

# GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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**All Councillors are summoned to a meeting of Council, to be held at the  
Bellême Room, Village Hall, Goring on Monday 8 May 2017 at 7.30pm  
Public and press are invited to attend**

Members are respectfully reminded of the obligation to declare any interests relevant to business to be conducted at this meeting and of the convention as to withdrawal from the meeting for the relevant item unless the interest is not one that debars the member from speaking thereon.

## **AGENDA – COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING**

Please note that the public and the media have a right to make audio and visual recordings of council meetings. It would be helpful if those wishing to record could contact the Council before the meeting so that we can ensure the necessary facilities are in place. The Chair of the meeting will advise the public that the meeting is being recorded. A request to record a meeting shall only be refused if the Chair of the meeting believes recording would disrupt the meeting. There are no restrictions on anyone at a council meeting using Twitter, blogs, Facebook or similar social media provided that the Chair does not consider their actions are disrupting the proceedings of the meeting.

1. To elect the Chairman for the year ahead.
2. To receive declaration of Chairman's acceptance of office.
3. To receive apologies for absence.
4. To elect a Vice-Chairman for the year ahead.
5. To receive declaration of Vice-Chairman's acceptance of office.
6. Councillors to confirm their registrations of interests are up to date on the SODC website.
7. To receive declarations of interests.
8. Public forum: *An opportunity for the public to address the council. With the permission of the chairman, the public may also speak about specific items of business as they arise.*
9. To approve minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017.
10. Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.
11. To receive chairman's report and announcements.
12. To appoint Planning Committee members.
13. To appoint Goring Weir Committee members
14. To appoint representatives to serve on other bodies:-
  1. Goring Volunteer Trust (previously Alan Strong – standing down)
  2. Twinning Committee (currently The Chairman, Cllrs. Wills and Hall)

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3. Lybbe's Alms House Charity (currently Cllr. Reavill)
4. Goring Village Hall Committee (currently Cllr. Urbick)
5. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (currently Cllr. K. Bulmer)
6. Goring Poor Allotment Charity (currently Cllr. K. Bulmer)
15. To receive any reports from representatives on external bodies.
16. To consider individual councillor's responsibilities ([Appendix A](#))
17. To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan.
18. To consider a response to SODC's Local Plan consultation
19. Parish Finance:
  1. To approve payments for April 2017. ([Appendix B](#))
  2. To note receipts for April 2017. ([Appendix C](#))
  3. To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 30 April 2017. ([Appendix D](#))
  4. To approve direct debit mandates ([Appendix E](#))
  5. To consider an amended budget for the Neighbourhood Plan ([Appendix F](#))
  6. To consider a s.145 grant application from The Gap Festival. Deferred from December 2016 ([Appendices G, G1](#))
  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 ([Appendix G2](#))
  8. To consider a s.145 grant application for Goring & Streatley Food & Drink Festival ([Appendix G3](#))
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). ([Appendices H, H1](#))
  2. To approve the annual governance statement in section 1 of the statutory annual return ([Appendix I](#))
  3. To approve the statement of accounts in section 2 of the statutory annual return ([Appendix J](#))
  4. To approve a variances report to the external auditors ([Appendix K](#))
  5. To note budget variations for 2016-17 ([Appendix L](#))
  6. To receive a report from the internal auditor for the financial year to 31 March 2017. ([Appendix M](#))

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7. To note year end cash and investment reconciliation as at 31 March 2017  
(Appendix N)
21. To consider a report from the Police.
22. To consider a report on High Street issues. (Appendix O)
23. To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues. (Appendix P)
24. To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues.
25. To consider attendees for the Town and Parish Forum on 5 July 2017.
26. To note resignation of Cllr. Brandon Hancox and to consider the casual vacancy process.
27. To consider non-rural verge grass cutting agreement in view of reply received from OCC regarding level of insurance required by contractors.
28. Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 28 March and 11 April 2017.
29. Correspondence.
  1. To consider issues regarding litter and street cleansing. (Appendix Q)
  2. To consider email re Village of the Year TV Programme (Appendix R)
  3. To consider an email received regarding a donation for the village by the GM Lovelies Facebook group. (Appendix S)
30. Matters for future discussion.
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.
32. To consider tenders for a Street Lighting Contract.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 8.00pm Monday 10 April 2017**

**Members Present:**

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer
Members	Emrhys Barrell
	Mary Bulmer
	Lawrie Reavill
	Bryan Urbick
	Catherine Hall

**Officers Present:**

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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12 members of the public and press

The meeting started 10 minutes late following the Parish Annual Meeting.

**16/344 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Matthew Brown, Brandon Hancox, David Brooker, John Wills.  
The Chairman noted that Cllr. Hancox had resigned from the Parish Council (GPC) and that therefore a Casual Vacancy now existed.

**16/345 To receive any declarations of interests**

None.

**16/346 Public Forum**

Jane Dexter commented that there was a protected orchard on GNP6 and she had been approached by a developer to sell and was concerned that it could be moved. The Chairman stated it would be noted by the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group. Sarah Morton noted the second Bramhill report stated they hadn't had an opportunity to access the site itself and asked whether they had now gained access. Mike Stares, Chairman of NPSG said they had now visited and the results would as usual be made public once received.

**16/347 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2017**

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

**16/348 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**

None

**16/349 To receive chairman's report and announcements**

The Chairman reiterated the resignation of Cllr Hancox and that a Casual Vacancy would be advertised by the Council.

He reported on a meeting held with stakeholders including Streatley Parish Council, the Police and District Council, regarding the potential for large visitor numbers on the weekend of 24-25 June (anniversary of George Michael's birthday) the numbers attending are unknown and hearsay only. Facebook groups that were planning events are now aware of their responsibilities and have therefore withdrawn. GPC are not aware of any formal events other than tribute acts at The Village Hall and The Catherine Wheel, neither of which have any connection to GPC. A positive discussion had been held with the organisers of those events. GPC's concern is public safety and the village not grinding to a halt; the police have no concerns about those issues at the moment. There is a possibility car parking could be looked at. The fair is not on that weekend as was originally planned, other events are wedding parties at The Miller of Mansfield and Pierreponts. A significant number of fans have already been to the village and behaved well.

The consultation on a potential memorial is ongoing.

Signed:

Dated:

- 16/350 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan (copy of that presented to the Parish Annual Meeting).**  
Appendix A refers. Mike Stares additionally noted the SODC consultation is running on the Local Plan. SODC have split housing allocation mathematically across the district but have reinforced time and again the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and recognition of the size of housing increment in Goring, quoting 250 new houses but recognition that 90-100 is a realistic number given the constraints. He stated that once the NP and sustainability reports are out there may be some defence against over-development.  
Some phasing and adjustment to the budget is required due to time slippage.  
The Chairman encouraged participation in the SODC consultation and thanks were once again given to the NP team for their hard work.  
Alan Jones asked if GPC were planning to comment on the SODC consultation. Mike Stares said the NPSG had some views, would ask for more and report back to GPC for an agenda item at the next meeting,
- 16/351 Parish Finance:**
- 1 To approve payments for March 2017**  
**Resolved:** That the payments be approved
- 2 To note receipts for March 2017**  
Noted
- 3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 31 March 2017**  
Noted
- 16/352 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer**  
Appendix E refers. The Chairman noted that County Council elections take place on 4 May, final registration to vote was 13 April. The candidate list is being published in the Henley Standard and online.
- 16/353 To consider a report from the Police**  
None
- 16/354 To consider a report on High Street issues**  
None, consultation on the High Street continues to 31 May.
- 16/355 To consider issues relating to village parking**  
This will come back to the agenda when an update is received from SODC.
- 16/356 To consider a report on Gardiner Pavilion development.**  
Handover date 0930 Monday 24 April. Works are on budget and time.
- 16/357 To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues**  
Appendix F refers. Regarding replacement playground equipment at Bourdillon; it was noted three quotes will be needed for grant applications (The Clerk to send quotes already received to Cllr. Urbick who will investigate grants). The Chairman noted that the factor of the school seeking relocation may affect an early decision on playground equipment.
- 16/358 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues**  
Cllr. M. Bulmer reported the gates had been cleaned; that the mowing was overdue and she hoped the cuttings would be collected.
- 16/359 To consider a proposal to write to The Charity Commissioners regarding the Trusteeship of The Rectory Garden.**  
Appendix G refers.

Signed:

Dated:

Cllr Urbick noted this had been discussed twice before and each time the outcome was that the wishes of the family would be respected and challenged the need to write to the Charity Commissioners. Cllr. Reavill stated that actions agreed in 2013 did not appear to have been concluded (re seeking legal advice), The Chairman said his recollection was that the motion was later rejected so there had been no need to spend money on legal advice and he was not in favour of spending money now when there is no proposal in place for change that would break the conveyance.

Cllr Reavill stated he had had discussions about further crown lifting and thinning of the trees. The Chairman pointed out this is a tree management issue and not a conveyance issue.

Cllr Urbick offered to ask a legal contact for some pro bono advice which was accepted and the original motion withdrawn.

