

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024 held at Gretton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr Hanson (Chairman), Cllr Butcher, Cllr Green and Cllr Oliver

In Attendance: Outgoing Parish Clerk, Parish Clerk, County Councillor Gray plus 1 member of the public.

Receive comments from members of the public – no decisions will be made on issues raised, items requiring decisions will be added to the agenda for the next meeting

- Parishioner made an offer of help for upcoming questionnaire
- Parishioner raised concerns over items blocking paths or resurfaced driveways, covering the verge to roadside.

1. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received and accepted from Borough Cllr Madle and Cllr Mason.

2. Declarations of Interest:

It was noted that Cllr Oliver is Chair of the GVA

3. To Consider the Adoption of The Minutes Of The Council Meeting Held - 10th January 2024:

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman for 10th January 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman for 8th November 2023

4. Financial Matters:

a. To consider invoices for payment.

Payee	Description	Amount
Gretton Village Hall	Hall Hire	36.00
J Shields	Clerks Expenses Jan –March 2024	30.47
R Green	Plants for memorial	35.00
G Hanson	Batteries for VAS	163.20
Saxon	Newsletter printing	191.34
TOTAL		456.01

- **Council noted** that Clerk has submitted a VAT reclaim for £105 (up to 29th February 2024)
- **Council noted** an outstanding invoice has been raised by TBC for £1960 for bins with potential legal action if not paid. Invoice includes additional, unrequested bins and exceeds expected costings.

ACTION Cllr Green to forward email correspondence regarding original request and pricing of the bins to Clerk, to ensure TBC provides a corrected invoice and thus enable payment.

b. To ratify payments made between meetings.

No payments were made between meetings

c. Financial report circulated prior to meeting

The financial report was reviewed and **approved**.

Council AGREED to the internal transfer of year end project reserve into business savings account

d. To appoint an internal auditor

Council AGREED the appoint A. Rhodes as the 2023/24 internal auditor.

e. To agree the use of PATA for Clerk's salary

Council AGREED to used PATA for the payroll of Clerks salary from April 2024.

f. Approve Clerk's new employment contract

The Clerk's contract was **approved** and duly signed by Chairman and Clerk

5. Planning Matters:

These minutes have yet to be approved by the Parish Council.

a. **Planning applications for consideration.**

No new planning application received.

b. **Ratify comments on planning applications received that required a response before the next scheduled Council Meeting.**

Reference	Location	Comment
23/01196/FUL	Lily Barn Gretton Fields Gretton	The parish council has no planning reason to object.
23/01172/LBC	Orchard Cottage Duglynych Lane Gretton	The parish council has no planning reason to object.
24/00016/TCA	12 Gopshill Lane Gretton	The parish council has no planning reason to object.

c. **Planning decisions.**

Reference	Location	Result
23/01075/FUL	Well House Winchcombe Road Gretton	Permit
23/01076/LBC	Well House Winchcombe Road Gretton	Permit
23/00429/FUL	Glenbrook Farm Gretton Fields Gretton	Permit
23/01196/FUL	Lily Barn Gretton Fields Gretton	Permit
23/01172/LBC	Orchard Cottage Duglynych Lane Gretton	Permit
23/01171/FUL	Orchard Cottage Duglynych Lane Gretton	Permit
24/00016/TCA	12 Gopshill Lane Gretton	No Objections
23/01198/TCA	10 Working Lane Gretton	No Objections

- Council noted the successful prosecution of damaging protected trees at Warren Farm by TBC.

6. **Discuss 2024 action plans**

a. **GPC actions to help address village parking concerns**

Council resolved to speak with local residents and also for this topic to be included as part of the upcoming Village Survey.

A number of options to improve parking were considered.

A suggestion was made to start up a walk or cycle to school scheme.

ACTION Cllr Oliver to speak to the Head of School

Additional parking. There are very few locations available. One option which could be considered, is to create some new spaces on the grass area opposite the School and New Barn Close.

Increased occasional Police presence to encourage better behaviours. This has worked well previously.

Additional road markings and signage could be effective, but it was noted that many consider this to be too urban.

Council noted Cllr Gray's advice that Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) required for road markings / signage can be very expensive. (*post meeting note* - approx. £15k)

ACTION Cllr Oliver to contact traffic Police & the Councillor Advocacy group for advice on patrols and road markings on the school zone.

b. **Agree village clean-up / litter-pick**

Date for the village clean-up is Sunday 7th April. Equipment has been ordered.

c. **GPC support for Village social activities (GVA), including Gretton Hub**

The Hub continues to be well attended and provides a social forum for the community. The TBC warm spaces funding will cease in March. The GVA will continue to run the Hub on a monthly basis on a Sunday.

