

## GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Gretton Village Hall  
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Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Friday 24 April 2026** at 7.00 pm at Gretton Village hall 61 Kirby Road NN17 3DB

**Present:** Chair of the Parish Council, Fraser Wright, presided over the Meeting supported by Councillor Susan Husk and Clerk to the Parish Council

**In Attendance:** representatives of village community groups and residents of the village.

### 1. Introduction by the Chair of Gretton Parish Council

Cllr Wright thanked all who attended the meeting and shared it was an opportunity for groups and members of the public to come together. He explained that there would be a short presentation by the groups listed on the agenda.

### 2. Apologies

Cllr's Curtis, Freegard, Clare, and Page shared their apologies

Groups who shared their apologies were S Earl, Netball team, T Forsey, Travers foundation, T Forsey, Susan Forsey Foundation, D Fursden, E Nicholls, Sports & Social Club, Ros Wright, Royal British Legion, Gretton (Holding) Branch and the PSA

### 3. Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 2025

The Minutes were signed without amendment

### 4. Report by the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground

Fraser Wright shared that the Fun Day in 2025 was a great success and thanked Gary Freegard for his work on organising this event. Fraser confirmed that the event will take place this year on 19 July 2026 with an increase in planned events. He also shared that the Muga flooring needs updating as it is slippery and some groups are notable to use it. Investigations are taking place on costings and different types of flooring that are available. New Members are always welcome.

### 5. Report by the Gretton Bell Ringers

Sally Watts (Tower Captain) shared how the bell ringing group came about. They are made up of 9 ringers and St James Church has 5 bells. She shared that they practice on Monday evenings and travel round the connecting Villages ringing at the Churches.

Sally shared that they have launched a ring for you initiative where a request for somebody to be remembered or a greeting can be submitted at Evensong on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month.

New Members always welcome where full training is given.

### 6. Report by Gretton Cricket Club

Alan Coleman, (committee member) shared that the Cricket club finished well in the last season and look to continue this performance. He shared that they are looking to set up a youth cricket skills event. This is a 10-week project to encourage the younger generation to get involved in cricket. He asked for residents to come along to the home games to support the local team.

**7. Report by Gretton Good Neighbours**

Trevor Smith (Vice Chair) shared a power point slide presentation which provided details on the history of the Good Neighbours scheme that has been running since 2021. He shared activities that took place in the year 2025 and planned activities that will take place in 2026. He wished to publicise that this service is free of charge to anybody within the Village who need the services of the volunteers who give up their time for this worthy cause.

New Volunteers are always welcome.

The Presentation will be available on the Parish Council Website

**8. Report by Gretton Nature Recovery Group**

Douglas Hall shared a power point slide presentation which provided details on the Orchard, where it is how many trees have been planted, activities that have taken place in 2025 and planned activities for 2026. He shared that the working group is made up of volunteers and more volunteers are welcome with no experience needed. He also shared that there are several projects ongoing including Picks Playing field rejuvenation, Cart Dip, Swift Colonies, Nature History Trail.

The Presentation will be available on the Parish Council Website.

**9. Report by Gretton Neighbourhood Watch**

Trevor Smith (Scheme Co-ordinator and Police Liaison Representative (PLR) shared a power point slide presentation detailing the history of NHW and that it is a National Initiative that was set up in 1982. He shared that it is fully supported by the Police and Gretton Parish Council. At the meeting he distributed leaflets showing the details of how to join the scheme. He also shared the benefits to being part of the scheme including reduced home insurance cost, reduced prices on security items. These are just two.

He shared that there are two vacancies that the group would like to fill, these are

Membership administrator and a Communications Administrator.

The Presentation will be available on the Parish Council Website.

**10. Report by Gretton Netball Team**

The following was provided to the Parish Council prior to the meeting

Gretton Netball is thriving, we are live throughout the year, with a total of 60 participants and 10 volunteers. There are 20 teenagers partaking in weekly netball, plus a competitive league, we have recently restarted the ladies netball and expanded our offering to primary school aged children. We are a constituted community group and completely ran by volunteers. We welcome new starters and volunteers.

**11. Report by Gretton Paddock Park Group**

Bob Dobson shared the work that has been carried out at the Paddock park in the past year. This included Pond clearing, grass cutting, clearing scrub growth and overall maintenance.

