

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 12 February 2024 at 7.30pm at Gretton Village Hall, 61

Kirby Road, Gretton NN17 3DB

Present: Cllrs Lilley, Fox, Husk, Nicholls, Wright, Newby, Blamire, Watt, PC Wilson, Steve Gray

24/022 **To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

Cllr Thompson, C Watts (Clerk), Trevor Smith (PLR and NHW Coordinator)

RESOLVED: Approved

24/023 **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

24/024 **To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the December and January meetings held on 11 December 2023 and 8 January 2024**

11 December 2023 – minutes approved without amendment and signed by the Chair.

8 January 2024 – amendment to be made at 24/015 'Gretton Neighbourhood Plan requirement' rather than 'Parish Council's requirement'

RESOLVED: Approved. Votes – all in favour.

24/025 **Open Forum**

Steve Gray will share his report at 24/030b

RESOLVED: Approved

24/026 **To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council**

Cllr Watt provided a brief update in respect of the recent Full Council which met to discuss Democracy and Standards matters. He also touched on the recent Planning matters relating to the old Weetabix site and Rockingham Gateway.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/027 **To receive a report from the Police.**

Before the meeting PC Wilson reported on:

The crime and anti-social behaviour figures for DECEMBER 2023 are as follows:

CRIMES – TWO

STALKING (23000788146): UNWANTED CONTACT VIA TEXTS – DOMESTIC (SUSPECT KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED DUE TO EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES)

ASSAULT (24000002464): NO INJURY (SUSPECT KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED DUE TO EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – ONE

549 – 14\12\23: PARKING OBSTRUCTION (NON-ATTENDANCE AS ESTABLISHED VEHICLE BROKEN DOWN)

The crime and anti-social behaviour figures for JANUARY 2024 are as follows:

CRIMES – SIX

MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS (24000013019): THREATENING SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGE (SUSPECT KNOWN, NO COMPLAINT, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)
BURGLARY (24000015567): BUILDERS TOOLS STOLEN (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)
PUBLIC ORDER (24000047747): OFFENSIVE GESTURE (SUSPECT KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED DUE TO EVIDENTIAL DIFFICULTIES)
ASSAULT (24000048575): THREATS TO CAUSE HARM (SUSPECT KNOWN, NO COMPLAINT, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)
ASSAULT (24000056378): HISTORIC REPORT (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)
PUBLIC ORDER (24000061772): NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE (SUSPECT KNOWN, NO COMPLAINT, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – NONE

Now that Gretton's PCSO has been redeployed to a role in Corby, PC Wilson will update the Police contact poster and forward to the Clerk.

RESOLVED: Noted.

24/028

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

Before the meeting Trevor Smith reported on:

NHW: Lost dog circulated, dog since found. Additional NHW signage put up and replaced in village. Crashed vehicle on Corby Road reported.

Police Liaison: Spoken to PC Brad Wilson re putting Police aware sign on crashed vehicle on Corby Road, due to public stopping vehicles on corner and getting out of their cars to look causing obstructions and possible RTC risk.

RESOLVED: Noted.

24/029

To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team

No report received

RESOLVED: Noted.

24/030

To receive a report from the following Working Groups:

24/030a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters – Cllr Lilley

Before the meeting Cllr Lilley reported on:

Neighbourhood Plan: no report on Gretton specifically, though I did attend the West Corby Consultation event with Cllr Newby. This consultation is only for changes to the phasing of the development. Whilst there I did take the opportunity to find out more about it and ask some pertinent questions that may have a knock-on effect on services to Gretton residents. I apologize in advance if I am telling you things you already know, but wanted to share as much information as possible in case you are not aware. The development is for about 4,500 houses (similar size to Priors Hall) and is located on the Rockingham Estate on the A6003 between the BP and Oakley roundabouts (near the water towers). Corby Council (who were the governing body at the time of the application) has allowed the allocation of affordable housing to be only 10% (despite their own target of a minimum of 20%).

Infrastructure items such as schools and medical facilities will be the last part of the build. I asked whether there would be a separate medical facility built on the site as the impact of Priors Hall on medical facilities already available in Corby and used by some of our residents has meant a reduction in availability of appointments or services to our residents. It was explained to me that in a build like this, the developers must put aside land for a site and a sum of money to be given to the NHS to develop their own facility only, i.e. they are not responsible for actually building a facility. This means that there will not necessarily be a separate facility built on site as it is up to NHS to decide how they use the funding. The same is true for the provision of schools. Therefore, until such time as the development is concluded, there may be a knock-on impact to local schools having to take in children moving in to the site, and likewise medical facilities in the area may be impacted by having to take on more patients. Also, this part of the A6003 is to remain as a single lane route meaning that it is not unreasonable to expect heavier traffic both during and after the development – which could take up to four years.

