

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 13 November 2017

Members Present:

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer (KB)
Vice Chairman	John Wills (JW)
Members	Bryan Urbick BU
	Lawrie Reavill (LR)
	Catherine Hall (CH)
	David Brooker (DB)

Officers Present:

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff (CR)
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Approx. 18 members of the public and press

17/157 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies for absence were received from) Emrhys Barrell (EB) Matthew Brown (MBr), Mary Bulmer (MBu) and Carmela Boff (CB)

17/158 To receive any declarations of interests

None.

17/159 Public Forum

Ron Bridle was present to speak to Item 21(1) if required

Stephanie Bridle was present to speak to item 16(5) if required

Terry Daniels, representative of the GM group organising the June 2018 event clarified that another group of fans (via Lisa Wright) had made an offer for a bench for Goring residents to say thank you for the welcome given and not as a specific memorial for GM which Terry and her group are leading on; she hopes to submit formal plans soon for a statue and bench and that Sony may help with funding.

KB stated that CH is their liaison councillor for GPC

17/160 To approve minutes of the meetings held on 9 and 24 September 2017

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

17/161 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

17/137 Regarding Mr Braham's comments BU had researched Long Wittenham's NP. The main difference being they had not made site allocations and therefore few planning issues were involved.

17/145 CR reported that Tesco had apparently offered to supply some signs to assist with parking problems.

17/115 KB reported SODC were not able to supply a bulk litter bin at Wheel Orchard Car Park but they had confirmed collections are taking place twice a week on Monday and Friday

17/162 To receive chairman's report and announcements

KB said the NP summary had started to be delivered around the village

17/163 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan

David Wilkins reported the NP had been published for village consultation ending on 13 December he described where it is available, how comments may be submitted and how they will be reviewed. The summary is being delivered to every household in the village.

The SODC SHELAA results have been published and identify a huge amount of land surrounding

Signed:

J. Wills

Dated: 11 December 2017

Goring which SODC believes is 'suitable and available' for development; 66 ha of land which is enough for circa 2000 houses. SODC is under huge pressure to build new houses. He said that without a NP Goring risks uncontrolled development.

The NPSG would like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time to the extensive consultation programme and to the analysis and preparation of the Plan, also to GPC for their ongoing support. The NPSG look forward to receiving feedback during the Reg. 14 consultation phase.

17/164 To consider appointing a working group to progress the NP Strategic Project of improving traffic management, parking and pedestrian safety in the village centre.

KB said that DB had so far been working alone on these issues and proposed a working group to take forward the NP Strategic Project.

Resolved: That DB, JW and LR be appointed to a working group.

17/165 To consider a report on the NP Strategic Project for Goring CE Primary School

BU referred to Appendix A.

The Strategic Project Group is formed of 3 parents, 2 governors and 3 parish councillors. They had met a few times with the next major step being a feasibility study. He proposed a S.137 Grant as detailed in the appendix.

KB confirmed the funding would only be provided if the rest of the funds were forthcoming. DB asked about other funding sources, BU confirmed the group would also be looking at other sources.

Resolved: That the s.137 grant be made available in line with the proposal in Appendix A (up to half with a maximum of £6,000).

17/166 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer.

Appendix B refers.

KB also mentioned the Spatial Strategy Plan for Oxfordshire that deals with funding bids for Oxfordshire and large Capital Projects

17/167 To receive a report from the Police

JW reported a theft from motor vehicle in Lycroft where stolen credit cards had been used the same day in Portsmouth, a burglary with intent Lockstile Way, a shed burglary in Manor Road, nothing stolen. He has spoken to the PCSO about drug abuse and litter in Sheepcot and Gardiner Recreation Grounds.

17/168 To consider a report on High Street issues

Appendix C refers.

Resolved: That an email be sent to seek a lobby group for SODC to reconsider enforcement devolvement. Large vehicles would be discussed as part of the NPSP.

17/169 To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues

Appendix D refers.

LR reported a Lime tree in Gardiner was potentially sick and that further research was being carried out. KB noted that tree maintenance issues might have to be deferred while a potential safety issue takes priority.

LR proposed that an estimate be obtained for potential works in The Rectory Garden following receipt of an arboriculturalist's report with a view to considering an application to SODC.

Resolved: That an estimate be obtained.

BU proposed that the litter bin be replaced following the trial removal in Sheepcot Recreation Ground.

Resolved: That the bin be replaced and an increased budget be supported for the additional collection

LR agreed to draft a note to Goring Robins reminding them to take their own litter home and not to use the bin which is for the general public.

17/170 To receive a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues

BU commented the burial ground looks good

17/171 To receive a report regarding planned events in the village

GM Tribute 24 June 2018 – CH reported a meeting had taken place with the cricket club where concern was expressed that unacceptable damage may be a high possibility to the ground given the numbers expected (1000 plus), the Gap Festival marquee could not be used as it only accommodates 500. CH had approached the Chairman of Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust who manage Streatley Meadows, who explained that due to restrictions in the trust's Conditions it was unlikely to allow the Meadows to be used. The last option for GPC would be at Sheepcot. In addition it has been confirmed that planning permission is not required for short term use for camping.

