Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on **Monday 13th March 2023**, 7.30 pm at the Gretton Village Hall.

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Present:** Cllrs Lilley, Wright, Husk, Fox, Blamire, Smith, Newby, Nicholls, Thompson and The Clerk (S.Golding). PC B. Wilson, T. Smith, S. Gray

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| ***22/278 To receive and approve apologies for absence***  No absences  **RESOLVED:** Approved - all in favour. |
| ***22/279 To receive declarations of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda***  No declarations made.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. |
| ***22/280 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February 2022***  Minutes approved without amendment and signed by Chair.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. Votes – all in favour. |
| ***22/281 Presentation of Parish Nature Recovery Plan from Sophie Van Den Bergh***  Sophie Van Den Bergh unable to attend meeting due to illness. Agenda item to be carried forward to April’s meeting.  **RESOLVED**: Noted and approved. |
| ***22/282 Open Forum***  Six village residents in attendance: some for presentation of Parish Nature Recovery Plan who had not seen published message of cancellation; some who to voice concerns over upcoming planning applications. Those who wished to share opinions, were given allotted time to address councillors.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. |
| ***22/283 To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council***  No report received prior to meeting.  **RESOLVED**: Noted and approved. |
| ***22/284 To receive a report from the Police***  Report submitted prior to meeting.  Crime and anti-social behaviour figures for February 2023:  **CRIMES – THREE**  HARASSMENT (23000100140): VERBAL ABUSE & THREATS (SUSPECTS KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, NO FURTHER ACTION, FILED) \***LINKED**\*  PUBLIC ORDER (23000105399): VERBAL ABUSE (SUSPECTS KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, NO FURTHER ACTION, FILED) \***LINKED**\*  ARSON (23000114182): STRAW STACK DESTROYED (SUSPECT UNKNOWN, ENQUIRIES ONGOING)  **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – THREE**  431 – 15\02\23: NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE - RIGHTS OF WAY (WORDS OF ADVICE GIVEN)  517 – 16\02\23: HARASSMENT & PUBLIC ORDER (CRIMES RECORDED ABOVE) \***LINKED**\*  108 – 21\02\23: CONCERNED OVER NEIGHBOURS C.C.T.V. (OWNER OF C.C.T.V. SPOKEN TO & AGREES TO REPOSITION CAMERAS)  **RESOLVED:** Report noted and approved. |
| ***22/285 To receive a report from the Police Liaison Representative and Gretton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator***  No report submitted prior to meeting. Neighbourhood Watch group attended Rural Crime Event, then contacted local farmers to establish relationship moving forward, as often target of crime in rural areas.  A village resident experienced some anti-social behaviour; PC Wilson to contact the resident.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. |
| ***22/286 To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team***  No report provided.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved |
| ***22/287 To receive a report from the Highways Working Group***  Highways Working Group walked round Gretton Village with S. Barnwell from Northamptonshire Highways. Discussed several ideas raised in Highways Working Group Traffic Survey, including advisory 20mph limit; double yellow lines; ways to encourage traffic calming, coming into and within village; extending 30mph outside of village borders to help bordering properties; and possibility of Electric Charging Points at designated points. All ongoing suggestions.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved. |
| ***22/288 To receive Financial Statement dated 1st-28th February 2023: payments received, and invoices paid***  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved. Votes – all in favour.   |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | Date | **PURPOSE** | **PAYEE** | **Amount** | | **PAYMENTS** |  |  |  | | 06/02/23 | Water Bill – Recreation Ground | Wave | **72.82** | | 08/02/23 | MUGA Electricity | British Gas Lite | 126.42 | | 20/02/23 | Salaries February | Clerk & RFO | 621.08 | | 20/02/23 | PAYE | HMRC | 81.80 | | 21/02/23 | Pavilion electricity | British Gate Lite | 246.93 | | 27/02/23 | Annual Membership | CPRE | 36.00 | | 27/02/23 | Land exchange legal paperwork | Lamb & Holmes | 668.38 | | 27/02/23 | Empty septic tank | Semilong Services | 330.00 | | 27/02/23 | Whole Council Development Training | NCALC | 294.00 | | 27/02/23 | Recreation Ground Mowing 2022 | Spendlove Contracting | 1,530.00 | | 27/02/23 | Remove Ash Tree | Special Branch | 1,200.00 | | **RECEIPTS** |  |  |  | | 06/02/23 | The Hunger Hut 1007 |  | 18.26 | | 13/02/23 | Garage Rent February |  | 35.83 | | 21/02/23 | Allotment Rents |  | 295.00 | | **BALANCE** |  |  | **£42,731.87** | | |  | | --- | | **NATWEST BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 31st January 2023 Statement**  Balance £42,731.87  Add undeposited cheques Nil  **BALANCE** £42,731.87  Less unpresented payments: Nil  **Balance 28TH February 2023** £42,731.87 | | | | | | **C**llr. Nicholas asked for clarification on the price charged of the removal of an Ash Tree at Picks Field by Special Branch. | | | | |
