**GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL** Gretton, Corby, Northamptonshire.

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Minutes of the meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th February 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, Wellings, PC B.Wilson and the Clerk (Jackie Clark).

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| **21/021** To receive and approve apologies for absence.  **RESOLVED:** No apologies received. | | | | |
| **21/022** To receive declarations of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct Related to business on the agenda.  **RESOLVED:** No declarations of interest were declared. | | | | |
| **21/023** To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 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. | | | | |
| **21/024** To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only.  **RESOLVED:**  20/014 The Clerk confirmed that the North Northamptonshire Council Draft Budget 2021-22 Consultation response from the Parish Council was submitted on 26th January 2021.  20/015 Police Liaison Representative – Clerk confirmed that Cllr.Thompson’s contact details have been submitted to Northamptonshire Police  **ACTION:** Cllr.Smith to put details of Gretton Neighbourhood Watch scheme on the PC website.  Cllr.Moore to contact Kier Services regarding the NW signs and authorisation. | | | | |
| **21/025** Open Forum  Fraser Wright, Secretary, Gretton Sports & Social Club attended the meeting to discuss the letter received from the Parish Council outlining an arrears rental in payments.  **RESOLVED:** The Club are not asking for assistance for this year’s rent but, due to the pandemic and loss of business for the previous twelve months, the historical rent arrears payments are difficult and it is hoped that the PC would be agreeable to a percentage of the arrears being paid over time. A detailed discussion took place and the following points were highlighted:   1. The Club has been hit hard by the effects of the Pandemic. They received a £4,000 grant from the Government that covered their running costs for January and February. 2. Any unforeseen expenditure, for example, the backdated rent request, has serious implications and there is a need to come to some arrangement to how this amount of money is repaid. 3. The PC acknowledge that the Club have worked hard to get their finances back on track and are confident that the new Committee will move things forward. 4. Cllr.Fox raised the matter of insurance for the Club and thought that they would be responsible for their own insurance. Mr Wright confirmed this was correct. It was highlighted that they are also covered by the PC insurance. Cllr.Fox confirmed that the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground insure the MUGA and the Parish Council insure the Recreation Ground public liability. The Football and Cricket Clubs should have their own public liability insurance as users. Mr Wright stated that the pitches are covered by the Sports Club insurance.   **ACTION:** Cllrs Fox, Collis and Moore to arrange a further meeting with the Club to discuss a repayment plan and insurance in more detail. This will be taken back to the March PC meeting for approval.   1. It was pointed out that the Parish Council pay for the septic tank repairs which have been costly during the last twenty-four months. 2. The Sports Club asked if the PC have given any consideration to the lease agreement which is due to be renewed in the next four or five years. The Club is starting to commit itself to items longer than term left on the lease.   **ACTION:** PC to discuss the lease agreement during the next few months. | | | | |
| **21/026** To receive a report from County Councillor.  **RESOLVED:** No report received. | | | | |
| **21/027** To receive a report from Borough Councillors.  **RESOLVED:**  Cllr.Wellings reported that she had been contacted by a resident regarding the ongoing issue of flooding at Gretton Brook Road. She has asked Highways to look into this and provide an action report for tonight’s meeting. Unfortunately, a report has not been received and Cllr.Wellings will chase this again.  Cllr.Fox reported that a burst water main has split the road open near that junction. Cllr.Wellings will push for the pot-holes to be filled. Cllr.Thompson stated that historically there has been an issue regarding the ownership of the land along the side of the road there. East Northamptonshire Council state it is the landowners’ responsibility, however, the landowners say they are not responsible because the fence depicts their boundary and the hedge is on the other side. Cllr.Collis asked if the second balancing pond had been built.  **Cllr.Watt** reported that CBC have approved the application of £25 million to the Towns Fund. If the application is agreed the money will used for the following:   1. 500 place 6th Form College in the old Littlewoods building. 2. A proper cycle lane along Cottingham Road to the train station. 3. A technical feature in the town centre.   Transfer of allotments currently owned by Corby BC to the Unitary Authority has been agreed. In the future, these may be passed to Parish Councils if they wish to take them on. | | | | |