KB noted that a full written proposal from the organising group is required before any decisions can be made

Resolved: That GPC write to formally contact Heart of Streatley Charitable Trust before completely ruling out the possibility of Streatley Meadow (CH and BU to draft).

Memorial – CH said there were two proposals; Kim Wright who has already raised £1300 and offered a stone bench as a thank you gift to village residents for the warm welcome given to fans and secondly a memorial bench and statue proposed by the GM tribute group which has the potential for sponsorship by Sony. This might be located at the base of the grass bank in the High Street should the offer for the land be progressed, full proposals are awaited.

DB asked if GM's family had been involved, CR said they were aware but had not been approached further until definite proposals were ready, it was also noted that when more details were available local consultation would be required.

Resolved: That an offer be made for the 'residents' bench to be located at Gardiner Playground.

Gap Festival – CH said the Ferry Lane Open Space has been provisionally booked for some Festival activities, they have approached the Environment Agency about use of the lock area and confirmation given that the Festival organisers may use Gardiner pavilion (public toilets will be provided separately).

17/172 Parish Finance:

1 To approve payments for October 2017

Resolved: That the payments be approved

2 To note receipts for October 2017

Noted

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

Noted

4 To consider a review of effectiveness of internal audit.

Appendix H referred

Resolved: That the review be accepted

5 To receive a report from Goring Gap in Bloom and consider a S.137 grant for 2018-19 in conjunction with the below item

BU said he thought the work done in the village by GGIB was good value for GPC

Resolved: To approve a S.137 grant as proposed in the 2018-19 budget below

6 To consider the revised budget for 2017-18 and set a budget and precept for the year 2018-19

BU explained the rationale behind the precept increase, quoting as an example that South Stoke residents pay approx. one third more per household than Goring.

Resolved: That the proposed budget revisions for 2017-18, the budget and precept for 2018-19 be approved

7 To consider a policy on grant applications

Appendix K referred.

DB proposed amendments to 3.2 line two – ‘other sources of funding for the group or project *that have either been approved or applied for*, the amount requested *from GPC*, and’

Resolved: That the amendments and policy be approved.

17/173 To consider a request from Goring Village Hall for a stall in The Rectory Garden, current fees attached.

BU declared an interest as member of the village hall committee and took no part in the discussion or vote.

KB noted GPC had never really promoted commercial use in The Rectory Garden despite wishing for it to be used more. CH suggested other places in the village might be used instead. KB asked what the Farr family felt about it, CR reported they had been consulted and had no objection to this request.

Resolved: That consent be given, subject to other bookings and at a rate of £10 per hour.

17/174 To review parish council support for the school strategic project

Item withdrawn

17/175 To review Goring's longer term development strategy

LR wished to flag up that a number of activities are under discussion and may need resources to progress, e.g. the potential for a new school, Bourdillon, other green spaces, recreation equipment, the medical centre, new council office, the Arcade, parking expansion, traffic and the village centre.

He was concerned all will require funding and space with the AONB and river as constraints and there may be competition between projects, He suggested councillors undertake some creative thinking over the next few months.

17/176 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 12 September, 10 and 24 October 2017.

Received and noted.

17/177 Correspondence

1 Email from Ron Bridle regarding a Community Awards Board

KB noted GPC need a new board to commemorate the Freedom Awards anyway.

Resolved: That approval in principle be given with the details to be discussed

2 Letter from Mrs Weetman regarding Signs and Posters Policy

BU said GPC could revise what local means; CR said this arose initially due to posters for a Pangbourne event. Councillors felt that was outside the definition of local which should be maintained as the current cluster and were not inclined to amend the policy.

3 To consider two requests to donate memorial benches

Resolved: To offer a location within Ferry Lane open space for the first and approve the burial ground bench. Both to be in line with the council's policy of using low maintenance, recycled material where suitable.

4 To note letter of thanks from Stephanie Bridle

Noted

17/178 Matters for future discussion

Signed:

J. Wills

Dated: 11 December 2017

BU said he was aware a number of sporting and charity groups were getting short of volunteers and wished to propose an event of a 'get involved' day sponsored by GPC.

LR asked whether a January meeting should be reconsidered.

DB commented on the impact of increased workload on the Clerk, mentioned earlier by LR, given the number of activities in progress or planned. KB suggested an initial discussion outside of council meetings.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2110 hrs.

Abbreviations:

GM	George Michael
GPC	Goring on Thames Parish Council
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPSG	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
NPSP	Neighbourhood Plan Strategic Project
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
SHELAA	Strategic Housing Economic Land Availability Assessment
SODC	South Oxfordshire District Council