**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 8th March 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, Wellings, Naden-Horley and the Clerk (J.Clark).

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| **21/041** To receive and approve apologies for absence.  **RESOLVED:** No apologies received. | | | | |
| **21/042** To receive declarations of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct Related to business on the agenda.  **RESOLVED:** Agenda Item 21/055 Cllr.Bromhall declared that he is part of the Lydia’s Management Committee. | | | | |
| **21/043** To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the meeting held on 8th February 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. | | | | |
| **21/044** To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only.  **RESOLVED:** None. | | | | |
| **21/045** Open Forum  **RESOLVED:** No comments raised. | | | | |
| **21/046** To receive a report from County Councillor.  **RESOLVED:** Cllr.Naden-Horley informed the Parish Council that this would be the last meeting that she would be attending since she was not standing for re-election in the May elections. Corby Borough Councillors would work with us until vesting day. Cllr.Woolston wished her well for the future. | | | | |
| **21/047** To receive a report from Borough Councillors.  **RESOLVED:**  Cllr.Wellings reported that the police rural division was now up and running. She has spoken to the Police and Fire Commissioner regarding plans for investment into the rural teams and received a positive response about this. She confirmed that money has also been invested in Corby fire station. Iain Smith has been appointed a position at North Northants. Unitary Council.  Cllr.Watt confirmed that Cllr.Wellings has been in touch with Jason Smithers and Highways regarding the issues on Gretton Brook Road. The Highways contract is up for renewal in a couple of years’ time. The Shadow Unitary have approved the budget for the new Unitary Authority meaning Council tax bills can now be sent out. Cllr.Watt feels it is a balanced budget. The Constitution has also been agreed. There will be four independent planning committees which will decide on planning applications of less than 10,000 square metres on commercial applications and developments of up to 250 houses. Anything above this will go before a bigger committee for decision making. | | | | |
| **21/048** To receive a report from the Police.  **RESOLVED:** No report received. | | | | |
| **21/049** To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team.  **RESOLVED**: No report received. | | | | |
| **21/050** To receive Financial statement dated 2nd March 2021: payments received and invoices paid.  **RESOLVED**: This report was approved. A payment of £73 for expenses incurred by Gretton Pocket Park Society was approved. | | | | |
| **Payments** | | | | |
| **Date** | **Purpose** | **Payee** | **Amount** | |
| 09/02/21 | Electricity bill for The Pavilion | British Gas | £3.42 | |
| 17/02/21 | Training (Planning for Elections) | NCALC | £38.00 | |
| 25/02/21 | Mowing at Recreation Ground | Spendlove Contractors | £1,187.76 | |
| 01/03/21 | Platform for Remote meetings | Zoom | £14.39 | |
| 01/03/21 | Electricity for MUGA lights | E-On | £51.00 | |
| **Receipts** | | | | |
| 15/02/21 | Garage rent | | £ 35.83 | |
| 18/02/21 | Gretton Allotments Charity | | £ 726.66 | |
| **BALANCE £ 37,738.90** | | | | |
| **NATWEST BANK RECONCILIATION FOR 2nd March 2021**  Balance | | | | £38,964.66 |
| Add undeposited cheques MUGA (1018) not received | | | | Nil |
| **BALANCE** | | | | **£38,964.66** |
| Less unpresented cheques 000061  000062 | | | | 38.00  1,187.76 |
| **BANK 2nd March 2021** | | | | **£37,738.90** |
| **21/051** To receive a report from Working Groups.  **RESOLVED:**  21/051a Website – Cllrs. Smith and Collis  Nothing to report.  21/051b Police liaison – Cllr.Thompson  Cllr.Thompson reported that he had not received any correspondence from the police.  He highlighted that people needed to be aware of the increase in the number of cases of stolen dogs at present.  Welland Valley Partnership – Unfortunately, the meetings happen during the working day and Cllr.Thompson is unable to attend them, however, he is trying to keep up to date with their emails.  21/051c School liaison – Cllr. Meechan  Now that the schools have re-opened, Cllr. Meechan will try to arrange a visit to school to talk to the children.  21/051d 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 mentioned that there are grants available for Churches who wish to install disabled toilets, refreshment areas as well as any necessary repair work. Cllr.Meechan will forward the details to Cllr.Bromhall and Mr.Sharman.  21/051e Trees and environment – Cllr.Bromhall reported that the contractor has started to install the new fencing in the Lower Graveyard. The PC agreed to reimburse Cllr.Bromhall £37.56 for 10 hedging plants for the Lower Graveyard. The Pocket Park have received wood chippings from the developer in the field next to the Pocket Park and this has been used on the footpaths there.  