

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerkgpc@btinternet.com

www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 11 March 2024 at 7.30pm at Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby

Road, Gretton NN17 3DB

Present: Cllrs Lilley, Husk, Nicholls, Wright, Newby, Blamire, Watt, and C Watts (Clerk)

24/038 **To receive and approve apologies for absence.**
Cllr Fox, Trevor Smith (PLR and NHW Coordinator)

RESOLVED: Approved

24/039 **To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.**
Cllr Wright declared that he had contacted the current contractor in relation to the Mowing Tender. As this was after he had sight of the other tenders for transparency Cllr Wright will not take part in the discussion of the Mowing Tender item 24/050
RESOLVED: Approved

24/040 **To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the January meeting held on 8 January 2024 and February meeting held on 12th February 2024**
Minutes from both months approved and signed by Cllr Lilley
RESOLVED: Approved.

24/041 **Open Forum**
No members of the public were in attendance

RESOLVED: Approved

24/042 **To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council**
*Cllr Watt shared that more funds have been granted for Transport and Highways
Cllr Watt shared he had reached out to Cllr mark Rowley in relation to an ongoing matter with a resident's issue within the village and the matter is currently being looked into.
Cllr Husk raised the point that the renewal of green bins annual cost appears to be 1 month early.
Cllr Watt to look into this*

RESOLVED: Approved

24/043 **To receive a report from the Police.**

No report received
RESOLVED: Approved

24/044 **To receive a report from the Police Liaison Representative and Gretton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**
Trevor sent a report to Cllr Lilley before the meeting on the following

Neighbourhood Watch: Nothing to report.

PLR: Nothing to report as the last Zoom meeting was cancelled.

An Increase in postings has been noticed on the Gretton news and Views Facebook on the increase of pavement parking within the village.

Parish Council to monitor the key points within the village

RESOLVED: Approved

24/045

To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team

Newsletter received and shared. First one received since August 2023.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046

To receive a report from the following Working Groups:

24/046a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters – Cllr Lilley

Before the meeting Cllr Lilley reported on:

Neighbourhood Plan: Nothing to report

Nature Recovery Plan: two meetings have been held this month to get the plan started. I have three volunteers from the village involved along with Sophie Vanden Bergh from Rockingham Forest Vision. I have shared with the group the environmental and heritage sections of the Neighbourhood Plan. The group would like to use the new field for a community orchard. We will apply for grants under the **Coronation Community Orchards** scheme.

Picks Playing Field: Work is progressing well. New Hedges have been laid, and the older ones cut back. The only outstanding item is the notice board.

Mowing/Hedge Cutting Tender: Two of the prospective contractors were given a walk around the village (separately) to discuss the tender. We now have received their tenders.

Village Hall committee: I attended the meeting this week. Events that have been held have been well attended and financially successful. Maintenance around the hall is ongoing.

Website Training: I gave Fiona and Chrissie basic training on how to access and update the website. Fiona is now working on bringing the website up to date and will cover in her report

Other Items: Chrissie and I visited the Fursdons. We collected the allotment rents. We also discussed the PC offer to support an RBL event to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of D-Day. David has written to the Church and the Baptist Chapel to request a service at one of the locations. They will give thought to a village based event and come back to us. They are not in a position to organise an event but I let them know that we would be happy to do so on their behalf.

Village Hall: Chrissie and I, helped by Fiona, cleared the boxes in the meeting room. There were a number of historic items so we have held onto them for the time being. The other filing cabinets still need to be cleared. Once done then the idea is to invite

the History Society to have a look through and consider the possibility for them to be held in the Northamptonshire Archive Records Office

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046b Highways Working Group – Cllr.Thompson

Before the meeting Cllr Thompson reported

Following a meeting of the traffic group on Wednesday we are now in possession of the replacement 20's plenty signs and they will be installed on Thursday along with straightening the post on Harringworth road in readiness from the new unit.

When do we receive the new TVAS?

It was decided that Steve Grey will train a few of the group how to download the data from the TVAS units to assist with the quarterly report as requested by GPC. The next report will be downloaded on the 31st March.