He also shared that equipment training had taken place for the volunteers and thanked the Parish Council for their involvement with this. Warning signs have been introduced, repair to the stone wall and refurbishment of the notice board. Projects this year include replacement of the kissing gate (Funding is being applied for), further wall repairs and reintroducing Bird box clearing and the restart of recording. The Tree Survey has taken place and awaiting the report to be shared to see if there are any removal of trees required.

New Volunteers are always welcome.

**12. Report by Gretton Quilters Group**

Janette Hall (Treasurer) shared a selection of quilts that had been made by the group. She shared they meet once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in the Village Hall. They also do workshops throughout the year and make items for woman's refuges, quilts for care leavers and are involved in the Gretton shoebox appeal.

**13. Report by Gretton Silver Band**

Andrea Rudge (Chair) shared that activities are being planned to celebrate the 150-year anniversary of the Band. She shared that Gretton Silver band is the longest continuous running band in the Country. She shared that the average age is quite senior and currently there are no children in the band. They are looking to restart the training band where full training will be given free. The band meet every Thursday evening at the band room on the Recreation Ground. Leaflets were distributed at the meeting. Andrea asked if anyone knew of a local tradesman who could repair the band hut's door. Trevor Smith (Gretton good Neighbours) offered their services.

**14. Report by Gretton Village Hall Committee**

Liz Watt (Chair) shared that they have appointed two new committee members, new cleaner and a new maintenance person. She also shared that there have been new sinks installed in the ladies' toilets inside and outside of the hall are being painted. Activities and bookings of the hall continue to be popular. She shared that there is a Blood Doner session scheduled to take place in November 2026

**15. Report by Gretton WI**

Pat Triffard (President) shared that the WI is the biggest woman's organisation in Britain and continues to have an influence in all areas in the country. They welcome all ages and backgrounds to join their group and asks if residents of the village to encourage the younger generation to join. There meetings are held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday at 7.30 in the Village Hall.

**16. Report by the Travers Foundation**

No report and apologies given

**17. Report by the Susan Forsey Foundation**

No report and apologies

**18. Report(s) by any other group(s) present**

Bridget Hallar,(Chair to the Social Sewing Group) shared that the sewing group currently has 40 members, and they meet on the second Saturday and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month at the Village Hall. All machines are available to all and help, chat and advice are warmly given. Cost is £2 per hour

**19. Annual Report to the Parish by Gretton Parish Council**

Fraser Wright (Chair) shared at the meeting that there are currently 2 councillor vacancies to be filled. He went on to explain what a Councillor's role within the village and the benefits of being a Councillor. He shared that the Parish Council has a new website which is fully up and running [www.grettonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.grettonparishcouncil.gov.uk) and if any groups would like to publicise any activities to reach out to the Clerk. He shared that the Village tree Survey which takes place every 3 years has recently taken place and the report is expected in the coming weeks. He also shared that the mowing of the Village verges which used to fall under the responsibility of the Parish Council are now being maintained by NNC (North Northants Council) He shared that the subsidy that NNC offered to the Parish Council to maintain the verges has been reduced and no longer covered the costs. He shared that the Parish Council will monitor the condition of the verges and will report to NNC if there are any issues. He shared that any feedback for resident would be welcomed and shared. Cllr Wright shared that NNC have informed the Parish Council that from April 2027 will no longer maintain the Play Area

on the Recreation Ground. Budget Cuts and increase in Insurance costs were cited as reasons. Going forward the Parish Council will be responsible for the maintenance and the insurance costs. The Parish Council will be looking at the implications of this in the coming year. Cllr Wright shared that the current clerk has shared that she will be retiring at the end of this year. He thanked the clerk for her services and for giving the Council notice and time to find a replacement. He shared that the Parish Council meetings are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

#### **20. Q&A**

The question of the timing of the Annual Parish meeting was raised and Cllr Wright shared that the Clerk would take an action to investigate the legal requirements of when this meeting can be held. The point was raised that could a separate meeting or a community day be held. Groups that use the Village Hall shared that they would be prepared to move or postpone one of their meetings to enable this to take place. This to be looked into.

#### **21. Motions to be voted on**

There were no motions to be voted on

#### **22. Close of meeting**

Cllr Wright thanked everybody present for attending the meeting  
Meeting closed. 21.21pm