**Resolved:** That an opinion be sought on the conveyance at no cost.

**16/360 To consider an Agreement under s.101 of the Local Government Act with Oxfordshire County Council regarding grass cutting.**

Appendix H refers.

**Resolved:** That the agreement would be accepted if the requirement for £10m public liability insurance was reduced to £5m, as that is the amount GPC asks its grass cutting contractor to provide and believes is reasonable.

**16/361 To note a presentation from Goring & Woodcote Patients Group regarding Community Project proposals.**

The Chairman explained the project which was noted.

**16/362 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 28 February and 14 March 2017.**

Received and noted.

**16/363 Correspondence**

**1 Email from Chilterns Conservation Board requesting support / grant for their Beacons of the Past project.**

**Resolved:** That at this time there are insufficient funds available to provide any grant.

**16/364 Matters for future discussion**

Cllr. Hall asked about The Gap Festival grant application. The Clerk stated it was on the next meeting's agenda.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2108 hrs.

<b>Goring on Thames Parish Councillor's Responsibilities</b>				
<b>2016-17</b>				
<b>Organisation / Subject</b>				
Finance	Bryan Urbick			
Gardiner Pavilion re-development	David Brooker	Catherine Hall	Bryan Urbick	
Goring and Streatley Festival	Catherine Hall			
Goring Volunteer Trust	Alan Strong			
High Street and Surrounds	David Brooker			
Lybbe's Alms Houses	Lawrie Reavill			
MIGGS	Catherine Hall	Lawrie Reavill		
Neighbourhood Plan	Brandon Hancox	Kevin Bulmer		
Playground Equipment Working Group	Lawrie Reavill	John Wills	David Brooker	Mary Bulmer
Police	John Wills			
Recreation Grounds & Sports Clubs	Lawrie Reavill			
Transport	Kevin Bulmer	John Wills		
Twinning	John Wills	Catherine Hall	Kevin Bulmer	
Village Hall	Bryan Urbick			
White Hill Burial Ground	Mary Bulmer			
TSB Bank Signatories	Kevin Bulmer			
	Mary Bulmer			
	Bryan Urbick			
	Lawrie Reavill			
	Matt Brown			

Goring-on-Thames Parish Council			APPENDIX B			
Accounts for payment April 2017						
Payee	Description			Amount	Date	Ref
<b>Current Account</b>						
BGG Garden & Tree Care	Litter picking March	3560		£ 460.80	13/04/2017	BACS 65/17
First Line IT	Email link to website	2240		£ 5.94	13/04/2017	BACS 62/17
Goring Hardware	Grass Seed WHBG	3100		£ 7.95	07/04/2017	BACS 61/17
M & C Landscapes	Grass Cutting March	3110		£ 1,146.84	13/04/2017	BACS 66/17
OALC	Subscription	2410		£ 618.52	07/04/2017	BACS 39/17
OPFA	Subscription	2410		£ 50.00	07/04/2017	BACS 58/17
Paul V Devine	Architect Fees Gardiner Pavilion	6324		£ 960.00	13/04/2017	BACS 67/17
RES Fire Protection	Extinguisher servicing Gardiner	2200		£ 26.52	13/04/2017	BACS 68/17
RES Fire Protection	Extinguisher servicing OJFS	2200		£ 20.40	13/04/2017	BACS 70/17
RES Fire Protection	Extinguisher servicing Sheepcot	2200		£ 22.32	13/04/2017	BACS 69/17
Rialtas Business Solutions	Year End Accounts	2510		£ 294.00	13/04/2017	BACS 72/17
SSE	Street Lights Maintenance March	3420		£ 955.93	13/04/2017	BACS 63/17
Swift Klik Ltd	Storage & Printing	2210		£ 53.76	07/04/2017	BACS 60/17
Tracy Averies	Gardiner Pavilion refurbishment	6324		£ 23,871.60	06/04/2017	BACS 59/17
Tracy Averies	Gardiner Pavilion refurbishment	6324		£ 21,050.10	13/04/2017	BACS 71/17
<b>Direct Debits/Standing Orders</b>						
Biff Bang Pow	Website hosting package monthly fee	2240		£ 26.10	03/04/2017	DD
Mainstream Digital	Phone	2240		£ 1.02	14/04/2017	DD
NEST	Pension Contributions	2310		£ 35.19	28/04/2017	DD
SODC	Business rates	2290	£ 53.60			
SODC	Business rates	2290	£ 86.34	£ 139.94	03/04/2017	DD
SSE	Street lights unmetered elecricity	3420		£ 357.96	21/04/2017	DD
Talk Talk	Broadband	2240		£ 22.31	10/04/2017	DD
Utility Warehouse	Gas, Gardiner & Sheepcot	2260		£ 51.27	28/04/2017	DD
	<b>Total:</b>			£ 50,178.47		



<b>Goring-on-Thames Parish Council</b>		<b>APPENDIX C</b>			
<b>Receipts received April 2017</b>					
<b>From</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Ref</b>	<b>Amount</b>
SODC	Precept	1176	06/04/2017	DC	£47,533.00
SSE	Wayleave Gatehampton Road	1140	04/04/2017	500013	£4.00
Richard Wilson Long Solicitors	Donation for memorial bench refurb.	1134	10/04/2017	Inv 1087	£140.00
HMRC	VAT refund	105	10/04/2017	DC	£20,243.11
TSB	Bank Interest	1190	10/04/2017	DC	£4.78
Running Reborn	Use of Gardiner / Sheepcot	1141/3	12/04/2017	Inv 1091	£176.26
Reeves Memorials	Memorials - Copeman	1130	20/04/2017	Inv 1089	£292.61
AB Walker & Son Ltd	Interment - Simmonds	1130	28/04/2017	Inv 1088	£350.52
				<b>Total:</b>	<b>£68,744.28</b>

**Goring on Thames Parish Council**  
**Monthly Report Bank Account and Reserves Balances**

As at: **30 April 2017**

**Reconciled Bank Account Balances**

Current TSB	£56,817.49
TSB Reserves	£61,981.08
Unpresented Payments	-£250.00
Unpresented Receipts	£0.00
VAT Control Account	£8,270.28
<b>Total</b>	<b>£126,818.85</b>

**Earmarked Reserves (Capital and Contingency)**

Street Light Replacements	R	£0.00
Ferry Lane Riverbank Repairs	R	£0.00
Ferry Lane Fence	R	£750.00
White Hill Burial Ground Approach Road	R	£0.00
Gardiner Pavilion Refurbishment	C	£0.00
Tree Purchase and Replacement	R	£12,500.00
OJFS Contingency for Repairs	R	£0.00
Rectory Garden	R	£1,000.00
Playground Equipment	C	£11,267.00
Weir Legal Fees	R	£9,504.08
Wallingford Road Widening	R	£2,960.00
Operating Reserve Account	R	£24,000.00

**Total Revenue Reserves** £50,714.08

**Total Capital Reserves** £11,267.00

**Total Reserves** **£61,981.08**

**General Funds Available** **£64,837.77**

Organisation	Reference	Services	Comments
Biff Bang Pow	BBPLD-8N8DXKRNC2S	Hosting Package (Website)	Paid via GoCardless BBPLTD
Grundon Waste Management Ltd	GORI001/1	Waste Disposal	White Hill Burial Ground
Grundon Waste Management Ltd	GORI004/8	Waste Disposal	Old Jubilee Fire Station
Thames Water	09358 90056	Water and Sewage	Properties
South Oxfordshire District Council	5350540	Business Rates	OJFS
South Oxfordshire District Council	5136641	Business Rates	OJFS
NEST	IT000001477509 Service User 270503	Pension	Government Agency Pension Provider
SSE	59785 12010	Electricity and Lighting	Properties and Street Lighting
SSE	78957 06013	Electric Sheepcot	Sheeepcot
Utility Warehouse	6005864220	Gas	Sheepcot and Gardiner
HMRC	21770870151	PAYE	Tax & NI
British Gas	601085808	Gas and Servicing Contract	OJFS and service contract for all properties
TalkTalk	3200255278	Broadband	Office
Mainstream Digital	AA216198789	Phone	Office
Information Commissioner	Z3283393	Registration	Data Protection and Freedom of Information
Xerox Finance	Service User 912422	Copier / Printer	On lease
Xerox Finance	Service User 998822	Copier / Printer	Usage

at 22:09

## Annual Budget - By Centre

		<u>Last Year</u>		<u>Current Year</u>						<u>Next Year</u>		
		Budget	Actual	Brought Forward	Net Virement	Agreed	EMR	Total	Actual YTD	Agreed	EMR	Carried Forward
<b>400</b>	<b><u>Neighbourhood Plan</u></b>											
4900	Meetings NP	244	99	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4901	Printing NP	1,855	1,855	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4902	Consultancy NP	11,000	10,061	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
4903	Printing / Exhibitions NP	4,530	2,114	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
4904	Research Materials NP	47	47	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4905	Examination Preparartion NP	500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4906	Referendum Preparation NP	0	0	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
4908	Misc Expenses/ purchases NP	2,262	1,268	0	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0	0
	<b>Overhead Expenditure</b>	<b>20,438</b>	<b>15,444</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(20,438)</b>	<b>(15,444)</b>			<b>(4,000)</b>		<b>(4,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		
	<b>Total Budget Income</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>20,438</b>	<b>15,444</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
	<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(20,438)</b>	<b>(15,444)</b>			<b>(4,000)</b>		<b>(4,000)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		

**May 2017****Grant Expenditure budgeted for and paid to date:**

	<b>Budgeted Sum</b>	<b>Amount Paid</b>
Churches S214(6) LG Act 1972	£50.00	
MIGGS Wallingford Road s.137 LG Act 1972	£5,000.00	
Transport s.26-29 LGR Act 1997	£2,000.00	
Transport s.26-29 LGR Act 1997 (Readibus)	£800.00	
Goring Gap in Bloom s.137 LG Act 1972	£1,500.00	
The Gap Festival s. 145 LG Act 1972	£2,000.00	
Unallocated general budget	£2,500.00	
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>£13,850.00</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
Total from unallocated		£0.00
Remaining Unallocated	<b>£2,500.00</b>	

Payments are limited to a set allowance of **£20,045.36**  
based on an allowance of £7.57 per elector for this year (2648 electors).

