



# GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

## Minutes of a Meeting of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 19:30, Bellême Room, Village Hall

### Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

**MoP1:** Representative from the Dr's Surgery – They are running out of space and would like to buy the land currently occupied by the Old Jubilee Fire Station/Parish Council Offices.. The surgery has increasing demands including trying to train new people with insufficient space for everyone to go. The Government is trying to save GP Surgeries by increasing services and the viability of the Goring surgery is threatened if it can't provide the space for those services. There is no central or NHS funding for the project and so the partners would need to take out personal loans to fund the purchase and development. The additional space would be used to provide space for Paramedics, Physicians Assistants, Physiotherapists, more Consulting Space, more training spaces etc. The Government's desire is to deliver more "stuff" locally. The GP Practice would be likely to knock down the current building and rebuild to provide the space. There may be a need to have some private providers in the building to help fund it, but the surgery would be happy to covenant that the additional space would be used exclusively to provide medical services. It may be that to support the Primary Care Network, there could be more people coming into the area for services and car parking may be an issue.

### Members Present:

Vice-Chair	Cllr A Smith (AS)	[Chairman for the meeting]
Members	Cllr S Bridle (SB)	
	Cllr D Brooker (DB)	
	Cllr J Emerson (JE)	
	Cllr J Hutchins (JH)	
	Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)	
	Cllr B Newman (BN)	
	Cllr R Williamson (RW)	

### Officers Present:

Clerk	S Edmunds (SE)
Assistant Clerk	L White (LW)

**Public and Press:** at least 7 members of public

### Meeting started 19:45

#### 23.11.1. To receive apologies for absence. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Cllrs E McCorkell & C Ratcliff.

#### 23.11.2. Declarations of Interests [LA 2011 s31]

It was noted that all Cllrs had an interest as they all use the surgery, but it is not considered a financial interest.



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### **23.11.2.1. To receive declarations of interest for items on this agenda**

None

### **23.11.2.2. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]**

None.

### **23.11.3. To approve the minutes of previous council meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para 41(1)]**

#### **23.11.3.1. Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

It was agreed unanimously that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed.

#### **23.11.3.2. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.**

None.

### **23.11.4. To receive Chairman's Report**

None.

### **23.11.5. To note any comments received in response to the Disposal of Asset advertisement for the OJFS**

No comments were received.

#### **23.11.5.1. To approve disposing of the land known as Old Jubilee Fire Station for the sum of £175,000**

It was confirmed that £175,000 was the independently verified value of the Old Jubilee Fire Station and therefore an appropriate value at which to sell.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to dispose of the OJFS for £175,000.

#### **23.11.5.2. Subject to their confirmation of intention to purchase, to approve sale to the Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice for the purposes of expanding the surgery.**

It was noted that the expanded surgery may partly be used for private medical services for profit to pay for the purchase and rebuild of the site.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to sell the OJFS to the Goring and Woodcote Medical Practice for the purpose of expanding the surgery facilities, subject to confirmation of their intention to purchase.



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**23.11.5.3. To delegate to the Clerk all administrative matters in connection with the sale.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to delegate to the Clerk all remaining matters in connection with the sale, including disposal or appropriate storage of remaining items inside the OJFS, the final contract including any covenants, to be brought to the Full Council for final approval.

**23.11.6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors**

**23.11.6.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: F Van Mierlo**

**Appendix A**

**23.11.6.2. Oxfordshire County Councillor: K Bulmer**

**Appendix B**

**23.11.6.3. South Oxfordshire District Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers**

**Appendix C**

Cllr Filipova-Rivers sent their apologies. A report was sent on the day of this meeting and will be forwarded to all the Councillors.

It was commented that it was disappointing the Clean Bathing Water Status at Wallingford has still not been achieved.

**23.11.7. To Receive Minutes of Committees**

All of the below were received.

**23.11.7.1. Finance Committee**

- Meeting Dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

**Appendix D**

**23.11.7.2. Planning Committee**

- Meeting dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023
- Meeting dated 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023

**Appendix E**

**Appendix F**

**23.11.7.3. Traffic Management and Pedestrian Safety Committee**

- Meeting Dated 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023

**Appendix G**

**23.11.8. Committee and Working Group memberships and Terms of Reference**

**23.11.8.1. To appoint Tomi Wills and Matt Trimmings to the Sheepcot Working Group.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to appoint Tomi Wills and Matt Trimmings to the working group.

**23.11.8.2. To approve updated Sheepcot Pavilion Working Group Terms of Reference**

**Appendix H**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to adopt the proposed terms of reference.



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### **23.11.8.3. To appoint Enid Worsley and Janet Hurst to the Conservations Area Appraisal Working Group plus 1-off Cllr.**

The Chairman gave details that this was a working group set up as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan which was reaching its conclusion but had not been reinstated following the election.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to appoint Enid Worsley, Janet Hurst and Cllr Emerson to the working group.

### **23.11.8.4. To approve new ToR for the Environment Working Group and Appoint Members**

**Appendix I**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to create an Environment Working Group

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to adopt the proposed terms of reference, with the following amendments:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line “residents” not “visitors”

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to appoint Cllr Williamson; Cllr Bridle & Cllr Hutchins to the working group.

