

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Gretton, Corby, Northamptonshire.

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Please Note: These Minutes are posted prior to being ratified by the parish council and as such are in draft form.
Any amendments to Minutes will appear in the following month's minutes.

Minutes of the meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on **Monday 12th April 2021** at 7.30pm. This meeting was held virtually, using the Zoom platform.

Present: Cllrs. Woolston, Moore, Fox, Smith, Ferguson, Bromhall, Thompson, Meechan, Collis, Watt, Watts, PC Wilson, the Clerk (J.Clark) and one member of the public.

21/060 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies received from Cllr. Wellings.

21/061 To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct Related to business on the agenda.

RESOLVED: None declared.

21/062 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 8th March 2021.

RESOLVED: The minutes were approved without amendment – as this was a virtual meeting the minutes will be signed by the Chairman at a suitable time.

21/063 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only.

RESOLVED: 21/057(ii) A Risk Assessment and Method Statement has been written and agreed between with the Contractor. Work is due to start next week.

21/064 Open Forum

RESOLVED: No comments raised.

21/065 To receive a report from County Councillor.

RESOLVED: No report received.

21/066 To receive a report from Borough Councillors.

RESOLVED:

Cllr. Watts thanked the Parish Council for their support and hard work during the last six years and sent her best wishes to everyone. Cllr. Woolson thanked her for her work and wished Cllr. Watts the best of luck in the future.

Cllr. Watt echoed Cllr. Watts comments and said that it had been a pleasure working with Gretton Parish Council and doing their bit for Gretton. Cllr. Woolston stated that she hoped the Rural Area Forum continues and Cllr. Watt said that he hopes it will become a bigger and stronger forum. Cllr. Woolson thanked him for his work and wished Cllr. Watt the best of luck in the future.

21/067 To receive a report from the Police.

RESOLVED: *"The internal report that informs me of the crime figures for the area is no longer available and we now operate a new system. The benefit of this new system is it allows me to break down the crime figures to cover just Gretton now, where as previously it was for both Gretton & Weldon and some of the surrounding areas, thus not giving an accurate picture for just Gretton. The downside of the new system is I am no longer able to provide the results in a table, therefore the crime figures for Gretton for the last month (12th March – 07th April 2021) are as follows:*

2 x VIOLENCE AGAINST PERSON

1 x THEFT

I have continued to monitor the Church foyer and Church gap and not as of yet found anything or anyone of note during the times of my patrols. I will of course continue to monitor this during my future patrols.

I have also continued my patrols of the recreation car park in relation to possible drug dealing at the location and can report that I have found nothing and no-one of note during the times of my patrols. I will of course continue to monitor this during my future patrols also.

At the request of the Parish Council, I have attended the building site on Clay Lane \ Station Road and spoken to the site manager in relation to vehicles entering the site by ignoring the one-way sign at the location. I have advised the site manager that I will be monitoring the situation and if I witness any breaches then I will be issuing a ticket on the first offence and not issuing any warnings as my visit to him was the warning. I would ask that if anyone witnesses any such offences occurring to please e-mail me the details of the vehicle as well as the time and date it occurred, I will then look into the matter and report back. I have agreed with the site manage that the exception to the rule would be for any large heavy

vehicles that need to enter the building site and cannot navigate down Clay lane can do so via the junction of Station Road & Clay Lane, providing they place people in the road to warn oncoming vehicles.
 Finally with the phased relaxing of the COVID-19 regulations your local Neighbourhood Policing Team are also looking at a phased return to 'Normal' Policing and as such I will be looking to conduct some roadside speed enforcement in the area, which I will report the results of during the next Parish Council meeting. The patrols of the area will continue as normal and we will assess attending events, schools and the community centre in the near future."

21/068 To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team.

RESOLVED: No report received.

21/069 To receive Financial statement dated 31st March 2021: payments received and invoices paid.

RESOLVED: This report was approved.