| **21/028** To receive a report from the Police.  **RESOLVED:** Key messages from PC Wilson this month being as follows:  Crime figures for JANUARY 2021 (See Appendix1). It is worth noting the 50% reduction in recorded crime in comparison to JANUARY 2020, no doubt helped by the current lockdown but still welcome figures. Patrols in Gretton have seen no evidence of drug dealing, children hanging around the Pavilion, cars in the car park or children in the Church entrance.  Corby has the highest infection rate in England. As a result, all cover at the moment is on COVID reinforcement. The key message from the Police this month is simply for people to comply with the current COVID-19 restrictions and to Stay Home, Protect the NHS and Save Lives.  Cllr.Bromhall asked, in light of the new Unitary Authority, will Northamptonshire Police change to North Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire. PC Wilson reported that this will not happen. | | | | |
| **21/029** To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team.  **RESOLVED**: No report received. | | | | |
| **21/030** To receive Financial statement dated 2nd February 2021: payments received and invoices paid.  **RESOLVED**: This report was approved. | | | | |
| **Payments** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Purpose** | **Payee** | **Amount** | |
| 18/01/21 | Tree Health & Safety Inspection | R.Peace | £650.00 | |
| 20/01/21 | Risk Assessment Training | Northants CALC Ltd. | £38.00 | |
| 17/01/21 | Grass mowing grant | Gretton Baptist Church | £545.00 | |
| 27/01/21 | Electricity bill for The Pavilion | British Gas | £78.94 | |
| 01/02/21 | Platform for Remote meetings | Zoom | £14.39 | |
| 01/02/21 | Electricity for MUGA lights | E-On | £51.00 | |
| **Receipts** | | | | |
| 11/01/21 | MUGA Hire | | £40.00 | |
| 15/12/20 | Garage rent | | £ 35.83 | |
| 19/01/21 | MUGA Hire | | £ 80.00 | |
| 26/01/21 | MUGA Hire | | £45.00 | |
| 01/02/21 | Sports & Social Club Rent | | £192.46 | |
| **BALANCE £ 38,270.98** | | | | |
| **NATWEST BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 1st February 2021** Balance | | | | £38,298.98 |
| Add undeposited cheques MUGA (1018) not received | | | | £10.00 |
| **BALANCE** | | | | **£38,308.98** |
| Less unpresented cheque 000060 | | | | 38.00 |
| **BANK 1st February 2021** | | | | **£38,270.98** |
| **21/031** To consider Ground Maintenance quotation of £2,350.00 for 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022 received from Corby & Kettering Shared Services.  **RESOLVED:** This quotation was approved.  To consider quotation received from Corby & Kettering Shared Services 02/02/21) for cutting the hedge as is practically possible in the Lower Churchyard - £234 + VAT.  The hedge will have to be cut with hand tools as it is not suitable for a tractor and flail to get to it. There is also the risk that if it is cut back too much it could kill off the conifer.  **RESOLVED:** This quotation was approved. | | | | |
| **21/032** To receive a report from Working Groups.  **RESOLVED:**  21/032a Website – Cllrs. Smith and Collis  Nothing to report.  21/032b Police liaison – Cllr.Thompson  Cllr.Thompson has been in touch with the Gretton Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator about repositioning some signage.  PC Wilson reported that the NW Scheme is to distribute messages via the NW Scheme if he is not on duty. Crime still has to be reported via 101 or 999 in an emergency. If it is not urgent and advice is sought, emails can be sent direct to him.  The Clerk reported that the NW Coordinator was sourcing some stickers and had asked if the PC would cover the cost. PC Wilson said free stickers should be available from the NW Scheme. He will send out some “No Cold Caller” stickers to the Clerk to pass to the NW Coordinator.  Welland Valley Partnership – Cllr.Thompson reported that he had been unable to attend their recent meeting because it had been held during the working day but he was being kept up to date via email. The Partnership are carrying out a survey to identify owners of the land either side of the river.  21/032c School liaison – Cllr. Meechan  Due to the current guidelines, Cllr. Meechan has not been able to visit school.  21/032d Source grant applications – Cllr.Meechan  Cllr.Meechan reported that a lot of grant sources were closing down and any available grants now seem to be project based. She asked Councillors to consider any project ideas for the village. Cllr.Bromhall asked about possible grants for the Church Gap Pond and Cllr.Meechan confirmed that there are some environmental grants that may cover this.  21/032e Trees and environment – Cllr.Bromhall  **Trees:** The developers of Warren Field adjacent to the Pocket Park have been in touch. They have informed us they are contacting Corby borough Council notifying them that they will be trimming some branches of trees in The Pocket Park that will interfere with the scaffolding needed for the houses on the Kirby Road end of the development. This action had already been taken into account in the survey Gretton PC had done in December 2020 and is totally appropriate. Some other trees, as already seen in their application, on their site will be removed.  