**"Battle Hill"  
Elvendon Road  
Goring on Thames  
RG8 0DT**

13 November 2016

Dear Mr Ratcliff

Paul Bradstock, the Chairman of the Goring and Streatley Festival (GSF), wrote to you on 22 September requesting the Parish Council to consider making a two stage grant, say, £4,000 in each of the two years leading up to the 2018 Gap Festival. I believe that after initial consideration by the Parish Council on 10 October, the matter was deferred to the Council's December meeting.

As Paul said in his letter to you, funding is a major factor for success and I thought that it might be useful, as the Honorary Treasurer of the GSF since its inception in 2014, if I provided Council members with more financial information:

	<b>SURPLUS</b>	<b>RESERVES</b>	<b>TURNOVER</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>2014/2015</b>	5,186	5,186	88,974
<b>2015/2016</b>	-931	4,255	N/A
<b>2016/2017</b>	5,267	9,522	106,497

The tabulation above shows that the Festival in 2014 (financial year 2014/15) made a surplus of £5,186 from a turnover (ticket sales, donations and refreshment sales) of £88,974. However, a number of factors greatly assisted us, prime of which was that we inherited the reserves of the Jubilee Fund from 2012 of £9,709. Without these monies we would have made a loss of £4,523.

Indeed on the final day of the Festival (the Family Day on Sunday 6 July 2014 on Streatley Meadows) we would have gone into liquidation but for the weather being glorious and the sales of refreshments that day totalling £2,773. Subsequently we also received a VAT refund of £2,869 from HMRC which was by no means guaranteed at the time.

Monies were expended in 2015/16 in preparation for the Festival in 2016, incurring a loss of £931 and reducing our cash reserves to £4,255.

The Festival in 2016 (financial year 2016/17) was a great success but with income (increasingly reliant on sponsorship as opposed to donations) and expenditure (mainly on artists' fees and equipment, such as the marquee) both in excess of £100,000, it was never certain until after the Festival was finished as to whether we would make a surplus or a loss.

As it was, we achieved a surplus of £5,267 although it should be born in mind that but for the generosity of Lucy Worsley, who kindly agreed to donate her fee to the Festival (her mother lives in Goring and was closely involved in the Festival) that surplus would have been substantially diminished. At the time of writing, we have cash reserves of £9,522 to re-invest in future Festivals, which ironically is less than the funds which we received in 2014 from the Jubilee Fund of £9,709. It is a withering thought that but for these funds we would now be illiquid.

I am sure that you will agree that both Festivals to date have been resounding successes and, as reflected in our Articles of Association, have helped to advance the appreciation and enjoyment of the arts and culture of the local community. That has certainly been reflected in the comments and feedback from the local community in Goring and Streatley. But it has not been easy. As I hope I have demonstrated, we have been close to financial extinction in both 2014 and 2016.

We were most appreciative of the support provided this year by both Parish Councils and, to strengthen our ability to plan ahead for the Festival in 2018, we are requesting support from both Parish Councils for each of the next two years. Any support you could provide in the future along the lines of Paul's letter of 22 September would be very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colin', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Dr Colin L Reeves CBE**  
**Honorary Treasurer**  
**Goring and Streatley Festival**

To Goring-on-Thames Parish Council

26 April 2017

**“Accessible by train” leaflet / brochure to promote visits to Goring and Streatley**

- 1 This is a repeat, with updating, of a paper first submitted formally by MIGGS in December 2016. It is a request for the Council to make available matched funding of £3,000 for a project intended to promote the Goring Gap as a destination for disabled visitors. In particular the project will:
  - Highlight the recent improvement in accessibility to disabled and mobility impaired visitors arising from the installation of passenger lifts at Goring and Streatley station.
  - Utilise the accessibility of the station to increase the number and range of visitors and, thereby, enhance the economic sustainability of local businesses.
  - Draw attention to the increasing accessibility of the local countryside and paths for disabled and mobility impaired visitors due to removal of stiles, etc.
  - Raise awareness more widely of local visitor attractions.
  - Achieve the above, and ancillary benefits, without increasing the volume of road traffic by enabling MIGGS to take advantage of a matched funding grant of £3,000, awarded for the purpose by Great Western Railway from its customer and community improvement fund.
- 2 The Council is invited to commit up to £3,000 to match the GWR grant, to be reduced by any amount either not required or contributed to the same total from other sources. To align with the grant offer, the money would be required in the current financial year.
- 3 The decision of the Council in December 2016 was recorded as:

“To defer until April or May when more will be known about current large scale expenses and the impact on 2017-18 budget.”
- 4 The money is required to pay for research, writing, illustration and design work plus an initial print run. Procurement would be consistent with the Council's own governance procedures and expenditure accounted for to the Council as well as to GWR as required by the grant conditions.



- 5 Support in the form of knowledge and expertise has been offered by the Chilterns AONB and sought from the North Wessex Downs AONB and National Trails. A request for financial support has also been made to the Chilterns AONB: any grant offered from this and other sources will be offset against the contribution asked for from the parish council. An incidental benefit already obtained is to alert the AONBs to the improved accessibility and a commitment to update their websites.
- 6 The initial product of the work will be a leaflet / brochure, to be distributed widely in the Thames valley, especially via railway station booking offices and tourist information offices. It is also envisaged that the information would be converted to a dedicated page on the GWR website (alongside promotions for the Cotswolds, Oxford, South Wales and Cornwall, etc), with active links to related websites, including train timetables, the two AONBs, National Trails (Thames and Ridgeway paths) and Visit Goring and Streatley. This has been discussed with GWR but has yet to be firmly agreed. An estimated 8,500 copies would be needed to fulfil this initial distribution plan.
- 7 It is intended that the written content of the leaflet / brochure will be factual and concise, with no commercial content other than an appeal to travel by train. Train frequencies will be given, but not actual train times. Design will be clean and simple, with strong and uncluttered illustrations. Credits, where needed, will be given to funding sources. Printing will be in colour, on two sides of an A4 sheet, “roll” or “Z” folded to six pages and a finished size of 210 x 99mm (to fit station leaflet dispensers).
- 8 A copy of the successful grant application is attached. MIGGS first gave informal notice to the Clerk and Chairman of the Council on 1 July 2016 of its intention to apply for the grant but did not seek a commitment from the Council before the grant offer was confirmed.
- 9 As a background note, before the award of the local rail franchise to First Great Western and then GWR, a leaflet used to be displayed at Goring and Streatley and other local stations promoting “Places to visit by train” in the Thames Valley. This made no mention of Goring, Streatley or the Goring Gap. There is no current equivalent, so the leaflet proposed by MIGGS would be both a “first” and a gesture to right a past wrong. It would therefore be worthy of wider media attention when published.