Payments

Date	Purpose	Payee	Amount
12/03/21	Pocket Park expenses	Gretton Pocket Park Society	£73.00
12/03/21	Hedge plants for Lower Graveyard	P.Bromhall	£37.56
18/03/21	Salaries (Jan, Feb, March)	Mrs J.Clark	£1,146.90
18/03/21	PAYE Income Tax	HMRC	£229.20
18/03/21	Printing costs	Mrs J.Clark	£10.00
26/03/21	Fence repairs, Lower Graveyard	MST Construction	£2,274.24
26/03/21	Electricity for The Pavilion	British Gas	98.98
31/03/21	Platform for remote meetings	Zoom	£14.39
31.03.31	Replacement netting for Recreation Ground	Durant Cricket Ltd.	£636.00

Receipts

03/03/21	Allotment rents		£270.00
04/03/21	NCC Highways mowing grant		£567.00
05/03/21	Gretton Football Club hiring fee		£684.00
15/03/21	Garage rent		£ 35.83
15/03/21	Gretton Silver Band hiring fee		£ 100.00

BALANCE

£ 34,875.46

NATWEST BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 31st March 2021

Balance		£39,171.80
Add undeposited cheques		Nil
BALANCE		£38,964.66
Less unrepresented cheques 000065		1,156.90
000066		229.20
000067		2,274.24
000068		636.00

BANK 31st March 2021

£34,875.46

21/070 To receive a report from Working Groups.

RESOLVED:

21/070a Website – Cllrs. Smith and Collis

Cllr.Smith will finalise the Welcome Pack for the website.

Future documents added to the website will be uploaded as pdf documents.

Cllr.Bromhall reported that a resident had made a request that the PC website included something less formal than the meeting minutes, maybe more of a Blog. This was discussed and whilst it was agreed that this might be useful whilst the Gretton News is not being published, it should not replace the minutes, and care would need to be taken to select those items included and those omitted. In view of the additional work that would be required it was agreed that this would be discussed again by the new Councillors following the May elections.

21/070b Police liaison – Cllr.Thompson reported that he had attended a Zoom Parish Council meeting with Stephen Mold, Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner. Updates included the benefits of joint working, interoperability and sharing services.

There will be an increase in the number of Police Officers in the County. Mobile police stations are up and running and will be taken to various areas. Fire Brigade aim for quicker 999 responses. Police Dog Section is also being increased. There has been a 6.3% drop in crime figures. It was reported that there will be an influx of travellers to the County. Dog theft is continuing.

Welland Valley Partnership – Unfortunately, the meetings happen during the working day and Cllr.Thompson is unable to attend them due to work commitments. It was agreed that this would be discussed in May when the new Councillors are in place.

21/070c School liaison – Cllr. Meechan. A visit to school has not taken place.

21/070d Source grant applications – Cllr.Meechan reported that a lot of grants that are available at the present time are for COVID based projects.

The Village Hall committee are looking for a grant to cover the cost of work to the paintwork on the outside walls of the building. Cllr.Fox said that he would forward details to them regarding the Arnold Clark Community Fund that is accepting applications at the present time.

21/070e Trees and environment

– Cllr.Bromhall reported that the newly planted shrubs planted in the Lower Graveyard have started shooting. He is hoping to get a grant from The Woodland Trust to purchase the remainder of the hedge plants. Cllr. Watts informed him that she has two Holly trees that she is happy to donate if they could be used. Cllr.Bromhall accepted this offer.

21/070f Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox

Following the release of some COVID restrictions, the MUGA is now being used by the girls' netball team as well as football, Zumba, tennis and fitness classes.

The Football Club is using the Recreation Ground again and the Cricket Club will start playing again on 1st May. The Pavilion will need to re-open for toilet and kitchen facilities. This means that a legionella test will need to be carried out on the water system, this was approved. The electricians are also being tested.

The cricket nets have been ordered and will be erected before the 1st May.

There has been a request for more seating around the children's play area. The issue of dogs on the Recreation Ground has been posted on News & Views. It is hoped that the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground will be able to meet up soon and get other groups in the village involved on how to move forward with these and other potential projects.

21/071 To discuss and report Matters Arising Document.

RESOLVED: 20/228 Defibrillator. The grant application has been approved. The Clerk will contact the supplier and liaise with F.Sharman regarding installation.