The Parish Council are informing CBC that a tree (a Dragon’s Claw Willow) growing adjacent to the Jo Stone on Kirby Road will be removed. The type of tree is not appropriate for that area by virtue of potential size and the neighbours were also concerned about impact to their property.  In both the above it is up to CBC as the planning authority if they place Tree Preservation Orders.  St James Churchyard trees overhanging Church Gap. Dead and dying elms, previously identified, have been successfully removed by contractors working for Corby and Kettering Joint Services.  **Church Gap Pond :** A number people have pointed out that, unlike the pond in the Pocket Park, there is little sign of life in the pond. I have tested the water at the end of January and beginning of February. The significant results are that nitrates are too high (100mg/l where 25 mg/l is safe for fish etc.), calcium hardness KH is high (20 where 10 is suggested max though I’m unsure of significance, related to balancing alkalinity/acidity), pH is fine (8.4 which is acceptable alkalinity). Most significant is the oxygen level at 2 mg/l, the lowest on the chart. This will drop as temperature increases!  If the PC wish the pond to become an ecological benefit to the area, the PC would need to consider a way to reduce the 20-30 cm of dead leafage in the pond. It is believed the base might be cobbles mortared in which means the clearance would need to be done carefully but mechanical means are possible.  21/032f Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox  Following recent Government’s guidelines, the MUGA remains closed.  Nothing to report regarding the Recreation Ground except to say the ground is very wet and muddy.  It is hoped that the Cricket Club will be able to play this season, therefore, it is necessary to replace the netting around the children’s play area to protect stray cricket balls going into the area. 50 metres of netting costs approximately £495 + VAT. This work and cost were approved.  The Pavilion is due to have an electrical check and inspection. Cllr.Fox will ask a local electrician to carry out a PAT test and fix installation inspection. This work was approved.  Cllr.Bromhall reported that he had spoken to a member of staff from Joint Services who was carrying out an inspection of the play equipment. Sanitisation of play equipment was also being done. | | | | |
| **21/033** To discuss and report Matters Arising Document.  **RESOLVED:** 20/228 Defibrillator: Clerk has completed the Health and Wellbeing Grant application form and this has been sent to F.Sharman who will fill in the information regarding Lydia’s Coffee Shop. This will then be submitted to Corby BC. | | | | |
| **21/034** **Planning**  **20/00487/DPA** At : 16 Southfield Road, Gretton NN17 3BX  Re : Demolition of an existing conservatory and the erection of a single-storey extension to rear of the existing dwelling.  **RESOLVED:**  This application was discussed and no objections were made.  **21/00001/DPA** At: 48 Arnhill Road, Gretton. NN17 3DN  Re: Removal of existing conservatory. Proposed rear extension, proposed new dormer windows and new porch.  **RESOLVED:** This application was discussed and, whilst no objections were made, it was suggested that the applicants might wish to look at the Housing and Built Environment Section in Gretton Neighbourhood Plan particularly the policy titled ‘Ensuring Excellent Housing Design’ and Appendix VI Gretton Housing Design Guide.  **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:** Phased extraction of limestone and re-use on site to facilitate the development of Priors Hall Zones 2 & 3 urban extension (outline application reference 19/01219/OUT ENC and 19/00351/OUT CBC).  LOCATION: Priors Hall Park, Corby.  **RESOLVED:** It was agreed that this is a sensible proposition and no further comments were made. | | | | |
| **21/035** To receive a report from Chairman on meetings attended:  **21/035(i) LGR Q & A Session, 19th January 2021**  **RESOLVED:** Rob Bridge, Chief Executive of North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) was present to answer questions. Rob said that he had worked at principal councils where the relationship with parish and town councils was considered to be very important and he hopes to continue that in North Northamptonshire and he recognised that one size doesn’t necessarily fit all. Rob said he was keen to engage with parish and town councils and that he is exploring options for establishing formal structures. Various questions were asked covering a range of topics. Senior management posts have been filled. Services currently provided by NCC and borough councils, such as insurance, streetlights and highways will not see any changes in 2021/22. The Emergency Planning team may be split in due course, but not now given what’s going on. There’s a proposed increase of 1.99% plus the 3% social care increase in council tax. Parish and town councils do not need to increase their 2021/22 precepts to provide for services being passed to them from NNC. Mr Bridge was clear that this will not happen in 2021/22. The Lord Lieutenancy will sit across the two authorities, hosted by WNC. The NCC culture that existed in the past is not what he wants for the future. Rob wants the culture to be modern, open and enabling. It will not happen overnight, but the recruitment done so far is going in the right direction and the wider staff want to be part of it. He says there is a history of course but, the vast majority of staff are really, really good and will be very positive and good things will be done. On the Member side, they have the Shadow Exec now and will have that for Year 1. They will then pick a system that works (i.e., Cabinet or Committee) but it is not about the system, it’s about the people operating the system. They will design a system that will engage and be transparent and open. Members, and the public, will then start to get assurance.  **21/035(ii) Gretton Neighbourhood Plan Awareness Raising Webinar, 29th January 2021.**  **RESOLVED:** P.Williams, CB, gave an introduction to the Neighbourhood Planning Process.  Jacki Lilley, Gretton Neighbourhood Association, explained that the Parish Council initiated the Neighbourhood Planning process with the aim of ensuring that the village of Gretton retained its unique, historic and rural identity and its strong sense of community.  She gave a background summary of community aspirations:   1. Ensure that development takes place in the most sustainable locations; 2. Encourage the appropriate types of development that meet local needs; 3. Protect important buildings and structures of historic and architectural interest; 4. Protect important community facilities and shops; 5. Promote high quality design in new developments; 6. Protect the countryside and the special landscape; and 7. Protect open spaces that are important to the community and wildlife.   **Gary Kirk, YourLocale spoke about Key Policies:**  H1 Residential site allocation – land allocated Corby Road for up to 13 units  H2 Limits to development  H3 Design  H4 Windfall sites – infill and redevelopment sites  H5 Housing mix  ENV1 Protect green space - St. James’ Churchyard and Paddock Park  He emphasised that, where a planning application conflicts with the up-to-date NP, permission should not usually be granted (National Planning Policy Framework). The NP will sit alongside the Core Strategy as part of the Development Plan for Corby. The PC should make comments on any planning applications based on the NP.  Peter Williams, Local Plan Officer confirmed that the referendum will be combined with the local elections and will take place on 6th May 2021.  Cllr. Fox added that the Awareness Raising Webinar was with people who were already aware of the NP and that the Development Control officers of the Planning Department were not in attendance. This was disappointing because they were going to be introduced to the NP and they were the people who have to apply the detail of the Plan.  **21/035(iii) Rural Area Forum 4th February 2021**  **RESOLVED:** Crime and Policing. Sgt. Grey, Northants Police reported that there was a reduction in crime rates in rural areas. The size of the Neighbourhood Policing Team has been increased with three extra Police Offers and 1 additional Sergeant, to cover Corby Town and Corby Rural.  The subject of Gypsy and Travellers site provision was discussed and it was reported that there is currently a shortage of ten pitches in the Borough. There are several permanent sites in the Cottingham and Middleton areas. Planning have received four applications to increase site sizes. Cllr.Watt reported that CBC 5-year plan for travellers’ sites is not considered to be sufficient and this will be discussed by the Development Committee.  Corby BC Planning was discussed in detail and the Chairman of the RAF will write to Iain Smith (CBC, Head of Planning & Environmental Services) detailing the issues discussed at the RAF group. | | | | |
| **21/036** To consider preparations for forthcoming May Elections.  **RESOLVED:** The Government have confirmed that the elections will take place on 6th May 2021 and a discussion took place of how best to promote candidacy.  **ACTIONS:** Clerk will place notices on the PC noticeboards, Facebook page and website as well as Gretton News & Views Facebook page. She will contact people who expressed an interest in becoming a Councillor in May 2020.  Clerk will put together an information pack for prospective candidates.  It was agreed that the Parish Meeting to be held on 8th March at 7.00pm will include a Q & A agenda item for people expressing an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. | | | | |
| **21/037** To consider Parish Council obtaining Traffic Control System for use in Gretton.  **RESOLVED:** Cllr. Moore reported that P.Barber. CBC has submitted a Section 50 Licence NRSWA 1991 application form for permission to install apparatus in three different locations in Gretton.  **ACTION:** March agenda item. | | | | |
