

## GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gretton Parish Council Meeting - Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Mar '23 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's David Butcher, Richard Green, Geoff Hanson (Chair), John Hurley and Mark Oliver

In attendance: Two parishioners.

### **Note:-**

This was the last meeting that Cllr John Hurley will attend, as he is stepping down at the next elections in May. The Chair and fellow Cllrs expressed their gratitude for his 8-years' service, bringing wise and knowledgeable leadership, which will be missed by his colleagues and the Village as a whole. A small presentation was made.

### **1. Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies were received from J Shields (Clerk)

### **2. Declarations of Interest.**

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 Wed 16<sup>th</sup> Nov**

The minutes were approved, but not signed.

### **4. Financial Matters.**

#### **a. To consider invoices for payment.**

It was agreed to pay Cllr Green £24.17 for fencing materials to 'stock-proof' the Jubilee oak.  
Clerks Expenses Jan – march £30.47.

#### **b. To ratify payments paid between meetings.**

None

#### **c. Financial report.**

Financial report had been circulated.

By the end of this financial year, the Council will have a slight under-spend of approx. £300, (once the '22-'23 VAT has been recovered), this will be carried-over into '23-'24.

#### **d. To clarify 2023/2024 budget detail**

Based on a frozen precept, the budget detail was circulated at the meeting, with items aligned with the Council's project list (previously circulated & agreed). This budget has since been modified, to include the detail of GVA support, discussed later.

In summary; of the £10,845 available from the Tewksbury Borough Council, Council Tax precept, 66% is committed spend :- Admin, Clerk, re-payment of the V/Hall loan, grass-cutting etc. 34% will be spent on village projects, including supporting the Village Hall, Coronation celebrations and Greening-up Gretton initiatives.

### **5. Planning Matters.**

#### **a. Planning applications for consideration**

##### **i. 23/00040/FUL – Outbuildings at Gretton Fields (behind laburnum).**

The Council remains concerned at the extent and intensity of developments on this site; which are behind the building line and beyond any reasonable 'back-fill'.

However, this particular application only seeks to change the use of a 3-unit holiday let, to a single dwelling. Arguably this is an improvement, as it will reduce traffic and intensity of use on this site.

It was agreed that the Council would respond with these comments but with 'No Objection'.

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

22/01384/FUL - Part Parcel 1546 Gretton Road Gretton Cheltenham

22/01303/LBC - Orchard Cottage Duglynych Lane Gretton

23/00159/TCA - Gretton House Duglynych Lane Gretton

23/00150/TCA - Abbotswyck Gretton Road Gretton Cheltenham

22/01383/LBC - Pink Cottage Gretton Road Gretton Cheltenham

All previously submitted responses, were agreed.

Note; all responses can be seen on the TBC planning web-site, also a summary table of all recent Gretton planning applications can be found on GPC's web-site

## **6. Village Communications and Engagement Update**

The new GPC web-site is performing well. Cllr Butcher will work with GVA to ensure that GVA matters can also be accessed via this web-site.

The GPC FB page ('Gretton Village Notices') is seeing increasing viewings, it remains important that GPC provides, interesting and relevant content, to ensure interest.

On 7<sup>th</sup> March Gretton representatives from GVA, GPC and Church, met the new Winchcombe Priest - Revd Capt David Penny, for a useful introductory meeting. It was agreed that all Gretton organisations would continue to work closely together, for mutual support and the benefit of the community.

## **7. To Discuss The Parish Council Support Of The GVA.**

It was agreed that GPC should continue to support the GVA, particularly in it's role as custodian of the Village Hall and Field.

Current support:-

Works loan repayment (from 2009 Hall upgrade) - £2340 / annum

Contribution to grass-cutting costs - £500 / annum

A range of options to increase this support were considered. Noting that any additional support would need to have a village-wide benefit.

It was agreed that GPC would:-

Pay for its use of the Hall (budget allocation of £100 agreed)

Help keep a monthly Gretton Hub open, with £50 / month support. To be re-viewed after 6 months (budget allocation of £250 agreed)

Provide £1000 funding for Village-wide Coronation Celebrations. This would be used as 'seed-funding', allowing free village-wide entry (and important in the event of poor weather impacting success). It would not be refundable, but its use is subject to reasonable constraints, to be separately agreed with GPC.

A viable, useful Village Hall and Field is very important to the community and this topic should remain on GPC's agenda.