Cllr.Collis said that a local resident has spoken to him regarding the willow tree in the Jo Stone garden. The Clerk confirmed that she has contacted Planning Department to obtain permission to remove the tree. He also spoke about the trees that had been removed along the road at the front of the new development on Kirby Road. Cllr.Fox reported that this would have been part of the original planning application to allow access to the site.  21/051f Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox  Following recent gov. guidelines, the MUGA remains closed but will be allowed to reopen from 29 March 2021. Groups have already expressed an interest in booking the MUGA and Cllr.Fox confirmed that use will be closely monitored to ensure users are following COVID guidelines.  Cllr.Fox reported that a meeting had taken place on the 4th March between Cllrs.Fox, Moore and Collis and two representatives from the Sports and Social Club. The Clerk was also present. An interesting and frank discussion took place and the SSC expressed their hopes, plans and fears for the future. Twelve months ago, the SSC were financially in trouble and this was followed by the pandemic but, despite that, memberships have increased from 50 to 300. A Just Giving campaign took place and the change of brewery was received positively by members. As a result, they had a better year than was expected. There are obviously concerns about when they will be able to reopen, however, in the meantime, significant costs will continue to accrue. The principal reason for the meeting was to discuss the current situation and it was agreed that a PC representative would be appointed once the elections have taken place with an aim of keeping in touch and supporting the the SSC.  The current Lease expires in 2025. Moving forward the SSC want to take on a new Lese and have plans for an outdoor structure on the patio as well as other improvements. It was agreed that discussions about this would take place between the PC and SSC in the next 18-24 months. It was generally agreed that it is important to promote future sporting links on the Recreation field with the SSC.  A discussion had also taken place with respect to the inconsistency of rent payments and when it was reviewed and updated. It effectively meant that over a period of 3 years only 2 years rent were paid and this should have been realized by both sides at the time. The terms of the rent state that it should be paid quarterly in advance, in reality it was paid in arrears resulting in a year’s rent being missed. Before the new Lease comes into force, both sides want to get the rental payments back on track and up to date. The SSC are now paying quarterly, in advance. Cllr.Fox recommended that the best way to address the arrears is for the SSC to pay this amount over 12 months once they are up and running properly. This would be reviewed in 6 months. This was agreed and approved.  Cllr. Ferguson stated that the government were going to give pubs and social clubs a re-opening grant and this is to be used to restock and reopen.  Cllr. Woolston stated that it was important to keep the SSC open and encourage people to support our community as a whole. Cllr. Woolston asked Cllrs.Fox and Collis to continue support the SSC committee. | | | | |
| **21/052** To discuss and report Matters Arising Document.  **RESOLVED:** 20/228 Defibrillator: The grant application form was submitted to Corby BC on 28th February 2021. | | | | |
| **21/053** **Planning**  **NC/21/00072/OUT** Re : Application for land off Phoenix Parkway to provide an engineered development platform, and  Outline application for the development of an employment park comprising up to 43,000 sqm B2 use, with all matters reserved apart from access  At : Storefield Group Limited Land Off Centrix Business Park Napier Road Corby Northamptonshire  **RESOLVED:** This application was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would make no comments.  **AD/RASPD** Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012  Re: Residential Annexes – Supplementary Planning Document – Consultation Draft  **RESOLVED:** This application was discussed and it was agreed that the PC would make no comments. | | | | |
| **21/054** To consider Part 2 Local Plan for Corby – Main Modifications Consultation  **RESOLVED:** This document was discussed. Cllr.Fox commented that, from a Parish Council point of view, it was interesting that the wording has improved in the following sections to make the understanding much clearer.   * Heritage and conservation areas * Climate change * Green infrastructure * Tandem development * The gypsy and traveller site plan   **ACTION:** It was agreed that Cllr.Fox will compose a response on behalf of the Parish Council. | | | | |
