

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 **Annual** Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on **Monday 17th May, 2021** at 7.30 pm.

Present: Cllrs.Fox, Smith, Thompson, Collis, Lilley, Husk, Wright, Nicholls, Newby, Watt, Nichol, Sims, PCSO Asante-Ampaduh, the Clerk (J.Clark) and one member of the public.

21/084 Election of Chairman 2020/21

RESOLVED: A discussion took place regarding the role of the Chairman and, although three Councillors were nominated, the nominated Councillors did not accept the position of Chairman.

Cllr. Fox agreed to act as Chairman for this meeting. Note: Prop. by Cllr. Thompson, Sec. Cllr.Newby.

The Councillors agreed that the election of Chairman would take place at the June meeting.

21/085 Signing of Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office

RESOLVED: See 21/084. The election of the Chairman will be an agenda item for the June meeting.

21/086 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

RESOLVED: Apologies received from PC Wilson and the Safer Corby Team.

21/087 To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct Related to business on the agenda.

RESOLVED: None declared.

21/088 Election of Vice Chairman for 2020/21

RESOLVED: Cllr. Fox agreed to act as Vice-Chairman once a Chairman was elected. Note: Prop. by Cllr. Lilley, Sec. Cllr.Thompson.

Non agenda item: Councillors for the Parish Council and Corby Rural and PCSO Asante-Ampaduh introduced themselves.

Cllr. Fox welcomed all new Councillors and PCSO Asante-Ampaduh.

ACTION: Cllr. Fox asked the Clerk to write to the Parish Council Councillors who have retired to thank them for their service.

21/089 To adopt Face to Face Parish Council Meetings Risk Assessment.

RESOLVED: This was approved and adopted.

21/090 To adopt Member Code of Conduct Policy.

RESOLVED: This was approved and adopted.

21/091 To confirm members for the following committees:

a.Finance

RESOLVED: It was agreed that the Chairman, Cllrs. Fox, Wright and Clerk would sit on the Finance Committee. Prop. by Cllr.Lilley, Sec. Cllr.Thompson.

b.Planning

RESOLVED: All Councillors to sit on the Planning Committee.

21/092 To confirm Parish representatives:

Councillor Fox explained that posts a – g were designed as areas of interest and means of reporting and feedback at Parish Council meetings, together with responsibility for promoting specific projects. Parish Council would continue to be the elected body through which decisions are made and full responsibility is taken. Official correspondence should be sent by the Clerk.

a.Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters **RESOLVED:** Cllr.Lilley

b.Highways matters – including speeding measures, parking and street lighting **RESOLVED:** Cllr.Collis. Cllr.Thompson to support.

c.Environment – including trees, Pocket Park, litter collecting groups **RESOLVED:** Cllr. Newby

d.Community – including buses, doctors surgery, school liaison **RESOLVED:** Cllr.Husk

e.Recreation Ground **RESOLVED:** Cllr. Fox, who will also sit on Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground Committee

f.Communications – including website, newsletters, press **RESOLVED:** Cllr.Smith.

Cllr. Fox suggested that the PC have informal comments/news feed for the village. Cllr.Smith to investigate.