| **21/038** To receive a report on any correspondence received since previous meeting.  **RESOLVED:**  Picks Playing Field: A resident has contacted the PC asking why Picks Playing Field gate is sometimes kept locked and access cannot be gained at all times. They were informed that this was for two reasons: Firstly, due to current COVID guidelines the Parish Council want to ensure no illegal gatherings take place and secondly, It is kept locked to stop any anti-social behaviour/disturbances to the residents living next to the field.  Refuse Bins on High Street: The PC have been sent copies of correspondence sent to CBC from a resident complaining about fly tipping along both Gretton Brooke Road and Corby Road as well as overflowing household bins left on the High Street. This matter has been dealt with by the Refuse Department.  Wootton Forge: A resident contacted the PC regarding the ‘Private Residents Only’ sign that has been placed at the entrance to Wootton Forge querying whether permission was needed to display this sign and is it legally enforceable. NCC Highways have informed the Clerk that, since Wootton Forge is not adopted, as long as the sign is behind the back of the footway (so not further forward than the adjacent garden walls) along Kirby Road it should not be a problem.  Station Road footpath: A resident has contacted the PC asking what can be done to clear the footpath before it gets badly overgrown. This was discussed in detail and it was agreed that it requires more permanent action rather than just being trimmed once a year. However, it then comes down to ownership, responsibility and cost.  **ACTION:** Clerk to obtain a quotation to cover the necessary work of cutting the hedge back and shaping the hedge to the fence as well as clearing the debris from the footpath. This will then be discussed again at the March meeting. | | | | |
| **21/039** Councillor questions  **RESOLVED:**  Cllr.Fox – Part 2 Local Plan for Corby – Main Modifications Consultation. It was agreed that this will be discussed at the next meeting on 8th March, 2021.  Cllr.Wellings appreciates how much unrest that there is regarding CBC Planning Department. She raised this issue at the Audit & Governance Committee meeting stressing the need for a proper complaints procedure to be put in place. There is not enough time to do this before the Unitary comes into force but it is vital that this is picked up by North Northants Council and actioned.  Cllr.Collis – Parish Council Laptop. On behalf of Cllr.Collis, the Clerk will circulate a laptop specification spreadsheet on behalf for feedback to be discussed at March 2021 meeting.  Cllr.Bromhall – Discussion paper for circulation from Cllr.Bromhall will be discussed at the March 2021 meeting. | | | | |
| **21/040** The meeting closed at 9.58 pm.  **Date of next Meeting** to be Monday 8th March, 2021. | | | | |

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

Frances Woolston,

Chairman, Gretton Parish Council

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| **APPENDIX 1**  **Weldon and Gretton Crime Figures** | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **2020-02** | **2020-03** | **2020-04** | **2020-05** | **2020-06** | **2020-07** | **2020-08** | **2020-09** | **2020-10** | **2020-11** | **2020-12** | **2021-01** |
| ALL OTHER THEFT OFFENCES | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 11 | 7 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 6 | 7 | 2 |
| ARSON |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 |  |  |  |
| BICYCLE THEFT |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |  |
| BURGLARY - BUSINESS/COMMUNITY | 2 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 4 | 2 |  | 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL | 2 |  |  |  | 2 | 1 |  | 2 | 1 | 1 | 12 |  |
| CRIMINAL DAMAGE | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 1 |  |
| DRUG POSSESSION |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| DRUG TRAFFICKING |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 1 |  |  |  | 1 | 1 |  |
| MISCELLANEOUS CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY | 1 |  |  | 2 |  | 1 | 1 |  | 1 |  | 1 | 3 |
| OTHER SEXUAL OFFENCES | 1 | 2 |  |  | 1 | 2 | 3 |  | 2 | 1 |  | 1 |
| POSSESSION OF WEAPONS OFFENCES | 2 |  |  |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| PUBLIC DISORDER | 4 | 3 |  | 3 | 6 | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 2 |
| RAPE | 2 | 2 | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ROBBERY OF PERSONAL PROPERTY |  |  |  | 1 |  |  | 1 |  | 1 | 2 |  |  |
| SHOPLIFTING | 14 | 6 | 4 |  | 18 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 16 | 10 | 2 | 5 |
| STALKING AND HARASSMENT | 8 | 5 |  | 4 | 3 | 8 | 13 | 6 | 6 | 9 | 10 | 4 |
| THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE | 2 | 1 |  | 2 | 2 | 1 |  |  | 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| THEFT FROM THE PERSON |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 |  |
| THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE | 2 |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 | 2 |  | 2 |  |
| VEHICLE INTERFERENCE |  | 1 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 2 |  |
| VIOLENCE WITH INJURY | 3 | 1 |  | 1 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 6 | 2 | 2 |
| VIOLENCE WITHOUT INJURY | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | 5 | 18 | 19 | 7 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| **Total:** | **59** | **41** | **26** | **28** | **65** | **67** | **63** | **54** | **68** | **59** | **41** | **27** |