| **21/055** To consider a request from Lydia’s Coffee Shop for the Parish Council to install three picnic tables on the Village Green.  **RESOLVED:** Mr and Mrs Sharman reported to the PC that an immediate course of action is needed to enable Lydia’s to open outside once current restrictions allow. When they were able to open last year and serve drinks on the grass, they used the chairs from inside but this was not ideal because the chair legs sunk in the mud. In light of the pandemic, it was felt that during the year some residents would prefer to drink their drinks outside rather than inside. More and more cyclists are riding through Gretton and stopping at Lydia’s which is good for business but sometimes the café is full and local residents cannot use it. Therefore, they would like the PC to consider their request regarding the picnic tables.  This proposal was discussed in detail and the following points were considered:   * Would tables be a permanent feature? * Lydia’s does not have any storage facilities to move the tables from the Village Green overnight * Moving tables in and out of Lydia’s is difficult because of the step inside the door * PC have a duty to residents to consider any possible anti-social behaviour that could result if the tables are used for groups to gather when Lydia’s is closed * What will happen if large tables are left on the grass when the grass is mowed * Insurance – Cllr.Fox said that the existing policy would cover public liability although the more we encourage people to use an area then the higher the risk of accidents * Improvements must be made to access the grass, steps and wall * Cllr.Thompson mentioned that the Village Hall have stackable or foldaway chairs with a wide base that would not sink into the grass and could then be put away at night. It was suggested that the Village Hall are contacted to ask if they would loan some chairs.   It was agreed that a different style of furniture would be discussed at the next meeting. In the meantime, Lydia’s can use the hard standing area of the memorial for two of their tables and chairs so that they can open when restrictions allow.  Mr. and Mrs Sharman proposed that they purchase a table to sit four people to place on the Village Green. If the PC do not like it, or it doesn’t work, then they will remove it. | | | | |
| **21/056** To consider Parish Council obtaining Traffic Control System for use in Gretton.  **RESOLVED:** Cllr. Moore reported that Paul Barber, Keir Services and Sarah Barnwell, Highways have agreed to arrange a site visit to discuss the various proposals.  This was agreed and Cllr. Moore will arrange a visit. | | | | |
| **21/057** To receive a report on any correspondence received since previous meeting.  **RESOLVED:**  21/057(i) Station Road hedge. It was agreed that the Clerk contact the contractor again and talk about the work required.  Clerk to contact the NCC Councillor about the footpath and ask her to raise the possible danger with Highways.  21/057(ii) Jason Smithers has confirmed that the 20mph advisory speed sign pilot will take place in West Haddon. If this is successful, they will invite parishes to register their interest in being part of the 20mph advisory speed limit scheme.  21/057(iii) At this time, the government have not said that they will extend the regulations allowing councils to hold virtual meetings beyond 6th May. NALC are, therefore, advising councils to start preparing for the real possibility of face-to-face meetings from May.  The Clerk raised the issue of the May meeting date. At present, we are still awaiting confirmation that the Town and Parish election count will take place on 9th May which leaves it very tight to contact the newly elected Parish Council to arrange a meeting on the 10th May which is the scheduled PC meeting date. It was agreed to move the meeting to Wednesday 12th and, because of the numbers involved, this should take place in the main hall to allow for social distancing.  **ACTION:** Clerk to contact the Village Hall about booking the hall.  21/057(iii) A resident has asked about plans for wheelchair access to the Village Green.  **ACTION:** Clerk to contact contractors for quotations for work involved.  21/057(iv) A planning enforcement officer has responded to the concerns raised by the PC regarding the development at 9 Station Road.  “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 to contact  them as this is a traffic offence”. Corby BC  **ACTION:** Clerk to raise this issue with PC Wilson.  21/057(v) It has been confirmed that the Development Control Committee meeting regarding the crematorium planning application will be held on Tuesday 16th March. It was agreed that Cllr.Fox would attend on behalf of the PC.  21/057(vi) The tenant of the Harringworth field has contacted the PC again asking that his request to purchase the field be considered again at tonight’s meeting. The tenant informed the PC that he would like to plant a wood on the field and it was agreed that this would be discussed at the April meeting.  21/057(vii) Sports and Social Club would like to place tables on the Recreation Ground when they reopen in April following the government COVID guidelines . This was approved. | | | | |
| **21/058** Councillor questions  **RESOLVED:**  Cllr.Woolston reported that she has received an email from Middleton Parish Council asking if Gretton PC would be interested in supporting an application to register the Welland Valley as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.  This was approved and Cllr.Woolston agreed to contact Middleton Parish Council. | | | | |
| **21/059** The meeting closed at 9.58 pm.  **Date of next Meeting** to be Monday 12th April, 2021. | | | | |

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

Frances Woolston,

Chairman, Gretton Parish Council