

Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 13 May 2024 at 7.30pm at Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby

Road, Gretton NN17 3DB

Present: Cllrs Lilley, Fox, Husk, Nicholls, Wright, Newby, Thompson, Watt

24/080 **Election of a Chair**

Cllr Lilley officially stood down as Chair and thanked fellow Cllrs for their support over the last year. Cllr Fox thanked Cllr Lilley for her hard work and commitment to the role.

Cllr Lilley asked for nominations and none being made indicated her willingness to stand as Chair for the coming year. Cllr Fox proposed Cllr Lilley and this was seconded by Cllr Newby. Vote taken and all in favour.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/081 **To receive and approve apologies for absence.**

Cllrs Blamire, Turner, Chrissie Watts (Clerk), Trevor Smith (PLR and NHW Coordinator) and PC Wilson

RESOLVED: Approved

24/082 **To receive declarations of interest under the Council's Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda.**

There were no declarations of interest.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/083 **To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the April meetings held on 8 April 2024**

Minutes approved without amendment and signed by the Chair.

RESOLVED: Approved. Votes – all in favour.

24/084 **Open Forum**

No members of the public in attendance.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/085 **To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council**

Cllr Watt provided a brief update in respect the recent opening of the Nike Warehouse at Magna Park with the creation of 700 jobs, both warehouse and non-warehouse, and its connectivity with cycle routes and links to the train station. He also spoke about the Corby West Development, road infrastructure and junction changes.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/086 **To receive a report from the Police.**

Before the meeting PC Wilson reported on:

CRIMES – THREE

CRIMINAL DAMAGE (24000197262): VEHICLE DOOR DAMAGED BY DRILLING (SUSPECT UNKNOWN, NO ENQUIRIES POSSIBLE, FILED)

ATTEMPT BURGLARY (24000216072): PADLOCK ON GARAGE DOOR REMOVED – NO ENTRY & NOTHING TAKEN (SUSPECT UNKNOWN, NO ENQUIRIES POSSIBLE, FILED)
THEFT (24000233781): THEFT OF PARCEL (SUSPECT UNKNOWN, NO ENQUIRIES POSSIBLE, FILED)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – ONE

53 – 30\04\24: NOISE NUISANCE BY NEIGHBOURS (COUNCIL MATTER - ALREADY DEALING.

RESOLVED: Noted

24/087 **To receive a report from the Police Liaison Representative and Gretton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator**

Before the meeting Trevor Smith updated that there was nothing to report.

RESOLVED: Noted

24/088 **To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team**

No report received. Cllr Newby asked that more regular updates are received rather than just the half yearly update. He will send a formal request to the Clerk for action.

RESOLVED: Noted

24/089 **To receive a report from the following Working Groups:**

24/089a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters – Cllr Lilley

Before the meeting Cllr Lilley submitted her report (full report available on the PC Website)

Further discussion in respect of:

Lower Church Yard – following site visit with Cllrs Lilley and Newby, Rev Frost is now aware of the extent of the land owned by the Church (beyond the fence). He is seeking to ensure sufficient available land for all who have a right to be buried there in future decades. Noted that the Silver Birch trees may reach end of life in the next ten years but the Ash tree will remain longer. Consideration to be given to pulling back the turf around the base of the tree or erecting a fence to show demarcation. Rev Frost will prepare strategy for the Church Yard and report back.

The ground is boggy; the culvert belongs to Network Rail. On behalf of GPC Cllr Newby to make contact to enable maintenance work to be carried out.

It was noted that the current and two previous Clerks have previously been asked to research the Parish Council minutes for the period of time when the new Church Yard was originally acquired by the PCC. Cllr Fox confirmed that the land is registered with the Land Registry which also contains the conveyance. He stated he did not think there is a legal agreement but that there must be some record of the undertaking by the Parish Council, and offered his help in researching documents. In the event that a copy of the agreement between the PCC and GPC re the Lower Church Yard cannot be located another formal agreement will need to be drawn up.

Community Orchard – Clerk to chase Lamb & Holmes Solicitors for confirmation of Land Registry.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/089b Highways Working Group – Cllr.Thompson

Before the meeting Cllr Thompson submitted his report (full report available on the PC Website)

RESOLVED: Approved

24/089c Community –buses, doctors’ surgery, school liaison – Cllr.Husk

Before the meeting Cllr Husk submitted her report (full report available on the PC Website)

RESOLVED: Approved

24/089d Environment –trees, Pocket Park, litter collecting groups-Cllr.Newby

Before the meeting Cllr Newby submitted his report (full report available on the PC Website)

Further discussion in respect of:

No Mow May – to be considered for next year.