As a result of the speed gun sessions, it was noted that a high percentage of offenders seemed to be at school drop off time which prompted the idea of getting the school involved and making the children more aware in a hope that they could tell Mummy or Daddy when they are speeding!

We are going to be reviewing the traffic action plan to ensure it is up to date.

Grant application ongoing.

At the meeting it was discussed about the good news that the yellow lines at the school have been approved.

Councillor Thompson to contact Kier to arrange delivery of new TVAS once he has determined the width of the pole on Harringworth Road. David Hall is organising Horse and Cycle Rider signs to be made.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046c Community –buses, doctors' surgery, school liaison – Cllr.Husk

Before the meeting Cllr Husk reported on:

Doctor's Surgery

- The Ops Manager at Uppingham Surgery is continuing in his attempt to resolve the issue of the broken fence outside the Doctor's Surgery. Highways are unable to assist, and the investigation has now been taken over by one of the main property officers for the local area. I hear regular updates and reassurance that steps are being taken to rectify this matter.

School

- Good news that the Buddi Signs have been purchased by the PSA and are now in situ.

Bus Service - Welland Wanderer

- NNC are continuing with their work towards the launch of the new services and there has been interest from prospective operators. Target launch date is now 1 June.

Cllr Husk to reach out to see if the children at the school would like to get involved in

*Doing posters in relation to the 20 is plenty campaign.
The Fence situation at the Doctors is still ongoing.*

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046d

Environment –trees, Pocket Park, litter collecting groups-Cllr.Newby

Cllr Newby reported before the meeting:

Environment – Hedge cutting Roadside vegetation Out for Tender DEFINITIVE MAP [NOW A REQUIREMENT] Does this include Station Road Southern Bank ?? A Gully layout document is available as is a Lamp post layout As before Kier are to respond there is a presentation at the Cube in the near future??

Rockingham Forest Vision Nothing to report

River Wardens Mercian Rivers Trust Welland Valley Partnership No activity due to water levels Training Course, 14th February. Gretton representatives were away Flooding As before Parish Council to make representations to relevant parties ? NB Clear water cleared Gretton Brook Apparently a meeting has been arranged

Picks Playing Field See Committee report

The Pocket Park – Maintenance work Coppicing continues at a pace. Planting session 8 March 2024 Concerns were raised concerning the Budget for perimeter wall repairs Pocket Plum Disease & Japanese Knotweed Ongoing

Fly Tipping – AS BEFORE A coordinated response from GPC would be an advantage Some sites have been cleared??? But others on the same road remain ?? Issue with Fly tipping at allotment entrance

Parish Path Warden – NB This is Highways see definitive map requirement

Gretton Brook Road SOME ONGOING RESPONSE FROM NNC Email up date to follow

Gypsy and Traveller Liaison See separate Email

Cllr Newby to send contact details of John Sutton (Kier) to the clerk for her to contact him in relation to customer relations.

The wall repair at the Pocket Park was raised and shared that there is budget for this and quotes to be submitted from the Pocket Park committee for review.

Cllr Newby to raise the question of the funding for the Kissing Gate to the Pocket Park Committee.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046e

Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox

Cllr Fox reported before the meeting:

Projects and New Equipment

The principal works had all been completed successfully, and Play Area Inspector's reports received, with the following grounds matters to be addressed, dependant on drier weather conditions. Soil to be levelled and grading of skate park surrounds around the new pathway. Grass seed to be ordered and sown Wildflower seeds to be sown on the bank.

Bins – It was noted that the bins alongside the car park were all shabby and ideally needing replacement. Agreed to ask NNC to replace their bins and the Group would arrange to replace the bin that they had originally provided next to the MUGA, in a new position to be agreed. Benches – the bench that had been removed from the outdoor gym area would be relocated alongside the footpath next to the Under-5s play area. A new bench will be acquired to be positioned close to the skate park. Access to field – the Group stressed that emergency access must be opened up as soon as

ground conditions improved. Chris from Boardroom to return to site to agree necessary works to complete – Sara Earl to arrange meeting.

Opening Event/Activity Day – Saturday 20th April

Family Fun Day Date was agreed on Sunday 14th July. Format as previous events.

