

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Garden Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 12 September 2016

Members Present:

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer
Vice-Chairman	John Wills
Members	Mary Bulmer
	Matthew Brown
	Lawrie Reavill
	Emrhys Barrell

Officers Present:

Assistant Clerk	Clare Fox
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3 members of the public and press, with others present for the cheque presentation only.

16/193 To receive apologies for absence

Bryan Urbick, Catherine Hall, David Brooker, Brandon Hancox.

16/194 To receive any declarations of interests

None.

16/195 Public Forum

A representative of Stop Goring Hydro [Mrs Carr] announced there was to be a presentation of a cheque, and a photographer was present to take some photographs of the presentation of the cheque for £6,000. She said the target of £10,000 had been reached. Cllr Bulmer said there had been excellent support from the village and Cllr Wills agreed.

The presentation and photographs then took place.

Mr Ron Bridle raised a question to do with Christmas Trees which Cllr Bulmer suggested should be raised when the item came up later on the agenda. Mr Bridle also raised the Rectory Garden Tree Report and questioned whether it was in fact necessary to have a tree felled and replaced but instead whether another option could be considered eg pollarding might be better and similar to the trees at Grahamsville the property adjacent to the Village Hall, which he thought looked very nice.

16/196 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2016.

Resolved: That the minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman.

16/197 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

None.

16/198 To receive chairman's report and announcements

None.

16/199 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)

A spokesman from the Goring NP reported that things had been very busy although quite a lot was going on outside their control. He said the plan was on track and they are trying to stick to the original timescale. The result of the Hearing in relation to the 35 houses on land off Manor Road was awaited and the result of this could seriously undermine the aims of the NP. Another decision over whether 95 houses at Henley would go ahead that had been turned down by their NP was awaited and this again could create a worrying precedent if allowed to go ahead. He said it was important that the NP group continues with the support of the Parish Council as it was almost there, a major piece of work completed at the end of August was awaiting finalisation (many of those at the company involved had been on holiday in August). He added that the NP would not be influenced by the developers – another example this week was of further publicity material being

distributed in the village, which he said would be preferable if they would wait, there was also concern this information was being passed off as part of being part of the NP. At the most recent meeting held by a developer a member of the NP team attended and handed out leaflets explaining the event and publicity material was not part of the NP. Cllr Bulmer hoped developers would be more inclined thereafter to enter into a dialogue with the NP rather than go it alone and referred to ongoing problems with SODC's Local Plan, in that without one the presumption is to build. He referred to the outcome of the Manor Road Hearing which would be very important (especially in relation to the AONB) especially as no VIA had been supplied. He noted the developers were circling and referred to a forthcoming meeting coming up of John Howell who is the NP champion and that questions should be put to him especially following events in Henley.

16/200 Parish Finance

1 To approve payments for August 2016

Resolved: That the payments be approved.

2 To note receipts for August 2016

Noted.

3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 31 August 2016.

Noted.

4 To consider a S.137 grant bid from Goring Gap Business Network regarding Christmas trees and lights on Goring High Street.

The S137 grant bid from Goring Gap Business Network for Christmas Trees and lights was unanimously **approved**.

Mr Bridle then stated the GGN had offered to part fund this however they expected the Parish Council to meet the insurance costs. He explained this had only come up the previous week at the GGN and they would support the idea but only if it was insured by another party. Cllr Bulmer noted this now may change things as the monies may now come from the GGN but further investigation was necessary in relation to the insurance costs, the Clerk to look into this and report back at the next meeting.

It was then **resolved** that the previous vote would therefore be **cancelled** for the time being. It was noted the trees would be real and disposed of each year whereas the lights would need storing, Cllr Bulmer said the PC had facilities for that, it was also noted someone would need to do the putting up and taking down of the trees/lights.

16/201 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer

Cllr Bulmer referred to The Unitary Debate and said it was unclear how far this will go. He said it was like to be in the form of a Devolution bid, and to watch this space.

