

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gretton Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 12th July 2023 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's Dave Butcher, Richard Green, Geoff Hanson (Chairman) and Mark Oliver.
In attendance: The clerk, Cllr G Madle and Cllr Jim Mason TBC and one parishioner.

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

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from County Cllr Gray

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 10th May 2023.

The minutes were approved and signed by the chairman.

4. Financial Matters.

a. To consider invoices for payment.

The following invoices were agreed for payment

GVA - PC Meetings £25.00

GVA - Hub £64.60

b. To ratify payments made between meetings.

The following payments were ratified by the council.

Coronation Plaque £69.95

ICO - Data protection fee £35.00

c. Financial report.

Financial report had been circulated via email.

d. To ratify the clerk's standing order for 2023/2024.

The council agreed the clerk's standing order of £190.95

Clerks Salary Spinal code 12 at £12.73 an hour.

5. Planning Matters.

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. 23/00429/FUL - Glenbrook Farm, Gretton Fields, Gretton.

Gretton PC has no planning reason to object.

ii. 23/00520/TCA - Cupshill Cottage, Duglynych Lane, Gretton.

Gretton PC has No Objection to this proposal, but it is noted that this should be considered in conjunction with 22/00582/FUL 'Erection of detached house and garage', which already includes tree management proposals.

iii. 23/00291/FUL - Land at Stanley Cottages. Gotherington Rd, Gretton

There have been two recent open public meetings to discuss this planning application.

At the latest meeting (6/7/23), the developer (Centaur) presented amended plans, which addressed the concerns previously raised by the public and the Council.

It was agreed that the Council would now support this application, and the Chair would draft a response for review, prior to submission by 17th July.

- iv. 20/00185/FUL - Planning Application Amendment. Manor Farmhouse, Gretton Road, Gretton, Cheltenham.

Gretton PC has No Objection to this amendment. But it is noted that this amendment should be considered in conjunction with 23/00291/FUL Erection of 5-off dwellings (ref 21/01197/PIP), which makes this a 6-unit development on this site.

- c. Planning decisions.

Permit: 23/00231/FUL - Laburnum Gretton Fields Gretton Cheltenham

- d. Gretton PC concern over managing predatory planning applications eg Alderton's recent appeal (22/6/23).

The Chairman attended a meeting in Alderton (11/7/23) regarding the recent planning appeal outcome, for an additional 46-off houses. There is considerable concern in Alderton about the extent of unwanted development and the prospect of more to come. Apparently, the developer's legal team were able to convince the appeal inspector that Tewkesbury BC could not demonstrate a 5-year housing land supply, which was sufficient to overturn most arguments against the development.

The meeting discussed how to address similar unwanted development applications which might arise in Gretton, with helpful input from Cllrs Mason and Madle.

Previous studies had concluded that the benefit of a Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), did not justify the considerable effort, cost, and time (c18m). Particularly as there is little evidence of their effectiveness, as in Alderton's case.

This topic should stay on the agenda. Particularly as there are possible changes in planning regulations which could arise from planned revisions to the NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) or even changes in government.

6. Village Communications and Engagement Update.

- a. Consider status of Village mobile phone reception.

Cllr Butcher will investigate the various options in the parish.

- b. Newsletter planning (timing, frequency, style).

The council agreed to continue to publish a newsletter. But to aim for a more frequent quarterly publication, with a simpler less formal format, and available on the website. It was agreed to target Sept and Dec, this year. Cllr Butcher will look at template options.

- c. Consider the establishment of a Village Archive.

The council agreed to start an archive. GVA will provide a locked cabinet and a space, and this could run in conjunction with the GVA, building a history of the GVA and village.

- d. Next Village Survey Questionnaire.

Deferred until early 2024.

7. To Review the councils

- a. Financial Regulations.

Deferred until September.

- b. Standing Orders.

Deferred until September

- c. Risk Assessment.

The council agreed the revised document provided by Cllr Green.

- e. Code of Conduct.

The council agreed to accept the document provided by TBC and to inform TBC of its adoption.

- f. Revised asset register

The council agreed the updated document provided by the Chairman.

8. Reports.

- a. Clerk (circulated via email)

Completed and returned the workplace pension re enrolment form.
Transferred £5,000.00 to the savings account.
Completed AGAR emailed to SBA, placed on website, received confirmation from SBA of receipt.
Updated GAPTC with councillor details.

b. Greening & Environment Group

Cllr Green is still pursuing a new combined dog and waste bin.
The chairman has reported the damaged bus stop roof to Highways.

c. Traffic and Speeding.

Speedwatch - report

".. Our community Speedwatch continues to deter morning traffic and is out every fortnight. To date we have recorded 1224 vehicles over 30 mph (50% of total) with 174 people receiving letters for travelling over 35 mph (7% of the total traffic). Recent sessions have seen a higher proportion of vehicles travelling at excess speed. We have also received some "nasty" abuse from a couple of drivers. The school run is no longer a problem with the key "offenders" being tradespeople and younger drivers.