MUGA goals Moff had previously advised that these were now available but may need new nets.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046f

Sports and Social Club – Cllr.Nicholls

Before the meeting Cllr Nicholls reported on:

Future Events

Bingo every Monday

Friday night Pub Dart league has resumed

Skittles Winter League – This will continue on certain Wednesdays through Feb and March before finishing with the George Boon Knockout cup on April 6th.

Red Nose Day Quiz – 15th March

Cricket Race Night – 23rd March

Issues

The broken front door has been repaired

EGM. Saturday 16th March at 5pm.

The decision was to hold it on a Saturday rather than midweek to allow as many people the opportunity to attend. It is highly recommended that anyone with an interest in the future of club attend as a decision must be made about its future.

There will be a social media campaign this week to remind people and to explain the issues.

As a reminder of what I reported last month.

Whilst the club is now on a solid financial base we are at a crossroads. We have appealed for new members of the committee and had no success. The number of committee members cannot take the club forward and we are struggling with what purpose the club serves to the community.

Is it a sports club- in which case we would close the winter when its quiet.

Is it a social club? If so why is it not being used more.

Is it a summer venue.

Do the people of Grettton need a sports and social club anymore?

At the meeting Cllr Lilley gave her apologies that she would not be able to attend the EGM as she has a prior engagement.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046g

Youth Council and Social Media– Cllr.Blamire

Before the meeting Cllr Blamire reported on:
Gretton Youth Services: No further progress

GPC Social Media & Webpage Support:

Facebook - Permissions now granted for the approval of Parish Council Facebook Page.

Actions Mar / April -

Fiona Blamire Councillor Facebook Account to be created to support with proactive activity on behalf of GPC (rather than using personal account to share information)
Create proposal for communication strategy, monthly events, pro-active communication.

GPC Website -

Training completed Wednesday 06/03/2024

Notice of vacancy updated for Councillor Position

Tenders removed for Gretton Parish Council land and property, information saved to be added to a hidden archive page

Contact Us Page - updated from Sara Golding name to Chrissie Watts.

Request sent to Peter Mason for change of login name to the Clerk email address (from Hatton Arms)

Discussion with Peter Mason for best approach for web page to support with Gretton Recreation Ground.

Actions Mar / April -

Continue familiarisation of web update process

Prioritisation of outstanding activities.

Workload to be shared with Clerk as required (updating minutes etc) to support with familiarisation.

Proposal created for recommended changes for next month.

At the meeting Cllr Lilley shared that the Parish Council want to make the website and facebook page more of a communication hub for the village. Cllr Lilley thanked Cllr Blamire for her efforts so far.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/047

Planning Applications received:

NC/24/00087/LPC

Re : Internal works to listed building, including creation of ensuite to an existing bedroom by creating new wall opening and installation of new stud partition.

At : Gretton House High Street Gretton North Northamptonshire NN17 3DE.

Cllr Lilley shared she logged onto the site and there was no documents or drawings attached to the application. The Clerk to contact NNC and raise this with them.

Application to be carried forward to the next meeting

NC/24/00042/LBC

Re : Outline Planning Permission for up to 1 dwelling (all matters reserved).

At : 40 High Street Gretton North Northamptonshire NN17 3DE

Gretton Parish Council object to this development for the following reasons:

The proposed development is partially within the conservation area. We would therefore like to receive a copy of the conservation officer's report when available to consider further our decision.

The proposal will make this the seventh property off an unadopted road. Please could NNC advise how many properties are permitted on an unadopted road, and consider whether this application is appropriate.

In addition, the location is currently used by the owners of 40 High Street for their off-street parking. Therefore, by closing off this current access for parking, the residents of 40 High Street will be forced to park elsewhere in the village. The village, particularly in the High Street around no. 40, suffers from congestion and road safety issues due to parking on what is a busy, bending, narrow road.

There is concern about access for utility and emergency vehicles.

The Parish Council consider this to be over-development of the site as the building is being built very close to some of its boundary walls.