21/072 Planning

Application resubmission ref: 20/00489/COU and 20/00490/LBC Re : Proposed erection of timber garage and installation of grass-grid to rear garden.

At : 10 Station Road, Gretton. NN17 3BU

RESOLVED: This application was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would make no comments.

Application NC/21/00115/DPA Re: Formation of a vehicle cross-over and entrance

At: 3 Arnhill Road, Gretton. NN17 3DN

RESOLVED: This application was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would make no comments.

Cllr.Fox raised the issue of **Planning Application Number 20/00455/DPA Proposed Crematorium, Corby Road, Gretton**. The Parish Council wrote to both Mr.I.Smith (Head of Planning & Environmental Services) and Mr.P.Goult (Democratic Services Manager) raising concerns over the Development Control Meeting held on 16th March 2021. Concerns were expressed both over the conduct of the meeting and the restrictions on the presentation of the Parish Council's objections. The substantial and reasoned objections submitted by GPC have not been included in the text of the report and have, clearly, been given little, if any, consideration in the assessment of this application. Objections raised concerned (1) traffic and highways impact, (2) site selection and sustainability, (3) air quality, (4) external illumination, (5) site drainage and (6) vehicle access. As a result, the members of the committee, on reading the Officer's Report, will be given no indication of the scale or basis of objection raised by the Parish Council, in representing the local community. The PC considers that the entire process will be flawed, and open to considerable criticism and potential challenge, if the Officer's Report is not withdrawn and the application deferred to allow the Report to be redrafted and openly considered to take the PC's reasoned objections into account.

The time allowed for the representative of the PC to speak was shortened and much of the detail and argument could not be adequately conveyed to the members of the committee within the very limited time available.

It was concerning that one member of the committee was not visible to the watching public throughout the ensuing debate and was not even visible when the votes were cast. Although nine votes were counted, there were only eight councillors visible to the public.

Response received from Mr.Smith The Committee did receive additional information from officers regarding the objections raised by objectors. The Committee did consider the objections raised and there was significant debate following both the officers report and public contributions, prior to the Committee determining the application.

Response received from Mr.Goult (1) The Committee did receive additional information from officers regarding the objections raised by objectors, (2) The permitted time was allocated and, (3) Although one of the councillors was not visible, I am satisfied they were in attendance during the meeting and when called to vote did so in a timely manner.

Councillors discussed the response to these letters and whilst there was general dissatisfaction with the decision to grant planning consent and some aspects of the process by which it had been reached, it was felt that there was little more that could be achieved other than to make continued representations over traffic and access improvements which might benefit the village overall.

A further letter was sent to Mr. Smith regarding the application made by Gladman Developments Ltd to build 120 houses in Gretton. This letter included the following points: There has been a succession of court cases in relation to this application and the case was heard at the Court of Appeal in November 2020 and a judgement was issued on 3rd February 2021. Whilst it is acknowledged and perfectly understood that GPC has no standing or involvement in the case there is concern that Councillors and residents of the village were not even made aware of the proceedings. It is felt that the PC should now inform the residents that the case has been heard but it would be useful to know if there are any other ongoing proceedings in this matter, or any possibilities that the case could be taken further to the highest level.

No response has been received to this letter.

Letter sent by the Parish Council to Mr. Smith highlighting the lack of consideration to PC objections, or even acknowledgements that they have been made in some cases, when determining some recent planning application.

No response has been received to this letter.

21/073 To consider Risk Assessment Schedule 2021/22 Assets and Property

RESOLVED: This very comprehensive document compiled by Cllr. Fox was discussed in detail and approved. The following actions were discussed and agreed.

Recreation Ground and Play Areas: Play equipment and surfacing is maintained and checked weekly by Corby Borough Council Culture and Leisure Department qualified play area inspectors.

ACTION: Clerk - Copy of Risk Assessment to be requested from Corby Borough Council.

Open Spaces, Village Green: Cllr. Fox highlighted the steps from the Village Green down to Station Road. The bottom step goes straight onto a muddy verge and then directly onto Station Road. Following a discussion, it was agreed that, for safety measures, these steps should be closed.

ACTION: Cllr. Thompson will action this tomorrow using a temporary barrier. Something more substantial and in-keeping with the Village Green will be discussed at a future meeting.

There are some steep slopes on the Village Green and it was agreed that a sign would be put up advising people to take care.

Signs were also discussed to pre-warn of open water for the two ponds in the village, Pocket Park and Church Gap.

ACTION: Clerk to contact the Pocket Park Group advising this has been discussed.

It was agreed that three monthly inspections as highlighted in the document would take place and then be reported at the following Parish Council meeting. Any immediate dangers would be actioned immediately. This document will be a May agenda item when Councillors to be responsible for the document will be agreed.

Cllr. Bromhall said that he would produce a Risk Assessment for the Lower Graveyard. He felt it would be beneficial for the Church and Parish Council to share their Risk Assessments.

21/074 To consider quotations to provide disabled access to Gretton Village Green.

RESOLVED:

The quotations received to provide disabled access to the Village Green were discussed and the quotation received from MSC Groundworks Specialists was approved.

ACTION: Clerk to advise contractor asking MSC to confirm that they will carry out the work for the price quoted and request copies of their insurance.

21/075 To consider forthcoming site visit with Highways Department

- i) Attendance
- ii) Traffic calming/speeding
- iii) Crematorium impact
- iv) Gretton Brook Road

RESOLVED:

This will take place on Friday 16th April at 11.00 am. Cllrs. Moore, Smith Collis and Clerk will be present.

20/076 To consider Internal Audit for the year ending 31st March 2021

RESOLVED: It was agreed to ask Mr Peacock if he would be available to complete the Internal Audit on behalf of the Parish Council again this year. If he is not able to do this, NCalc would be asked to carry out the audit.

ACTION: Clerk to contact Mr Peacock.

20/077 To consider a request from the present Tenant to purchase the land on Harringworth Road.

RESOLVED: The present Tenant was present at the meeting and reported that he is interested in buying the land that he currently rents and would plant trees on the land to continue the planting he has undertaken on the surrounding land. There is no access to the land and it is of no benefit to the village other than the annual rent received which is presently £50. He wishes to buy the land on a freehold basis and is willing to pay 30% more than an independent valuation. He also offered to donate the area of woodland on the Jurassic Way that he planted as a community project to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee to the Parish Council as part of the agreement. Councillors agree that this area of land, being more accessible, would be of benefit to the village. Cllr. Fox stated that, according to the Land Registry, there are no covenants or

legal restrictions on the field meaning the PC are able to sell the land if they so wish. He added that, as a Parish Council, we have to be careful and diligent in getting the best price and be seen to be doing so by using an independent valuer. The money raised through this sale would go into an account purely to be used for a future capital project for Gretton village only.

It was agreed in principle to sell the land based on principles discussed. Cllr.Fox and the Tenant to discuss this further and report back to a future meeting for final approval.

20/078 To consider a quotation for the cutting of the roadside hedge along Station Road.

RESOLVED: One quotation has been received. It was agreed that further quotes should be obtained before a decision is agreed.

20/079 To consider the date and venue for the Parish Council Annual Meeting to be held in May 2021

RESOLVED: This will be held on Monday 17th May 2021 at 7.30 pm. The Village Hall is unavailable and the Clerk will see if it is possible to book the Baptist Hall.

20/080 To receive a report from Clerk regarding GDPR Councillor Resignation Checklist

RESOLVED: The Clerk advised the Councillors who are not standing for re-election that they will be given a GDPR Councillor Resignation Checklist to complete and return.

20/081 To approve NALC Subscription for 2021/22:

NALC Base Rate	£163.33
NALC Subscription based on electorate of 1191	£291.91
NALC Subscription based on electorate of 1191	£ 88.37
Data Protection Fee	£ 10.00
TOTAL	<u>£553.61</u>

RESOLVED: This payment was approved.