**John Boler, Chairman**



# Great Western Railway

## Customer & Community Improvement Fund Application Brief

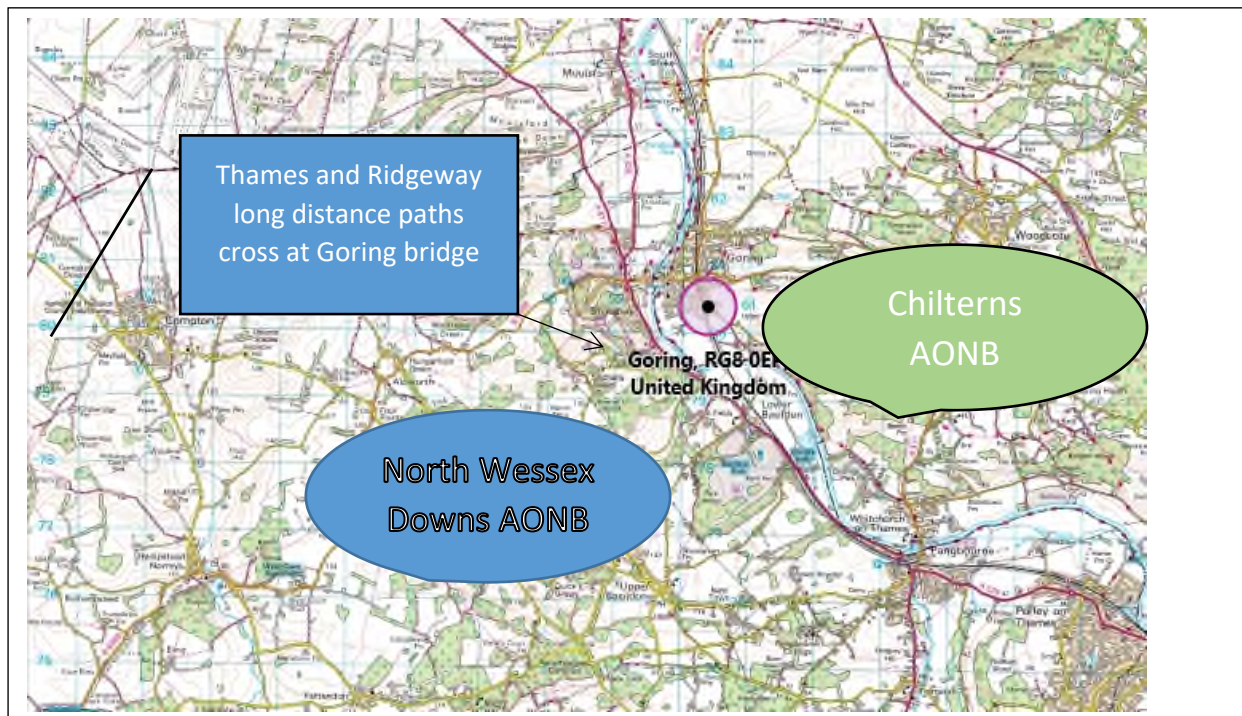
Title of Project:

ACCESSIBLE BY TRAIN leaflet / brochure (to encourage disabled visitors)

Name of Primary Contact:

John Boler, Chairman, MIGGS

Map:



Brief Description:

A leaflet / brochure to encourage mobility impaired visitors to Goring, Streatley and surrounding areas by train. The key message is: ACCESSIBLE BY TRAIN - River Thames and the iconic Goring lock; Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB); Thames and Ridgeway long distance paths via Goring and Streatley station and Great Western Railway.

Photograph:



Goring and Streatley station is fully accessible for wheelchairs and mobility scooters.

Local facilities include accessible river and countryside paths, food, household and gift shops, restaurants, cafés, pubs and accommodation plus summer steamer trips on the Thames to and from Reading and Wallingford.

It would encourage mobility impaired people to feel they can have equal access to the Thames and countryside by reassuring them that the local station is fully accessible and showing how they could use the route to see the two areas of outstanding natural beauty. Visitors would in most cases be people who would not otherwise have access to these areas and would not otherwise consider travelling by train.

Goring Parish Council  
Colin Ratcliff  
Clerk  
Goring-on-Thames Parish Council  
Old Jubilee Fire Station  
Red Cross Road  
Goring  
Reading  
RG8 9HG



**Goring &  
Streatley**  
*Food & Drink Festival*  
**9th September 2017!!**



**Proposal for a grant towards the Goring & Streatley Food & Drink Festival**  
**Amount asking is anything between £500 - £1000.**

Dear Colin,

First of all, many thanks for taking the time to look over my proposal.

As you may know Goring & Streatley Food & Drink Festival is a non profit organisation, set up purely as a community event. Therefore to run this event I have to raise the money through sponsorship and advertising opportunities.

This year I need to raise £7030 in order for this event to take place. I have Christine Wallace on my organisers committee, who is a finalist of the Great British Bake Off, and she has already confirmed our demonstration chefs from the Bake Off, The Great British Menu and other celebrity chefs to attend our festival this year. This raises the profile of this event massively. We are getting a professional chefs theatre to go into the village hall, to make sure these great chefs have the correct equipment to use for their demonstrations. This alone is costing us £1,500.

If you would like to see a breakdown of all the costs of the festival, please see the grid below. I would like to be transparent as this event is non profit, and all the money we make goes into the running of the festival itself.

Any help or support the local council can supply us with would be greatly appreciated, and of course you will get a mention on our website, as well as the programme and any other marketing material we print.

Many thanks in advance,

Shannon Lee Robinson  
Main Organiser for Goring & Streatley Food & Drink Festival

## Festival Cost Breakdown:

<b>Festival Expenses</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Cost</b>
Demo Kitchen	£1,500
x7 Chefs travel costs + ingredients + time	£800
Printing	£1000
Website Updates	£500
Banners - Vinyl Signs	£400
Insurance	£300
First Aid	£500
Children's Games	£300
Health & Safety	£200
Glass hire for tastings	£100
Alcohol for Tastings	£150
Music	£400
Other expenses including prizes for competitions, food & equipment for competitions etc...	£400
Village Hall	£280
Design for programme & leaflet	£200
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>£7,030</b>



## Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

31st March 2016

31st March 2017

## Current Assets

196	Debtors	612
3,188	VAT Control A/c	20,273
0	Prepayments	117
5,702	Current Bank A/c	0
96,000	Capital Account	0
65,246	Support A/c	0
45,000	Reserve Account	0
0	TSB Reserve Account	100,101

215,332

121,103

215,332 Total Assets

121,103

## Current Liabilities

0	TSB Current Account	118
293	Creditors	952

293

1,070

215,038 Total Assets Less Current Liabilities

120,034

## Represented By

160,238	General Reserves	19,933
54,800	EMR Operating Reserve	25,000
0	EMR Rectory Gardens	1,000
0	EMR Ferry Lane Fence	750
0	EMR Gardiner Pavilion	37,120
0	EMR Tree Purchase & Replacemen	12,500
0	EMR Playground Equipment	11,267
0	EMR Legal Fees - Weir	9,504
0	EMR Wallingford Road Widening	2,960

215,038

120,034

The above statement represents fairly the financial position of the authority as at 31 March 2017 and reflects its Income and Expenditure during the year.

Signed :  
Chairman

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Signed :  
Responsible  
Financial  
Officer

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

## Working details for ANNUAL RETURN - Year ended 31 March 2017

	<u>Last Year £</u>	<u>This Year £</u>	<u>Code and Centre</u>		<u>Code Description</u>
1	148,145	160,238	310	0	General Reserves
1	68,100	54,800	320	0	EMR Operating Reserve
1	<b>Balances brought forward</b>	<b>216,245</b>	<b>215,038</b>	Total balances & reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the Financial Records	
2	89,127	0	1176	105	Precept
2	0	93,202	1176	180	Precept
2	<b>Annual Precept</b>	<b>89,127</b>	<b>93,202</b>	Total amount of Precept income received in the year	
3	0	8,424	1130	180	White Hill Burial Ground
3	16,555	0	1130	201	White Hill Burial Ground
3	2,225	0	1131	201	Memorial Income
3	0	39,147	1132	180	Grants Received
3	5,278	0	1132	205	Grants Received
3	1,743	0	1133	205	OCC
3	45	0	1134	105	Miscellaneous Income Other
3	0	11,462	1134	180	Miscellaneous Income Other
3	0	6,300	1135	180	Community Car Park
3	6,200	0	1135	207	Community Car Park
3	50	0	1136	201	Miscellaneous Income WHBG
3	0	136	1140	180	Miscellaneous Property Income
3	307	0	1140	308	Miscellaneous Property Income
3	0	2,348	1141	180	Gardiner Ground and Pavilion
3	429	0	1141	301	Gardiner Ground and Pavilion
3	925	0	1142	301	Goring Cricket Club
3	0	3,554	1143	180	Sheepcot Ground and Pavilion
3	658	0	1143	306	Sheepcot Ground and Pavilion
3	388	0	1144	306	Goring Tennis Club
3	491	0	1145	306	Goring Tennis Club Lease
3	1,333	0	1146	306	Goring United GC
3	928	0	1148	306	Miscellaneous Income SRG
3	55	0	1150	308	Miscellaneous Income
3	4,263	0	1159	105	Miscellaneous Donations
3	1,873	0	1170	105	Grant re:Precept
3	225	0	1190	105	Interest Received
3	0	234	1190	180	Interest Received
3	<b>Total other receipts</b>	<b>43,970</b>	<b>71,606</b>	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook minus the Precept	
4	1,087	0	2244	102	Asst Clerk Salary
4	870	0	2244	103	Asst Clerk Salary
4	27,700	30,145	2310	103	Staff Costs
4	545	0	2350	103	Cleaners Salary
4	39	0	2350	201	Cleaners Salary
4	588	0	2350	205	Cleaners Salary
4	817	0	2350	302	Cleaners Salary
4	304	0	2350	306	Cleaners Salary