The Clerk to submit this objection in the usual ways

RESOLVED: Approved

24/048

To receive Finance Statements for January showing invoices paid and received

Invoices received checked and signed by Cllr Lilley

RESOLVED: Approved

24/049

To discuss Election information received and the next steps due to the Resignation of Cllr Smith

Cllr Lilley shared that the vacancy advert is on the noticeboards, website and facebook page. The closing date is 22nd March 2024 and if any applications are received then an interview process will be undertaken with Trevor Smith also being asked to formally apply. If there is no additional interest then Cllr Lilley has proposed that Trevor Smith is Co-opted onto the Council. All agreed. Cllr Nicholls shared that he had been approached by one person asking for some information regarding the position. The Clerk will send any applications received to all Cllr's

RESOLVED: Approved

24/050

To discuss Mowing Tender Applications Received

Cllr Lilley prepared a spreadsheet to show the comparison between the 3 companies who submitted a tender application.

One Tender was determined to be too expensive.

The discussion centered around Spendlove and Emery who were very close with their tender amounts.

The Vote was 5 for Emery and 1 for Spendlove.

The reasons for this were Emery already look after four other Parish Councils, two Hospitals and two major Supermarkets

RESOLVED: Approved

24/051

To Discuss the Parish Council response to consultation on changes to development

Cllr Lilley shared that the Government are looking to relax a lot of planning rules and feels strongly that the Parish Council get involved due to the possibility of over development of the village due to no need for planning applications for certain projects. Cllr Lilley has sent a document to all Cllr's asking them to complete and submit to her within 2 weeks. Once all completed Cllr Lilley will complete the survey. The deadline for the survey to be completed by 9th April 2024.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/052 **To Discuss Action List report which has been created to view status of items from previous meetings**

The Clerk has created an action list spreadsheet shared on one drive for all Cllr's to have access to it.

It was explained that this report is to be updated with all actions and follow ups from items discussed at each meeting. The clerk to send the link to all Cllr's for everybody to update. This report should help reduce the amount work needed for the monthly reports.

Items on the agenda list currently are to be updated.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/053 **Review Property and Asset Risk Assessment report**

To be carried forward to next month's meeting due to Cllr Fox being unable to attend this meeting.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/054 **Proposal from the chair that the Parish Council Field be made into a community orchard under King Charles III Community Orchard Scheme**

Cllr Lilley shared she is working with some volunteers and Sophie Van den burgh. They would like to ask the Parish Council if they could set up a Community Orchard in the new field. There is a grant scheme that funding can be applied for. The idea is for trees to be planted and looked after by the volunteers. The aim is to try and make it a family friendly environment where people can meet.

Cllr Nicholls shared it was an excellent idea but is there an appetite and will there be enough volunteers? Cllr Lilley shared that Sara Earl is on board and believes there will be enough enthusiasm. Part of the plans will be to include paths for nature and heritage trails. Cllr Thompson raised would there be a dog poo bin, Cllr Lilley to raise it at her next meeting with Sophie. Cllr Lilley shared that the group will look to prepare a five year plan.

RESOLVED: Voted: All in favour

24/055 **To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting**

Cllr Husk raised that Weldon Parish advertise their Parish Council meeting on their facebook page on the day of the meeting. Cllr Lilley agreed this is something that could be adopted by Gretton.

The Clerk shared that she had received the expenses for the last 2 years from the Pocket Park and would pay as soon as bank information is received. The safe to be checked for the paying in book as the Clerk has some cash income to be paid into the account.

Gretton life magazine to be collected from the printers and Julie Smith's share will be distributed by Cllr Blamire until the new Cllr is appointed.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/056 **Councillor Questions**

Cllr Thompson raised the question had there been any update on the caravan situation on a site on Arnhill Road. It was shared that now MP Tom Pursglove has become involved everything will go straight to him. We will not get any updates until it has been resolved.

24/057

Date of Next meeting

I t was raised that the April Meeting will also be the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk to contact the groups for their accounts. The next meeting will be held on 8th April at 7.30pm.

Due to the Clerk advising the groups that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday 15th April, this will be a stand alone meeting

RESOLVED: Approved

24/058

Close

8.55pm

RESOLVED: Approved

Signed Cllr Lilley:

Date