PC Website: yesterday Cllr Wright and I received training from Julie on maintaining the PC website. Together we shall be reviewing the site to identify what needs to be updated or new items to be added. Training will be given to the Clerk as well on her return.

Pick's Playing field: there has been good progress in the last month despite the weather.

Four of the six fruit trees are now planted. The signage over the gate has been installed.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/030b Highways Working Group – Cllr.Thompson

Before the meeting Cllr Thompson updated that he had nothing to report.

Steve Gray, Traffic Working Group, reported NNC have the traffic report, he has been liaising with Sarah Barnwall, and is awaiting an update, recognising that this may take some time given the nature of the work. The yellow lines in the vicinity of the school should be extended; the zigzag lines were repainted before Christmas.

An additional TVAS sign has been confirmed, exact date of arrival not known. Awaiting confirmation from Cllr Thompson re position of pole on Haringworth Road, in addition to Kier or NNC rep visiting Station Road to discuss siting of pole in that location.

Speed data – request for historical data has been made and Steve Gray will continue to pursue. He has downloaded the latest TVAS data covering the last six months which shows 50% are under the speed limit. There is no pre-TVAS data available. TVAS set for incoming and outgoing but unfortunately the outgoing data hasn't recorded on this occasion. Noted that GPC have requested quarterly data to enable monitoring on a regular basis; plan in place for team of people to be trained in downloading and reviewing data.

Community Speed Watch last undertaken in August; further campaign planned for April / May for a month so looking to get a team together. He will speak to contact within the Community Safety Team re locations to enable more accurate speeds to be recorded.

Traffic Calming Survey by Kier / NNC - nothing further has been heard about this.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/030c Community –buses, doctors’ surgery, school liaison – Cllr.Husk

Before the meeting Cllr Husk reported on:

School

Have spoken recently with Julia Dickinson, Principal. The school has not been able to procure the Buddy Signs but she will follow up with the PSA who had previously offered to fund some. The school was pleased to see the lines repainted outside the school just prior to the Christmas holidays, and continue to offer its full support to the Parish Council and Traffic Group in their efforts to improve parking, speeding and traffic issues in the vicinity of the school. It remains a source of frustration to the school, particularly parking.

Doctor's Surgery

Have been in touch with Uppingham Surgery a few times about this now. As the fence doesn't belong to the surgery they will contact the council, as their landlord, to look at it.

Welland Wanderer Bus Service

Please see Cllr Lilley's confidential report of 11 January 2024.

Community MiniBus

Hopeful of further trips being arranged and await details.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/030d

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

Cllr Newby reported before the meeting:

Noted report is actually for 12 February not 8 January. Aspects of report discussed in more detail:

TPOs and removal of trees within the Conservation Area – residents need to be aware of their responsibility in this regard; Cllr Newby to find legal reference for this and GPC to publicise;

Mowing Map – definitive map has been shared. Additional request for the grass verge in front of 5 Arnhill Road to be included; Cllr Lilley will update the map. Agreement that this could now go out to tender.

Hedge Lower Church Yard – resident in neighbouring house owns the hedge facing their boundary.

Tree Hub – Cllr Newby has been directed to Members Enquiries NNC but unable to access; he will discuss further with Cllr Watt.

Flooding – the Clerk did contact Highways following our last meeting who visited and report is awaited; Clerk to chase report.

Gullies – two visits over the last month; further visit scheduled in March.

Pocket Park – maintenance work has been undertaken, starting to coppice some of the Hazel.

Fly Tipping – remains a concern with reports spanning last two years unactioned. As a PC we need to be aware of these areas, receive response from relevant parties and be able to respond to residents. Cllr Lilley and Cllr Newby to discuss further.

Clinkers – now on cutting list.

Gretton Brook Road – issues remain with flooding and no one taking responsibility for the pollution.

Allotments / Garages – ownership remains with NNC as GPC not prepared to pay the legal costs for transfer.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/030e

Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox

Cllr Fox reported before the meeting:

Skate Park and Outdoor Gym projects – awaiting drier weather conditions to complete landscaping and other works. Repair to damaged gym item to be carried out by suppliers.

Opening Event/Activity Day – to be organised for Saturday 20th April.

Family Fun Day – date and arrangements to be discussed.

Pavilion – repair to light fitting and door to be actioned.

