

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GORING WEIR COMMITTEE
GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**

The Old Jubilee Fire Station, Red Cross Road, Goring 10:30am Thursday 24 November 2016

Members Present:

Chairman	John Wills
Vice-Chairman	Catherine Hall
Members	David Brooker
	Brandon Hancox
	Lawrie Reavill
	Bryan Urbick
	Emrhys Barrell
	Matthew Brown (from 1038 hrs)

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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11 members of the public

16/19 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:
Cllr. Mary Bulmer

16/20 To receive any declarations of interests

None

16/21 Chairman's announcements

The Chairman stated the committee were indebted to Cllr. Bryan Urbick for the many hours and hard work he has put in.

16/22 To approve minutes of the meetings held on 13 June and 17 October 2016

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

16/23 To receive an update on the High Court Judgment dated 17 November 2016

Cllr. Urbick gave an update noting that Goring Parish Council (GPC) won two of the three grounds but the Judge used his discretion not to quash. The Judge was highly critical of South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and flaws in their approach to planning decisions. SODC were not awarded costs. Cllr. Urbick ran through grounds as contained in an application for permission to appeal.

The costs so far, donations received, potential costs of an appeal and further public donations were discussed.

The Chairman noted that 43 emails had been received from the public since the judgment was made, some offering further monetary contribution and all in support of GPC continuing to appeal with none against.

16/24 To note application for permission to appeal

Noted

16/25 Public Forum

Mary Carr on behalf of Stop Goring Hydro stated they would fully support GPC in an appeal and hoped they would do so. Several had indicated they will contribute and the group would start further fundraising immediately and would hope to raise a reasonable amount.

Abel Westerhof commented there is a greater cost to the village than monetary and that an appeal should not be a decision based on cash value only.

Cllr. Brooker asked how many supporters there are for Stop Goring Hydro. Mary Carr

Signed:

J. Wills

Dated: 31 July 2018

stated they have at least 130, With 103 email addresses on their list and a further 23 contributors with no email recorded.

John Farr asked how many in the village support the hydro project. Cllr. Urbick stated GPC had written to the Goring and Streatley Sustainability Group, they eventually replied but do not wish a dialogue and left several unanswered questions.

16/26 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

16/27 To consider any further steps that may be taken including the potential for an appeal.

Following further discussion a motion was proposed that GPC should take the High Court Judgment to appeal.

Resolved: That the judgment should be taken to appeal

A further motion was proposed that a release from GPC be submitted to the Goring Gap News and other news agencies in order to communicate the issues as seen by GPC to the public.

Resolved: Motion carried and agreed that Cllr. Urbick draft a release to be circulated by email to the committee for comment prior to publication.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 1135 hrs.