

GORING-ON-THAMES

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Saturday 20th May 2023 at 18:00, Goring Village Hall

Council Members Present:

Vice-Chair Cllr A Smith (AS)

Members Cllr S Bridle (SB)
Cllr J Hutchins (JH)
Cllr B Newman (BN)

Officers Present:

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

Public: at least 19 members of public

Meeting started 18:00

2023/1. Introduction

The Vice Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a short introduction including:

- Details of the recent Parish Council election
 - Thanking the outgoing parish councillors, Richard Osborne, Lawrie Reavill, Bryan Urbick and John Wills for their work and time on the Council
 - Welcomed the newly elected councillors, Stephanie Bridle, Jeremy Hutchins, Barbara Newman and Robin Williamson.
- Thanked all the sports & societies in the village for submitting reports and those who had stalls.

2023/2. Apologies were Recorded

- Chairman Cllr Colin Ratcliff

2023/3. To approve the minutes of the Previous Meeting – 31st May 2022

The meeting approved the minutes of 31st May were an accurate record of the 2022 Annual Parish Meeting and they were duly signed.

2023/4. Report from the Parish Council

AS thanked the outgoing Chair of Goring-on-Thames Parish Council, Bryan Urbick for his report: Last year saw publication of Open Spaces, from this, a variety of projects, have been set-up, and the real work begins to realise what are now just ideas. I have had the pleasure to see the most recent internal auditor's

report and with many positive comments including the statement: "I have noted that many of the actions which I recommended last year have been completed; the Clerks and Council should be commended for this."

GoTPC have the skills including the Clerk & Assistant Clerk being fully CiLCA qualified. This qualification provides the Council with the opportunity to maintain its 'Powers of Competence', providing additional options when considering its decisions.

As the first tier of local government, the processes can seem quite bureaucratic and at times daunting. It is reassuring that our administration is recognised as being well done. It is important for all to remember that each elected member volunteers their time and seek to do what is best for the whole community.

2023/5. Other Organisations

The Chairman invited other organisations to speak, if they so wished.

2023/5.1. Nick Cooper Sec of G& S Concert Band

The G&SCB sadly lost their Chair/Drummer at Christmas and have not been able to recruit a replacement so if anyone is interested then come to the Goring Church of England Primary School, Wallingford Rd, Goring, Reading RG8 0BG at 8pm Monday evenings, no auditions & subscriptions are £85 a year. They are also seeking trumpet players or trombonists.

2023/5.2. Ron Bridle Goring Gap Environmental Organisation

The Goring Gap Environmental Organisation is a registered charity (a CIO, Charitable Incorporated Organisation). The objectives are to promote the conservation of flora, fauna and the environment generally & advance education of the public in relation to such conservation.

Our current projects (active now and planned) are:

1. Water Quality Monitoring Programme in the Thames at Goring

This will involve taking samples in a number of locations on a monthly basis for up to 2 years and will be measuring 16 different parameters and pollutants (2 of them being faecal bacteria). The samples will be analysed in UKAS accredited laboratories GGEO already has funding from *Mend the Gap* and we plan to start later this year.

2. Creating more Space for Nature - A project on Sheepecot field to create new habitats

- 1) Rejuvenate existing hedges and plant new shrubs
- 2) To plant a traditional orchard (2,600sqm) in the unused space at the top (NE) end.

The council has already received a detailed 5-page proposal and it will be fully funded by GGEO once permission from the council is granted.

3. Goring Repair Cafe - The aim is to reduce waste and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by avoiding the need to buy a replacement product. The first event on 1 April was very successful with a repair success rate of 60%. There are over 25 volunteers involved (repairers and support staff) and the next one is 3 June and this hall is booked for sessions every other month until end of 2024.

4. Gardening for Wildlife

This is a structured project planned to encourage every gardener to take a series of easy incremental steps to increase biodiversity and includes introductory talks by experts. Earlier projects last year included Nature Calendar, donated £1,000 to BBOWT, Environmental talk for the Gap Festival and trained 10 volunteers in Habitat Surveying.

The website (GGEO-online) is currently under construction, and we welcome anyone who supports the aims of the charity to get in touch.

2023/5.3. Melanie Meads Q1 Foundation – The Hub

Q1 Hub are now on their 3rd year, they really kicked off during covid, ran emergency response team & covid volunteers. They wanted to thank everyone for helping & donating with the recent fund-raising campaign, especially the 19 who did a sky dive. The Hub is operated by Q1 Foundation, a small local charity, registered with the Charity Commission in 2019. It is reliant on fundraising by the community and from grants, to run its services for the Goring Gap community. The charity aims to provide information and support to all adults in our area, ensuring they get all the help and information they need around care, benefits, preventing isolation, and all aspects of living well – which also benefits the community as a whole. Q1 are fully self-funding from Grants & donations. Race night is 13th October 2023 and is repeated after last years' success. They are looking for more friends of the Hub, pop into the Arcade anytime! She also thanked Claire for all her help over the last couple of years and wished her well in her new position.

2023/6. Next Meeting

The Chairman highlighted that the next Annual Parish Meeting was due to take place on 20th April 2024, subject to village hall availability.

2023/7. Close of the Meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman invited those in attendance to visit the stands set up by local organisations, and to enjoy the refreshments provided.

Meeting Closed: 18:25