Council AGREED this was a positive activity promoting community engagement and therefore would underwrite the cost to run the Hub from March to October (7 months to exclude August), committing to £50 / session

Upcoming social events include the new playing field opening at Summer Party in the Park on 13 July 2024 and Apple Rock on 5 October 2024

Cllr Gray informed the council that there is still budget available from the Build Back Better Campaign for grant funding up to £500. GVA will submit a claim for this.

Council AGREED to £500 match funding for these events

d. Formal application to TBC for S106 monies for new play equipment

The council are currently waiting the invoice from the contractor to initiate application of S106 funds

e. Other action items (ahead of Village Survey feedback)

- Street lighting on main road, down to Redwood Close for pedestrian traffic – Cllr Gray has agreed to speak to Highways to find out further information.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to follow-up.

- Village gateway

Council AGREED that it improved aesthetics and was a visual sign to reduce speed on entering the village, Cllr Gray repeated his previous offer to fund half of the cost. It was noted, that GPC has an ongoing application for the other 50% funding from GCC Highways.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to follow-up, with GCC Highways and also Redwood Close residents Association (Hillcroft Management)

- Bus stop refurbishment - awaiting action.

ACTION Cllr Hanson to follow-up.

- War memorial requires some repairs

ACTION Cllr Hanson to review

- New housing developments – GPC to consider mechanisms to give residents a say in shaping the future for any potential building developments

ACTION Clerk to email copy of Kemerton's Village Design Statement to councillors. Also a major topic for the Village Survey.

- Green Carbon Initiative

ACTION Cllr Oliver to propose ideas for Greener Gloucestershire (Climate Leadership Gloucestershire)

- Flooding –one house reported flooding due to blocked surface-water drainage.

ACTION on the village clean-up day to unblock Greenway ditch

- Bus service – to be included as part of the upcoming village survey. Cllr Gray recommended residents to request The Robin a bookable bus service (North Cotswolds including Greet & Winchcombe).

- Grit/salt bin

ACTION Clerk to forward email of GCC Highways Snow Plan to Cllr Green to enable a request to replace 2-off damaged salt bins.

- Mobile speed sign – it was agreed that the Redwood Close post location is not appropriate, and it would be beneficial for a further one or two locations for the VAS be identified.

ACTION Cllr Olliver to speak with police about identifying additional post locations for the VAS.

f. Planning for Village Survey.

Council AGREED to discuss details in a separate meeting

7. Village Communications and Engagement Update.

a. Discuss - Annual Parish Meeting

Council AGREED to hosting a separate Annual Parish Meeting. Date to be confirmed.

b. Newsletter

Latest issue has been sent to the printer. Invoice to be paid in March payments.

c. Village and Council Archive.

Resident has been approached to help facilitate encapsulating Gretton's history in an archive. Also the possibility of a segment to be included in the newsletter.

8. Reports.

a. Clerk

Circulated prior to meeting and its content noted

b. Greening & Environment Group

Council **AGREED** to increase the number of bulbs for planting

ACTION Cllr Green to make location recommendations for planting trees, also a topic for the Village Survey.

c. Traffic and Speeding

The Gretton Community Speedwatch started again on 8 March with six volunteer residents. Data indicates that overall speed of vehicles has reduced and scheme has been received positively within the community. The afternoon Speedwatch is on hold until a co-ordinator can be identified.

Council noted that a petition to improve the Black Barns crossroad has been started – no action required by council. Cllr Gray expressed concern and support for an improvement project.

d. GVA

- Party bookings are down but commercial rental has increased. The Table Tennis hire is doing well on a Thursday and Friday
- Classes are doing well with seven weekly classes on offer.
- The Hub will continue on a monthly basis, Sundays only. Opportunities to fund afternoon sessions and/or early evening BBQs are being assessed. The GVA is working with the Church to consider offerings that may help the community at this time.
- Headline events for the year will be Walk for the Park on 8th June, Summer Party on 20th July, Apple Rock on 5th October with smaller events throughout the year.
- The Play Equipment is planned to be installed in April/May. Funding for the activity space at the rear of the Hall is being pursued and the perimeter paths are on hold until funds can be identified.
- The GVA has seen a few issues of anti-social behaviour. Vaping in the Playing Field is increasing, a tree was damaged and two windows have been broken.