Continued over page

## Working details for ANNUAL RETURN - Year ended 31 March 2017

		<u>Last Year £</u>	<u>This Year £</u>	<u>Code and Centre</u>		<u>Code Description</u>
4		817	0	2350	307	Cleaners Salary
4	Staff costs	<b>32,765</b>	<b>30,145</b>	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and expenses		
5	Loan interest/Capital repayments	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on borrowings		
6		0	698	2110	101	Allowances Expenses Training
6		18	0	2120	101	Travel & Misc Items
6		325	0	2130	101	Conferences/Meetings/Training
6		126	280	2200	102	Security, Fire & Safety
6		138	416	2210	102	Postage, copies and printing
6		196	0	2220	102	Stationery
6		241	0	2230	102	Photocopier
6		391	667	2240	102	Telephone & Internet
6		203	0	2241	102	Broadband expense
6		466	0	2245	102	Website
6		169	658	2250	102	Office Equipment, Software etc
6		396	0	2255	102	PC maintenance & software
6		352	0	2258	102	OJFS Gas Service Contract
6		497	0	2259	102	OJFS gas
6		59	0	2260	102	Utilities - Gas, Water, Electr
6		0	4,957	2260	202	Utilities - Gas, Water, Electr
6		101	0	2261	102	OJFS Water
6		17	0	2265	102	Fire extinguisher maintenance
6		2,036	2,153	2270	102	Insurance
6		1,114	1,319	2290	102	Rates & Taxes
6		0	106	2295	202	Inspections Surveys & Reports
6		412	0	2297	102	OJFS repair & maintenance
6		110	150	2300	102	Miscellaneous Expenditure
6		150	0	2312	102	Clerk's petrol allowance
6		219	0	2320	103	Staff training
6		520	738	2410	104	Subscriptions
6		35	0	2411	104	ICO COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
6		187	0	2420	104	SLCC
6		50	0	2440	104	OPFA
6		0	1,057	2510	102	Audit & Accountancy Fees
6		856	0	2510	105	Audit & Accountancy Fees
6		0	25,988	2520	102	Legal Fees
6		235	0	2520	105	Legal Fees
6		2,144	0	2530	102	Election costs
6		0	300	2540	102	Hire of Meeting Room
6		652	0	2540	105	Hire of Meeting Room
6		0	77	2550	102	Publications
6		47	0	2570	105	OJFS Sundries & Maintenance
6		0	219	2570	202	OJFS Sundries & Maintenance

Continued over page



## Working details for ANNUAL RETURN - Year ended 31 March 2017

	<u>Last Year £</u>	<u>This Year £</u>	<u>Code and Centre</u>		<u>Code Description</u>
6	148	0	2590	105	Electrical Safety Inspections
6	0	413	2600	202	Vandalism
6	5,880	0	3100	201	Misc Burial Ground Costs
6	0	460	3100	202	Misc Burial Ground Costs
6	1,567	0	3110	201	Grass Weeding Strimming Fertil
6	0	14,210	3110	202	Grass Weeding Strimming Fertil
6	343	0	3120	201	Hedges/Fences/Paddocks/Gates
6	0	500	3120	202	Hedges/Fences/Paddocks/Gates
6	623	0	3140	201	Skip Emptying
6	34	0	3150	201	Water Charges B/G
6	195	0	3170	201	General Maintenance & Repair
6	0	2,327	3170	202	General Maintenance & Repair
6	208	0	3190	201	Strimming and Weeding
6	5,804	0	3210	201	Grave Digging
6	0	1,333	3210	202	Grave Digging
6	124	0	3220	202	Goring Village Hall Clock
6	1,757	0	3260	202	Defibrillator
6	50	0	3320	203	Citizens Advice Bureau S137
6	1,500	5,122	3330	203	S137 Payments
6	300	0	3336	203	GGBN S137
6	700	700	3350	203	Transport S26-29 LGR Act 1997
6	235	0	3381	203	Goring Gap in Bloom S137
6	9,940	0	3410	208	Contract Maintenance
6	0	14,386	3420	202	Electricity - P/L
6	3,620	0	3420	208	Electricity - P/L
6	515	0	3430	208	Sundry Repairs
6	3,395	0	3510	205	Verge-Grass Cutting
6	0	1,895	3525	202	Trees
6	4,112	0	3525	308	Trees
6	998	0	3530	205	Weed Clearance
6	784	0	3540	205	Planters & Hanging Baskets
6	0	9,481	3560	202	Waste / Litter / Street Cleani
6	11,065	0	3560	205	Waste / Litter / Street Cleani
6	53	0	3590	205	Verge Repairs & Maintenance
6	18	0	3620	206	Other Paths & Bridleways
6	596	0	3640	206	Overgrowth Clearance
6	0	2,150	3650	202	Car Park
6	2,150	0	3660	207	Lease
6	0	1,481	3910	202	Seats & Tables
6	327	0	3910	204	Seats & Tables
6	681	0	4110	303	Grass Maintenance - BRG
6	91	0	4120	303	Trees & Fences - BRG
6	943	0	4140	303	Adventure Playground
6	76	0	4150	303	Annual Inspection
6	2,670	0	4210	301	Grass Maintenance - GRG

Continued over page

## Working details for ANNUAL RETURN - Year ended 31 March 2017

	<u>Last Year £</u>	<u>This Year £</u>	<u>Code and Centre</u>		<u>Code Description</u>
6	0	814	4211	202	Playground Equipment
6	746	0	4211	301	Playground Equipment
6	338	0	4220	301	Hedges/Trees/Fences - GRG
6	671	0	4250	301	Water Charges
6	272	0	4270	301	General Maintenance - GRG
6	76	0	4280	301	Annual Inspection - GRG
6	182	0	4300	301	Harrow/Spike/Fertilizer
6	17	0	4310	102	Cleaning Materials
6	69	0	4310	302	Cleaning Materials
6	552	0	4320	302	Gas - GRG Pav
6	429	0	4330	302	Water Charges - GRG Pav
6	137	0	4340	302	Electricity - GRG Pav
6	344	0	4350	302	Gas Service Contract - GRG Pav
6	43	0	4360	302	Repairs
6	81	0	4365	302	Fire extinguisher maint GRGpav
6	2,165	0	4410	306	Grass Maintenance - SRG
6	114	0	4411	306	Harrow/Spike/Fertilise - SRG
6	447	0	4420	306	Hedges/Tree/Fences - SRG
6	49	0	4511	307	Cleaning materials Sheepecot
6	291	0	4520	307	Gas - ARG Pav
6	459	0	4530	307	Water Charges - SRG Pav
6	143	0	4540	307	Electricity - SRG Pav
6	604	0	4550	307	Gas Service Contract - SRG Pav
6	204	0	4560	307	Repairs
6	34	0	4565	307	Fire extinguisher maint SRGpav
6	513	0	4610	304	Grass Maintenance
6	118	0	4620	304	Wall/Hedge/Gates/Trees/Path
6	410	0	4710	305	Grass Maintenance - FLOS
6	366	0	4810	308	Dog Waste
6	356	99	4900	400	Meetings NP
6	1,377	1,855	4901	400	Printing NP
6	0	10,061	4902	400	Consultancy NP
6	2,971	2,114	4903	400	Exhibitions / Workshops NP
6	0	47	4904	400	Research Materials NP
6	120	0	4907	400	Website, cloud storage NP
6	238	1,268	4908	400	Misc Expenses/ purchases NP
6	2,215	115,130	6324	501	Gardiner Pavilion Refurbishme
6	500	0	6325	501	Tree Purchase and Replacement
6	9,926	0	6327	501	Rectory Garden
6	0	4,040	6332	501	Wallingford Road Widening
6	Total other payments	101,538	229,668	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus employment costs (Line 4) and loan / interest expenditure / payments (Line 5)	
7	Balances carried forwrd	215,038	120,034	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. [Must equal (1+2+3)-(4+5+6)]	

Continued over page

## Working details for ANNUAL RETURN - Year ended 31 March 2017

	<u>Last Year £</u>	<u>This Year £</u>	<u>Code and Centre</u>		<u>Code Description</u>
8	5,702	0	200	0	Current Bank A/c
8	96,000	0	202	0	Capital Account
8	65,246	0	203	0	Support A/c
8	45,000	0	204	0	Reserve Account
8	0	-118	205	0	TSB Current Account
8	0	100,101	206	0	TSB Reserve Account
8	<b>Total Cash &amp; Investments</b>	<b>211,947</b>	<b>99,983</b>	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held as at 31 March	
9	547,631	543,594	9	0	Total Fixed Assest
9	<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>547,631</b>	<b>543,594</b>	The recorded current book value at 31 March of all tangible fixed assets as recorded in the asset register	
10	<b>Total Borrowings</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	The outstanding capital balances as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (usually PWLB)	

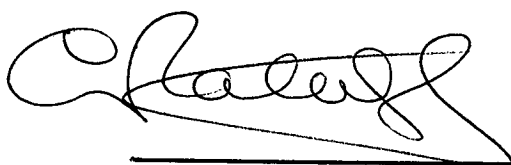
Signed:

Chairman.

Date:

Signed

Responsible finance officer.