## **8. Reports.**

- a. Clerk.

Report circulated, to include Precept for 2023-2024 sent to TBC and Election information E mailed to all councillors.

- b. Greening and Environment Group.

- The original Jubilee Oak has now been replaced, with thanks to Clive Parker and Cllr Green. In addition, the stock protection fence has been extended.
- Litter Bins, outside Churchyard and on the Green. It was agreed to replace both these bins, ideally with dual-use bins. Cllr Hurley is currently confirming details with TBC / Ubico.

- Village litter-pick. Post-meeting note. This needs to be organised (with TBC support) ideally before the Coronation week-end, probably Sun 16th, 23rd or 30th Apr.

#### c. Traffic and Road Safety

- Our community Speedwatch continues to deter speeding morning traffic. To date we have recorded 993 vehicles over 30 mph (approx. 50% of total) with 142 people receiving letters for travelling over 35 mph (7% of total). The police continue to advise that most of our “offenders” are local to the area. The morning data is now showing a slight improvement (recently c5% > 35mph). For greater impact, we need to ensure continued and regular presence at several village locations. Anyone wishing to volunteer occasionally, should contact Cllr Oliver.
- A new Vehicle Activated Sign has been applied for, under the second tranche of Community Speedwatch Fund. In advance of this, and to collect vehicle data, the vehicle activated sign, currently located at Gretton Fields, will be moved to the Redwood Close location.
- Village Gateway - Alderton approach  
GCC Highways has approved this location and will support financially.  
Whilst the verge is owned by Highways, we are grateful that the landowner keeps the ditch clear. GPC plan to jointly discuss with the landowner and Redwood Close residents to confirm that this should go-ahead and the best location.
- State of Winchcombe to Gretton Road.  
This is a regular cause of complaints, the road is often patched, but continues to deteriorate, with drivers swerving to avoid potholes, damaging wheels etc.  
We are advised by GCC Highways that the current schedule for re-surfacing is '24 – '25.  
A joint letter (from Winchcombe and Gretton councils) has been sent to GCC highways senior management, seeking an improved schedule. A reply is outstanding.
- Pavements – disabled access. Some concerns have been raised by residents. GPC has been in correspondence with GCC Highways to get dropped kerbs installed where necessary.

#### d. Gretton Village Association (GVA)

The refreshed GVA is doing well. The January Quiz night was successful with 80 people attending. The Gretton Hub ('Warm Space' initiative) has been very well received with a peak attendance of 54. The final Hub is March 12<sup>th</sup> and will be attended by the Rev D Penny. GVA is considering extending the Hub as a monthly opportunity to bring the community together. GPC has agreed to support this. Future planned events include a Murder Mystery Night on 14<sup>th</sup> April, the Coronation Celebrations, a Quiz Night on 9<sup>th</sup> June and Apple Rock / Harvest Festival on 7<sup>th</sup> October.

The Village Welcome pack should be available in April.

For the Coronation the plan is as follows:

30 April – Decorate village with bunting.

5 – 8 May – Flower Festival

7 May – 10am Special Church Service

7 May – Village Event from c1.00pm – late. Village picnic, games, entertainment and refreshments.

The plan to enhance the Hall and Playing Field is gaining momentum with support from GPC, local residents and TBC. A planning application will be made by the end of April and in parallel costings and potential funding sources will be finalised.

#### e. Flood Group

No problems reported

But GPC should consider a future working party to maintain road-drainage 'grips', check status of flood measures and report back to GCC.

#### f. Cotswold Wardens.

No major news. Current focus is on clearance of paths blocked by fallen trees.

Consideration is being given to a joint project with GPC to improve the path above Greenway Lane.

#### g. Gretton Primary School.

The school will be supporting the Coronation. There will be a children's parade.

**9. Future Projects Update.**

A detailed future projects list has been agreed and circulated.

Actions this year ('23 – '24) requiring funding are identified in the budget.

One future action discussed was the establishment of an archive of Council matters, papers and reports. It was noted that over the years successive Councils had managed projects and commissions reports etc, which future Councils should benefit from and build-on

**10. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.**

None received.

**11. Information and Correspondence.**

All clerk's correspondence is circulated to councillors and listed in the Clerk's report.

**12. Items For Future Agenda.**

**13. To Agree Date of next meetings**

Wed 10<sup>th</sup> May '23

Wed 12<sup>th</sup> July '23

Signed

Date