The afternoon Speedwatch needs to show a presence.

We have applied for a Vehicle Activated Sign under the second tranche of Community Speedwatch Fund. An initial call has been held with a visit being the next stage. No further news despite chasing regularly.

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

At a recent Speedwatch seminar in Police HQ, the key messages for rural areas were: 1) Speedwatch is proven as an effective deterrent 2) It works as it influences behaviours as opposed to prosecuting failure 3) The "teams in High Viz" are more effective than automatic cameras in small communities. Communication and support from the Police was the key area for improvement ..."

Gretton – Gotherington Road.

The council continues to seek improvements and commitments from GCC Highways.
Highways have committed to a full re-surfacing, later this year, currently planned for Nov.
Disappointingly, they continue to confirm that a footpath is not possible. However, the Council is requesting kerbing from the Royal Oak to the Littleworth turn.

Winter gritting plans.

Need to check that we have sufficient salt / grit ordered for next Winter, and put some notes on the web-site to guide residents on what to do and where to get help.

d. GVA - report

"... The GVA would like to thank the council for its support in providing the monthly Hub. The GVA continues on a positive trend. Two committee members have been lost and a new member recruited. FoGS are re-engaging and the Rev D Penny is very supportive. The Coronation celebrations benefitted from the weather and went well. A profit of £1000 was made. The PC support was appreciated. The next major Village Event will be the AppleRock on 7 October TBD.

The "Gretton Hub" has been launched and has been well received. Costs are £50/opening with £35.40 received in donations across the first two openings. The Council's support is appreciated. GVA has been successful with recent funding applications. The Community Health and Wellbeing fund has provided a new PA/Sound System and Build Back Better funding has provided a projector.

Plans for the enhancement of the Hall and Playing Field are progressing albeit slowly. The work package for the Activity Space/Parking is on hold pending confirmation of design. GVA have received letters of support for the initiative from the School and Church and hopes to receive

letters from TBC and our various Councillors. GVA will commence funding applications when the drawing set has been updated. Some £116k is being sought with only £20k of the £56k from S106 being accessible.

GVA is engaged with the Gloucestershire Money Counts and Feed Gloucestershire initiatives ..."

The Chair will provide a letter of support from the Council.

e. Flood Group.

The group has not been reformed, but the Council has been actively engaged with GCC Highways about the filled-in ditch on the Gotherington Rd. GCC has now accepted that this work is unsatisfactory, and have proposed improvements, to prevent further blockage and flooding. It is likely that these proposed improvements will still be unsatisfactory; if this is the case the council will insist on further improvements.

f. Cotswold Wardens (including Greenway Lane plans)

"... Gretton continues to receive a good service with stiles being fixed and paths cleared. The Winchcombe Walking Festival 19th – 21st May went very well with increased traffic on the Gretton Parish paths. The Trek26 Cotswolds walk for Alzheimer's is on 15 July with forecasts of 500+ walkers expected through the village .."

The GCC Rights of Way Officer – Hilary Grace visited on 10/7/23 to review the Greenway path. It is likely that GCC RoW will manage and fund improvements to the path and clear the ditch, hopefully this year.

g. Gretton Primary School.

The new Headmaster (Adam Sallis) will be in place in September. Adam joins Gretton from Mitton Manor Primary, in Tewkesbury, where he was deputy head.

h. Communication and Engagement

The "Gretton Village Notices" Facebook Page has 99 followers. Reach and Reaction has dropped so GPC needs to work to improve usage and engagement, with regular posts on topics of interest.

9. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.

The council welcomed Cllr Madle and thanked her and Cllr Mason for their support of the council's discussions.

10. Information and Correspondence.

Defibrillator: Required maintenance action.

New pads have been fitted, and a new battery will be installed in Sept.

Demolition work at SIWA, Gretton Fields.

On 7/7/23, the council received calls from several concerned residents about some demolition work that has commenced at this address. Tewksbury BC Planning have been informed.

This is a particular concern, as this site has recently lost a planning appeal, which required the demolition of this house, in order to build 4-houses.

Application - 21/00960/FUL; Appeal - APP/G1630/W/22/3307174

The Council has reached-out to establish contact with the Hillcrest Management group - who manage the Redwood Close site, in the village.

11. Items For Future Agenda.

The councils GDPR.

Newsletter, archive and cell-phone reception.

12. To Agree Date of next meeting.

– Wed 6th May 20023 starting a 6pm.

Note; as a one-off, this is an earlier date, and an earlier start-time to avoid conflict with Winchcombe TC's meeting at 7.30.

Following meetings :- 15th Nov '23, 10th Jan '24.

Signed

Date

DRAFT