

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gretton Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 6th Sept 2023 at 6.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's Dave Butcher, Richard Green, Geoff Hanson (Chairman) and Mark Oliver.
In attendance : The clerk, County Councillor Gray and one parishioner.

The parishioner raised several issues that have been raised before and commented on some items which are not within the parish council's remit.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Madle and Mason TBC.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors were reminded to update their registers of interest held by TBC and to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda and their nature.
It was noted that Cllr Oliver is Chair of the GVA.

3. To Consider the Adoption of the Minutes of the Council Meeting Held On Wednesday 12th July 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman.

4. Financial Matters.

a. To consider invoices for payment.

No invoices were received.

b. To ratify payments paid between meetings.

Community Heartbeat Trust	Defib Pads	£73.14
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c. Financial report.

Financial report had been circulated via email.

d. External Funding

Sources of funding are continually monitored. The TBC funding officer - Mary Goodenough is very helpful. There are many funders out there and their objectives can be matched to a list of potential projects. We should not let funding limit our ambition so when our "project list" is finalised potential funding options can be assessed.

5. Planning Matters.

Cllr Hanson has re-issued the planning database. To be uploaded onto website.

a. Planning applications for consideration.

None to date.

b. Ratify comments on planning applications received that required a response before the next scheduled Council Meeting.

i. 23/00619/FUL - 6 Working Lane Gretton Cheltenham.

- The parish council has no planning reason to object.

ii. 23/00637/PIP - Myrtle Cottage Gretton Road Gretton

Gretton Parish Council objects to this application on the following grounds:

- This development will overlook existing properties which currently enjoy an unobstructed view of Langley Hill, and will constitute an invasion of privacy.
- The proposed development is outside the village development boundary and will impact the Cotswold AONB.
- Access to the development requires the use of a privately owned farm track. This track is narrow, steep and has a tight 90° bend, which emergency vehicles will find challenging.

- iii. 23/00663/FUL - Cupshill Cottage Duglynch Lane Gretton
 - The parish council has no planning reason to object.
- iv. 23/00684/FUL - Plot 6 Warren Fruit Farm Evesham Road Greet
 - This location of this application is outside Gretton's Parish boundary, but this is an exposed hillside, close to the Cotswold AONB and is clearly visible from Gretton and beyond..
 - Gretton Parish Council remains very concerned that this application is another in a series of proposed developments (approx. 30-off) on this hillside.
 - Through various applications and appeals, each of these development applications appear to seek to overturn existing, legally imposed restrictions on their use and occupation.
 - If permitted, together they will turn this attractive hillside into a sprawling, major development.
 - Gretton Parish Council therefore objects to this application. See note * below

c. Planning decisions.

Permitted by TBC

23/00619/FUL - 6 Working Lane Gretton

d. Pedestrian Crossing

The pedestrian crossing by the church, provided as part of the building of Redwood Close, looks to be in progress as the kerb has been dropped, and fresh tarmac laid. However, the council and residents do not see a need for this, and the associated parking restrictions, will be a nuisance for the church and residents. Cllr Gray and Cllr Hanson will approach Highways to determine the status and to ask for it not to go ahead.

Cllr Hanson is still trying to engage with the management committee of Redwood Close, on several issues.

6. Village Communications and Engagement Update.

The "Gretton Village Notices" Facebook Page has 106 "Followers." Councillors are reminded that regular posts on the page will drive more reach into the community.

a. Cell-phone reception.

Cllr Butcher had investigated and Gretton is a 'Partial notspot'. It appears there is little scope for the council to intervene to get an improved signal. Parishioners are advised to find the best provider for their location. Cllr Butcher will put additional details and advice on the website.

b. Newsletter.

A templated newsletter will be delivered 4 times a year, first version should be ready for the next meeting. Thank you to Cllr Butcher for research and for circulating draft templates for discussion.

c. Village Archive

GVA has kindly provided a cabinet to store the GPC archive.

d. Village survey

Will take place in the later part of 2024.

7. To Review the councils

a. Financial Regulations.

The Financial Regulations have been updated.

b. Standing Orders.

Standing orders are in process but may need additional wording to address social media usage.

c. GDPR.

