

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Garden Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 13 February 2017**

**Members Present:**

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer
Vice-Chairman	John Wills
Members	David Brooker
	Mary Bulmer
	Lawrie Reavill
	Bryan Urbick
	Catherine Hall

**Officers Present:**

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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24 members of the public and press

**16/292 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Matthew Brown, Brandon Hancox, Emrhys Barrell

**16/293 To receive any declarations of interests**

None

**16/294 To receive chairman's report and announcements**

Brought forward from item 6.

The Chairman noted temperatures had risen over the Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and asked councillors to be aware that if any public statements were made it should be clear whether speaking in a personal capacity or on behalf of the Parish Council (GPC). If any questions arose to raise them first with the NP Steering Group (NPSG) to get the background.

He was disappointed the School Governors had launched a public campaign before starting a proper consultation process; in particular the lack of discussion with the education authority was worrying. It deserved a more serious consideration than an online petition or Twitter could give it. He had received a formal statement from the Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) cabinet member for Education regarding the School and had asked the clerk to put it on the website.

Innuendos were rumoured of impropriety by NP members that might amount to slander. If anybody had evidence of concern it should be brought forward and it would be dealt with correctly. The NP groups have worked hard on a difficult and challenging job and deserved the thanks of the whole village. The public were reminded that a vote is carried out at the end of the process.

He had given a short interview for ITV on the George Michael agenda item confirming that a consultation on the idea of a memorial would be considered and that all views would be welcome.

**16/295 Public Forum**

Derek James, Croft Road asked whether GPC were aware of the objections of some residents to GNP3, Manor Road, being built upon. A letter had been sent that day with full details. The Chairman noted it had been received.

**16/296 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2016**

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

**16/297 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**

None.

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 13 March 2017

**16/298 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan, a report from Andy Best and emails received regarding the Primary School.**

Mike Stares updated from Appendix A noting the NPSG's fourth public consultation had taken place on 10 December. The second Bramhill report and related documents had been uploaded to the Goring Plan website. Regarding the School two reports would soon be made public providing an objective and balanced view of the options available; one from the NPSG and the other from the Education Cabinet Member of OCC. He urged the public to read them and reiterated that the NPSG was not and never had been against looking at options for the school but the issue needed a professional appraisal before any judgement could be applied. The NPSG had their fourth meeting with school governors the previous week and he explained some of the issues around house numbers. He urged the Governors to withdraw their petition.

The Chairman noted that evidence based assessment is a legal requirement of the NP. He had not seen any evidence that the Diocese, OCC or other schools had been consulted. David Wilkins commented that a statement will be going to the school asking for detailed information and consultation.

Other issues discussed included the potential loss of commercial premises at GNP10 and the three year housing supply in SODC.

Cllr. Brooker stated he had been at an SODC Planning Committee Meeting when the NP's current status had been misrepresented.

Emails regarding the school and Andy Best's report to GPC were noted. Mike Stares hoped that questions had been answered by publication of the second Bramhill Report and related papers. Some developer briefs had been redacted at their request as being confidential.

**16/299 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer**

Brought forward from item 9.

Appendix G refers – The Chairman highlighted unitary proposals, that South Oxfordshire District Council (SODC) and the Vale of White Horse Council both now agree that one unitary council is the best option and that there is now a degree of impetus. He outlined some benefits of a unitary council including; cost savings, joined up planning, parking, other enforcement and more responsibility for Town and Parish Councils.

**16/300 Parish Finance**

**1 To approve payments for December 2016 and January 2017**

**Resolved:** That the payments be approved

**2 To note receipts for December 2016 and January 2017**

Noted

**3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 31 January 2017**

Noted

**4 To review income and expenditure against the agreed budget at the end of the third quarter 2016-17 (as at 07/02/17)**

Noted and **Resolved:** That the proposal within Appendix E1 to use operational reserves be approved.

**5 To consider an appeal by Goring United FC on refund of fees refused at the last council meeting.**

The discussion was allowed without objection despite being within the 6 month time limit for reconsideration.

Alex Fletcher, Chairman of Goring United Football Club presented his appeal for a refund due to works at Gardiner Pavilion – Appendix F.

It was noted that matches are being played at the alternative facilities at Sheepcot, that it

costs over £20,000 a year for sports ground maintenance, £175,000 plus is being spent on upgrade of the Gardiner facilities and that special care was taken to include all sports clubs in the plans for the works and that GPC have covered 18 months' worth of VAT for the clubs.

