

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Email: clerkgpc@btinternet.com

www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk

Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 8 April 2024 at 7.30pm at Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby

Road, Gretton NN17 3DB

Present: Cllrs Lilley, Husk, Newby, Blamire, Thompson, Fox, Watt, PC Wilson, C Watts (Clerk), and C Turner new Cllr to be co-opted

24/059

To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Cllr Nichols, Cllr Wright and Trevor Smith (PLR and NHW Coordinator)

RESOLVED: Approved

24/060

Chris Turner to be co-opted into the Council to become a full member of Gretton Parish Council

Cllr Lilley introduced Chris to the Councillors. **Chris Turner declared his acceptance of the offer of co-option.** The Clerk to send out forms for completion by Chris

RESOLVED: Voted all in favour

24/061

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.

24/062

To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on January 2nd and the meeting held on 11th March 2024.

Both Sets of Minutes were signed and approved by Cllr Lilley with Cllr Blamire to post them on Gretton Website. Minutes from meeting on 2nd January to be sent to the Gretton resident's Freedom of Information Request.

It was agreed that going forward, once Minutes have been drafted and reviewed the clerk would distribute to all Councillors so that more time is given to review and make any amendments prior to the following PC meeting, ensuring that minutes are always signed off in the next month.

RESOLVED: Approved.

24/063

Open Forum

Bob Dobson was in attendance to discuss the wall issue at the Pocket Park. The wall is damaged due to an Ash tree and its roots. Cllr Thompson has been and had a look and the discussion held as to whether the wall can be moved or the tree to be removed. Cllr Thompson shared that if the wall was moved it would encroach on NNC (Highways) land and the land would need to be purchased as it is a boundary wall.

It was agreed that the wall would be taken down and rebuilt with lintels placed underneath to bridge the roots and allow the tree to keep growing.

Cllr Newby to draft a specification and share with Cllr Thompson before obtaining quotes for the work

RESOLVED: Approved

24/064

To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptonshire Council

Cllr Watt shared that he had received an update in relation to an ongoing neighbour issue within the village that a meeting was being held on Tuesday 9th April. The Clerk shared that NNC had not updated her on this matter.

Cllr Husk shared that the Green bin renewal appears to show that residents have lost a month on the annual charge. Cllr Husk to share the details with Cllr Watt

RESOLVED: Approved

24/065

To receive a report from the Police.

Before the meeting PC Wilson reported on:

The crime and anti-social behaviour figures for FEBRUARY 2024 are as follows:

CRIMES – THREE

SEX OFFENCE (24000070785): INAPPROPRIATE TOUCHING (SUSPECT KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, INSUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO PROCEED, FILED)

SEX OFFENCE (24000077601): HISTORIC SEX OFFENCE – DOMESTIC (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)

HARASSMENT (24000080507): VERBAL ABUSE & THREATS (SUSPECT KNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED) *LINKED*

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – ONE

495 – 07\02\2024: THREATS FROM NEIGHBOUR (CRIME RECORDED) *LINKED*

The crime and anti-social behaviour figures for MARCH 2024 are as follows:

CRIMES – ONE

THEFT (24000128129): UNAUTHORISED USE OF BANK CARD (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)

ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – ONE

110 – 25\03\2024: ONGOING NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE RE NOISE (N.N.C. SAFER PARTNERSHIP TEAM LEADING)

PC Wilson shared at the meeting that he is still allocated to Corby Central and has not been given any update on a date when there will be a replacement PCSO due to resourcing issues. Parking was raised as key issue. He asked if there has been any increase in issues within the village since the PCSO has gone? If yes, then suggested that residents should report them to the Police and then inform the PC once done so that they can be collated by the PC and to send information to him for it to be shared with his Sargent.

The Beat bus was discussed for attendance to two events in the Village this year. The Clerk to provide PC Wilson with this information.

Cllr Thompson asked if there had been any reports of van vandalism in the area. He was made aware of an issue in the village. PC Wilson to look into this.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/066

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

Nothing to report

RESOLVED: Approved

24/067

To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team

No report received

RESOLVED: Approved

24/068

To receive a report from the following Working Groups:

24/068a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters – Cllr Lilley

Gretton Paddock Park: I had a meeting with Steve Ellis at the park to discuss the partial removal of a wall around the ash tree on the Kirby Road side. The wall is now dangerous and needs to be taken down for safety reasons. The Paddock Park group would like to erect

a temporary wooden enclosure around the area until the wall can be properly re-built and moved out to allow the future growth of the tree. The PC have been asked to help by getting quotes for the rebuilding of the wall.

