

GREAT GADDESSEN PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Great Gaddesden Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting
held at Gaddesden Row Village Hall
on Monday 20th May 2019 starting at 7.30 pm

1. PRESENT

Councillors
Andy Thompson
Louise Wilson
John Lowrie

DBC Councillor Bert Chapman

Also in attendance:
Parish Clerk

Paul Harris
9 members of the public

2. APOLOGIES

Councillor Malcolm Stodell
DBC Councillor Jane Timmis

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting held on 21st May 2018 were agreed as drafted and signed by the Chairman.

4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

PH welcomed all those attending Great Gaddesden Parish Council's Annual Parish Meeting. This is his report which will be posted on the Great Gaddesden Parish Council website and published in the next edition of the Parish Newsletter:

Welcome to Great Gaddesden Parish Annual General Meeting. This is my last meeting as Chair and Parish Councillor. I have been a Parish councillor for ten years and Chair for the last five. It has been a privilege to work with my fellow councillors, both past and present and I thank them for all their support. Parish clerks are a very important part of the council and Anne our present clerk is doing a great job.

A Parish Council needs to have a good working relationship with both Borough and County Councillors, and we are well supported by Jane Timmis and Bert Chapman for the Borough and Terry Douris at County level. And I thank them for that.

The Parish Journal, edited by Mike Connell provides an important means of communication to all parishioners, and we thank him for all his work.

Great Gaddesden is a beautiful Parish, 93% is within the Chiltern Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and I feel that the Parish Council has made a significant contribution to protecting and enhancing the quality of life for our parishioners. At last the downgrading of the Hemel Hempstead to Leighton Buzzard Road, which runs through Great Gaddesden and Water End, from an A road to B road has been achieved after many years struggle. We have twice in the past few years attended hearings and prevented bridleways and footpaths being open to all traffic.

Footpaths and stiles have been maintained with support from Clayton Rae at DBC, benches have been provided at various viewpoints over the Gade Valley for walkers. Notice boards are soon to be erected providing information on Parish footpaths and items of interest.

Unfortunately, although we managed to save the bus route, it is not well supported and runs less frequently than before.

Parking in Gaddesden Row has been an ongoing problem but the Council liaised with the Green and Clean team at DBC and no parking signs have been installed in the relevant places.

We are donating a sum of money to both the local junior schools in recognition of the great work they do educating the children and the importance of keeping schools within the parish.

We now have three defibrillators installed one in each village and Water End, vital for use in an emergency. On behalf of the Parish I would like to thank Councillor Malcolm Stodell for all his efforts to achieve this.

To keep villages flourishing a diversity of ages are needed, it is easy for them to become commuter communities, so the building of four social housing units in West Dene, Gaddesden Row is to be viewed as a success bringing families into the area. They are built with the latest ecological technology saving energy costs for the residents. They are named Johnson Court in recognition of our late councillor Alan Johnson's service to the Parish.

In conclusion, I wish all the best to the new chair and I am sure that they and the councillors will continue to serve the parish successfully.

Paul Harris, Chair

5. OPEN FORUM AND QUESTIONS

A Member of Public raised the issue of litter in the Briden Camp area and the lack of signage regarding penalties for litter and fly tipping.

Councillor Chapman reported that signage is usually only on the main routes.

It was agreed that the Parish Clerk will contact Dacorum Borough Council's Clean and Green team and the Community Service team.

A Member of Public raised the issue of an articulated lorry parking in the middle of Leighton Buzzard Road at Water End while making deliveries, during the rush hour. It was agreed

that the Parish Council will write to the company concerned recommending traffic times. The MoP was asked to keep a log of the lorry's timings.

A Member of Public raised the issue of dog fouling on Gaddesden Row Common. The Parish Council will investigate arranging for extra dog bins to be installed and paying for them to be emptied. The Parish Council will also look into the upkeep of the Common and will report back at the next meeting.

It was noted that domestic waste has also been found on the Common. This will be reported to the Clean and Green team. Cllr Chapman asked to be copied in on correspondence. It was also recommended to use a separate website "Fix my Street" to report local problems such as this.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm