



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 12th February 2024 at 19:30, Belleme Room, Goring Village Hall

All Councillors are summoned to a Meeting of Goring-on-Thames Parish Council.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all council meetings.

(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

MoP1: Coordinator of Gap Festival, re item 23.40.14.6 grant application. They are looking for funding for the brochure etc also using the Rectory Garden for Playful Arts Exhibition (same as two years ago) free events are sponsored & aimed at families, they wish to put up sponsorship banners on the marquee.

MoP2: Chair of MIGGS brief points re 23.40.7.3 He thanked the TMPPS Committee for the rapid progress for the pedestrian lane on Gatehampton road & MIGGS are offering up to £1k or cost if lower to help fund this. Please keep pushing for dropped kerb. What is the status of suspension of parking on station road? They expect to receive a proof of the orientation plaque later this week/week after, and once installed, will become council asset. Thanks to SODC & Mend the Gap for funding to help this happen.

MoP3: Whitchurch PC member who is here to observe the meeting and take some photos as part of research for a book.

Members Present:

Vice Chair

CLlr S Lofthouse (SL)

Members

CLlr S Bridle (SB)

CLlr J Emerson (JE)

CLlr S Lofthouse (SL)

CLlr B Newman (BN)

CLlr R Williamson (RW)

Officers Present:

Clerk

S Edmunds (SE)

Assistant Clerk

M Harper (MH)

Public and Press:

at least 6 members of public & District Councillor MFR

Meeting started 19:30

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

23.40.1.1. Apologies received from CLlr A Smith, CLlr B Drew absent.



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23.40.2. Declarations of Interests [LA 2011 s31]

23.40.2.1. To receive declarations of interest for items on this agenda

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

Under confidential items 23.40.14.1 Cllr SB declared a Goring in Bloom interest

23.40.2.2. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]

None requested

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

23.40.3.1. Meeting held on 11th December 2023

Resolved: Unanimously approved to be published with the S101 attachment

23.40.3.2. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

23 JE to write the signs policy for GGN– not been possible to get a definitive answer from SODC – will bring to next meeting.

23.40.4. . Vacant Seats (LGA 1972 s89(6))

23.40.4.1. To note the Council has 2 vacant seats.

23.40.4.2. To hear representations from the two candidates who applied before the advertised deadlines to be co-opted to the council and approve co-opting new Councillor(s) to fill the vacant seats

23.40.4.2.1 SL read out an email received from Mike Stares, who was unable to attend this meeting. He confirmed he meets eligibility and gave information regarding village activities he has been involved in as well as work experience and working on the Neighbourhood Plan.

23.40.4.2.2 Nick Mallon spoke to confirmed he meets eligibility and wants to give back to the community as he has the time and energy to make a positive contribution.

Resolved: Unanimously approved both candidates to be co-opted into the vacant seats.

23.40.4.3. To receive declarations of acceptance of office from any co-opted Councillors. To be countersigned by the Clerk

NM signed his declaration of office and MS to sign on Tuesday 13th February.

23.40.5. To review the Action List progress and update Action List

Full Council



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23.40.6. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

All the following reports were received

- 23.40.6.1.** South Oxfordshire District Councillor: F Van Mierlo **Appendix A**
- 23.40.6.2.** Oxfordshire County Councillor: K Bulmer **Appendix B**
- ~~**23.40.6.3.** South Oxfordshire District Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers **Appendix C**~~

CLr MFP gave verbal update to add to the Dec/Jan report. Re the Joint Local Plan - Events have been held to allow people to talk to officers, reminded everyone that the deadline to respond is approaching. SODC have been running events for community groups Subject to meeting the criteria, there is funding for flooded homes (not land/gardens) and new grants have been launched including a CIL grant over £50k capital projects eg playgrounds (recommended to put in expressions of interest ASAP)

23.40.7. To Receive Minutes of Committees

- 23.40.7.1.** Finance Committee
- Meeting Dated 28th November 2023 **Appendix D**
- 23.40.7.2.** Planning Committee
- Meeting dated 28th November 2023 **Appendix E**
 - Meeting dated 12th December 2023 **Appendix F**
 - Meeting dated 9th January 2024 **Appendix G**
- 23.40.7.3.** Traffic, Planning and Pedestrian Safety Committee
- Meeting dated 21st November 2023 **Appendix H**
 - Meeting dated 19th December 2023 **Appendix I**

Resolved: All minutes were unanimously approved

23.40.8. To approve and update policies as required.

- 23.40.8.1.** Discretionary Policy **Appendix J**

Local Government Pension Services state that if we do not have our discretionary policies in place, any work relying on them having to refer to our discretionary policy will be returned to us / scheme member as they are unable to administer. Please note that failure to send our discretionary policy to the fund will result in a charge of £150.00 plus £75.00 for every time they need to chase for this document.

- 23.40.8.2.** Lone Worker Policy **Appendix K**
- 23.40.8.3.** Dignity at Work Policy **Appendix L**

Resolved: Unanimously approved- All policies have been received & JE notes they should also be approved for use by the staffing committee



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

23.40.9. To Receive Committee / Working Group / Representative Reports and Consider Proposals

The following reports were all received

23.40.9.1. To appoint new members to any other Committees or Working Groups as required.

NM willing to go where needed

MS wishes to join Planning Committee- unanimously approved

Traffic Management, Parking & Pedestrian Safety Committee

23.40.9.2. To Receive an update

JH gave the following updates; **1. Yellow lines/Station Road PPL:** Consultation now deferred until late February (no firm date given by Mike Horton) for OCC Cabinet decision in April. Station Road PPL proposal will be included in consultation. **2. Gatehampton Rd/Station PPL:** GWR agreed in principle (subject to details of works to be done) fund dropped kerb with CIL money? **3. Car park marking Sheepcote:** Delay until warmer weather and do together with the Gatehampton/Station PPL **4. Speed signs:** OCCH will provide posts for solar powered signs on High St (Miller, Social Club) in progress, signs for High St and School to be ordered (£20K budget agreed) for installation by end of FY 2023/2024 (TMPPS to agree placing order for signs). **5. OCCH Site visit:** Looked at junctions (Railway bridge, Red Cross Rd, Mill Rd), Speed sign sites, Station Rd PPL. Agreed we can paint/repair 'White Gate' on Reading Rd.

New Office Space Working Group

23.40.9.3. To Receive an update

JE said the WG will meet later to liaise and discuss the move further with the Trustees, due to the building work, it will not be possible to move before the season and more likely by the end of the summer & they hope to have proposals for the next meeting

Planning Committee

~~**23.40.9.4.** To Receive an update~~

Finance Committee

23.40.9.5. To Receive an update and approve opening more savings bank accounts **Appendix M**

SL suggested NS&I for investments JE said as far as aware they would not accept business accounts and was looking for those with dual signatories.

Resolved: Unanimously approved

23.40.9.6. To approve appointing WGW Smart Audit as our Internal Auditor on a three year contract

Appendix N

Resolved: Unanimously Approved



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23.40.9.7. To approve receiving Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds due to Goring-on-Thames Parish Council.

The district council are in the process of identifying any anticipated Parish CIL monies that have been paid or are due to be paid between 30 September 2023 to 1 April 2024 that can be transferred to your parish by April 2024. This is to be formally discussed at a meeting before 31 March 2024 at which you decide if you wish SODC to retain these monies on your behalf, as the usual practice is for the Parish share to be automatically transferred.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved to continue to receive CiL

Playgrounds Working Group

23.40.9.8. To Receive an update

Meeting to be called ASAP with the co-opted members with the aim of bringing a tender proposal to the next meeting

Environment Working Group

23.40.9.9. To Receive an update

EWG Action List

EWG said that the action list progress was very slow. JE you can have a working list but then need to make resolutions for approval, so it is unfair to say progress is slow when this has not happened. SB to approach AS re calling an extra ordinary meeting to discuss tree surgery at Ferry Lane Open Space

Sheepcot Working Group

23.40.9.10. To Receive an update

Gardiner Pavilion & Field Working Group

23.40.9.11. To Receive an update

Ferry Lane & Rectory Gardens Working Group

23.40.9.12. To Receive an update

23.40.9.13. To approve the terms of reference

Appendix O

Resolved: Unanimously approved with typo and date corrected.