GGNS: the next Skills Café will be on 27th April at GSSC. I have asked the Chair of the group to submit a report for the Annual Parish Meeting. The team would like to have a stand at the upcoming event on the Recreation Ground on 27th April to promote the scheme and also to recruit new volunteers. The AGM will be held on 9th May.

NNC Gypsy & Travellers meeting: I attended the meeting. The consultation which is due in April/May is now late as is the draft G&T local plan. The delay is due to two key officers leaving the department. Nothing more to add.

It was discussed at the meeting that there are many ongoing issues with Gypsy sites around Northamptonshire and that the Council continue to monitor.

Village Hall: refurbishment and redecoration work ongoing. Liz Watts has taken an action to contact Brad Wilson to get advice and suggestions for security for future party bookings. Events in March were the Murder Mystery Evening and a Jazz and Soul Band from Uppingham. The AGM will be held on Wednesday, 10th April at 7pm

Nature Recovery Plan: A further meeting was held, and the baseline assessments of the PC owned land has been started. This is the start of pulling a five-year plan together. The group will be taking a stand at the Fun Day on 14th July, with the aim of promoting the plan and starting the community engagement. I confirmed that the PC will support the set up of a community orchard once the Land Registry of the new field is completed. Applications for funding for this project start in July.

Picks Playing Field: just waiting for signage to be completed and then I can send a final project report and funding claim to the funders.

Allotments: Unfortunately, Steve Gray has been ill and hospitalised over the last month, so has been unable to confirm the date of the first committee meeting. I will attend once the date has been set.

Finance Committee: meeting held in March and minutes distributed to all by the Clerk.

Changes to Permitted Development Consultation: thanks to those who replied with their answers. I will finalise the summary this weekend and submit the responses on behalf of the PC before the Tuesday deadline.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/068b Highways Working Group – Cllr. Thompson

Before the meeting Cllr Thompson reported on:

New 20's plenty signs have been fitted to the entrances to the village. We are still awaiting the beware horses etc signage to arrive but have been assured that it is in progress. I am still awaiting a response from Kier regarding delivery of additional TVAS? Pole to Harringworth road has been straightened but may require some concrete to the base prior to new TVAS being fitted when I get a chance. The quarterly TVAS data has been downloaded and I will send as a separate email.

Cllr Lilley asked for an update on the Grant application and Cllr Thompson has shared that Cllr Blamire is now assisting with this. The Clerk to provide documents needed.

Analytics to be prepared on the data from the TVAS to share to the website. Cllr Blamire to assist.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/068c Community –buses, doctors’ surgery, school liaison – Cllr.Husk

Before the meeting Cllr Husk Reported on:

School

- School visit scheduled for 15 April to discuss issues relating to parking and speeding in the vicinity of the school, and seeking their support to encourage parents, via the children, to be more aware of the dangers associated with this. Will discuss the 20s Plenty campaign and the possibility of the children creating posters to support this.

Doctor's Surgery

- Confirmation from the Ops Manager that the fence panel has been removed in the first instance to ensure complete safety of passers-by; may look to replace the panel in the future.

Community Minibus Trips

- Following a short break the opportunity for trips has resumed with the first one being to Rushden Lakes on 10 April, and a further one to a garden centre in May.

Welland Wanderer Bus Service

- No update since March meeting.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/068d Environment –trees, Pocket Park, litter collecting groups-Cllr.Newby

Before the meeting Cllr Newby reported on:

Environment – Hedge cutting Roadside vegetation First cut carried out W/E 5th April

DEFINITIVE MAP Does this include Station Road

Southern Bank Glyphosate spraying and Wild flower areas

A Gully layout document is available as is a Lamp post layout

Kier are to respond, there is a consultation for Councillors in the near future

Danesholme Library 19th April 2-4.00

Some Gullies need to be cleared

Rockingham Forest Vision

See separate Report Cllr Lilley

River Wardens Mercian Rivers Trust Welland Valley Partnership

No activity due to water levels 7 months of Rain See separate Email Fri 05/04/2024 08:02

Flooding As before

Parish Council to make representations to relevant parties NB Clear water cleared Gretton

Brook Apparently a meeting has been arranged Waiting for date see separate Email

Picks Playing Field

See Committee report

The Pocket Park

Pocket park meeting 8.00pm Wednesday 17 April at the Hatton Arms To discuss on going remedial works to Perimeter wall

Pocket Plum Disease & Japanese Knotweed Ongoing

Fly Tipping – AS BEFORE Actions to be discussed see separate Email A coordinated response from GPC would be an advantage Some sites have been cleared

But others on the same road remain. Issue with Fly tipping at allotment entrance **Parish Path Warden** – Bins on paths causing issues for Pedestrians
Highways see definitive map requirement 19th April Consultation
Gretton Brook Road SOME ONGOING RESPONSE FROM NNC & MP Email up date to follow
RESOLVED: Approved

24/068e Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox

Cllr Fox reported before the meeting:

It was reported that a meeting had taken place with Chris from Boardroom Skateparks to agree the final works.