**Resolved:** That the original decision stand.

**16/301 To consider a report from the Police**

Cllr. Wills stated the police had recently dealt with an abandoned vehicle and some parking problems. They are also trying to help with dog fouling near Bourdillon field and had approached the school to help design posters.

**16/302 To consider a report on High Street issues**

Appendix H refers. A plan is being drafted of proposed highways changes in the High Street for consultation. Litter bins were discussed and it was agreed to wait until the removal of the bin at Sheepcot has been fully evaluated.

**16/303 To consider issues relating to village parking**

SODC had made contact seeking complex work to be done to review parking times, however the Chairman had discovered that similar work would not be required to change the parking fees. Cllr. Urbick commented on the state of the toilets in Wheel Orchard.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk write to SODC to seek a car park fee increase as previously discussed with them and about the state of the toilets.

**16/304 To consider a report on Gardiner Pavilion development.**

Noted

**16/305 To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues**

Appendices K, K1 refer. Cllr. Reavill noted the Robins football club had been given permission to use pitch mark tufts at Sheepcot. Discussion took place on the hedging alongside the path in Bourdillon Field.

**Resolved:** That the clerk write to neighbouring properties asking for hedging to be cut drastically back to fully clear the path.

**16/306 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues**

Cllr. M. Bulmer reported that mowing will start again next month

**16/307 To note an update on Wallingford Road pavement widening**

Appendix L refers. John Boler commented that the Transport Planning Associates report has now been circulated. He was thanked for his hard work and persistence.

**16/308 To note a request for review of a Freedom of Information Act (FOI) response and to consider the make-up of the review panel.**

Noted. **Resolved:** That the Chairman and Vice Chairman are appointed as the review panel.

**16/309 To conduct an annual review of Standing Orders and Regulations. To consider amendments to procurement quotation levels and whether votes cast should be recorded in the minutes.**

Appendix M refers. In addition to the proposal for procurement changes, it was proposed that the FOI policy be added to the Standing Orders and Regulations documents (for next meeting) and that the policy be amended to show the Chairman & Vice Chairman as the permanent reviewing panel for FOI review requests.

There was no proposal or seconder regarding the recording of votes.

**16/310 To consider the impact and issues for the village on the death of George Michael.**

Suggestions have been received for some form of memorial in the village from a number of sources. It was agreed that it was too early to make any decisions but could consult.

**Resolved:** That a working group of Cllrs. K. Bulmer, M. Bulmer and C. Hall start a consultation process.

There has been some information that the weekend of 24-25 June (anniversary of George Michael's birthday) could see large numbers of visitors to the village. The Clerk and Vice Chairman were asked to liaise with the police for advance planning. The chairman would continue his liaison with OCC.

**16/311 To note a report on Goring Village Hall**

Appendix N noted. It was also noted that the hall was the best it has looked for many years. Cllr. Urbick encouraged Members to attend the AGM and wine / cheese from 1900 on 8 March.

**16/312 To note an update on Appeal Court Application**

Appendices O – O3 noted.

**16/313 To consider a maladministration complaint about SODC**

Appendix P refers. Legal advice had been received and a complaint recommended. Additional examples of failures were discussed.

**Resolved:** That a letter of complaint be sent; the draft, with amendments, to be circulated by email prior to submission.

**16/314 To consider a request by Mike Ward, to donate two benches to be placed near the bus stop outside Goring and Streatley Railway Station.**

**Resolved:** The request approved subject to their construction being robust and long lasting.

**16/315 To note an update on Network Rail's Electrification project**

Appendix Q noted.

**16/316 To consider a proposal for a new Digital Community Alert and Newsletter Service**

Appendices R were discussed, the consensus was agreement in principal but further detail on the structure of the group was requested.

**Resolved:** That a GPC newsletter be approved but that a grant decision be postponed pending further information.

**16/317 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 6 December 2016 and 3 January 2017.**

Received and noted.

**16/318 Correspondence**

**1 Thames Path National Trail request for support to improve the Thames Path in Goring**

**Resolved:** That GPC supported the work in principle but at this time there are insufficient funds available to provide any grant.

**2 Letter from The High Sheriff regarding Carers Oxfordshire**

Noted

**3 Request from Goring and Streatley Festival to use Gardiner 13 - 17 June 2018.**

**Resolved:** Approved subject to agreement of the Cricket Club.

**16/319 Matters for future discussion**

None

**16/320 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**

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 13 March 2017

**and they are instructed to withdraw.**

**Resolved:** That the motion be approved

**16/321 To consider the annual review of staff salaries as from 1 April 2017.**

(In absence of Clerk) **Resolved:** To approve proposals contained in a report from Cllr. Urbick.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2201 hrs.