Liaisons & Representatives Reports

23.40.9.14. To Receive updates

23.40.10. To approve supporting the National Initiative 'The Great British Spring Clean, with a budget of £100 to cover the costs (publicity posters, refreshments etc) of the Goring Litter Pick and Clean up.

The EWG is working in collaboration with Goring on Thames in Bloom to organise and support a litter pick and a High Street clean-up on Saturday 23rd March 2024.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved



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23.40.11. Clerks Report

23.40.11.1. To approve the use of Rectory Gardens on 2nd August 2024 and Gardiner Recreation Ground 26th July-2nd August 2024 by the King's Club, the children's holiday club run by Goring Free Church at no charge.

Similar arrangements have been approved by the Parish Council for many years and they look forward to receiving the Parish Council's continuing support and approval.

Resolved: Unanimously approved

23.40.11.2. To approve a budget of £200 a month delegated to the Clerk to engage a contractor for preventative maintenance and to assist with the work identified on the EWG action list (for work beyond the remit of Facilities)

JE does not mind but was concerned this would create more work than it resolves. The budget for works that include EWG Action List items does not start until April. The remit of all WG is to make recommendations to go for approval before Full Council.

Resolved: The majority voted not approve the budget

23.40.11.3. To approve that Friday mornings 9.30-11.30 are Councillor surgery day, taken in turns so the commitment would be one Friday in 10, assuming a full council.

Resolved: Unanimously approved

23.40.11.4. To approve a budget of £250 for the purchase of 10 African Hornet Queen traps to protect our native pollinators, to be placed around the village where they can be monitored by volunteers.

Appendix P

It starts to fly earlier in the season than the European Hornet, meaning that it is possible to selectively trap this notifiable pest without harming native insects.

Volunteers include SL, NM, Clerk, other volunteers to be sought to ensure the village has even coverage.

Resolved: Unanimously approved from Budget 6040

23.40.11.5. To approve use of the Sheepcot Recreation Ground for the Hairy Legs 12th May 2024 subject to the regular hire fee being paid.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

23.40.12. To receive Items of Correspondence and agree actions arising.

None

23.40.13. Matters for future discussion.

23.40.13.1. To discuss a deadline for OJFS negotiations.

23.40.13.2. To discuss the options for the Paddock at WhiteHills Burial Ground

23.40.13.3. Future Council Office



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23.40.14. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw. Confidential Papers

23.40.14.1. To approve the provider and number of hanging baskets

We should revisit this topic at the end of 2024 to decide whether we continue to subsidise the costs of baskets on business premises.

Resolved: Unanimously Approved to order 47 baskets, businesses to be charged or requested to make a donation as previously arranged.

23.40.14.2. To approve a tree survey provider

Resolved : unanimously approved to appoint Heritage Trees

23.40.14.3. To approve a budget for construction of a footpath between Gatehampton Road and Sheepcot Recreation Ground.

TMPPS has looked closely at the issues of pedestrian safety when accessing Sheepcot Recreation Ground from Gatehampton Road

JH said quotes received for a variety of surfaces. The advantage of hoggin is it is the same as the path by the school that has proved hard wearing. SL said adding a new path should be paid for by CiL. JE asked which would be more durable.

Resolved: Unanimously approved to accept Hine as Contractor & to inform the neighbours

23.40.14.4. To approve a budget for the maintenance of the Jubilee Garden

Resolved: Unanimously Approved to appoint Alastair Smith to maintain the Garden to monthly maintain & mow to August using 6040.

23.40.14.5. To approve a streetlight maintenance provider

Resolved: Unanimously Approved to appoint Enerveo

23.40.14.6. To approve the formal grant application by the event organisers for the 2024 Gap Festival

In previous years the Council has supported this community event via sponsorship

Resolved: Unanimously Approved

23.40.15. To confirm the time and date of the Next Council Meeting– 7.30pm, 11th March 2024

NOTE: *Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than 28th February, in accordance with the Standing Orders.*

Meeting Closed 21:28