### **23.11.8.5. To approve updated ToR for the Planning Committee**

**Appendix J**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to adopt the proposed terms of reference.

### **23.11.8.6. To approve updated ToR for the Open Space Signage Working Group**

**Appendix K**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to adopt the proposed terms of reference.

### **23.11.8.7. To appoint members to the New Council Offices Working Group and agree to bring proposed ToR to the next Council meeting.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to appoint Cllr Emerson; Cllr Ratcliff & Cllr Lofthouse to the working group, and bring proposed Terms of Reference to the next meeting of the Council.

### **23.11.9. To review the Action List progress and update**

**Action List**

See Action List.



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**23.11.10. To receive an update on the White Hill Burial Ground drive and access to East Cottage.**

**23.11.10.1. To note the disposal has been advertised as per legislative requirements, and to receive any comments received prior to the meeting.**

Summarised comments were circulated prior to the meeting.

- There were concerns that additional traffic could be detrimental to the peace and tranquility.
- There were some worries expressed by the public that the whole burial ground driveway was being sold, which it was not.

**23.11.10.2. To note that both pieces of land (the access route and the grass verge) will now both be valued.**

Noted, the owner of East Cottage has agreed in principle to set up an escrow account for the costs they have agreed to pay so as to protect the Council's position.

**23.11.11. To receive Clerk's Report**

**Appendix L**

**23.11.11.1. To approve removing the licence fee for the Tennis Club as they do not use the pavilion.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously, as a temporary measure to remove the licence fee for the Tennis club during the 2 year extended lease.

**23.11.11.2. To note resignation of the Assistant Clerk**

- To approve delegating to the Staffing Committee the recruitment and appointment of an Assistant Clerk.
- To approve delegating the to the Clerk confirmation of the last working day of L White.

The Chairman gave thanks to the Assistant Clerk for their work at the Council and wished them well with their new role at the newly created Parish Council in Western Valley.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to delegate recruitment of the Assistant Clerk to the Staffing Committee.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to delegate to the Clerk confirmation of the last working day of L White.

**23.11.11.3. To approve block booking the Rectory Garden and Gardiner Recreation Ground for GAP Festival use, dates 7th-23rd June 2024.**

It was noted that the GAP Festival has revised their dates to 07 June – 16 June.



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**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to allow block booking of the Rectory Garden and Gardiner Pavilion to for GAP Festival dates 07 June – 16 June 2024.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to waive the normal fees for this period.

**23.11.11.4. To approve adopting the OCC Highway Verge and Vegetation Management Policy as part of the Goring-on-Thames PC Environmental & Sustainability Policy, and delegate to the Clerk updating the mowing schedule and implementing changes with the contractor.**

It was noted that a MoP has made contact saying they thought that more wildlife were dying because of the overgrown verges, with animals entering the road and drivers being unable to see them.

It was noted that highways legislation to keep highways clear, is not superseded by this policy.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to adopt the OCC Highway Verge and Vegetation Management Policy as part of the Goring-on-Thames PC Environmental & Sustainability Policy, and to the Clerk to update the mowing schedule and bring to the full council for consideration.

**23.11.11.5. To approve the development of an Emergency Plan, and if thought fit appoint members to a Working Group for the purposes of drafting an Emergency Plan, to be presented to the Council for approval.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to create an emergency plan, Cllr Hutchins to produce a scoping document.

**23.11.11.6. To approve additional £170 for works at Sheepcot Pavilion to replace water tank.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously

**23.11.12. To receive Items of Correspondence and agree actions arising.**

**23.11.12.1. Letter of thanks – Work on the War Memorial**

**Correspondence 1**

The Church wrote to give thanks, Cllr Emerson was thanked by the Chairman for his work in facilitating this work.

**23.11.13. Matters for future discussion.**

**23.11.13.1. To consider reinstating the Grants Policy**

JE and AS to go to a training session on Grants.

In addition, to also discuss:



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- Standing Item for all the Working Groups and Cllrs with relationship management duties to keep the Council updated.

### **23.11.14. To agree list of items from this meeting to be submitted to the Goring Gap News as a Parish Council Update.**

To include the following items:

- OJFS
- Burial Ground Driveway
- War Memorial – before and after photos.

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to delegate to the Clerk to write, in consultation with the Chairman of the meeting.

### **23.11.15. 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.**

**Confidential Papers**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to exclude the public and press.

The chairman thanked the public and press for attending and invited them to leave.

### **23.11.15.1. To consider streetlight maintenance contract proposals and award contract or approve further actions.**

The current difficulty is that we cannot get proposals from other providers, as we do not have all LED lamps.

It is suggested we replace all lamps to LED by streets in batches.

[ACTION] to ask providers for maintenance costs were we to replace all the lamps.

[ACTION] to seek providers to replace all sodium lamps to LED.

[ACTION] seek green grants to cover the costs.

[ACTION] Ask OCC to for their cost:benefit analysis for swapping all lamps up front.



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**23.11.15.2. To consider utilities contract proposals and award contract or approve further actions.**

**Resolved:** Approved Unanimously to appoint British Gas Lite for Sheepcot and Gardiner. OJFS to stay as is.

**23.11.16. To confirm the time and date of the Next Council Meeting– 7.30pm, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

Confirmed.

There being no further business to be transacted, the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:59