| ***22/289 To receive a report from the following Working Groups:***  **22/289a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters – Cllr. Lilley**  Report received prior to meeting.  Neighbourhood Plan: NNC has been chased for update on registering Village Hall as Community Asset. Response awaited. Gretton Good Neighbours: Constitution and policies for group accepted at meeting,9th March. Jackie Clerk agreed to be Chair; Fraser Wright, Treasurer; Susan Husk, Secretary. Next event is Skills Café, 25th March at Sports & Social Club. Flyers distributed with Gretton Life magazine and advertised on Facebook. Village Emergency Plan: received draft report from Darren Dovey.NACRE Parish Council Networking meeting at Hunsbury. Workshop focussing on: transport; health & wellbeing; climate change & resilience; biodiversity; food and energy. Representatives from Parish Councils invited to identify issues, barriers and solutions for each subject. In many areas we are ahead of curve with initiatives (e.g. Neighbourhood Plan in place; warm hubs around village; setting up Good Neighbour Scheme; looking at alternative bus services). **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289b Communications including website, newsletters, press and blog – Cllr.Smith**  Report received prior to meeting.  Clerk updated website contact details. Photograph and introduction pending.  Cllr. Smith to write blog post about Planning Application process and how individuals can comment on applications and share views and opinions.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289c Highways Working Group – Cllr. Thompson**  See agenda item 22/287 for report.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289d Community – including buses, doctors’ surgery, school liaison – Cllr. Husk**  Report received prior to meeting.  Bus Service: Welland Wanderer - £1500 payment from NNC confirmed, alongside Parish and Ward Councillor funding; it appears to have sufficient means to reach end of year without relying on further funding from NNC.  School: Traffic Buddi signs - school awaiting update on bid submitted via parent.  Doctor's Surgery: contact changed and updated details shared. Uppingham GP Practice to publish a newsletter, to give better communication to patients about the Practice, services available and ways to access them.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  ***22/289e Environment – including trees Pocket Park, fly tipping, litter collecting groups, Parish Path Warden, Welland Valley Partnership – Cllr. Newby***  Report received prior to meeting.  Cllr Newby to raise awareness of trees in the Parish to ensure villagers understand which need permission to be removed or may be protected. He is to contact Local Tree Officer regarding this.  Parish Council looking into getting a new tree survey and trying to find way to include privately owned trees and to make residents aware of any concerns. Risk assessment to be done on tree cutting. Litter Pick to be held on 1st April; meeting point at The Village Hall at 10am.  Damage to Public Right of Way footpath on Clinkers Field, reported to Highways as its responsibility.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289f Recreation ground – Cllr. Fox**  Report received prior to meeting.  Recreation Ground reviewing hiring costs for MUGA, established in 2014.  Ongoing communication and preparation of tender documents for approval by the group and Parish Council. FCC advised of delay in obtaining tenders. Investigating further fundraising to maximise opportunities and to match Parish Council’s contribution.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289g Village Hall – Cllr. Smith**  No report provided.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289h Sports and Social Club – Cllr. Nicholls**  Report received prior to meeting.  Sports and Social club continue to host regular events, including Bingo every Monday; Darts Village pub league every Friday; Skittles looking for a captain to organise winter league. Upcoming events: Skills Café – 25th March from 10am; Music Quiz – 1st April; Easter Sunday - Charity football match.  Wall-mounted flower beds once weather improves, with wildflowers around patio. Toilets and Pump; repairs to pump and alarm system undertaken. Quotes received for ongoing system maintenance plan.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved.  **22/289i Youth Council – Cllr. Blamire**  Cllr. Blamire met with CYPN to look into professionally run Youth Club Service. CYPN currently covers closer to Northampton town so need to recruit someone specifically to cover Gretton. CYPN to reach out for feedback in community using social media to establish need in Gretton.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved. |
| ***22/290 To receive an update on Gretton Parish Council Deliverables***  Council Deliverables updated; deadlines extended to targets where required. These continue to be ongoing and monitored.  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved. Votes – all in favour. |