20/081 To receive a report on any correspondence received since previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) An email has been received from Sara Earl regarding the work that she does to support the Corby Council's climate action programme asking if Gretton PC have declared a climate emergency.
RESOLVED: It was agreed that this should be discussed at a future meeting.
- (ii) A resident has made a complaint regarding the music from the MUGA during a Zumba session.
RESOLVED: This was noted and the PC will contact the group concerned.
- (iii) On Gretton News & Views, a group of residents have posted that they would like to create a small library book swap using the old telephone kiosk. Cllr.Fox said that M.McEvoy had contacted him directly as well.
RESOLVED: This was approved. The PC appreciate M.McEvoy and other residents for proactively pursuing this and will support as needed.
- (iv) The Temporary Tree Officer has approved the removal of the tree on the corner of Kirby/Corby Road and the tree has been removed.
- (v) A request has been posted on News & Views for further information regarding the candidates for the forthcoming Parish Elections to be made available.
RESOLVED: It was agreed that the people standing would be invited to provide some personal details about themselves, their role on the Parish Council and, how they intend to represent residents in Gretton. This information will be compiled and officially circulated to each household in Gretton before the Elections takes place on 6th May. It will also be put on the PC website.
- (vi) At the recent Annual Parish meeting, a question was asked regarding the re-opening of the GP Branch Surgery in Gretton. The Clerk has contacted Uppingham Surgery and was advised that they are very much looking forward to resuming service in Gretton. There are ongoing operational plans that need to be finalised between the GP Partners and the Practice Manager before they start to inform their patients. All updates will be available on their website, social media pages and the Patient Participation Group.
- (vii) An email has been received from a Senior Planning Enforcement Officer regarding concerns raised by the PC with the development at 9 Station Road.
8th March 2021. "The planning application (16/00406/DPA) for this site was granted on appeal reference APP/U2805/W/17/3189159 and I have reviewed that decision notice. There was no condition within the appeal decision that required the completion of the access prior to the completion or occupation of any of the dwellings. However, the Construction Management Plan does require the developer to ensure that no mud or material is transferred onto Clay Lane and this is something that I can investigate and deal with. The issues regarding the blocking of gulleys and drains, broken road signs and damage to the verge and road edging is not a planning enforcement matter but I will pass your concerns on to colleagues at NCC Highways for them to deal with. Vehicles driving illegally up Clay Lane from Station Road would be a Police matter and I would advise you to contact them as this is a traffic offence. I will keep you informed on these matters as and when I have further updates.

12th April 2021: "I have visited the site and noted the ongoing work to plots 1 and 2 with plots 3 and 5 now being occupied, works to plot 4 are yet to commence. The works witnessed on site were in accordance with the approved plans at the time of my visit. Heras fencing has been erected to screen the plots being worked on and any open excavations to deter trespass. I am aware that HSE was on site last week but I am awaiting an update from him on any issues he found under his legislation. I can also confirm that the Police visited the site last week to speak with the contractors regarding traffic going the wrong way up Clay Lane. The street signage is still there and the developer has confirmed that it will be placed back once the large deliveries have ceased. I have asked street naming to monitor this. It has also been agreed that any damage to the verges will also be made good. I am still waiting for updates from Highways over the clogging of the street drains but have requested that the contractors ensure that the roads are kept clean and swept so the transfer of deleterious material is kept to a minimum. Unfortunately, the Council's Tree Officer has been off sick but he will visit the site to check on the tree works when he returns and I will update you if he raises any issues." Senior Planning Enforcement Officer.

21/082 Councillor questions

RESOLVED:

Cllr. Woolston ended the meeting by thanking all Councillors for their hard work and support during her time on the Parish Council, particularly her time as Chairman. She gave her best wishes to all.

Cllr. Fox, on behalf of everyone present, took the opportunity to thank all of the Councillors who have made the decision to retire at the forthcoming election. He said they had provided a fantastic service to the Parish Council and village for many years.

Cllrs. Meechan, Moore, Ferguson and Bromhall shared these sentiments and said that it has been an honour to be part of Gretton Parish Council.

21/083 The meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 17th May, 2021.

Signed: _____

Chairman, Gretton Parish Council

the