

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 14 March 2016**

**Members Present:**

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

**Officers Present:**

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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10 members of the public and press

**16/32 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:  
Cllr. Emrhys Barrell

**16/33 To receive any declarations of interest**

Cllr. Urbick – other interests – as member of the Village Hall Committee and Treasurer of the Railway Action Group (RAG)

**16/34 Public Forum**

Arthur Meech from Mason's funfair discussed fee increases on the council's tariff and proposed a fee of £400 for the next two years, then to be reviewed.  
A member of the public asked if any feedback had been received on the weir hydro project. The Chairman stated that as SODC Cllr. he had asked for a meeting with planning officers, as the Parish Council the outcome was still under consideration but it was not a specific agenda item today due to time limits. David Wilkins, chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (NPSG) said he doubted they could take it on as a topic.

**16/35 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016**

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

**16/36 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**

Attempts continue to try and obtain quotes for the rear gate at Rectory Garden and re-decoration at Whitehill Burial Ground.

**16/37 To receive chairman's report and announcements**

Proposed moving item 18 to 8. Approved. (Also see item 16/56 later).

**16/38 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan**

David Wilkins, NPSG chairman, gave an update from Appendix A. The budget had been reviewed but with no change to the overall spend. The group have met with the medical practice who are happy they could expand, the school is more difficult given uncertainty over numbers. The NPSG and teams involved were congratulated on the consultation day.

**16/39 Parish Finance**

**1 To approve payments for February 2016**

**Resolved:** That the payments be approved

Signed:

K.Bulmer

Dated: 11 April 2016

- 2 To note receipts for February 2016**  
Noted
- 3 To note Cash and Investment Reconciliation as at 29 February 2016**  
Noted
- 4 To consider an amended budget for the Neighbourhood Plan**  
**Resolved:** That the budget be approved
- 5 To consider a supplementary budget of £805 for grave digging. The budget of £5,000 will overspend this month due to the number of recent burials. All payments are covered by income from fees.**  
**Resolved:** That the supplementary budget be approved
- 16/40 To consider an appeal against fees proposed for the use of Sheepcot by Mason's Fair.**  
Cllr. Urbick stated he had sympathy for the fair and that the council are trying to get a fee structure in place, he noted there are increasing costs in looking after the grounds.  
**Resolved:** To fix the fee at £400 (inc. VAT) for the next two years and then review
- 16/41 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer**  
Appendix F was noted. Cllr. Urbick asked about a referendum to raise taxes. The Chairman explained they could raise by 4% without a referendum but it may be felt that an increase above that would not be worth the additional cost. SODC has large reserves so are not increasing their rates.  
He will be raising questions at the next OCC meeting regarding road lining and deregulation of parking.
- 16/42 To consider a report from the Police**  
In the last two months there have been several burglaries to sheds (Manor Road and High Street), a spate of dwelling burglaries in Henley, a theft from motor vehicle in Wallingford Road and a suspicious caller in Whitehill Road. Also reports of counterfeit money.  
Cllr. Hancox asked about installing ANPR and CCTV cameras, questions were raised about the legality, who by and how it could be monitored and what we could do with the data. Further research would be needed.  
**Action:** Cllr's Hancox and Brooker to research options for CCTV and ANPR via the clerk.
- 16/43 To consider any Freedom of Information appeals**  
None
- 16/44 To consider a report on High Street issues**  
Cllr. Brooker reported the council has not yet heard from OCC regarding High Street traffic options. At the recent NP consultation it appeared that High Street issues were top of the list of concerns. The Clerk reported bicycle racks had now been fitted outside the café, funded by the Arcade.
- 16/45 To consider a report on Recreation Ground issues**  
Cllr. Reavill reported that there was some support for an interim plan, no reply had been received from the Amenities Association and that the council might need more community involvement should there be a need to raise funds. Alan Jones stated the Amenities Association support the proposals but not actively as they are now very busy and somewhat disheartened by previous rejections.  
**Resolved:** That a working group of Cllr's Reavill, Brooker, Wills, and M. Bulmer put a proposal together for equipment at Gardiner. Target date – May meeting.
- 16/46 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues**

Cllr. M. Bulmer reported that the lawns had been cut and it looked nice.

- 16/47 To consider a report on Gardiner Pavilion development**  
Cllr Brooker reported that the tender documents should be out by the end of the week. Additional suggestions for contractors were to be forwarded to Cllr. Hall.
- 16/48 To consider a request from Goring Robins Football Club for a deep clean, redecoration and installation of a hatch in the kitchen at Sheepcot Pavilion.**  
**Action:** That Cllr's. Brooker and Wills would arrange an inspection and report back
- 16/49 To consider an application to South Oxfordshire District Council for a grant towards the costs of the Queen's Birthday celebrations.**  
**Resolved:** To apply for the grant on behalf of local groups
- 16/50 To consider options for dealing with parking by railway station users at Sheepcot Recreation Ground following a complaint from a resident**  
Cllr. Hancox suggested putting a meter in. The Chairman proposed monitoring the situation as there had been only one complaint so far.  
**Resolved:** That the Clerk monitor the situation and report back should there be a continuing problem.
- 16/51 To consider a report on Unitary Authorities in Oxfordshire.**  
The Chairman referred to Appendix I. He stated the District's proposal lacked substance and he had circulated a number of questions raised. He was of the view that Parish and Town Councils need to be involved in the discussions.  
**Action:** To be put on the agenda for the next meeting to consider actions
- 16/52 To note an update from The Gap Festival and to consider a request to nominate a member to liaise.**  
Noted. Cllr. Hall was nominated.
- 16/53 To consider a report on a meeting with Chilterns Conservation Board.**  
Cllr. Reavill referred to Appendix K. Discussion took place on aspects of the weir application and SODC's planning decision.  
**Resolved:** That letters to the Environment Agency and the applicants be drafted and for a solicitor to be asked for initial advice by Cllr. Urbick.
- 16/54 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 19 January, 2 and 16 February 2016**  
Received and noted. Cllr. Brooker noted that the Community Infrastructure Levy starts on 1 April.
- 16/55 Correspondence**  
The annual Community Emergency Planning Survey had been received. There was a discrepancy between older and more recent lists of reception centres.  
**Action:** The Clerk to contact the previous listed facilities to see if they are still available for emergency use.
- 16/56 Matters for future discussion**  
Reverting to Chairman's announcement's - he gave an update on the Railway Action Group. Network Rail have put money aside for a potential refit and alternative design plans are being drawn up, they have admitted they got it wrong and are prepared to replace if necessary. Cllr. Urbick stated the precedence has been accepted that the structures are not permitted development and that SODC have been remiss in the whole process.
- 16/57 Confidential Business - To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following**

Signed:

K.Bulmer

Dated: 11 April 2016

**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.**

**Resolved:** That the motion be approved

**16/58 To review pay and conditions of service of staff members to apply from 1 April 2016.**

The Clerk left the meeting. Cllr. Urbick made recommendations to set the Clerk's salary to point 31 on the NALC scale, to not increase the Assistant Clerk's salary and to engage an HR consultant to review both posts. He recommended a 1% increase to the cleaner's flat rates and an increase to the hourly rate to the new National Living Wage.

**Resolved:** To accept all the recommendations

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2145 hrs.