

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Due to the Current Covid 19 Pandemic and The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) which came in to force on 4 April 2020. As advised by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). The parish council has no legal obligation to hold its Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2020, all current positions, reviews and groups will be carried forward until May 2021.

The minutes of Gretton Parish Council Meeting held via videoconferencing, using Zoom, on **Wednesday 13th May 2020** at 7.00 pm.

Present Cllr’s Linda Clifford, Richard Green, Geoff Hanson, John Hurley (Chairman) and Terry Nixon.

In Attendance Jackie Shields (Clerk) and TBC Councillor John Murphy.

1. Apologies for Absence.

None received.

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.

3. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Council Meeting Held On Wednesday 11th March 2020.

The minutes were approved and will be signed when appropriate.

4. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.

The garden waste collections are seeing a huge increase in the volume of waste being collected with 12.5% of all of May’s weight last year (870 tonnes) collected in one day.

Service delivery

All Ubico essential services are operating normally. The bulky waste service has started to take bookings as of today. This was advertised on our social media pages and on our website.

Wingmoor farm (Stoke Orchard), Hempstead (Gloucester) and Swindon Road (Cheltenham) household waste & recycling centres (HWRCs) have opened today, with the others in the county under review. The HWRCs are open for essential waste where it cannot be safely stored at home, the Swindon Road site is only open to Cheltenham Borough residents. Social distancing measures are in place at all HWRCs Gloucestershire County Council have published a press release outlining this.

There continues to be an increase in the number of council tax reduction applications. The team have seen an increase of 512 applications, which accounts for over 20% of the average caseload and this number continues to rise.

Environmental health officers carried out business closure checks every day over the bank holiday weekend. Most business were compliant however some discussions were held with both car sales companies and garden centres regarding opening - these remained closed with garden centres offering both deliveries and collections observing social distancing.

The environmental health team is also ensuring premises are suitably licensed where they are being used by companies for the sale of alcohol, by both collection and delivery.

The customer service team continues to authorise proof of life certificates to residents who have overseas pensions, to ensure their payments continue. This has given piece of mind to those residents affected.

Community support

35 emergency community grants have been awarded. Please continue to let the groups you are working with know about this opportunity.

The business grants team has now paid out a total of £14.92m in grant payments to 1281 businesses. A total of 1512 applications have been received, 176 applications have been refused as they do not meet the requirements. There are 30 applications requiring further validation. Cllr Smith and I continue to work with the business support team to identify eligible businesses.

In terms of planning, the Technical Planning Officer has sent through the following in response to a query:

"The majority of applications which we receive fall to be delegated in the first instance, however this can of course change through the course of an application, for example where there is a member 'call-in' or Parish objection.

In terms of the agenda for next Planning Committee, it includes those applications that have all the necessary information for members to be properly advised. There are some delays with some applications due to various Covid related reasons, including, for example, the availability of planning agents who have been furloughed and the need to carry out site visits which is not possible at the moment.

Any decisions which require committee determination as per the scheme of delegation will be determined by the Planning Committee.

In terms of publicity and the display of green site notices, the process for publicising applications is unchanged. It is simply as a matter of practicality that we are asking applicants to display the notices given the current circumstances as officers are not currently visiting sites.

As a consequence, there may be delays in site notices being displayed— also in some cases the applicant will not live at the site and therefore a notice cannot necessarily be displayed in the short term. There is a legal obligation for site notices to be displayed before a decision is made; therefore no decisions will be made without them. Our experience is that applicants understand this given the current circumstances.

If Town/Parish councils have any queries on an individual case, the planning case officers would be pleased to help."

5. To Receive Updates On Highway Matters.

All matters are on hold due to the current situation.

- a. Flooding/drainage.
- b. Traffic Calming and Parking.
- c. Roadworks.

The council had received a reply from Highways, reference number is HIG005820, regarding the surface of Gretton to Winchcombe Road, giving reasons why it will not be resurfaced.

Cllrs to report potholes in the side of the road at Gretton Fields.

6. Planning Matters

- a. Planning applications for consideration.
None received.
- b. Consideration of any further planning applications received that require a response before the next scheduled Council Meeting (details to be published on the website).
None received.
- c. Ratify Comments on Planning Applications received between meetings.
 - i. 20/00231/FUL - Gable Farm Gretton Road Gretton Cheltenham and 20/00234/LBC - Gable Farm Gretton Road Gretton Cheltenham The parish council would like to comment as follows:-
"Whilst we continue to have no objection in principle to this conversion, we do not think that the proposed changes to the roof area are appropriate and they will have a direct visual impact on the village within the conservation area"
 - ii. 20/00250/FUL | Erection of a single storey rear extension | Oak House Greenway Lane Gretton Cheltenham Gloucestershire GL54 5ER. The council has no planning reason to object.
- d. Planning Decisions.
None received.
- e. Withdrawn Applications
(19/00781/OUT) Land on the South Side of Dibden Lane, Alderton Tewkesbury.

7. Village Consultation and Neighbourhood Plan Update.

The Village Consultation is ready to be printed, however it was felt that it should be put on hold for the time being,

8. Financial Matters

a. To Consider Invoices For Payment via BACS.

The council agreed to pay the following items via BACS:-

Community Heartbeat Trust	Deib Pads	£50.40
Came and Co	Insurance	£352.85

The council agreed to use the £10.00 per hour, as a basis, for a contribution to the Village Hall, when it is used as a food hub.

b. Financial Report.

Financial report was presented to the council.

9. To Receive The Report From The Internal Auditor, To Approve The Governance Statement and the Accounts For 2019/2020.

Deferred due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the publication date for final audited accounts for local councils will move from 30 September to 30 November 2020.

10. Reports

a. Clerk.

- Not enough Vat paid to make a claim.
- 2019-2020 Accounts taken to internal auditor.
- Village Clear up cancelled due to COVID 19.
- PAYE submitted to HMCR.

b. Representatives.

Tower Trust.

The Tower will be repaired by the Trust whilst it remains in the hands of the Diocese, once the work is complete the Trust will take over ownership.

A further Bat Survey has to be carried out before work starts.

c. Councillors.

The War Memorial will require planting, Cllrs Clifford and Nixon to undertake, the council agreed for the plants to be paid for this year. (limit of £100.00).

11. Information and Correspondence.

Various items of correspondence have been received regarding COVID 19 for TBC, GCC and other organisation.

12. Items for Future Agenda.

13. Date of the Next Meeting.

8th July 2020

The meeting closed at 7.35pm

Signed

Date