

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerkgpc@btinternet.com

www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 11 December 2023 at 7.30pm at Gretton Village Hall, 61

Kirby Road, Gretton NN17 3DB

Present: Cllrs Lilley, Fox, Husk, Nicholls, Wright, Newby, Watt and Trevor Smith.

23/368 *To receive and approve apologies for absence.*

Cllr Smith

RESOLVED: Not Approved

Cllr Thompson

RESOLVED: Not Approved

Cllr Blamire and C Watts (The Clerk)

RESOLVED: Approved

23/369 *To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.*

There were no declarations of interest.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/371 *To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the November meeting held on 13 November 2023*

Minutes approved without amendment and signed by the chair

RESOLVED: Approved. Votes – all in favour.

23/372 *Open Forum*

No members of the public were in attendance to raise anything to discuss during the open Forum.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/373 *To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council*

Cllr Watt provided an update in respect of the new Chief Executive, Adele Wylie (previously Monitoring Officer), and repairs to be undertaken at Kettering Library. Cllr Lilley sought advice and support from Cllr Watt in respect of an ongoing issue affecting a resident and lack of action by NNC. At Cllr Watt's suggestion, Cllr Lilley will draft a letter to the new Chief Executive which he will review prior to sending.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/374 *To receive a report from the Police.*

No report received and PC Wilson was not in attendance.

RESOLVED: Noted.

23/375 *To receive a report from the Police Liaison Representative and Gretton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator*

GNHW surgery on the first Monday of the month continues at Lydia's; nothing of significance highlighted.

PLR – no feedback received from PC Wilson regarding recent dog incident and concern about the detailed appeal for information which was circulated widely. In future any appeals for information will be filtered prior to circulation.

RESOLVED: Noted.

23/376

To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team

No report received

RESOLVED: Noted.

23/377

To receive a report from the following Working Groups:

23/377a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters – Cllr.Lilley

Before the meeting Cllr Lilley reported on:

Our application for funding to improve Pick's Playing Field and assist the GPA Forest School has been successful. Work is now starting on the project.

Gretton Good Neighbours Scheme: unfortunately there were no visitors to the last Skills Cafe Meeting. This is probably due to the timing of Jackie's departure from the village and lack of advertising.

Village Hall: I met with Helen Heywood and Liz Watts to discuss their concerns about our request for an action plan following the problems with the party in October and hopefully this is now all resolved. I have assured them of the PC support. Liz is going to try and ensure that they are represented at more PC meetings.

Recreation Ground CCTV: three contractors came to view the site and two quotes have been received. After the budget has been agreed by the PC, the Finance Committee will discuss options. A proposal will be made to the PC for approval at a later date.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377b Communications including website, newsletters, press and blog – Cllr.Smith

Before the meeting Cllr Smith reported on:

Nothing to report.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377c Highways Working Group – Cllr.Thompson

Before the meeting Cllr Thompson reported on:

The application for the grant for new traffic signs is nearly ready to be sent off following authorisation from Jacki.

I have also had quotations from our existing supplier and awaiting a response from another for a comparison.

Nothing else to add at present but would like to bring up in AOB that the hedges along Gretton Brook road from the junction to Dunlop close require cutting back and are again causing damage to vehicles travelling along there.

Cllr Thompson has recently been requested to prepare a response for the Highways Review which GPC had been asked to comment on, part of which related to improved road markings on Kirby Road – something highlighted by the Traffic Safety Group. Cllr Lilley will follow-up with Cllr Thompson.

Re hedges on Gretton Brooke Road, as this does not fall within Gretton Parish this needs to be reported via Fix My Street – Cllr Lilley to advise Cllr Thompson.

Further discussion ensued re water run-off from Rockingham Speedway, balancing pond and recent visit from Environment Agency.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377d Community –buses, doctors’ surgery, school liaison – Cllr.Husk

Before the meeting Cllr Husk reported on:

School - No update from school re purchase of Buddy Signs. Nothing further to report.

Doctor's Surgery - Nothing to report.

Bus - Will be attending a Welland Wanderer Bus meeting on Wed 13 Dec where Ka of CommMiniBus will be share details of his enterprise. Support of participating Parish Councils in place for 2024/25. Passenger numbers from Gretton to Corby on a Friday remain good, with less travelling on a Tuesday to Market Harborough. Bus trip to Rushden Lakes on Sat 25 Nov was poorly supported (8 passengers). Further trip to Bosworths Garden Centre is being arranged for 14 Dec.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377e Environment –trees, Pocket Park, litter collecting groups-Cllr.Newby

Cllr Newby reported before the meeting:

Environment –

I have asked for a copy of the listed TPOs

Within a conservation area, the council has extra controls over a number of factors including the protection of trees. In certain situations, a TPO may be placed on a tree within a conservation area to prevent works being carried out.

I feel this needs clarification

Hedgecutting

Roadside vegetation

Definitive map - see Previous attachment.

Has Clinkers been cut??

Lower Church Yard hedge to be cut by Council [See Correspondence].

Rockingham Forest Vision

Nothing to report.