g.Police and Neighbourhood Watch liaison **RESOLVED:** Cllr.Thompson

<p>h.Village Hall RESOLVED: Cllr.Smith</p> <p>i.Sports and Social Club RESOLVED: Cllr.Lilley. Cllr.Thompson to support.</p> <p>j.Welland Valley Partnership RESOLVED: Cllr.Newby</p> <p>k.Any other representatives that may be considered necessary Parish Path Warden – RESOLVED: Cllr.Newby Cllr.Thompson agreed that he would be happy to be used as a contact with Gretton House.</p>
<p>21/093 Updating of Register of Interests RESOLVED: All Councillors have completed the Declaration of Members' Interests paperwork.</p>
<p>21/094 Updating of GDPR Councillor Checklist RESOLVED: All Councillors have completed GDPR Councillor Checklist paperwork.</p>
<p>21/095 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2021. RESOLVED: Councillors approved the minutes without amendment.</p>
<p>21/096 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only. RESOLVED: 21/072 The Clerk reported that Mr Oteng (Development Management Manager, Planning) has responded to the concerns raised by the PC that Councillors and residents of the village were not made aware of the succession of court cases that have taken place concerning the application by Gladman Developments Ltd to build 120 houses in Gretton. Mr Oteng confirmed that the appeal had been dismissed, and leave to appeal to the Supreme Court has been refused. He also sent the Clerk a copy of the judgement in a Section 288 appeal by Gladman Developments. The Clerk added that Mr Oteng had not commented on the concerns raised about the lack of consideration to PC objections or even acknowledgement that they have been made in some cases when determining some recent planning applications. The Clerk will contact him again regarding this. 21/073 The Clerk has requested a copy of the Risk Assessment for the Play Area from North Northamptonshire Council who maintain this area. Cllr. Thompson has fitted a barrier to prevent access to the steps from the Village Green down to Station Road. The Pocket Park Committee has confirmed that they are happy for signs warning of open water in Pocket Park. 21/074 The Clerk has applied for Planning Permission to install a dropped kerb to enable wheelchair access on the Village Green. The fee for this was £103. 21/076 Mr Peacock cannot complete the Internal Audit for the Parish Council for the financial year 2020/21. F.Woolston has offered to carry out the Internal Audit, and this was approved. 21/078 The Clerk confirmed that she is still sourcing quotations for cutting the roadside hedge along Station Road. Cllr. Newby volunteered to contact the Land Owner to discuss the necessary work along this stretch of land. Councillors approved this.</p>
<p>21/097 Open Forum RESOLVED: No comments raised.</p>
<p>21/098 To receive a report from County Councillor. RESOLVED: Not applicable now the Unitary Authority is in place.</p>
<p>21/099 To receive a report from Borough Councillors. RESOLVED: This section on the agenda will now be titled Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council. Cllr. Watt reported that the ditches do not cause the flooding issues, the road drains are getting water into the ditch. The drains are blocked, and this is a Highways responsibility. He has invited Jason Smithers, the leader of the new Unitary Authority, to see for himself the state of Gretton Brook Road. Cllr. Watt has made Mr Smithers aware that the patience of Gretton residents is wearing very thin. He added that the current coverings/repairs are not suitable, and this area of road needs to be properly resurfaced. Mr Duncan, a Gretton resident, has done a lot of work highlighting the issues in this area. Cllr. Thompson added that there is not adequate signage for heavy goods vehicles, and they end up turning at the Gretton Brook Road junction because they have missed the previous turning. Cllr. Sims stated that the County Council lost many staff and resources when the Unitary was formed, adding that he doesn't think Mr Smithers will attend. He feels that this is a safety issue as well. Cllr. Fox asked if Cllrs. Watt, Sims and Nichol could have direct contact with the people who should be doing this work. Cllr. Lilley added that Corby Planning approved the building of the crematorium. As a result, this road will take a lot more traffic and heavy goods vehicles to build the crematorium plus extra cars using the crematorium. She asked how do we make Highways accountable and Cllr. Watt replied pressure from all parties concerned. Cllr. Watt has also highlighted the issue of flooding on Corby Road and has contacted the relevant departments to find out what work will be done to ensure Gretton does not get cut off again due to flooding on all access roads. He also reported that the Unitary Authority is keen to source additional funding for rural buses. While it may not be a traditional bus service, it will be a form of transport. There is now green funding for buses. Cllr. Thompson stated that the hedge needs cutting on Gretton Brook Road and the dead trees along the roadside removed. Cllr. Nichol said he would check to see who is responsible for the land across the road from the racetrack.</p>

Cllr. Sims highlighted the situation in Middleton, which he said is a significant issue and could happen in Gretton because Corby does not have a 5-year land supply. Kettering has just lost an appeal because they do not have a 5-year land supply. As a result, traveller sites are a lot easier to get approved. The Corby Rural Councillors will push to address this 5-year land supply as soon as possible.