Also indicated that they would install bench and bin if they could be ordered in time to coincide with their works.

This would leave the following to be organised and undertaken by members of the group: Grass seed to be ordered and sown Wildflower seeds to be sown on the banks Line painting on car park Trees alongside cricket netting.

Scooter/Bike rack – David Collins thought that he could obtain an unused rack which could be installed next to the skatepark and Club building

Opening Event/Activity Day Spencer advised the group that the Football Club had rearranged fixtures which clashed with the timing of the Opening Event. Despite the date having been agreed by members of the group and publicised accordingly since October it was felt that due to the number of players and their parents involved it was regrettably decided to rearrange the Opening Event for the following Saturday 27th April. Agreed that the event would be held between the times 1.00pm – 3.00pm.

Cllr Lilley shared that the GGNS would like to have a stall at this event for which Councillor Fox agreed to arrange space .

Activities to be organised:

Skateboard and scooter demos – Sara with David and Corinna to liaise with Adrenaline Alley and other contacts, including Chris from Boardroom Skateparks. Outdoor Gym – Sara to approach Paulina to run a fitness demo/class. Proludic – Tim to invite. Zumba class – HGP on board. Netball – Sara organising friendly match with village netball groups. Skills Café – Jacki to arrange at the same time using the Club. Rounders match – Sara to approach Chris and Beanie Turner. First Responders – Tim to contact. Scout group – Tim to contact.

Publicity and advertising – Sara and Spencer to produce design for flyer, to be distributed to each house, and posters, to be placed around the village and pavilion. Also facebook etc.

Family Fun Day Date was agreed on Sunday 14th July. Format as previous events. Principal items to invite or organise: Inflatable slides Sponsors First Responders Silver Band Village groups – email invites and facebook publicity with appeals for assistance and participation. Grass Cutting The group was asked to note that the Parish Council had awarded the contract to Emery's for the current year.

Car Park The group was advised that a lift platform would be sited on the car park on Wednesday 3rd April to facilitate some maintenance work to be undertaken on the telecom aerials fitted to the water tower.

Other matters Spencer raised the point that the Football Club were now running 10 teams and that there was competition to use the pitches. Concern was expressed that the condition of the ground would deteriorate if over-used and that the Parish Council should reserve the ability to cancel matches when conditions were unsuitable.

RESOLVED: Approved

24/068f Sports and Social Club – Cllr.Nicholls

Before the meeting Cllr Nicholls reported on:

Future Events Bingo every Monday

Skittles Winter League – This has now finished.

We look forward to the Summer league.

George Boon Knockout cup on April 6th. Open to all Gretton Under 7s and Under 9s Race Night – 27th April from 6.30pm

Past events Red Nose Day Quiz – 15th March – A good turn out. £65 raised.

Cricket Race Night – 23rd March – Approx £650 raised to help Gretton cricket team in 2024. Both were very good nights.

EGM. Saturday 16th March at 5pm. The EGM was very well attended with over 60 people present. A real sense of community and just the response we hoped for. People put themselves forward to join the committee and to form working groups of volunteers. Overwhelming vote to stay open all year round with the understanding of extra support.

Sunday 24th March held our first working group and an intro to the committee. Intro to the committee. Explanation of what the commitment was and what help was ideally needed. A good turn out and people encouraged to have a think about things before committing for the first committee meeting in April.

1st Working group Patio cleaned, tables sanded and painted, Digging ready for planting, etc. What an amazing place Gretton can be. A real sense of community with people coming together.

The patio area and all round the club is looking much better. Gretton Sports and Social Club isn't out of the woods yet, we need a continued drive of volunteers and a busy summer. But a brilliant response

RESOLVED: Approved

24/046g Youth Council and Social Media– Cllr.Blamire

Cllr Blamire reported before the meeting:

I have spent the majority of time getting the website up to what I think is a much clearer layout and easier navigation through our pages. Please take a look and review the pages on the website, there are still a lot of improvements I would like to make to the visuals, This has meant that I have not yet created the Social Media / Event strategy for the coming month, however we do have the Skate Park, Skills Cafe and litter picking / fly tipping as a focus I would like to propose.

