

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 8 May 2017

Members Present:

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

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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12 members of the public and press

17/1 To elect the Chairman for the year ahead.

One nomination was received: Kevin Bulmer; who was duly elected

17/2 To receive declaration of Chairman's acceptance of office.

Received.

17/3 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from: Bryan Urbick.

17/4 To elect a Vice-Chairman for the year ahead.

One nomination was received: John Wills; who was duly elected.

17/5 To receive declaration of Vice-Chairman's acceptance of office.

Received.

17/6 Councillors to confirm their registrations of interests are up to date on the SODC website.

All present confirmed. The Clerk said Cllr. Urbick had confirmed separately.

17/7 To receive any declarations of interests

None.

17/8 Public Forum

1 Ron Bridle asked about Item 23 Recreation Grounds report which stated that a paper would be prepared on The Rectory Garden, a consultation taking place with the Edmondson family and asked if there would be a public consultation. The Chairman said that was not a council action. Cllr. Reavill stated he was meeting at their request as a councillor and not on behalf of the full council and that there was no change in the council policy of adhering to the Trust Deed. The Chairman stated there were no plans for a public consultation as it was not currently on the council business agenda. In response to a further question about legal advice he stated a pro bono offer had been suggested which was being investigated.

2

Simon Carter, Gap Festival Trustee said in relation to item 19/6 that a summary of income and expenditure had been submitted. The festival relies on substantial donations to run the event and they have still not yet reached the level of original seed funding.

3

Stephanie Bridle asked about gutter cleaning and if Biffa were working to the contract. The Chairman said GPC have no contract but are trying to find out details of SODC's

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 12 June 2017

schedule. The Clerk said SODC had agreed some work needed doing and he was waiting for confirmation it had been done.

The Chairman reiterated that prior to October 2016 GPC organised the collections funded by an SODC grant but that in October that grant had been removed and the work moved back in-house. At the time GPC raised concerns that the service would be reduced and are now working with SODC to get the work done efficiently.

Maureen Whitcher stated the Wheel Orchard bins are constantly overflowing. A discussion took place about the numbers of litter bins and their location.

Ron Bridle stated he had written to GPC suggesting that Goring employ a local person instead of paying SODC (See Appendix Q). The Chairman again reiterated that GPC does not pay SODC but if it was to then in effect taxpayers would be paying twice.

17/9 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017

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

17/10 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

None

17/11 To receive chairman's report and announcements

None

17/12 To appoint Planning Committee members.

Resolved: That Cllr's. Brooker, Brown, M. Bulmer, Hall, Reavill, Urbick and Wills, be appointed.

17/13 To appoint Goring Weir Committee members

Resolved: That Cllr's. Barrell, Brooker, Brown, M. Bulmer, Hall, Reavill, Urbick and Wills, be appointed.

17/14 To appoint representatives to serve on other bodies.

1 Goring Volunteer Trust: Resolved: That Cllr. Brooker be appointed

2 Twinning Committee: Resolved: That the Chairman, Cllrs. Wills and Hall be appointed

3 Lybbe's Alms House Charity: Resolved: That Cllr. Reavill be appointed

4 Goring Village Hall Committee: Resolved: That Cllr. Urbick be appointed

5 The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group: Resolved: That Cllr's K. Bulmer and Hall be appointed.

6 Goring Poor Allotment Charity: Resolved: That Cllr. K. Bulmer be appointed

17/15 To receive any reports from representatives on external bodies.

None

17/16 To consider individual councillor's responsibilities

Resolved: That all responsibilities remain as Appendix A except for the changes above

17/17 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan

Nigel Gilson reported there had been a recent public NPSG meeting. A key issue is the delayed Bramhill second supplementary report regarding GNP6 which is now holding the process up; it is expected in the next week. Many hours had been spent writing the Plan and considering SODC's new Local Plan but it is coming together for submission. Some flooding questions are with SODC awaiting a response. He noted the NP budget was about £5,000 underspent last year and has £4,000 for this year.

He stated the Medical Practice is very stretched in their accommodation and one potential

way forward was to take over GPC's offices. The Chairman stated GPC have had exploratory talks with OCC and the current lessees of the Community Centre.

17/18 To consider a response to SODC's Local Plan consultation

Nigel Gilson said the NPSG were pulling a response together and would circulate it before the closing date on 17 May.

Resolved: That, given the time constraints, the draft be circulated and agreed by email prior to response by GPC.

17/19 Parish Finance:

1 To approve payments for April 2017

Resolved: That the payments be approved

2 To note receipts for April 2017

Noted

3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 30 April 2017

Noted

4 To approve direct debit mandates

Resolved: That mandates in Appendix E be approved.

5 To consider an amended budget for the Neighbourhood Plan

Resolved: That the amended budget in Appendix F be approved.