e. Flood Group

No report received. No action.

f. Cotswold Wardens

Greenway Lane path has held well in the adverse weather. Ditches will need to be cleared. No current planned projects for Gretton.

g. Gretton Primary School

The Headmaster has been approached by local residents regarding parking issues, a reminder to parents is being included in the school newsletter. Dog mess reported outside the school.

h. Police

Cllr Oliver attended a positive Councillor Advocacy Group meeting, which has been newly formed to strengthen links between PCs, the Police and the Crime Commissioner. It was noted:-

- It is important to log all crime incidents.
 - The Advisory group is a strong advocate of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme
- ACTION** All Councillors to review the draft handbook and respond with any comments

9. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.

Cllr Gray gave a County Council report and informed the council of the following:

- GCC budget has been approved
- There is a county focus on repairing potholes and resurfacing including; Greet road, Toddington hands, Broadway road, Gotherington
- There is still Bring Back Better funding available for small projects
- Gloucestershire local authorities (GCC, CBC and TBC) have worked jointly together through membership of several Boards for several years. Following a review of the joint working arrangements, Leadership Gloucestershire agreed that the three boards and the Joint Committee should be merged into a single forum under the name of Gloucestershire City Region Board serving the whole of the county.

Cllr Madle circulated the following Borough Report prior to meeting:

TBC Council Decisions:

- To raise council tax by £5 per annum (Band D)
- To agree in principle to follow forthcoming Government guidance to raise council tax on second and empty homes.
- To raise the upper age of eligibility for care leavers exemption or discount from 21 to 24.

- Approved a number of growth budget items including the appointment of a young people's engagement officer into the budget.

Council Plan Consultation:

- Feedback was generally positive and encouragingly 1/6 of responses were from 16-24 year olds because the council proactively went into some sixth forms to consult. The draft plan is being brought to April's council meeting.

Health Overview and Scrutiny (HOSC):

- NHS trust responded to the panorama programme about Maternity services. HOSC have asked to call in independent bodies who have reviewed Gloucestershire's data and also to follow up on progress on the recommendations from the case reviews later this year.
- Following Winchcombe Surgery's recent public statement it was helpful to have a presentation by the Gloucestershire Local Medical Committee who represent GPs in Glos. They said the funding gap is significant - between 60-90% of general practice budgets is spent on staffing yet Govt funding assumes 44% leaving GPs to find the shortfall. In addition there are now 20% more appointments being offered in Glos than in 2019. The GMC recommendations are 1600 patients per full-time GP, in Glos this is on average 1850. Cllr Madle asked the ICB what was being done to support these practices and was told they are supporting with Accountants and budget setting and other practical support. But the point was made that current funding doesn't allow GPs to provide the General Practice that patients are looking for. Further updates expected at HOSC later in the year.
- South West Ambulance NHS Trust update showed that response times are still higher than in Jan 2021 - average 10.3 mins for Cat 1 and 35.4 mins for Cat 2. Tewkesbury lies in the middle range of the county and slightly higher than national average for Cat 1 and slightly lower for Cat 2. There's clearly a rural issue in response times so SWAST are increasing the number of double crewed ambulances in rural areas and increasing the number of first responders from 95 to 100, plus working with BASICS who provide doctor support to paramedics at the scene.
- We had an update on CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services) statistics that was requested at a previous meeting and heard that over 500 young people are still waiting for CAMHS treatment (this hasn't changed in the last quarter) and yp's mental health is still declining so HOSC is setting up a working group to review CYP mental health in the county and this will be added to the work plan.

10. Information and Correspondence.

Cllr Oliver attended a forum led by TBC Chief Exec and Head of Council to discuss the Place strategy for the Borough. He reported the content was excellent as was the passion in the room.

11. Items For Future Agenda

- Neighbourhood Watch
- Annual Parish Meeting – planning
- Conclude the Action Plan discussion
- Agree final details of the Village survey.

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Date of next Meeting: 8 May 2024 commencing at 19.00pm, in Gretton Village Hall.

After the meeting, there was a brief presentation, when Cllr Hanson, on behalf of the Council, thanked Jackie Shields (the retiring Clerk) for her 6 years of excellent support and service to Gretton Parish Council. Wishing Jackie a happy and well-earned retirement, he was then pleased to be able to welcome the new Clerk – Cathie Bridges.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date