Tree Hubs For Discussion

https://treeplanner.moretreesnow.eco/destinations?fbclid=IwAR1Lm-_9D7sas86FcD5-cCPNf0yTw7c-w4aFdL5ISEmi4Ucn7SQoAHxoXJ4

River Wardens

Flooding

The maintenance of rivers, streams and ditches is usually the responsibility of the “Riparian Landowners” who own land on either bank. If you are such a landowner you will have both rights and responsibilities associated with the ditches, or other watercourses, flowing through or adjacent to your property.

Who is responsible for culverts under roads?

Responsibility for the maintenance of any culverted watercourse usually lies with the riparian owner; (see leaflet 15 of this series for more details on this subject).

However, some culverts under roads may be the responsibility of the relevant Highway Authority, or other body, for historic reasons.

The Pocket Park –

Elm tree clearance and Stump on Verge causing concern

Major coppice clearance planned for this season and Laying of Blackthorn Hedge discussed at meeting 15th November

Investigating quotes for Walling repairs

Vandalism at Pond covered by working party

Pocket Plum Disease and Japanese Knotweed: Ongoing

Fly Tipping – AS BEFORE;- sites partially cleared, 8+ sites remain

Fly tipping on private land is an issue as this is often moved or burnt

Parish Path Warden –

I have made an enquiry concerning the Hedgerow on Clinkers No Reply

No recent maintenance

Welland Valley Partnership – Questions;-

Road closures x2 See email

Gretton Brook Road NO RESPONSE FROM NNC

Pot holes

Further discussion re Picks Playing Field – Cllr Lilley will start to order the equipment that is required.

Potholes – Cllr Fox to report the pothole on the sharp bend halfway to Rockingham.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377f Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox

Cllr Fox reported before the meeting:

I am pleased to advise you that the Skate Park and Outdoor Gym projects have both been signed off by the Play Area Safety Inspector and certificates of compliance have been issued.

Both projects have been classified as “Low Risk” and there are certain items that have been identified on each report as low-level but requiring attention and these will all be rectified in due course when ground and weather conditions allow, namely:

- *Provision of signage – individual signs have been ordered for both the skate park and the outdoor gym and will be installed as soon as possible.*
- *Ground reinstatement – to be rectified when conditions are suitable.*
- *Site tidiness and temporary fencing – the skip and other materials are due to be moved shortly and the site will be cleared. We will review the need for fencing to protect the areas of seeding and bare soil.*

The Friends group are compiling an inspection and maintenance schedule in conjunction with the equipment suppliers. The insurance company has specified that the equipment must be inspected at least every seven days.

Although the equipment is now available to be used it is intended that this will be announced on Facebook and through the School when the signs have been erected and the skip has been removed.

Further works are planned to replace litter bins, provide seating, improve access to the field, repair fencing, mark out parking spaces in the car park, plant trees, reinstate grass areas and sow wildflower seeds on the banking. These will be carried out when ground conditions are suitable.

An Activity Event is being planned for Saturday 20th April to officially open the new facilities and to promote the use of the MUGA and sports clubs. This will include some coaching, demonstrations and opportunities to try the equipment.

Work on revision of Bye-Laws is ongoing.

Further discussion re grants – Cllr Nichols will speak to Sara Earl about what the grants cover and what work still needs to be done.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377g Village Hall – Cllr.Smith

Cllr Smith reported before the meeting:

Nothing to report.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377h Sports and Social Club – Cllr.Nicholls

Before the meeting Cllr Nicholls reported on:

Sewer System – Although this is recognised as a Rec Ground problem I again highlight to keep at the forefront of people’s minds. There was no resolution at the November meeting as reflected in the minutes. With the heavy rain how do we know there hasn’t been a sewage spill onto the rec ground? Do we know the level of the tank and if there has been a spill through the holes in the cover, or how close we are to an incident? We receive a Tree Survey from an expert and we then plan and take the actions required. This was also the case of the tree at Picks. However we don’t seem to follow the same logic with the sewer system. As part of our new insurance for the skate park and outdoor gym would we be covered as a council should someone injure themselves on this?

Events Held

Fiona Chapmans birthday drinks; Bellas Netball presentation; Skills Café

Future Events

Bingo every Monday

Kids Xmas Party – 16th December 2.30 – 5pm

70s Disco – 16th December 7pm onwards

Boxing Day – free buffet and pub games

New Years Eve Disco

New Years Day – Bring your own Bottle

Xmas Membership available for £4. From now to March 1 st .

Gretton School and Chirpie Chicks

We continued our tradition of donating and delivering a Christmas Tree for both the School and Chirpies.

Advertising the Bus trip within the club and at Bingo especially helped add a few extra people who may have missed other communications. Happy to promote other events in future.

Closed from Jan 2nd until Jan 13th.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/377i Youth Council – Cllr.Blamire

Before the meeting Cllr Blamire reported on:

There has not been any progress on the Youth Provision this month, nothing to report.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/378

Planning Applications received:

NC/23/00052/DPA

Revised (Scheme) 20.11.2023): Erection of 5 dwellings with associated garaging and car parking on land off Kirby Road, Gretton

Amended Planning application discussed. Cllr Lilley will update response but unanimous agreement that GPC's previous objection remains in principle.