Pocket Park Meeting – Cllr Lilley will attend in Cllr Newby’s absence; Pocket Park Secretary to be advised by Cllr Newby.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/089e Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox

Cllr Fox reported before the meeting:

Notes from the Recreation Ground Meeting of 22 April 2024 have been circulated to all stakeholders. Successful opening event for the Skatepark and it is being well used; good coverage in the Northants Telegraph.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/089f Sports and Social Club – Cllr.Nicholls

Before the meeting Cllr Nicholls submitted his report (full report available on the PC Website)

Further discussion in respect of:

Pavilion Facilities - there is increased usage of the Recreation Ground and attention is required re sewerage arrangements. All in agreement for the pit to be drained. Fraser Wright will forward contact details of Cammock and Wilcox to arrange for a standard maintenance clean out. This needs to be done as soon as possible, ideally outside of school hours. Drain in the car park is heavily silted – Cammock and Wilcox will be asked to look at this too.

Sewerage Upgrade –concern expressed that several meetings on no decision has still been made regarding upgrade to the sewerage arrangements. The problem relates to capacity and the pit needs to last 24 hours until call-out can be arranged.

Any work will need to be undertaken this autumn; if this does not happen the Parish Council will receive further bills for emergency maintenance.

The upgrade to the Pavilion facilities was raised at the recent Finance Meeting and at the next Recreation Ground meeting on 28 May it was proposed that stakeholders be asked to put forward suggestions and requirements so that a definitive proposal can be made to enable progression with this matter. If no major work is identified work on the sewerage system will be undertaken on a one-off basis, using the £10k put aside towards this work.

RESOLVED: Approved

- 24/089g** **Youth Council and Social Media – Cllr.Blamire**
- Before the meeting Cllr Blamire submitted her report (full report available on the PC Website)
- RESOLVED: Approved**
- 24/090** **To receive the Expenses Policy for Review**
To be carried forward to the next meeting.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/091** **To receive the Terms of Reference Policy for Review**
To be carried forward to the next meeting.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/092** **To receive Finance Statements for March and April 2024 for Approval**
Amendments are required on both statements and cannot be signed at this time.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/093** **Review Annual Parish Meeting**
This meeting is held on behalf of the Parish. The general feeling is that the meeting needs to be reinvigorated to celebrate what goes on in the village and to increase engagement with all organisations represented, allowing them to promote their groups and become involved with and contribute to GPC budget setting in the autumn. It was agreed that an Annual Parish Meeting should continue but with greater participation from village organisations. A plan which reaches out to the community will be formulated; the Fun Day in July might be an opportunity to start this process.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/094** **To Discuss Governance and Efficiencies Improvement**
Cllr Lilley referred to the proposal previously circulated which seeks to improve GPC's governance and efficiency, and ensure the continual working to best practices. It is proposed that Cllrs Turner, Blamire and Nichols take on this work. Agreed that they would meet to discuss proposal and provide feedback.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/095** **To Discuss Complaint Received**
A formal complaint received has been dealt with under the Complaints Policy. The complaint has been considered and has not been upheld. The complainant has been informed of this decision.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/096** **To Discuss Action List Report which has been created to view status of items from previous meetings**
The Action List was reviewed and updated as appropriate. It is the responsibility of Cllrs to ensure their actions as updated each month. Clerk to add the link to agenda email each month to assist in these updates being made.
RESOLVED: Approved
- 24/097** **To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting.**
- Electricity in phone box – GPC are responsible for paying this; request made for a Direct Debit to be set up. All in agreement.

- Correspondence received from residents seeking confirmation that GPC are still in agreement for them to maintain planted hedges on their garden wall which borders the Recreation Ground. GPC is happy for this agreement to continue; Cllr Lilley to respond to them.
- Tree Surgery quotes – Clerk to chase quotes.
- Notice Boards – offer has been made to re-cork the three notice boards; agreement for this and appropriate reimbursement.
- Raised on behalf of the Finance Committee – annual insurance quote has been received £2376, an increase of nearly £600, with payment due 01.06.24. Agreed that next year several quotes will be obtained to enable comparisons to be made. It was noted that the insurance premium includes the provision of the Skate Park and Outdoor Gym for the first time as well as the usual index-linked increases on sums insured.
- Clerk to confirm that latest response to Tom Pursglove MP re parking issues has been sent.
- AGAR Report – discrepancy has been identified between end of finance year balance and amount shown on the form; Cllr Lilley to resolve and amend.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/098

Councillor Questions

- Parked Cars on NNC Land Hunts Field Drive – reports received of cars being parked on land close to the balancing pond and beside the hedge which is adjacent to a public right of way footpath. Cllr Newby to identify this area on a map.
- Training available to NNC Cllrs re Planning, Environment, Biodiversity etc was noted.
- There is now one LCD street light at the top of Clay Lane.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/099

Date of Next Meeting

Monday 10 June 2024. This meeting will be chaired by Cllr Fox in Cllr Lilley's absence.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/100

Close

9.33pm

RESOLVED: Approved

Councillors' reports are available on the PC Website at <https://www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk/>