Meeting – date to be arranged subject to half-term commitments.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/030f

Sports and Social Club – Cllr.Nicholls

Before the meeting Cllr Nicholls reported on:

Future Events

Bingo every Monday

Mr and Mrs – 17 th February

Poker Night – 23 rd February

(We have checked against the gambling commission regulations to ensure this is run in accordance with our license)

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 6 th .

Red Nose Day Quiz – 15 th March

Cricket Race Night – 23 rd March

Issues

The front door has broken over the weekend and cannot be used.

The club will pay to fix but I am highlighting this to the PC as the landlord.

The wooden back doors which back onto the car park will need to be replaced at some stage over

the next year or so. We are seeking to strengthen these with metal plates in the interim.

Club Committee has voted to hold an EGM. Date to be confirmed.

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 Gretton need a sports and social club anymore?

Further discussion followed - With few Committee members and no new ones coming forward there is a need to understand what members want from their club, hence the EGM which will give some direction and make it clear to members what the Club's position is.

There has been previous discussion re potential funding to improve Pavilion facilities; this could bring people together but there needs to be an appetite and long term vision for it.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/030g **Youth Council – Cllr.Blamire**

At the meeting Cllr Blamire updated:

Nothing to report.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/031 **Planning Applications received:**

NC/23/00052/DPA

Amended plans do not adequately answer the objections previously raised by GPC; Clerk to respond that our previous objections still stand.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/032 **To receive Finance Statements for September, October, November and December showing invoices paid and received**

Invoices received and signed.

Cllr Husk to arrange with Chair of Gretton Good Neighbour Scheme for Tesco Mobile account to be transferred to the Clerk c/o Village Hall address.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/033 **To discuss the next steps due to the Resignation of Cllr Smith**

A Councillor vacancy is currently being advertised. Should there be 10 residents in the village requesting an election this will trigger an election for the vacancy. Closing date is 22 February after which, if there is to be no election, anyone interested in being a Councillor will be asked to contact the Clerk. If the outcome is known in time, a flyer will be inserted into the Gretton Life magazine, due out at the end of February, to reach as many residents as possible.

Cllr Smith's responsibilities – Cllr Blamire will take on the role updating the website and social media posts. Clerk is gathering together updated policy documents for the website.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/034 **To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting.**

- Change of use to house adjacent to the Village Hall has been referred to Planning and is now a matter for Enforcement.
- The clerk has reported an increase in contact to report drains, lights etc following FB post.
- Branch from resident's garden bordering the Lower Church Yard has fallen onto PC land for which we are responsible – resident is arranging for the tree to be

inspected. Clerk to ask them to arrange inspection of all trees on the boundary to ensure their safety and to provide the PC with a copy of the report.

- Noted that previous copy of the Parish Council's risk assessment included the Lower Church Yard as well as all other Parish Council properties. Frequency of inspections was discussed – a specified period of time but should there be extreme weather conditions it should be reviewed as quickly as possible afterwards. Cllr Fox will review the original document, and suggest the allocation of responsibilities for recording inspections, accessible to all GPC, for implementation. Also suggested that property maintenance schedules should be incorporated into the same document, for example, clearing of Pavilion gutters and flat roof. All PC assets to be included on this document, not just trees. Mention made of recent wood chipping work in the Pocket Park – questions over appropriate PPE and no formal training – PC land so liability is with GPC.
- Action remains for the Clerk to locate the previous minutes for formal agreement re Lower Church Yard.
- Resident has requested a copy of the December and January minutes.
- Site visit to caravan on Arnhill Road; response to MP takes priority.
- Gretton Water Tower – works to be carried out on the masts. Clerk to clarify how many car park spaces they are requesting.
- Repair to RBL Notice Box – quote for £50 received for work to be undertaken by village resident; approved.
- Village Hall Committee – if any Cllr has been approached by any individual interested in joining this committee, with their agreement, please pass on their details to the committee.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/035

Councillor questions

- Entrance to Clay Lane development – concern raised regarding the state of the verge and blocked gully at this site. Previously raised by the PC and passed between Planning and Highways, no action taken. Agreed that the Clerk would contact Planning Enforcement.
- Tender for mowing and hedge cutting – should this be for the village or village and Recreation Ground? Cllr Wright will forward details to the Clerk. Suggest that the village tender is for one year, and ask for consideration of one, two or three years for the Recreation Ground.
- 80th Anniversary of D-Day 6 June 2024 – Clerk to contact Shirley Fursdon and Dave Miller, RBL to ask if they would take the lead for this, with support from GPC. Bell Ringers to ring at St James at 6.30 pm.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/036

Date of Next Meeting

11 March 2024

RESOLVED: Approved

24/037

Close

9.30pm

RESOLVED: Approved