RESOLVED: Approved

NC/23/00450/DPA

New Detached 4 bedroom family dwelling house at 57 Kirby Road, Gretton

Planning application discussed and agreed that GPC would object on the grounds of:

- Over-development of site
- Design within Conservation Area
- Closeness to adjoining property
- Drive-way is below the required minimum for emergency vehicles
- Two parking bays for a four bedroom house which are not marked on the plan so concern about impact on traffic, visitor parking etc
- No mention of EV charging points

Unanimous agreement to object

RESOLVED: Approved

23/379

To receive Finance Statements for September and October showing invoices paid and received

Small amendments required; will be carried forward to the next meeting.

Updated statements for April – August have been supplied, and were signed off by Cllr Lilley.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/380

To discuss Budget and Precept for 2024/25

Sewerage Issue at the Recreation Ground

Cllr Lilley requested that the Sewerage issue at GSSC was discussed first. A number of proposals, as set out in Cllr Lilley's paper, were reviewed and discussed. In respect of Proposal 3, Cllr Nichols asked about the timescale to secure any grant and the likelihood of success. Building on the success of the Skate Board Park and Outdoor Gym, he asked if a complete upgrade to the Pavilion and Sports facilities (possibly incorporating facilities for a youth club) might be an option which could potentially be more attractive to grant providers rather than just seeking a grant to upgrade sewerage system. Grants could be investigated from Sport England, Lottery Funding, Community Funding (Govt grant), Mick George, FCC etc. GPC may be committing £15k towards this but would be giving something much bigger back to the village. Recognising that no work can be undertaken over the next three months

anyway this would give time to develop any grant application. However, an interim solution is still needed and Proposal 2 was reviewed – requirement for new drain covers, effective alarm system and pump. An effective alarm system ensures there is capacity and time to react.

For the next financial year, GPC will be seeking an increase in precept to cover admin costs. The perception of some may be that this increase is to fund the sewerage system; it would not be, but is an investment in the infrastructure of the village. Cllr Nichols referred to the previous offer from GSSC of £10k – could the Club make up the remainder based on some kind of rental agreement?

After discussion it was agreed that:

Objective 1 – to explore how we can upgrade the whole site and the sewerage system will become part of that – long term plan, and could possibly take 6-18 months to secure design and funding. Unanimous agreement for this proposal. Objective 2 – as an interim solution, agreed that drain covers would be changed, alarm system replaced, a new pump installed and maintenance arranged via contract or on an ad hoc basis. 5 votes in favour and 1 abstention. Cllr Wright to contact the companies who have previously provided estimates to progress, and will seek to implement as quickly as possible.

Budget and Precept

This paper was reviewed. It was noted that the TVAS and CCTV projects would only go ahead with appropriate funding contribution, and budget will be adjusted to reflect this.

TVAS – prior to any consideration of purchase Cllr Nichols requested that further data be shared as so far only one set of data has been available. The collection of data will be supplied to Kier and Highways and used to support the village's request for traffic calming measures. Positive feedback is being received about the TVAS camera already in place. Trevor Smith will request further data from Steve Gray; GPC to then receive report from the Traffic Safety Group of 12 month trending data. Cllr Lilley will request update from Cllr Thompson in respect of the repositioning of the TVAS camera onto Harringworth Road.

CCTV – two companies have provided quotes, and details of camera locations were outlined by Cllr Lilley.

Pocket Park wall – Cllr Newby to discuss with Pocket Park Committee the potential cost for repair work to wall which will be allocated to general reserve.

Extraordinary Meeting - to be held on Tuesday 2 January for budget sign off which will allow sufficient time for the Precept paperwork to be submitted by the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/381

To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting.

Lower Church Yard – as far as the resident of the property adjacent to the church yard is concerned the hedge belongs to GPC. The Mowing Map shows grass cutting but not hedge cutting. This needs to be followed up by the Clerk with Liam Faulkner and team.

Parking on Arnhill Road – this has been raised by a resident; Cllr Lilley has been unsuccessful in contacting PC Wilson but will respond outlining the appropriate route for reporting such incidents.

Water Penalty Charge – as a result of non-payment of bill for the April – August quarter a penalty charge has been incurred. Cllr Wright has spoken to Water

Authority, updated correspondence address and new Clerk's details on the account, and settled the outstanding bill. It was proposed that a Direct Debit arrangement (for the billed amount) be set up to avoid it happening again.

RESOLVED: Approved.

Land Transfer – Cllr Fox has recently discussed with landowner's solicitor this position which has been going on for some time. It would seem there is a deadline with Land Registry for resolution. Clerk to draw up required Standing Order for signature by Cllr Lilley and Cllr Fox as a matter of priority.

Emery's Grass Cutting – request for Clerk to acknowledge receipt of recent email and retain details on file for when renewal of contract is considered.

Christmas Tree on Village Green – this is being put into position this coming weekend.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/382

Councillor questions

Nothing raised.

RESOLVED: Approved

23/383

Date of Next Meeting

8 January 2024

RESOLVED: Approved

23/384

Close

9.35pm

RESOLVED: Approved

Signed Cllr Lilley:

Date