

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 13 June 2016

Members Present:

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer
Vice-Chairman	John Wills
Members	Catherine Hall
	David Brooker
	Mary Bulmer
	Matthew Brown
	Lawrie Reavill
	Emrhys Barrell
	Bryan Urbick

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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Eight members of the public and press

16/118 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:
Cllr. Brandon Hancox

16/119 To receive any declarations of interests

None.

16/120 Public Forum

John Boler gave an update on Network Rail's fence in Wallingford Road. It is hoped it can be replaced in a position to allow for a wider pavement. If so, then applications may be made for current funding pledges to be used for resurfacing instead of surveys. David Bermingham asked about a Council position on South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC)'s housing allocation. It was noted that until more information is available no formal position can be taken other than maintaining a dialogue. Mike Stares said he has been advised that SODC are running a consultation at the Village Hall on 29 June between 1500 and 1900. The Parish Council (GPC) has not been told about this yet. Stephanie Bridle asked if Council members would be at the consultation to support the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) process; some hope to be there.

16/121 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan

Item moved up the agenda. Andy Best gave an update from Appendix A. The NP Steering Group (NPSG) has a further candidate for consideration as independent verifier. Consideration of a separate group to challenge further housing allocation was not progressed due to the related discussion under public forum.

16/122 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 9 May 2016

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

16/123 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

None

16/124 To receive chairman's report and announcements

The Chairman proposed writing to the Cabinet Member for Highways at Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) complimenting them on the good work done in resurfacing the High Street. He noted future improvements could be supported through the NP. Cllr. Brooker asked whether the pavements are also to be resurfaced

Resolved: That a letter be sent and the Clerk find out about pavements.

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 11 July 2016

- 16/125 To note the appointment of Mr Frank Dixon as independent verifier for the Neighbourhood Plan process**
Withdrawn
- 16/126 Parish Finance**
- 1 To approve payments for May 2016**
Resolved: That the payments be approved
- 2 To note receipts for May 2016**
Noted
- 3 To note Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 May 2016**
Noted
- 4 To consider a virement of £4,000 from grass/verge cutting to a consolidated litter picking / street cleansing nominal to cover continued coverage for council owned property litter and bins following SODC's centralising of highways cleansing in October**
Resolved: That the virement be approved
- 5 To consider a revised budget for the Neighbourhood Plan, virement between headings, no change to the overall total.**
Resolved: That the revision be approved
- 6 To consider an email from the Twinning Association regarding the budgeted grant of £250.**
Resolved: That the payment be approved
- 7 To consider fees for 2016-17 for car parking permits at the Community Centre Car Park. In 2015-16 they were £300 exc. vat pa.**
Resolved: No change
A general discussion took place with a request for a running agenda item on parking issues.
- 16/127 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer**
The Chairman referred to Appendix G. He reported that he and Cllr. M. Bulmer had attended an OCC workshop at Thame where they were seeking views of Town and Parish Councils on devolvement.
- 16/128 To consider a report from the Police**
Cllr Wills reported that previous and recent criminal damage is being actively investigated by the police. There had been complaints about contraventions of the 2 hour parking restrictions but the police state manpower issues prevent better enforcement. The chairman reported on a burglary at Goring Heath where the alarm had been disabled.
- 16/129 To consider a report on High Street issues**
Cllr. Brooker referred to Appendix H. He proposed that one bench outside The Rectory Garden be replaced with one made of recycled materials and the second be cleaned and refurbished. He hopes to obtain some sponsorship. The clerk was requested to ask SODC for advice on how often a tree survey should be carried out.
Resolved: That replacement and refurbishment of the benches be approved.
- 16/130 To consider a report on Gardiner Pavilion development**
Cllr Brooker stated we are awaiting the responses to tenders, due by 30 June. He said GPC will be writing to Sports Clubs regarding fund raising. Once a tender is approved

application for grants will be made.

- 16/131 To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues**
Cllr. Reavill gave an update from Appendix I. He had since met with Cllr. M. Bulmer. Two quotes have been obtained. Cllr Urbick offered to pass on details of those who tendered at South Stoke.
Cllr. Reavill wished to review the appearance of The Rectory Garden and a discussion took place on the possibilities and methods of increasing its use.
The Chairman proposed that an offer be made to the Village Hall that their users could extend into the Rectory Garden for suitable events at no extra charge, with a caveat regarding damage and that the Goring Gap News (GGN) be asked to advertise that the garden is available for general public use.
It was noted that attempts to get quotes for a metal gate had been unsuccessful.
Resolved: That the offer to the village hall be made, that Cllr. Hall would collate information she has gathered into a reference document which can be used as a basis for future discussion and the GGN.
- 16/132 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues**
Cllr. M. Bulmer reported the gate had not yet been cleaned, the building painting had been on hold until this meeting, that complaints had been made about the long grass and now that it has been cut that grass had not been collected. The grass maintenance contractor has agreed to tidy up.
- 16/133 To consider a Parish Council response to consultations on a unitary authority.**
The Chairman proposed circulating Appendix J for further comment via the Clerk to allow for further suggested content.
Resolved: That the document be commented on by email prior to sending.
- 16/134 To consider a letter received from SODC regarding a Conservation Area Appraisal**
The reply was noted.
Resolved: That the Clerk try to find out potential costs of an appraisal by GPC.
- 16/135 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 26 April and 10 May 2016**
Received and noted.
- 16/136 Correspondence**
- 1** An email had been received regarding a group playing rugby on Sheepcot asking for support from GPC. The clerk was asked to obtain additional information including exactly what funding they are seeking, whether it is a formal club or not and to point out that the sports clubs generally do their own fundraising and pay rent to GPC.
- 2** A letter was received from Home Start Southern Oxfordshire asking for support.
Resolved: That GPC cannot help at the moment.
- 16/137 Matters for future discussion**
None
- 16/138 Confidential Business - To consider that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.**
Resolved: That the motion be approved
- 16/139 To consider quotes for litter picking / bin emptying for council owned property**
Resolved: That the bid by BGG at £96 per collection be approved

16/140 To consider quotes for redecoration at White Hill Burial Ground
Resolved: That the bid by Barry Purnell at £675 be approved

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2121 hrs.