| ***22/291 Planning Applications***  **Planning Applications:**  **22/291a Ref: NC/23/00052/DPA**  Re: Erection of 6 dwellings with associated garaging and car parking  At: 33 Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby Road, Gretton. NN17 3DB  **RESOLVED:** Objected. Letter submitted to case handler. Reasons for objection: Impact on Listed Buildings and Conservation Area; Gretton Neighbourhood Plan; Impact on Local Green Space and Important Open Space; Highways and Traffic Impact; Biodiversity and Wildlife; Drainage; Section 106 Obligations.  Votes - all in favour.  **22/291b Ref: NC/23/00057/DPA**  Re: Insertion of a window to first-floor side elevation of existing garage  At: 4 Appleton Gardens, Gretton.NN17 3EF  **RESOLVED:** Objected. Due to impact on privacy of neighbouring dwelling, in Conservation area. Retrospective and incorrect planning applications not to be encouraged. Votes- all in favour |
| ***22/292 To discuss Gretton Coronation Day plans***  Celebration on Recreation Ground for benefit of whole village, Sunday 7th May 2023. Ideas for activities and events being considered. Facebook page ‘Gretton Coronation Celebrations’ to keep community up-to-date with arrangements and to publicise planning meetings in advance. Next meeting, Wednesday 22nd March, 19:30 in Pavilion, open to all and involvement from community encouraged.  **RESOLVED:** Votes – all in favour. |
| ***22/293 To discuss the Recreation Ground Mowing Contract***  Clerk shared quotes for mowing contract. Voted in favour to proceed with Spendloves Contracting: 16 maintenance cuts fortnightly from w.c. 27th March; 4 remedial 'off-week' cuts; 5 additional cutting dates to be specified by Cricket Club, £82.50 per cut plus vat.  **RESOLVED:** Votes – all in favour. |
| ***22/294 To receive Bus Survey Results***  Results shared; confirmation that Welland Wanderer will run until end of year; well used, with recent improved attendance. Formal letter for funding to Ward Councillors, using results for localised bus survey stating a need remains for this service, to support formal request for funding support and to consider reinstating bus service. Parish Council will continue to support this service.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***22/295 To receive a report and discuss on Town and Parish Briefing - NNC Planning Service***  Cllr. Newby, Cllr. Wright and Cllr. Lilley attended meeting. Concern that views of Parish Councillors with local knowledge of area and Neighbourhood Plans would not be taken into consideration moving forward. Parish Council’s view that benchmark changes are not appropriate in a rural community, and it is unfair to hold rural and urban as equal due to impact.  The Parish Council would like to ensure continued representation on the previously agreed basis.  Letter to be written about concerns and sent to necessary people.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***22/296 To receive a report and discuss on North Northampton Place Development Event***  Cllr. Blamire and the Clerk attended North Northampton Place Development Event in February, as Cllr. Blamire’s report is not yet ready, it will be carried forward to April’s meeting.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***22/297 To receive and approve NNC Grounds Maintenance Quote April 2023 to March 2024***  Quote received from NNC Grounds Maintenance for Grass and Hedge cutting services; accepted by Councillors. This quote covers Grass and Hedge cutting in the village for 10 visits at a total of £3,517.50 excluding VAT.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. Votes- all in favour. |
| ***22/298 To approve Terms of Reference Highways Working Group***  Policy approved and renewed without amendments.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. Votes- all in favour. |
| ***22/299 To approve Speed Indicator Device Policy***  Policy approved and renewed without amendments.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. Votes- all in favour. |
| ***22/300 To approve Terms of Reference Planning Committee Policy***  Policy approved and renewed without amendments.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. Votes- all in favour. |
| ***22/301 To receive a report of any correspondence received since the previous meeting***  Email from concerned resident over Clay Lane in extreme weather conditions, this email has been passed onto PC Wilson will take the matter forward with the resident concerned.  Brixworth Country Park has given NNC file from when Gretton Park was established, including photographs; to be passed to Pocket Park Group. Internal audit being arranged.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. |
| ***22/302 Councillors’ questions***  Clinkers Field damaged public right of way footpath reported to Highways; Clerk to find who in law is responsibility for a Public Right of Way - highways, landowner, or another.  Potential breach of planning application to be investigated.  Allotment hedge on Fulwell Avenue removed by an allotment owner, with intention of improving site; to be replaced with timber fencing at their personal expense.  Additional dog waste bins to be requested in popular dog walking areas.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***22/303 Date of next meeting:***  Monday 17th April 2023  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved. |
| ***22/304 Close***  Meeting finished 9:50pm  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Lilley, Chair Gretton Parish Council.

Date: 17th April 2023