21/100 To receive a report from the Police.

RESOLVED: PCSO Asante-Ampaduh reported that police priorities at the moment include domestic violence, knife crime, and anti-social behaviour. Road safety and speed awareness are being carried out using mobile units and vans. Corby Rural Team are gaining another Police Sergeant and three more Police Officers

PC Wilson submitted the following report. *“As far as crime figures for the month of APRIL 2021 go, I am pleased to report that there has only been ONE reported crime of MALICIOUS COMMUNICATIONS in the village of GRETTON and ONE reported crime of ATTEMPT THEFT in the surrounding area.*

I have completed SCHOOL PARKING PATROLS during the afternoon of 4th MAY 2021 with no issues present.

I have completed patrols of the village, including the hotspots of the ST JAMES CHURCH & PARKING AREA, PLAY PARK, KIRBY ROAD throughout the month, with no issues present during my patrol times.

I am pleased to announce that I have recently been appointed as the CORBY RURAL officer so I will continue to be responsible for GRETTON and many of the villages surrounding CORBY from this point onwards. I can also inform you that there has been a change to your local PCSO with PCSO 7149 JOE DEVLIN being replaced by PCSO 7030 CHRIS ASANTE-AMPADUH, with effect from 17th MAY 2021.

At the time of writing this email we are conducting ROADSIDE SPEED ENFORCEMENT on STATION ROAD and I will be planning in further SCHOOL PARKING & SPEED ENFORCEMENT along with a POLICE SURGERY for the remainder of MAY and the month of JUNE.”

Cllr. Collis left the meeting at 9.00 pm

21/101 To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team.

RESOLVED: S.Preston, Safer Corby Team submitted the following report. *“In terms of a Safer Corby update, the Warden Team is still tasked with supporting local authority COVID-19 public compliance activity and ASB, which in turn is reducing our capacity with supporting on wider neighbourhood issues. We haven’t received any indication as yet as to when our team’s involvement will either be reduced or end. Hopefully, with positive progress now being made in terms of national restrictions being eased and the vaccination programme, there will be clarification at some point when the Wardens can return to some of their core neighbourhood duties.*

Our engagement programme is now starting to ramp up with wider discussions/planning with local community groups and partner agencies now taking place. We will be supporting the Great British Spring Clean which runs from 28 May – 12 June, with the boroughwide campaign being run week of 7 June. Details have been sent to you previously. Keep Britain Tidy are still advising for any clean-up events to comply with the rule of 6 or 2 households guidance. Interested individuals are advised to check the Keep Britain Tidy website for further updates after the next government announcement on restrictions on 17 May.

If you do require support from the Team regarding any local issues/concerns, please email in the first instance to safecorby.cbc@northnorthants.gov.uk”

21/102 To receive Financial statement dated 7th May 2021: payments received and invoices paid.

RESOLVED: Councillors approved this report. Cllr. Fox explained that it is advised that it is good practice for parish councils to keep a balance equivalent to their annual precept, which in this case is about £25,000, as a reserve for higher, unexpected costs. Projects currently being considered include the TVAS systems and the Recreation Ground improvements and improvements to the accessibility of the Village Green. He stressed the importance that this fund is used proactively.

Payments

Date	Purpose	Payee	Amount
01/04/21	Electricity for MUGA lights	E-On (monthly DD)	£51.00
15/04/21	Copying: Referendum copy of Neighbourhood Plan (card payment)	The Copy Shop	£40.60
22/04/21	Copying: Election candidate information (card payment)	The Copy Shop	£300.96
26/04/21	Subscriptions	Northants CALC	£553.61
27/04/21	12 x 1 st Class Stamps	Thrapston Post Office (card payment)	£10.20
30/04/21	Works to Station Road footpath (online payment)	C.Charlton-Collis	£160.00
27/04/21	Electricity for The Pavilion	British Gas	£61.77
04/05/21	Platform for remote meetings	Zoom	£14.39
04/05/21	Electricity for MUGA lights	E-On (monthly DD)	£51.00
06/05/21	Hand Sanitiser for face-to-face meetings	Wickes (card Payment)	£6.00

