

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gretton Parish Council Meeting - Wed 11th Jan '23 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

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

In attendance: County Cllr Gray, Cllr Jim Mason and one parishioner.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr John Murphy and J Shields (Clerk)

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 Wed 16th Nov

The minutes were approved, but not signed.

4. Financial Matters.

- a. To consider invoices for payment.

The following invoices were approved for payment:

Chris Arnold Trees Tree on the Green £360.00

J Shields Back Pay £90.00

- b. To ratify payments paid between meetings.

Ink Spot Newsletter £196.00

- c. To ratify Clerks increase in pay, per NALC guidelines

Agreed

- d. Financial report.

Financial report had been circulated.

By the end of this financial year, the council will have a slight over-spend on its budget. However, this does not include the cost of the Alderton approach gateway.

Total cost £2600. 50% - £1300 to be funded by GCC Highways – currently awaiting confirmation. Cllr Gray offered to fund the remaining 50%.

- e. To discuss the draft budget of 2023/2024.

It was agreed to freeze the precept this year, in view of current pressures on household budgets. With fewer 'ratepayers' this should provide £10,845 (a decrease of £255 from '22/'23). An outline budget was agreed. Approx 60% of the budget is allocated to non-discretionary spend. The remaining will be focussed on Village projects:- including improving Village communications; Village facilities; addressing traffic concerns and improving the Gretton environment, keeping it rural, greener and safer.

5. Planning Matters.

- a. Planning applications for consideration.

- i. 22/01359/FUL - Manor Farmhouse, Gretton Road, Gretton

Cat 2. GPC has written to potentially impacted neighbours. No objections to-date, although there are some concerns about traffic and visibility. GPC to reply to TBC

planning – No Objection, but to express concern about possibly losing the traffic calming effect of the bend, wall and hedge.

ii. 22/01302/FUL & 22/01303/LBC – Orchard Cottage, Duglynch lane, Gretton.

Cat 2. GPC will write to potentially impacted neighbours. If no concerns received, then response will be 'No objection'.

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

Appeal Notification

21/00960/FUL – Siwa, Gretton Fields, Gretton.

Cat 2. GPC concerns remain unchanged. No need to change previous response.

i. 22/01190/FUL - 7 Redwood Close Gretton Cheltenham.

Cat 1. GPC has no planning reason to object.

ii. 22/01326/TCA 10 Working Lane Gretton.

Cat 1. GPC has no planning reason to object.

c. Planning decisions from TBC.

Approved.

22/00582/FUL - Cupshill Cottage Duglynch Lane Gretton.

22/01059/FUL – Laburnums, Gretton Fields.

6. Village Communications and Engagement Update

The council has refreshed and improved the web-site (thanks to Cllr Butcher) and launched a FB page – 'Gretton Village Notices' (thanks to Cllr Oliver). So far uptake and interest has been good. The FB page will be used as a 'Noticeboard' for information, not a 'chat' group. It will direct people to the improved website, for more information or detail. The website can be extended to be used by other village groups.

GPC will need to ensure that it continues to provide, interesting and relevant content.

On 7 Mar '23, the new Winchcombe Priest - Revd Capt David Penny, will visit Gretton for a joint introduction meeting with GVA, GPC and Christchurch.

7. Reports.

a. Clerk.

Report circulated.

b. Greening and Environment Group.

The Hornbeam tree on the Green, was 'crown reduced' on 17th Nov.

Further 'wild-flowering' remains contentious, so further consultation will be required, before any action. However daffodil planting is popular, and it was agreed to do this later in the year.

The original Jubilee Oak, which did not survive the summer drought, has been replaced, with thanks to Clive Parker and Cllr Green. It does however require further protection from horse damage.

Litter Bin, outside Churchyard.

It was agreed to replace this with a new dual-use bin. Cllr Hurley to obtain quotes, for inclusion in this year's budget.

Telephone box. There have been suggestions to move the telephone box onto the Green and use it as a book-exchange. The box is owned by GPC and has a light (provided by BT). The meeting's view was that if there was sufficient support and it was practically possible to do, then it would support this.

