

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Gretton, Corby, Northamptonshire.

Email: clerkgpc@btinternet.com

www.grettonparishcouncil.co.uk



Please Note: These Minutes are posted before being ratified by the Parish Council and, as such, are in DRAFT form. Any amendments to them will appear in the following Annual Parish Meeting minutes.

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Friday 4 April 2025** at 7.00 pm.

Present: Chair of the Parish Council, Jacki Lilley, presided over the Meeting supported by four Parish Councillors, Clerk to the Parish Council

1. Introduction by the Chair of Gretton Parish Council

Cllr Lilley (Chair) Opened the meeting thanking everybody for their attendance. She shared that the Parish Council were looking to rejuvenate the meeting with an opportunity for groups in the Village to come together to share what they do and offer in the Village

2. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2024

The Minutes were signed with no amendments by the Chair.

3. Presentation by Gretton Sports & Social Club Committee (Ian Duncan Smith)

Ian shared that the club is run by volunteers who look after the indoor and outdoor area of the club, it is a welcoming space with over 500 members. He shared that they would like to work with other clubs within the Village to make full use of the premises and the surrounding Recreation Ground. Currently some of the working Groups use the Club for meetings and events. There is a full Social Calendar with different activities. The Club is also involved with fund raising activities within the Village. He extended an invitation to all to come along to the club and see what it offers. Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation

4. Presentation by the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground (Gary Freyard)

Gary Freyard shared a slide show showing what has been achieved at the Recreation Ground. He shared that the Group is made up of Volunteers whose aim is to maintain the Recreation Ground and Facilities to provide a safe Green Space for the community to enjoy. They organise an annual Fun Day, activities within the Muga, planting of bulbs and flowers around the field. He extended an invitation for a fun day co-ordinator for this year's fun day to help organise this activity.

A question was asked if there had been a date set for the Fun Day. It was shared that potentially September, but nothing has been fully confirmed

Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation

5. Presentation by Gretton Cricket Club (Fraser Wright)

Fraser shared that the Cricket club currently have 30 active players. There is a Saturday team and a Wednesday Team. Currently it is a thriving team but currently there is no youth team.

The Cricket Club wish to work with the Parish Council and the Recreation Ground in the coming years to achieve the facilities needed to run a successful cricket club.

A need for a Booking system for all clubs to have visibility of activities taking place on the field was raised.

Fraser wished it to be put on record thanks to Steve Ellis, Bert Woolly, Terry Meecham, Theresa Baines and all the supporters who attend the matches on a Saturday afternoon.

Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation

6. Presentation by Gretton Good Neighbours (Sue Smith)

Sue shared that the GGNS scheme was set up in 2021 by the Parish Council during the cost of living crisis. It was involved in setting up the warm spaces within the village.

A Grant was awarded to continue the Group which is run by volunteers which offers transport to appointment's shopping, small repairs, DIY, gardening

They run a Skills cafe and a craft workshop. It was shared that it runs on donations.

Extra volunteers are always welcome.

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

7. Presentation by Gretton Nature Recovery Project Group (Douglas Hall)

Douglas shared that the Nature Recovery Program across the country was set up by the Government in 2023. Gretton Parish Council set out to start Nature Recovery Group. Rockingham Forest Vision asked to come on board to work with the Parish Council. They provided a lot of support and contacts and Grant support.

Douglas shared that Picks Park has been improved and there is an increase in visitors to the park. A Community Orchard has now been set up with hedge clearing and fruit tree planting having already taken place all worked on by volunteers.

Additional volunteers always needed.

Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation

8. Presentation by Gretton Netball Team (Lisa Hemmings)

Lisa shared that the Netball Group was set up 7 years ago as there was not a lot of sporting activity in the Village school. Some of the past players have gone on to study sport. There is an adult team that are part of the Corby league and play on a Monday. The children's team play on a Tuesday at 6.30pm.

She asked for the word to be spread to families that this group is there for all.

Volunteers always needed

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

9. Presentation by Gretton Paddock/Pocket Park Group (Bob Dobson)

Bob Shared that the Pocket Park was started up in 1995 by Gretton Parish Council.

He shared how it has evolved over time and currently there is a small team of volunteers who maintain the green space for the wildlife and the community to enjoy.

Bob shared that volunteers are needed to help maintain the area.

Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation.

10. Presentation by Gretton Quilters Group (Janette Hall)

Janette shared that the Group meet the 3rd Saturday of every month and is made up of 30 members. She shared examples of the quilting and patch work that the group do at their group meetings.

New Members and visitors always welcome

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

11. Presentation by Gretton Silver Band (Pete Weston)

Pete shared that his grandfather was the founder member of Gretton Silver Band in 1877 and it is the oldest Silver Band in the Country. He shared they play only for fun and entertainment at Village Events and the surrounding area.

The band meet up in the band room on the Recreation Ground on Thursday evenings and are looking for new members.

Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation

12. Presentation by Gretton Social Sewing Group (Bridget)

Bridget shared that the group was set up in 2022 and there are 3 meetings a month at the Village Hall. They have between 40-50 members, and these are made of people from all over the County. They do help with the flower festival but the group is mainly for people to get advice and help while making their own items with sewing equipment provided.

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

13. Presentation by Gretton Village Hall Committee (Liz Watt)

Liz shared that the Village Hall was originally gifted by British Steel and over a period with the help of a bequest it has had quite a lot of work done to maintain a standard for it to be used by the village for Education and Recreation. It is well used within the community for various groups and activities and there is a Village Lunch once a month attended by approximately 70 people.