Clerk to provide.

8. Reports.

a. Clerk

Report had been circulated.

b. Greening & Environment Group.

Bins have been ordered and locations given to County, awaiting instillation.

Cllr Green is looking for volunteers to plant bulbs.

c. Traffic and Speeding.

The Speedwatch team have not been active over the summer and so the statistics have not changed. Activity will recommence in September.

Both Cllr Oliver and Cllr Gray have chased the Community Speedwatch team with respect to our application for a Vehicle Activated Sign, but no response has been seen.

We have agreed to trial moving the existing signs and this will be done soon.

Gateway on Alderton Rd. Still on hold, pending release of additional funding from GCC Highways, and agreements with Redwood Close residents and impacted landowner,

Upcoming road closures:-

6th -17th Nov. Nat Grid, centre of village, opposite The Green.

20th – 28th Nov. Carriageway re-surfacing, Gretton to Winchcombe Rd.

d. GVA

The GVA is in improved health. Some committee changes are in hand with Hayley Brookes joining and two others expressing an interest.

Events:

- Apple Rock will be held on Sat 7th October starting at 3.00pm. The event will include a scarecrow display throughout the village and will be followed by the Harvest service at the Church on Sun 8th.
- The next GVA meeting is on 18th October and the AGM is on the 26th October.
- The "Gretton Hub" continues to be well received. The 10th Sept session will include a book/puzzle swap and the 12th November session will provide refreshments after the Remembrance activities.
- A Quiz night is planned for 1st Dec to kick start the festive season and the Advent windows will be held as normal. The Hall will be open on Christmas Eve following the Carol service at the Church

Plans to improve the Playing Field are now mature. The plan for the rear of the Hall is still tbd.

Funding is being sought however it was disappointing to note that GVA was not successful in winning Severn Trent funding for the paths and greening work packages.

e. Flood Group and Gritting.

The winter procedure has been finalised, in consultation with Prescott Parish and Tom Clarke (Snow warden and gritting / ploughing) and additional grit has been ordered. More details to be provided on the website.

Filled-in ditch on Gotherington Rd. GCC has proposed improvements, to prevent further blockage and flooding. Cllr Hanson to chase Highways.

f. Cotswold Wardens

Normal clearance work continues, and some replacement bridges are in the plan just outside the parish in Far Stanley.

Our Rights of Way Officer – Hilary Grace has visited and accepted responsibility for the improvements to the Greenway Lane path issue. Discussions are underway about the plan.

g. Gretton Primary School

The new Head Adam Sallis is now in place. Contact has been made and an initial 'get-to-know' with GVA and GPC is scheduled.

9. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.

Report from Cllr Gray.

Trees are available from TBC and Glos CC.

Cllr Gray has funding available via the 'Build back better' scheme for small grants to support projects mainly involving young people and would welcome any suggestions from Parish Councils or other bodies.

A lot of road patching and resurfacing has been taking place in the county. The resurfacing of the Gretton – Wincombe Rd is still scheduled for Nov.

The Tour of Britain is coming through Tewksbury on Sat 9th.

The Borough Council is in financial good health.

Currently no RAAC has been identified in the county's schools.

On 6th Sept, TBC held a special meeting to discuss provisions for travellers and gypsies. Such as the Warren Farm application (* above). The Borough Council has confirmed that Planning will apply a robust approach to enforce planning regulations for anyone attempting to avoid the planning system and convert non-residential building to dwellings. The officers are aware of residents' concerns about illegal occupation of land and agricultural buildings.

10. Remembrance Sunday traffic and Wreath Laying.

Cllr Hanson will organise the road closure signage and a Cllr will be laying the wreath, to be ordered by the clerk.

11. Information and Correspondence.

Cllr Hanson will attend the Parish and Town Council Seminar 20 September 2023

12. Items For Future Agenda.

Cllr Green informed the council that a new battery will be required for the Defib.

Plans for a second Defib

Newsletter

Draft budget for 2024/2025.

Social Media, GDPR and any other Council Policies that are still required.

13. To Agree Date of next meeting.

November 8th 2023

Signed

Date