Receipts		
01/04/21	Sports & Social Club Rent	£192.46
15/04/21	Garage rent	£ 35.83
23/04/21	Gretton School hiring fee	£ 150.00
30/04/21	Precept Payment	£25,800
05/05/21	VAT Refund	£1,763.99
BALANCE		£61,568.21
<u>NATWEST BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 7th May 2021</u>		
	Balance	£62,281.82
	Add undeposited cheques	Nil
BALANCE		£62,281.82
	Less unrepresented cheques 000069	553.61
	Less unrepresented online payment	160.00
BANK 7th May 2021		£61,568.21
<p>21/103 To discuss and report Matters Arising Document. RESOLVED: Cllr. Fox explained that this is a work in progress/monitoring document. 229 – Consideration to grant funding and creation of an outside gym at Recreation ground. A skate park, seating and possible other improvements were also being considered and the wording would be amended to include these. 20/228 Second defibrillator - The Clerk report that she has met an Electrician on-site, but connecting a power supply to the cabinet on the outside wall in the location previously discussed is not that straightforward. Mr Sharman agreed to contact the electrician and discuss.</p>		
<p>21/104 Planning Application NE/21/00440/REM and NE/21/00441/REM TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990 Proposal : Reserved matters approval of access, appearance, landscape, layout and scale, in respect of the construction of the KP4 Primary and Secondary street network pursuant to application 19/01219/OUT RESOLVED: Outline planning permission has been granted, and these applications are specially to do with road, drainage and landscaping. Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the application. However, the Parish Council will respond concerning the impact that this application may have on Gretton Parish. The Ecological and Heritage documents were not available on the Planning website. It appears that there is no mention in the paperwork available of how the formidable number of deer that inhabit this area will be contained and kept safe. Therefore, the Parish Council requests that plans are made showing actions that will be taken to protect drivers and animals.</p>		
<p>21/105 To consider future training requirements. RESOLVED: Details of forthcoming training courses have been sent to all new Councillors. Cllr. Fox asked the Clerk to forward these details to Cllrs. Thompson, Smith, Collis and himself.</p>		
<p>20/106 To consider a request from the present Tenant to purchase the land on Harringworth Road. RESOLVED: Cllr. Fox gave some background to this agenda item. This land has been owned by the Parish Council since the Enclosure Act in 1835 and was originally acquired for use as a source of materials to repair roads. It has now merged with fields as part of surrounding farmland. It consists of an acre of land, has no road access and no right of access across the land. The current Tenant would like to buy this land and plant trees on it. At the April meeting, Councillors agreed, in principle, to sell the land based on the following principles as discussed. The value of the land would be based on an independent valuation plus 30%. The cost of a valuation prepared by an independent qualified valuer is £500; the Tenant and the Parish Council would jointly pay this fee. Jubilee Wood, currently owned by the Tenant, will be gifted to the Parish Council and could be used as a community wooded area. Cllr. Lilley asked if the PC have considered the upkeep of Jubilee Wood in the future. Cllr. Fox explained that, as the trees grow, they will need thinning etc. The PC will need to add this area to the PC Tree Assessment that is carried out on a three-yearly cycle. The Tenant mentioned that there are five years left on the grant, and this covers maintenance. Cllr. Newby stated that farm machinery is currently stored near this area, and it is essential to ascertain who owns this area. Cllr. Fox said that it has already been agreed that the boundary has to be defined before a final agreement. Councillors agreed that the land on Harringworth Road would not be sold if the Jubilee Wood was not included in the exchange. In principle, Councillors agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Define boundary for Jubilee Wood - Parish Council to be satisfied with the access long term to Jubilee Wood - Harringworth Road Land: Parish Council to instruct Fisher German valuer and then move forward to sell it separate to any agreement regarding Jubilee Wood. <p>Cllr. Lilley felt it was important for the PC to have a project to spend the proceeds from the sale, such as the TVAS measures for the village and the projects being considered for the Recreation Ground. A vote took place and unanimous agreement was given to:</p>		