16/202 To consider a report from the Police

No issues had been reported whatsoever, Cllr Bulmer suggested then jumping to item 15 **'To Consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground'**. Cllr M. Bulmer read a report in relation to an attempted burglary a break in had occurred but nothing had been stolen.

16/203 To consider a report on High Street issues

Cllr Bulmer stated there were still issues with traffic and speeding. Cllr Wills was in favour of traffic calming measures and wondered whether there would be any response from OCC to a previous enquiry. Cllr Bulmer said OCC (was in charge of Highways, the Police of Enforcement and SODC was in charge of parking and at present wouldn't allow this to be transferred to the Parish Council. The High Street was a problem highlighted in the recent Village Survey. He said at present it was a case of all to play for and hoped there would soon be some action.

Resolved: That the PC should write to OCC proposing traffic calming measures.

16/204 To consider issues relating to village parking

Cllr Bulmer said this was a similar situation to that of traffic issues and a letter had been written to OCC and was awaiting a response. It seems a number of spaces were being used in the Wheel Orchard car park for long term parking (possibly commuters as it was cheaper than the Station Car Park), not all these spaces were being used by the Post Office vans. He said the car park should be for short term parking, it was noted the Pangbourne Village car park was more expensive. He said SODC was in charge of the car park and should either do something about the problem or allow the Parish Council to manage it. He added some data was awaited from SODC and it was the petition that had instigated this action (only in the last couple of months).

Mr Bridle's letter was considered which outlined the number of designated car parking spaces available in the village which villagers and visitors may well not be aware of, the pros and cons of eg highlighting these on leaflets with maps showing their location which could be handed out from shops etc was debated. It transpired there were some 200 designated spaces, 56 at Wheel Orchard and some 150 elsewhere.

16/205 To consider proposed amendment to layout plans for Gardiner Pavilion due to the requirement to maintain 2 x ladies toilets

Cllrs inspected the plans, it was noted this matter seemed to be dragging on Cllr Wills raised the schedule of questions to the tenderer and whether the letters had gone out.

16/206 To consider a report on Recreation Ground issues

Cllr Reavill reported consultation on the proposed location of recreation equipment was mainly favourable with nine in support and one against; a meeting of the working group is planned. Possible storage for Goring Robins was discussed and Cllr. Reavill awaits a choice of unit and suggested location.

16/207 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues

This had already been considered at item 10

16/208 To consider the annual Play Area Safety Inspection Reports,

Cllr Bulmer asked those present if they were happy to accept these reports.

Resolved: To accept them.

16/209 To note insurance cover will be renewed from 1 October with Zurich Insurance plc at a cost of £2,153.21 on a long term agreement active until 1 October 2017.

Certificates and policy details are available at the council office.

Noted.

16/210 To note SODC decisions regarding tree works applications

Appendices J, J1 and J2 were the trees in question. J2 was the tree in The Rectory Garden being suggested for pollarding instead of being removed, the idea being put forward was to question SODC's view of the works and to sound out whether it might be worth trying pollarding first to see if the tree might recover.

Resolved: For the Clerk to investigate the option of pollarding first before resorting to removal of the tree in The Rectory Garden.

16/211 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 2 and 16 August 2016.

Received and noted.

16/212 Correspondence

1 A letter had been received regarding the planting of roses along the wall of a property on the approach to the Sheepcot Field.

Resolved: That the request be approved..

2 A letter had been received in relation to the rubbish bin at Ferry Lane open space.

This was a dog litter bin but was often overflowing probably due to being used for other

purposes by boats.

Resolved: To leave as is for the time being as putting another bin out would encourage more litter from the boats.

16/213 Matters for future discussion

Cllr Reavill raised vegetation encroaching over the pavements; Cllr Bulmer said complainants should visit 'Fix my Street.com', which was the formal portal for such complaints.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2045 hrs.