – it was agreed that the PC would pay separately for the road markings and the rest of the scheme would be paid for under the LHI Bid. The road markings cost around £2000 and this work could be undertaken much quicker if the PC pays rather than waiting for the LHI scheme.
- b. Blocked highway in Perry –see above
- c. 20mph speed limit – all agreed to the suggestions made by BJ – the design should not be changing speed limits from a 30mph to a 60mph and then back to a 30mph. WM also wanted to check that the repeaters suggested for Dillington could accommodate a combine harvester at the crossroads end. BJ will email the scheme designers.
- d. Flooding Cage Lane gullies – this has been very bad and the cottages almost flooded. IG has assured that the drains will be fixed by CCC.

## 9. Planning

- a. Staughton Moor planning enforcement – ongoing, see above
- b. 21/01016/FUL – Little America, Moor Road – 8 business units – still pending
- c. Wyboston Garden Village/developments in Beds near A1 – ongoing.
- d. Appeal Against Enforcement Notice 21/00092/ENUCO – 11 Little America Industrial Estate
- e. 22/01813/FUL Land East and West of Little Staughton Solar Farm – comments submitted re Rights of Way
- f. 20/00294 Land South west of Agden Green – retrospective change of use from agricultural to dog exercise field

10. **Cashbook** – approved.

**Current account £28639.82**

**Business account £21,795.40**

**Expenditure: £**

J Russel	459.85
PKF Littlejohn	252.00
J Russel expenses	
(Black Mountains College)	100.00
Balfour Beatty	10,455.74
Bradgate	259.20
Ibbetts	74.39
Ibbetts	6.79
Phil Yates expenses	103.14
Cambs Acre	1,890.00
Wel Medical Limited	204.00
The Business Printing Co	60.00
St Neots Museum	50.00
J Russel	459.85
Community Action Suffolk	784.70

11. **Budget and Set Precept 24/25** – Payments to handyman – he is currently paid £9.00 per hour. All of the PC expressed their view that he does an excellent job. It was all agreed to increase the hourly rate to £15.00 from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023. Clerk left the room whilst her salary was discussed. The chairman informed her after the meeting that her pay grade would be Scale Point 25 effective from 1 December 2023.

**Budget** – all councillors had been sent the budget prior to the meeting and there were no issues raised. All agreed to keep the precept at £22,000 for 24/25 and to pay £7500 for the new pay equipment. NY will now place the order with Wicksteed.

12. **AGAR 22/23** – external auditors report had now been received and no issues raised.

13. **Correspondence received** - the resident has confirmed that the leylandii trees are going to be removed to improve the visibility to the pedestrian crossing. Probably not until the new year. We also had a update from HDC to say how well received the summer activity sessions for kids were.

#### 14. **Neighbourhood Plan**

- Results of strategic Reg 14 consultation – we received 5 statutory responses, 2 from landowners and 9 from the public. The general feeling was that it was good. We now need to respond to some of the comments.
- Need for SEA on Brook Farm site – a Strategic Environmental Assessment needs to be carried out on this site. HDC had previously

informed us that they did not think it necessary and we could go ahead but Historic England want the assessment and it will take four months to complete.

- Other developments regarding Brook Farm – the NHS are looking for other buildings in St Neots for the Doctors surgery to move to. Clearly this is disappointing.
- Consultation statement – BJ has drafted this.

**15. Reports from:**

- a. Village Hall Committee – HG reported that the kitchen floor is going to be improved soon.
- b. Playing Field Committee - NY reported that the lunch club are planning to use the pavilion every month.
- c. Speed Watch – no report.

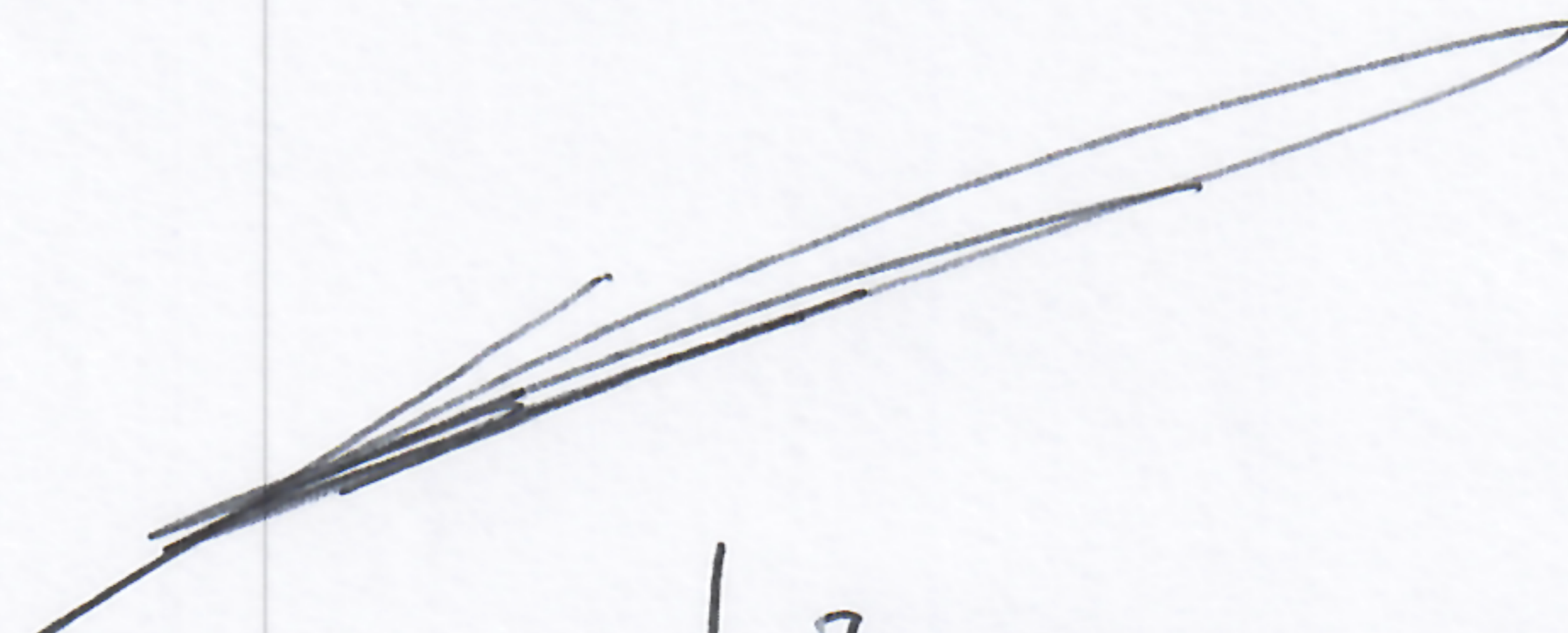
**16. Parish Matters** - **HG** reported a broken footpath sign. This is the responsibility of CCC. She will pin in on a map and report.

**17. East Park Energy Solar Farm – Helen Hopperton left the meeting at this point.**

The public meeting had taken place before the parish council meeting and there were lots of objections raised to these plans. It was agreed that those objections would be sent to the developer and we would work with other parish councils. We would also write to our MP and choose two representatives from the parish council to attend meetings. This will be JD and LG. There is a meeting on 14 November in Hail Weston, which they will attend.

**18. Meeting dates for 2024** – 18 January, 14 March, PA 25 April, AGM 16 May, 4 July, 12 September, 7 November

**Meeting closed at 9.15pm**



18/1/2024