Date: 24-4-17

# Section 1 – Annual governance statement 2016/17

We acknowledge as the members of:

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

GOLETHORPE ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2017, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this smaller authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	YES		prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	YES		made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and proper practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this smaller authority to conduct its business or on its finances.	YES		has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with proper practices in doing so.
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	YES		during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this smaller authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	YES		considered the financial and other risks it faces and has dealt with them properly.
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	YES		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	YES		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this smaller authority and, where appropriate have included them in the accounting statements.	YES		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes YES	No NA	has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.

This annual governance statement is approved by this smaller authority on:

and recorded as minute reference:

Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:

Clerk:

\*Note: Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how this smaller authority will address the weaknesses identified.

## Section 2 – Accounting statements 2016/17 for

Enter name of  
smaller authority here:

Gulring on Thames Parish Council

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2016 £	31 March 2017 £	
1. Balances brought forward	216,244	215,038	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	89,127	93,202	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs, rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	43,970	71,606	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	32,765	30,145	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the smaller authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	101,538	229,667	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	215,038	120,034	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6)
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	211,947	99,983	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – <b>To agree with bank reconciliation.</b>
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	547,631	843,594	This cell shows the value of all the property the authority owns. It is made up of its fixed assets and long-term investments.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets. N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2017 the accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of this smaller authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

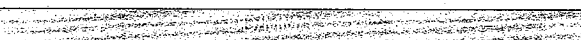
Signed by Responsible Financial Officer:



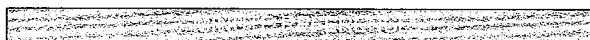
Date

24-04-2017

I confirm that these accounting statements were approved by this smaller authority on:



and recorded as minute reference:



Signed by Chair at meeting where approval is given:





## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Account 31/03/2017

## Account Code Report

	Actual Year to Date	Current Annual Bud	Budget Variance	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
--	------------------------	-----------------------	--------------------	--------------------------	--------------------	---------

**Income Detail**

1130 White Hill Burial Ground	8,424	10,000	1,576			84.2%
1132 Grants Received	39,147	58,000	18,853			67.5%
1134 Miscellaneous Income Other	11,462	11,267	(195)			101.7%
1135 Community Car Park	6,300	6,000	(300)			105.0%
1140 Miscellaneous Property Income	136	130	(6)			105.0%
1141 Gardiner Ground and Pavilion	2,348	1,900	(448)			123.6%
1143 Sheepcot Ground and Pavilion	3,554	3,400	(154)			104.5%
1176 Precept	93,202	93,202	0			100.0%
1190 Interest Received	234	150	(84)			155.9%

**Total Income**

	<b>164,808</b>	<b>184,049</b>	<b>19,241</b>			<b>89.5%</b>
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**Expenditure Detail****Total Direct**

	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0.0%</b>
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**Expenditure Detail**

2110 Allowances Expenses Training	698	700	2		2	99.8%
2200 Security, Fire & Safety	280	760	480		480	36.9%
2210 Postage, copies and printing	416	600	184		184	69.3%
2240 Telephone & Internet	667	800	133		133	83.3%
2250 Office Equipment, Software etc	658	950	292		292	69.3%
2260 Utilities - Gas, Water, Electr	4,957	6,760	1,803		1,803	73.3%
2270 Insurance	2,153	2,153	(0)		(0)	100.0%
2290 Rates & Taxes	1,319	1,850	531		531	71.3%
2295 Inspections Surveys & Reports	106	106	0		0	100.0%
2300 Miscellaneous Expenditure	150	150	0		0	100.0%
2310 Staff Costs	30,145	32,430	2,285		2,285	93.0%
2410 Subscriptions	738	830	92		92	88.9%
2510 Audit & Accountancy Fees	1,057	1,500	443		443	70.5%
2520 Legal Fees	25,988	25,988	0		0	100.0%
2540 Hire of Meeting Room	300	300	0		0	100.0%
2550 Publications	77	77	0		0	99.5%
2570 OJFS Sundries & Maintenance	219	300	81		81	72.9%
2600 Vandalism	413	500	87		87	82.6%
3100 Misc Burial Ground Costs	460	500	40		40	92.1%
3110 Grass Weeding Strimming Fertil	14,210	15,000	790		790	94.7%
3120 Hedges/Fences/Paddocks/Gates	500	500	0		0	100.0%
3170 General Maintenance & Repair	2,327	2,475	148		148	94.0%
3210 Grave Digging	1,333	3,600	2,267		2,267	37.0%
3310 Churches S214(6) LG Act 1972	0	50	50		50	0.0%
3330 S137 Payments	5,122	10,875	5,753		5,753	47.1%

Continued over page

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Account 31/03/2017

## Account Code Report

	Actual Year to Date	Current Annual Bud	Budget Variance	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
3350 Transport S26-29 LGR Act 1997	700	700	0		0	100.0%
3420 Electricity - P/L	14,386	16,200	1,814		1,814	88.8%
3525 Trees	1,895	6,000	4,105		4,105	31.6%
3560 Waste / Litter / Street Cleani	9,481	9,500	19		19	99.8%
3562 Winter & Flooding	0	100	100		100	0.0%
3650 Car Park	2,150	2,500	350		350	86.0%
3910 Seats & Tables	1,481	2,250	769		769	65.8%
4211 Playground Equipment	814	2,000	1,186		1,186	40.7%
4900 Meetings NP	99	244	145		145	40.6%
4901 Printing NP	1,855	1,855	0		0	100.0%
4902 Consultancy NP	10,061	11,000	939		939	91.5%
4903 Exhibitions / Workshops NP	2,114	4,530	2,416		2,416	46.7%
4904 Research Materials NP	47	47	(0)		(0)	101.0%
4905 Examination Preparartion NP	0	500	500		500	0.0%
4908 Misc Expenses/ purchases NP	1,268	2,262	994		994	56.0%
6322 Ferry Lane Fence	0	750	750		750	0.0%
6324 Gardiner Pavilion Refurbishme	115,130	147,000	31,870		31,870	78.3%
6325 Tree Purchase and Replacement	0	12,500	12,500		12,500	0.0%
6327 Rectory Garden	0	1,000	1,000		1,000	0.0%
6331 Playground Equipment	0	11,267	11,267		11,267	0.0%
6332 Wallingford Road Widening	4,040	7,000	2,960		2,960	57.7%
6350 Legal Fees	0	9,504	9,504		9,504	0.0%
<b>Total Overhead</b>	<b>259,812</b>	<b>358,463</b>	<b>98,651</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,651</b>	<b>72.5%</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>164,808</b>	<b>184,049</b>	<b>19,241</b>			<b>89.5%</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>259,812</b>	<b>358,463</b>	<b>98,651</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>98,651</b>	<b>72.5%</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(95,005)</b>	<b>(174,414)</b>	<b>(79,409)</b>			
plus Transfer from EMR	88,653					
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<b>(6,351)</b>					



**Internal Audit Report  
Goring Parish Council  
Oxfordshire.**

**Internal Audit Final Report  
2016-17**

**24th April 2017**

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## Report Index

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Scope of the Internal Audit.**
- 3. Findings, recommendations and action plan.**
- 4. Internal Auditors summary report.**

### Introduction

**An internal audit review of Goring Parish Council's Financial controls for 2016/17 has been undertaken by Arrow Accounting. The work covered was a key control review of the systems in place for ensuring an adequate level of Governance and Financial control. Previous recommendations were followed-up.**



# Scope of the Internal Audit

The review included the following:-

- o Bookkeeping Arrangements.
- o Payments in relation to Financial Regulations.
- o Review of Internal Controls.
- o Budgetary Controls.
- o Expected Income fully received and properly recorded.
- o Petty Cash levels and payments supported and approved.
- o Payroll Controls, salaries & fees.
- o Asset Controls.
- o Bank Reconciliations.
- o Accounting Statements.
- o Trust Funds (If applicable).
- o Review and completeness of audit action plans.
- o Review of External Audit recommendations made in the previous year.
- o Review of Section 1 of the Annual Return and the Financial Statements.
- o Compliance with the Transparency Act.
- o Auditors Summary.



# Findings, recommendations and action plan

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Bookkeeping Arrangements	A	Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year. Well maintained with sound audit trails.	None	N/A
Councils Financial Regulations have been met in regard to expenditure.	B	The Councils Financial Regulations have been met in that appropriate authorisations have been given for each level of expenditure.	None	N/A
		Payments were supported by Invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	None	N/A
Review of Internal Controls.	C	The Council has assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	None	N/A

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Budgetary Controls (Precept requirement)	D	The Annual precept requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process.	None	N/A
Budgetary Controls (Budget monitoring)		Progress against the Budget was not regularly monitored.	None	N/A
The final Outturn is in line with expectations.		The Final Outturn was materially in line with expectations.	None	N/A
Income controls	E	Expected Income was fully received and properly recorded.	None	N/A
Petty cash controls	F	Petty cash was considered to be of an appropriate level with receipts and subsequent authorisations in evidence.	None	N/A

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Payroll controls	G	Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with council approvals. PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	None	N/A
Asset Controls	H	The Asset register has correctly recorded all material Assets. The correct basis of valuation has been applied.	In the main this is correct however refer to my recommendations below.	
Asset Controls	H	Additions in the year have been correctly recorded within the Cash Book and Register	Recommend that the Pavilion Payments are recorded fully and shown on the Register	
Asset Controls	H	All appropriate Deeds and Titles have been established and shown on the Register.	Recommend that all references regarding Deeds and Titles are recorded on the Register	

Process	Annual Return Section	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Bank Reconciliations	I	Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	None	N/A
Accounting Statements	J	Correct accounting basis used and reconciled to the Cash Book.  Receipts & Payments	None	N/A
Trust Funds (If applicable)	K	The Parish Council does operate as a Trustee for any external body.	None	N/A

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Review of Internal audit action plan has been considered and actioned?	Good Practice	<p>Recommendations were made in the previous year 2015/16.</p> <p>Recommended that all land and buildings are appropriately recorded with title deed numbers on the Asset Register.</p> <p>Project/Earmarked Funds properly stated within the Financial Statements</p> <p>Local Government Spending Powers not correctly stated</p>	<p>None</p> <p>See carried forward recommendation</p> <p>None, completed</p> <p>See carried forward recommendation</p>	



Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
<p>External Audit recommendations have been considered and actioned.</p> <p>Qualifications made, if any have been addressed in 2016/17.</p>	Good Practice	<p>Recommendations made in the previous year 2015/16.</p> <p>There were no qualifications to address.</p>	<p>None</p> <p>None</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Accounting Statements agreed and reconciled to the Annual Return	<p>Section 1 of the Annual Return</p> <p>Part 1 of the Annual return is complete and accurate and reconciles to the statement of accounts.</p>	<p>The accounting statements in this annual return present fairly the financial position of the council and its income and expenditure.</p> <p>Local Government Spending Powers</p>	<p>None</p> <p>Recommend that these be applied correctly and stated within the notes to the Financial Statements</p>	N/A

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
<p><b>Compliance with the Transparency Act.</b></p> <p><b>Not a Requirement for this Council. However it shows good governance.</b></p>	1) Expenditure over £100 is recorded on the Council Web-Site and with all information requirements.	Compliant	None	N/A
	2) Annual Return published on the Web-Site.	Compliant	None	N/A
	3) Explanation of significant variances.	Compliant	None	N/A
	4) Explanation of difference between Box 7 & 8 if applicable.	Compliant	None	N/A
	5) Annual Governance Statement recorded.	Compliant	None	N/A

Process	Criteria	Findings	Recommendations	Action Planned
Compliance with the Transparency Act. (Contd)	1) Internal Audit Report Published.	Compliant	None	N/A
	2) A List of Councillors responsibilities.	Compliant	None	N/A
	3) Details of Public Land and Building Assets.	Compliant	None	N/A
	4) Minutes & Agendas	Compliant	None	N/A

# Internal Auditors Summary Report

Goring Parish Council has an electorate in the region of 2,648, and the precept for 2016/17 was set at £93202.

Overall, the Council has sound arrangements in place to satisfy itself that its systems of internal financial control are both adequate and effective. There are approval and authorisation controls and there is a clear audit and management trail for financial transactions.

**Phil Hood**  
**Arrow Accounting**  
**(Internal Audit)**  
**24th April 2017**



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## Goring-on-Thames Parish Council 2016/17

### Bank - Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 31 March 2017

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#### Confirmed Bank & Investment Balances

##### Bank Statement Balances

31/03/2017	Current A/c	0.00	
31/08/2008	Clerk's Account	0.00	
31/03/2017	Capital Account	0.00	
31/03/2017	Support Account	0.00	
31/03/2017	Reserve Account	0.00	
31/03/2017	TSB Current	132.13	
31/03/2017	TSB Reserve Account	100,100.63	
			<b>100,232.76</b>

##### Other Cash & Bank Balances

**0.00**

---

**100,232.76**

##### Unpresented Payments

**250.00**

---

**99,982.76**

##### Receipts not on Bank Statement

**0.00**

##### **Closing Balance**

---

**99,982.76**

##### All Cash & Bank Accounts

Current Bank A/c	0.00
Capital Account	0.00
Support A/c	0.00
Reserve Account	0.00
TSB Current Account	-117.87
TSB Reserve Account	100,100.63
Other Cash & Bank Balances	0.00
<b>Total Cash &amp; Bank Balances</b>	<b>99,982.76</b>

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**Goring Parish Council - Goring High St – Report**

2 May 2017

Proposed High St roadworks

I have visited most of the business's in the High St and collected their completed consultation forms, what I learnt was that if you want to consult with the public the GGN is not the best vehicle.

Anyway, what did come across is that businesses are desperate to see some action taken to control vehicle movement, curtail large lorries and make the High St safe for pedestrians.

I really hope that OCC Highways do not renege on their current supportive comments for this work to go forward when we can afford it.

The results of the Consultation will be available at the end of May.

Footpath from the High St to Wheel Orchard car park

It is my understanding that R Bridle has in conjunction with BT produced proposals for dealing with the fence and planting, which we are still awaiting.

Lorry's through the High St

No comments at this time.

Verge adjacent to the Rectory Gardens

Although I have noticed it on the odd occasions my honourable friend Councillor Wills advised that when events are held at the Village Hall vehicles are parked all along this verge. Anticipating numerous events throughout this year and to avoid damage to this grassed area I would make the following proposal:

To stop vehicles being parked on the verge that we seek agreement from OCC Highways Dept to install 0.8m high timber Oak or similar posts set back from the kerb edge, say 0.5m, at 3m centres along the verge starting from the entrance to the Village Hall up to the end of the grassed area.

Cllr David Brooker

**Recreation Issues - May 2017 Update**

**Bourdillon Field**

Records of the layout of the recreation equipment on the Bourdillon Field are being sought prior to investigating possible sources of external funding. They may not be available, in which case some photographs will be taken to illustrate the required replacement swings.

**Sheepcot Recreation Ground**

The outcome of the experiment of removing the waste bins will be considered elsewhere on the agenda.

**Gardiner Recreation Ground**

With the completion of the extension of the pavilion, entry to the eastern side of the Gardiner Recreation Ground is now available, as is access to the two rubbish bins.

**Rectory Garden**

While we await the legal views on interpretation of the Trust Deed, I am preparing a paper with suggestions of future policy on the management of the Rectory Garden for GPC to consider. An informal meeting has been arranged with two members of the Edmondson family to obtain their views on the future of the Garden.

Lawrie Reavill

02.05.2017



## **Litter Issues**

On Tuesday 11 April I received a complaint that bins had not been emptied in Gardiner recreation ground (GPC BGG contract). On Thursday 13 April further complaints were received about the Wheel Orchard car park bins and the dog waste bin, Sheepcot (both SODC). I also noticed some village centre bins had not been emptied.

It appears that neither own own contractor (BGG), nor SODC's (Biffa) had attended as usual on the Monday (10<sup>th</sup>).

On 11 April I contacted BGG who said they would attend Wednesday and again on 13 April when they had failed to attend – they apologised and attended on the morning of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> (Good Friday Bank Holiday).

On 13 April I passed on the complaints regarding SODC's contract and the bins were all cleared on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> (After the Easter break).

It is unfortunate that the bins did not get emptied in the week leading up to Easter but to put this into perspective it is the first occasion since the highways bins contract moved to SODC in October 2016 that this has happened. Being a long bank holiday weekend meant it took a while to resolve.

The other issue has been Sheepcot Recreation Ground. In November a trial removal of the litter bin took place as it was constantly being abused. Since then, apart from some litter being placed in the dog waste bin and one day in February when Goring Robins FC left a black sack outside, there has been no sign of litter during my weekly checks. However some local residents and grounds users have requested the bin be replaced.

I have been told that users of the recreation ground have been taking litter away. In addition GPC has a contract with BGG to litter pick once a week at all its open spaces and our cleaner does one hour a week each litter picking at Sheepcot, The Railway Station approaches and the Village centre.

Further to the litter issues, complaints have also been received about street cleansing not having taken place. The Chairman and I are in contact with SODC and Biffa to resolve this.

Please see (some of the) edited email correspondence below.

For discussion.

Colin Ratcliff  
Clerk.

28 April 2017

---

Email 11/4/17 from Ned Worsley:

Hi Colin

Attached is a photo I took this morning at 9am. The litter bin is overflowing and it looks as though foxes might have helped the rubbish to spread around. The bin obviously needs to be emptied more often. Please can you pass this on to the relevant person and get some action?

Thanks

Ned Worsley



Gardiner 11/4/17

---

Email 14/4/17 from Ron Bridle:

Dear Colin,

I'm just making a suggestion to deal with the seemingly intractable problem of overflowing litter bins.

Is there any reason why the council couldn't (with the money it spends on whoever you currently employ for this service) employ a local person to empty all the bins, say twice a week, and also be on standby to respond to the problem we had this week on the Gardiner Rec and the Wheel Orchard car park.

Presumably we don't have to use SODC's services or whoever you use, as having a local person, who will take pride to keep his village clean and tidy, will mean we have a system which is much more responsive to incidents like we had today with litter blowing across the field and car park.

In the past we had such a person who litter-picked and paid by council, a lady in fact, and we never had the problem we have nowadays.