6 To consider a s.145 grant application from The Gap Festival. Deferred from December 2016

Resolved: That all grant applications be deferred to the next meeting.

7 To consider a s.144 request from MIGGS for match funding towards an "Accessible by train" leaflet / brochure to promote visits to Goring and Streatley deferred from December 2016

Deferred as above

8 To consider a s.145 grant application for Goring & Streatley Food & Drink Festival

Deferred as above

17/20 Financial Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017.

1 To approve the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2017 (Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure).

Jim Emerson asked a question about reporting differences between last year's codes and this – the Clerk explained it was due to consolidation of numerous nominal codes into a simpler format.

Resolved: That the accounts be approved.

2 To approve the annual governance statement in section 1 of the statutory annual return

Resolved: That the statement be approved

3 To approve the statement of accounts in section 2 of the statutory annual return

Resolved: That the statement be approved

4 To approve a variances report to the external auditors

Ned Worsley asked a question about the final cost of the Gardiner Pavilion refurbishment and legal fees for the weir judicial review. Total cost for the pavilion was £172,731 coming in under the budget of £175,000. The Chairman stated the weir legal issues could not yet

be discussed in public. Cllr. Brooker stated S.106 funding was still expected from SODC towards the pavilion costs.

Resolved: That the report be approved

5 To note budget variations for 2016-17

Noted

6 To receive a report from the internal auditor for the financial year to 31 March 2017

Received.

7 To note year end cash and investment reconciliation as at 31 March 2017

Noted

17/21 To consider a report from the Police

Cllr Wills said between 7-8 April damage had been caused to properties along The Bridleway and in South Stoke. The police have dealt with two local offenders by way of the Youth Restorative Justice Scheme and have a further suspect. The Have Your Say meeting at Jack's included complaints of speeding in Station Road and Wallingford Road, parking in Manor Road and the loss of the Fish & Chip Van (noted as being an SODC Licensing issue)

17/22 To consider a report on High Street issues

Cllr Brooker referred to Appendix O. Over 100 comments had been received on the consultation. Ron Bridle had obtained agreement from BT that they own and are responsible for the fence from their premises to the High Street but do not believe it is unserviceable and have no funds to replace it for cosmetic reasons. They hope to remove the ivy soon.

Regarding the proposal for posts along the verge by The Rectory Garden it was agreed Cllr Brooker would consult with the Village Hall prior to further discussion. The continued poor state of Wheel Orchard toilets were discussed, Cllr Brooker agreed to discuss with SODC.

17/23 To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues

Appendix P refers. Cllr Reavill intends to write a summary report for GPC on The Rectory Garden.

17/24 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues

Cllr. M. Bulmer reported the grass had recently been cut, cuttings removed and that it looked lovely, supported by Cllr Wills who had received comments from two members of the public. She stated however that the cutting had not been done in line with the contract timings. Containers at the entrance will be planted. A new row will be started for cremated remains to keep the overall layout tidy.

17/25 To consider attendees for the Town and Parish Forum on 5 July 2017.

Cllr's. Wills and Hall will attend

17/26 To note resignation of Cllr. Brandon Hancox and to consider the casual vacancy process

Resolved: That the recommended process from NALC would be used.

17/27 To consider non-rural verge grass cutting agreement in view of reply received from OCC regarding level of insurance required by contractors.

OCC had refused to negotiate on contractors having a minimum of £10m public liability cover. GPC's contractor has quoted an additional £250 to increase his insurance cover.

Resolved: That the extra cost be approved and the agreement with OCC signed.

17/28 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 28

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 12 June 2017

March and 11 April 2017.

Received and noted.

17/29 Correspondence

1 To consider issues regarding litter and street cleansing.

This had already been covered during the public forum.

2 To consider email re Village of the Year TV Programme

It was noted that GPC have a lot going on at the moment and it was suggested this should wait until the NP had been done.

Resolved: That there was currently no appetite from GPC to be involved.

3 To consider an email received regarding a donation for the village by the GM Lovelies Facebook group

Some suggestions were made but it was **Resolved:** That GPC would wait until the information had been reported in the GGN to see what views there might be in the village

17/30 Matters for future discussion

None

17/31 Confidential Business - To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: 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.

17/32 To consider tenders for a Street Lighting Contract.

Four companies had been invited and three indicated their intention to bid. Only one tender was received by the deadline which was from the current contractor SSE Enterprise, with slightly increased pricing from the previous contract. It was noted this was for a six year period.

Resolved: That the tender from SSE at £10,336.17 pa plus consumables and rechargeable repairs be accepted.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2108 hrs.

Abbreviations:

GGN	Goring Gap News
GPC	Goring on Thames Parish Council
NALC	National Association of Local Councils
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPSG	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
SODC	South Oxfordshire District Council