They are looking for new committee members to help run the Hall.

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

14. Presentation by Gretton WI (Pat Triffard)

Pat shared that the WI was set up in 1915 to bring women from rural villages together. It is the largest women's organisation in Britain and gives women a voice.

Pat shared some of the topics they cover at their meetings and activities that the WI offer.

They are looking for new members

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

15. Presentation by The Community Correspondent (David Fursden)

David shared that BBC Radio Northampton was set up in 1982 and he shares Gretton events and news with this radio station as well as all the local ones in our area. He also shares reports with some of the local newspapers ensuring that Gretton is kept on the map.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion David thanked the Village for £3168 being raised between Gretton Harringworth and Laxton for the Poppy Appeal in 2024.

David shared there will be a commemoration in the Village on 8th May for VE day.

Cllr Lilley thanked him for his presentation

16. Presentation by North Northants First Responders (Hilary Lunt)

Hilary shared that this is a voluntary organisation, and their focus is to save lives and provide care until an ambulance arrives. She shared they have been in to Gretton school to give a workshop on Basic Life support as well as two workshops have been conducted in the village free of charge. She shared there are 3 defibrillators and 2 bleed kits in the village.

Donations are always needed and Hilary shared she is retiring so asking for volunteers to be a responder for the village.

Cllr Lilley thanked her for her presentation

17. Annual Report to the Parish by Gretton Parish Council (Jacki Lilley, Chair)

Prior to the Annual Report being presented Cllr Lilley read a report on behalf of Lydia's coffee shop. She shared that Lydia's has been open since 2007 and offers a warm and friendly place for anybody to come in for tea coffee snacks or just a chat. It is run by volunteers and offers work to vulnerable people who wish to be involved in the community.

They are looking for volunteers to help serve the community to enable them to open on a Saturday

Cllr Lilley thanked all the groups for attending the meeting.

At the meeting Cllr Lilley read out a report sharing the projects that the Parish Council has been working on in the last 12 months. The full report will be available on the Parish Council Website and notice boards.

18. Q&A

Cllr Lilley asked if there was anybody that wanted to ask the Parish Council anything in relation to the village. A resident at the meeting raised that after being in the meeting they wanted to thank the Parish Council for all that they do for the village.

The rest of the people in attendance of the meeting applauded this.

Prior to the meeting the following correspondence was received by a resident

First Question for the Annual Parish Meeting

The Gretton Neighbourhood Plan, published in July 2019, identified parking as the second biggest traffic issue, after speeding.

The 2022 Gretton Village Traffic Report recommended several "quick wins" to help alleviate parking issues.

In February of this year, the Parish Council finally published its Parking Guidelines.

Can you please clarify

1. Education – What is your strategy for clearly communicating and reinforcing these guidelines across the village to demonstrate the negative impact of inconsiderate parking on residents?

2. Monitoring – How will the parish council assess the effectiveness of these guidelines?
3. Reporting – How should residents report parking issues which deviate from these guidelines?
4. Enforcement – Who will enforce these guidelines, and what role will our PCSO play in this?

The PCSO attended the meeting and spoke about the points raised.

She shared that illegal parking will result in cars being tickets or removed

She shared that she will be involved with the traffic group and will be patrolling the village on a regular basis.

She shared she will be involved in random visits to hotspots in the village

She shared that the |parish Council do not have any powers to enforce the law but she will be working closely with them and the traffic group.

She shared that any issues can be reported via calling 101, using the Police online reporting system and if any members of the public see her when she is in the village to stop and have a chat with any concerns.

Cllr Lilley thanked S Gray and T Smith for all there work on the traffic committee and supporting the Parish Council

Cllr Lilley shared that the Parish Council look at road safety as a whole.

Second Question for the Annual Parish Meeting

At the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting, I raised the issue of the 2024-25 village precept. My comments were not about the size of the increase, although it was 47.5%. My issue was that throughout the precept review process, The Parish Council published no minutes or supporting documents for four months. The first Gretton residents were aware that the Council Tax Precept would rise by 47.5% (compared to 4.6% the previous year) was when we received our Council Tax bills in March 2024.

Although The Parish Council's behaviour contravenes the transparency rules under the Local Government Act 1972, I acknowledge that The Parish Council has since made significant strides in publishing fuller minutes, which now include copies of all supporting documents.

My question today is: What oversight processes do you have in place to scrutinise the operation of the Parish Council and ensure compliance with best practice across all your activities?

Cllr Lilley shared that the first paragraph of the above correspondence is factually incorrect. The clerk to the Parish Council posts all Minutes and Agendas on the 3 notice boards in the village at the time in question. Due to the resignation of the Cllr who looked after the website at the time in question these Minutes and Agendas were not posted on the website

Cllr Lilley shared that there are a lot of Policies in place and the Parish Council use these to governance how we run as a council. We are always open to questions, and our Parish Council meetings always have an agenda item of an open forum where the public are always welcome to attend and ask any questions of the council.

At the meeting a question was raised asking about the change of priority at the end of Kirby Road.

S Gray (Traffic committee) explained that a survey was conducted in 2022 with an open meeting held in the village to share traffic concerns. A change of priority at the end of Kirby Road with traffic to stop and check on the High Street to be put in place. The full traffic report is available on the Parish Council website.

Volunteers needed to help with the Speed awareness day.

19. Motions to be voted on

No motions were made to be voted on

Cllr Lilley thanked everybody who attended the meeting

20. Close of meeting

9.20pm

Signed: _____

Chair, Gretton Parish Council.