What do you think?

Kind regards,

Ron.

---

Email 13/4/17 From Maureen Whicher:

Dear Colin

Further to Stephanie's last email to you, and the photos I sent you earlier this morning, this is the current state of the dog bin aka general litter bin at Sheepcot Field this lunchtime, Thursday, 13 April.

Throughout the three days of the bank holiday, the field will be busy with families, dog walkers, ramblers, and villagers and visitors enjoying sports activities. If the dog bin is full now, what is it going to be like on Tuesday? I've got visitors staying for Easter so I am not intending to part empty the bin.

I have just picked up coke and lager cans and a bottle of Evian water as well as general sweet and chocolate wrappers and that is after the usual early morning dog walkers have done their clean up.

I also see that some of the sticky marking paint that was emptied into a hedge behind the pavilion is still there and has now been walked into some tarmac. I did ask Iestyn (Llewellyn) some weeks ago when I saw him in the field if he could let the football management know but they have still not cleared up this mess. I actually smiled when my dog suddenly appeared with four blue legs but if a child walks in it, parents will definitely not be happy. The discarded paint container that was featured in one of the photos I sent you has now disappeared but if you notice, it did have health and safety warnings on it which shows the irresponsibility of the person who threw the paint away.

Happy Easter!

Maureen



13/4/17 Sheepcot

---

Email 17/4/17 from Maureen Whicher

Yet another photo concerning village litter problems! It is fortunate that there were no tennis or football matches in the field this weekend.

Best wishes  
Maureen



Sheepcot 17/4/17

---

Email 18/4/17 from Kerry Harding

Dear Kevin,

Attached is an e mail , the contents of which are self explanatory. Many of the bins have been full since well before the Easter break, with litter spilling out onto the ground. Litter "breeds" more litter which in turn runs counter to the endeavour of the village to win the " Britain in bloom" competition, of which we are all so very appreciative and proud as well as to the psychological comfort of the villagers.

Please may this issue be dealt with by the Parish Council ASAP.

Kerry Harding

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stephanie Bridle"

Date: 18 April 2017 08:01:37 BST

Subject: FW: Sheepcot Field: Dog bin filled with dog bags plus general litter, together with litter now building up around the bin

The clerk's address is [clerk@goringpc.org](mailto:clerk@goringpc.org). I have some grim photos taken yesterday, from elsewhere in the village too. The bins are attracting foxes and rats. We have been asking for a resolution for two years now and nothing has happened. It seems to me the councillors aren't even aware of how bad it is - where are they?

Stephanie

Letter received by hand 19/4/17

Howgate Drive  
Goring-on-Thames  
Reading RG8 9DQ  
01491 873 094  
[prkno1@xucitrose.com](mailto:prkno1@xucitrose.com)

The Clerk  
Goring Parish Council

Dear Mr Ratcliff -

I am very concerned about the litter bins in Goring. They have frequently been overflowing and it is obvious that they are not emptied often enough. I would take a black plastic bag & collect the extra but I don't think the normal bin men would take it on a Thursday.

Would it be possible to get the District Council to organise more frequent emptying of the bins around Goring? It really does look awful and no doubt is a health hazard probably

attracting rats.

If the Council say that they can not afford to come more often to empty the litter bins I have two suggestions:

1. we have more bins
2. we ask the Council for the money they spend on this job & we employ a local firm to do the job properly for the village.

This must now be an urgent matter and requires immediate attention.

Thank you for your help.

Pauline Kudley

MRS. R. C. KNOWLES

Email from Gill Haigh 20/4/17

Dear Kevin

The boats that tie up by Ferry Lane may be putting litter in the wrong bin. Can I suggest that a notice is put up on the bin to tell people that the large bins for boat rubbish are under the bridge?

Some ideas for notices to put on bins are below.  
Hope this helps in some way.

Gill Haigh

Please help keep Goring clean.  
This bin is for small pieces of litter.  
Large bins for boat rubbish are under the bridge.  
No dog waste please.  
If full, contact ?clerk@gpc.gov.  
Do not leave rubbish on the ground.  
Thank you

Please help keep Goring clean.  
This bin is for small pieces of litter.  
Dog owners please note, it is not for dog waste.  
If full, contact ?clerk@gpc.gov.  
Do not leave rubbish on the ground.  
Thank you

---

Email 14/4/17 from Stephanie Bridle:

Dear Kevin

It is good to hear from you that you are working with SODC to resolve the protracted issue of lack of bin capacity and /or an increase in the frequency of the emptying service. As appalling as the weekend's situation was, a missed collection date is not the long-term issue. ...

Missed collections have been a problem in the past but the fundamental issue, and the one that has been raised many times by email, with numerous photographs and in GPC meetings, is one of capacity. The problem of overflowing bins, with all the consequences of widespread litter and abandoned dog bags, has been with us for long enough now and is the cause of considerable frustration. ... This is because it appears to the public (and in particular all those who work in the Goring Gap in Bloom Group to keep the village looking good) that the continuing inadequacy of the service in Goring is it isn't being addressed. Whether this is the case or not, there has been no clarity over the period that complaints from Goring Gap in Bloom have been made.

We know that the provision of the budget for the emptying service has been changed but has GPC considered or implemented practical strategies to resolve the state of affairs? It would also be interesting to be informed about SODC's response to the various photos that have been submitted by myself and others.

I would also argue that matters of public concern which relate to the lack of maintenance of village facilities should be for elected members, not the clerk, to resolve. It is what they are elected to do. The clerk's job is to implement the resolutions to problems not to negotiate with SODC – that is for the council. This was very successful when parish councillors were allocated different responsibilities of equal number and weight. It seems very unreasonable for the clerk to carry this load almost alone and be at the sharp end of the public's frustration and it is equally unreasonable for members of the public to do the councillors work for them. ... Please can we stop 'mulling this over' as you promised last year and resolve this issue properly. If you would like me to put Goring Gap in Bloom's weight behind your arguments I will write to John Cotton. Just let me know.

Finally, nothing has been done about the dreadful state of the gutters in the village centre. They have not been cleared since Autumn. We now have saplings growing out of the debris. One man or woman with shovel and wheelbarrow could have tackled this months ago when it was first complained about. Please can you let me know what councillors are doing about this?

Regards

Stephanie

Email from Ron Bridle 12/04/2017:

Dear Colin,

Maybe you already have had a similar notification, but I've been forwarded an email (see below) from a film production company (Reef TV) who has been commissioned by Channel 4 to produce Britain's 'Village of the Year 2017' competition with a prize of £10,000 and fronted by Penelope Keith (see website [Home | Village of the year](#)).

-----

Good morning,

I wanted to get in touch with you in regards to a brand **new and exciting** programme that we are making for Channel 4 : **VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2017**.

This summer, **Penelope Keith** and her team of judges will be visiting villages across the UK to determine a winner, with a **£10,000 prize** up for grabs.

If you would like to *find out more* and apply on *behalf of your village*, visit our website [www.villageoftheyear.co.uk](http://www.villageoftheyear.co.uk) and follow the simple online application or email us at [voty@reeftv.com](mailto:voty@reeftv.com)

Here is [our latest press article in The Telegraph](#) about **Village of the Year 2017**.

In the meantime, please feel free to pass on my email and to spread the "Village" word! Find us on FB **@villageoftheyear** twitter **@villages2017**

Look forward to hearing from your & your village!

-----

I have replied with a holding email to say that I will circulate the information to the council to see if there is an appetite to enter the competition.

As you know, Goring won South of England Village of the year in 2010, which, as far as I know, was the last national competition of this sort, although this is a TV programme and not run by the county councils, as the previous one.

Goring could win this competition with all the attributes we have and therefore I would hope the council would be interested. I would be happy to contribute and coordinate the application as I have all the files and data from the last competition. However, there would need to be a big team assembled for this task.

Also, as our preparations are already underway for the forthcoming Britain in Bloom competition, some of the work needed in one category area of the competition is already underway.

I look forward to hearing what the council thinks.

Kind regards,

Ron.

Email received 27/4/2017

I hope you don't mind us contacting you, but we are looking for someone in Goring to help us with a little project we have running.

Lisa & myself are George Michael fans, we are also members of the GM Lovelies Facebook group. It is on this group we have seen the celebrations being planned for 24th/25th June and that the Catherine Wheel is taking part too, which is why we decided to contact you.

We have both visited Goring, on separate occasions and after talking on the Lovelies page about how beautiful it is there and how George clearly loved the peace he found there, Lisa & I had a similar idea. So we set up a Just Giving page to raise £1,000 so we can say.....

"Thank You" to the Residents of Goring, for the kindness & patience they have shown to GM's fans, in his memory.

We would like the donation to pay for something the village needs, wants or would simply like!

For this to work we need someone in Goring who can act as spoke's person for the Residents and to then liaise with us.

Do you think you can help us or know someone who would?

If you can then we would be very pleased to hear from you. If you can't then please don't worry, just let us know so we can continue to find help.

Thank you in advance for any help or advice you can give us and we look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Kim Wright & Lisa Cox.

Link to page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Kim-Lisa-GM>