It was discussed that a map to be put on the website showing where the Parish Council is responsible for mowing and hedge cutting.

It was discussed that the Website should be used as a main focus of communicating with the Village. Cllr Blamire to look into the Social Media training courses on NALC

RESOLVED: Approved

24/069

Planning Applications received:

NC/24/00087/LBC (Carried forward from previous meeting due to no documents online to view)

Re : Internal works to listed building, including creation of ensuite to an existing bedroom by creating new wall opening and installation of new stud partition.

At : Gretton House High Street Gretton North Northamptonshire NN17 3DE

RESOLVED: Approved. No Objections

NC/24/00120/DPA

Re : Demolition of existing UPVC Conservatory to facilitate addition of single storey rear extension to South (rear) elevation. Remodeling of existing single storey flat roof extension to West elevation. Replacement Pergola to North (front) elevation.
At : 2 Winchilsea Drive Gretton North Northamptonshire NN17 3BT

RESOLVED: Approved. No Objections

- 24/070** **To receive Finance Statements for February and March showing invoices paid and received**
Invoices received checked and signed by Cllr Lilley for February. March still with Cllr Wright as he was not in attendance

RESOLVED: Approved

- 24/071** **To receive and approve Minutes from the Finance meetings held on 7 November, 5 December 23 and 20 March 2024**

All signed sighted and approved. Cllr Blamire to post on the Website

RESOLVED: Approved

- 24/072** **To discuss Action List report which has been created to view status of items from previous meetings.**

Discussed items that are outstanding and provided updates. Cllr's to update the Action List for items they are responsible for.

RESOLVED: Approved

- 24/073** **Review Property and Assets Risk Assessment report.**

Cllr Fox has updated the report

Key points raised were:

Parish Council assets need to be inspected regularly.

The Tenanted assets will be inspected by the tenants but the parish Council to inspect every six months.

All Open Spaces including, Village Green, Pocket Park Recreation Ground, Church Gap etc to be inspected and recorded.

Allocate responsibility and system to be set up and put into place by Cllr Fox. Cllr Blamire to look into using the website for electronic schedule.

PAT Testing for Electronic equipment at the Sports Pavillion.

Training and Method statement to be put in place for Volunteers who use power tools in and around the village.

Cllr Fox to trial the Implementation of the Risk Assessment report and the Councillors to look at sharing the tasks in due course.

Cllr Fox to share with the clerk the list of volunteers for an invite to be sent out inviting them to a meeting to discuss training and power tool use etc

RESOLVED: Approved

- 24/074** **Proposal to open a discussion of the renewal of the GSSC Lease**

Cllr Lilley shared that this was raised at the Finance Meeting. Approval requested for setting up a meeting with the GSSC to discuss the terms for renewal of the lease.

RESOLVED: - Voted all in favour

- 24/075** **To discuss the tree issue at the Lower Church yard**

Email received.

There is an Ash Tree with very established roots growing on the boundary, that is restricting the area that is used for cremated remains.

Cllr Newby shared he had inspected the sight.

The Clerk to contact the church asking for representative of the church to meet with some of the councillors at the lower churchyard to discuss and understand the future plans of the church yard

RESOLVED: Approved

24/076

To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting.

Budget v Actual report received and to be posted on the website

Correspondence received requesting rental of small field on Arnhill Track, This field has been allocated for another purpose, The Clerk to respond

Freedom of Information request received from a Gretton resident for four pieces of information:

Prior to this meeting items 2 and 3 have been forwarded to the resident and items 1 and 4 will be forwarded on after this meeting due to item one being signed at this meeting and item four having just been completed in the format requested and sighted by the councillors

Correspondence received from a resident in relation to planning questions:

The Clerk to prepare a reply stating that all applications are treated equally

RESOLVED: Voted: All in favour

24/077

Councillor questions.

Cllr Wright shared via email to the Clerk that the new mowing contractor (Ben Emery) first cut to the recreation ground took place on Easter Monday. As per the contract, Bank Holiday cutting activities need approval.

The Clerk shared that the contractor had contacted her sharing the cut would take place on Easter Monday.

The Clerk to contact Ben Emery sharing that work needs to be carried out between Monday to Friday and anything out of these hours needs authorisation.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Lilley issued an Annual Parish meeting statement

All Cllrs confirmed receipt

Training for new Cllr Turner and Social media training for Cllr Blamire and new Clerk training course. The Clerk to book these courses

RESOLVED: Approved

24/078

Date of Next meeting

13th May 2024

RESOLVED: Approved

24/079

Close

9.40pm

RESOLVED: Approved

Signed Cllr Lilley:

Date