<p>1 – Sell Harringworth Road land for 30% over one independent valuation. However, the minimum price that the parish council will accept is £9,000.</p> <p>and 2 – Accept the exchange of Jubilee Wood, subject to the boundary being defined and adequate access for maintenance purposes to be identified.</p> <p>It was approved that Fisher German be instructed to provide a valuation of the Harringworth Road Land on the basis that it is available with immediate vacant possession.</p> <p>ACTION: Cllr. Newby and the Tenant to meet on-site and report back at the June meeting.</p>
<p>20/107 To consider TVAS system for Gretton. RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to defer this item to the June meeting.</p>
<p>20/108 To consider the date to restart publication of Gretton Life. RESOLVED: Councillors agreed that the next publication should be at the beginning of September.</p>
<p>20/109 To consider Baptist Church Hall rental and Zoom subscription. RESOLVED: Councillors approved that a donation for the Hall hire will be the same amount as previously paid to hire the Meeting Room in the Village Hall. Zoom subscription to be cancelled. Cllr. Wright suggested that The Pavilion would be a suitable venue for future meetings. Cllr. Fox and the Clerk agreed to look at the size of the room to see if it is big enough to allow for social distancing guidelines for the June meeting since COVID restrictions will still be in place.</p>
<p>20/110 To consider the possibility of establishing a No Cold Calling zone in Gretton (Neighbourhood Watch). RESOLVED: Councillors agreed to defer this item to the June meeting.</p>
<p>20/111 To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting. RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) An email has been received from a resident complaining about the overgrown grass verge by the old Talbot Inn on the bend of Arnhill Road. In addition to the verge, the problem is with the overhanging bush which needs cutting back severely. RESOLVED: To request this verge is added to the PC mowing agreement with North Northants Council. (ii) The Clerk has received an email from a resident in Hatton Lane concerned about the Japanese Knotweed growing on Station Road. RESOLVED: The Clerk reported that she has been in contact with Highways who have confirmed that they are arranging to remove this invasive weed. (iii) A F.Chapman has asked if the PC would permit an Unknown Tommy Statue to be placed by the Memorial on the Village Green to commemorate the Royal British Legion 100 anniversary. A.Chapman has informed the Clerk that the company she works for would donate two statues to Gretton approved by the PC. RESOLVED: Approved. (iv) A.Peake, a resident in Gretton has asked for permission to hold a Plant Sale on the Village Green on 26th June to raise funds for a charity and the Church. The Clerk has previously discussed this with Cllr.Fox. She has informed Mr Peake that this is acceptable on the understanding that he has adequate Public Liability insurance in place. (v) NC/21/00219/REM Re: All Reserved Matters pursuant to Outline Planning Permission 19/00351/OUT (Priors Hall Zones 2 and 3) RESOLVED: Following a discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council would not object to the application. However, the Parish Council will respond concerning the impact that this application may have on Gretton Parish. The Ecological and Heritage documents were not available on the Planning website. It appears that there is no mention in the paperwork available of how the formidable number of deer that inhabit this area will be contained and kept safe. Therefore, the Parish Council requests that plans are made showing actions that will be taken to protect drivers and animals.
<p>21/112 Councillor questions Cllr. Lilley asked if it would be possible to discuss the Clerk's Job Description. Cllr. Fox reported that the Clerk's Annual Appraisal comes under the Finance Committee as well as any HR Matters.</p>
<p>21/113 The meeting closed at 10.20 pm. Date of next Meeting to be Monday 14th June, 2021. Venue to be confirmed.</p>

Signed: _____

Chairman, Gretton Parish Council

17th May 2021

DRAFT