Support is mixed, as there is concern about cluttering the Green. In addition, GPC has checked its telephone box ownership contract and has contacted BT. BT advised against moving the box, and there may be problems with disconnection of the power supply. It was agreed to contact BT again to confirm GPC's interest in possibly moving the box, to understand the next steps and likely costs.

It was noted that an alternative location for a book-exchange might be the Village Hall. To be discussed further.

c. Traffic and Speeding

Community Speedwatch continues, it is well received by residents and has a number of regular volunteers. We work closely with Gloucestershire Constabulary who are very supportive.

Need to ensure continued presence at several village locations. Anyone wishing to volunteer occasionally, should contact Cllr Oliver.

A new speed indicator device has been applied for, it is also mobile for use at various locations.

Village Gateway - Alderton approach

GCC Highways has now approved the proposed location.

Whilst the verge is owned by Highways, we are grateful that the two landowners keep the ditches clear (per their riparian obligations). GPC to discuss with Clive Parker and Martin Quilter, to seek their buy-in.

In addition, GPC need to conclude discussions with Redwood Close residents, who have concerns about speeding traffic past the entrance to the close.

GPC is waiting for approval of 50:50 funding support from Highways. GPC to write to Cllr Gray, to request the remaining 50% (cc GCC Highways)

Highways have agreed to refresh all the road markings on the 3-off village approaches. GPC to confirm schedule and funding.

Gritting and Bins.

GPC owns a gritter and snowplough, and annually buys grit from GCC Highways, for the gritter and the bins in the village. Highways will clear main roads, and GPC has an arrangement with Tom Clarke (Stanley Pontlarge) to clear village minor roads.

GPC is grateful to Tom for his efforts in the Village before Christmas.

GPC needs to formalise its snow / ice clearing process (on the website) and order more grit, for Tom Clarke and the bins in the Village

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 and even taking diversions to avoid this road.

When asked, GCC Highways have replied with '..it's scheduled for 2024 – 2025..'

It was agreed to write to Highways senior management (Colin Chick – Exec. Dir. of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure; & Jason Humm – Dir of Transport & Highways), from both Gretton and Winchcombe Councils, seeking a confirmed earlier date. Cllr Gray asked to be copied, so he could support.

d. Gretton Village Association (GVA)

The Association has a new committee, who remain focussed on improving hall utilisation, keeping it at the heart of the community, supporting village social events.

GVA are planning the social agenda for the year, which will include a Coronation celebration, which GPC have agreed to support.

In addition, GPC is considering other ways it can support community events and the loss-making GVA. One option to be considered, is for GPC to consider paying for its use of the Hall for meetings etc. Although it was noted that GPC still pay c£2400 / annum, for a loan repayment – from the Hall’s original refurbishment (approx 15 years ago).

Village Hall and Playing Field projects.

GVA (with GPC support) continue to develop plans for improved Hall and Field facilities. New play equipment, more green areas and better accessibility should encourage wider use and appreciation of this asset. GVA is currently talking to funding bodies, potential contractors, and TBC.

e. Flood Group

No problems reported from recent heavy rainfall.

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.

Consideration is being given to improving the path above Greenway Lane.

g. Gretton Primary School.

A new head teacher has been appointed, effective Sept ‘23

8. Future Projects Update.

Whilst progress is good, there is a need to maintain a more rigorous plan. To be discussed between meetings and agreed at the next meeting.

9. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.

The meeting was grateful for reports from Cllr Gray (Glos CC & Winchcombe TC) and Jim Mason (Chair Winchcombe TC, and Dep Ldr Tewksbury BC).

Of note, TBC planning are still suffering staffing problems which is delaying the management of many planning applications.

10. Information and Correspondence.

All clerk’s correspondence is circulated to councillors and listed in the clerks report.

An additional letter was received via the website, seeking information about flooding.

Cllr Butcher to reply, directing the enquiry to GCC Flood support and offering GPC to visit to help understand the issue.

GPC to clarify where residents can get flood advice and sandbags, FB and website.

Other direct web-site correspondence should be forwarded to the Chair who will re-direct to Cllrs to reply to as appropriate.

11. Items For Future Agenda.

Clarify budget detail.

Village projects list

GPC support of GVA

12. To Agree Date of next meetings

Wed 8th March ‘23, Wed 10th May ‘23