

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

**Members Present:**

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

**Officers Present:**

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff
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10 members of the public and press.

**16/243 To receive apologies for absence**

Matthew Brown, Brandon Hancox

**16/244 To receive any declarations of interests**

None.

**16/245 Public Forum**

John Boler, MIGGS, gave an update on the current situation of the project to widen Wallingford Road pavement. Network Rail (NR) have commissioned a risk assessment on the barrier which recommends a line allowing for a wider pavement but neither Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) nor NR appear willing to pay for the works. MIGGS continues to press for action.

Rhys Hamilton said he has written to the Goring Gap News (GGN) about fund raising for continued support to Readibus. (Item 8/5).

Alan Jones was concerned the proposal to restrict parking hours at Wheel Orchard Car Park was the wrong decision and that higher charges should apply for longer hours.

**16/246 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2016.**

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

**16/247 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**

Cllr. Barrell reported on a meeting held with School Governors. They are talking to OCC and suppliers about improved signage. The school are also running a survey with parents on how children get to the school.

**16/248 To receive chairman's report and announcements**

None.

**16/249 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan (NP)**

David Wilkins presented Appendix A and added that meetings had been held with site developers and land owners, some further information is to be gathered and then the group will be able to assess sites for selection. The Chairman noted the resignation of an NPSG Committee Member and that consideration will be given to a replacement.

Item 17 was brought forward

**16/250 To note a letter from Goring Primary School regarding potential sites for relocation and consider an update from a recent meeting with School Governors.**

Letters dated 13 October (Appendix L) and 11 November, which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting were noted. The second letter stated the Governors' belief

that expansion into Bourdillon field was not practically or economically viable.

**16/251 Parish Finance**

**1 To approve payments for October 2016**

**Resolved:** That the payments be approved.

**2 To note receipts for October 2016**

Noted.

**3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 31 October 2016.**

Noted.

**4 To consider a revised budget for 2016-17, a draft budget and reserves for 2017-18**

Cllr. Urbick explained the rationale behind the proposed budgets and movement of reserves – mainly to cover the costs of the Gardiner Pavilion refurbishment and the lack of short-term grant funding opportunities, the 2017-18 precept would see around 2% rise.

**Resolved:** Unanimously, that the revised budget for 2016-17, proposals for the reserves and 2017-18 budget and precept of £95,066 be approved.

**5 To consider a request for continued grant for Readibus**

**Resolved:** That the budgeted grant for 2017-18 be approved and that the Parish Council would underwrite any shortfall for the remainder of the financial year should MIGGS be unable to raise sufficient voluntary donations.

**16/252 To note a report from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer**

The report at Appendix G was noted.

**16/253 To consider a report from the Police**

Cllr. Wills reported the police had recently been to the school to talk on Stranger Danger; more parking tickets had been issued, particularly in Manor Road; there had been a burglary at a builders in Elvendon Road and some theft from motor vehicles. They are upping patrols as some anti-social problems in Sonning appear to be spreading to Goring

**16/254 To consider a report on High Street issues including emails regarding litter**

Proposals contained within Appendix H were considered.

**Resolved:** That all proposals on the High Street be accepted leading to an informal consultation prior to formal submission to OCC, to include a proposal to restrict parking outside the Arcade for loading only. It was noted this is likely to be a long term project and funding would need to be identified.

Regarding litter issues and emails – it was noted that SODC have only just taken over responsibility for the public areas and the Clerk contacts them if issues arise. It was suggested that McColl's be formally reminded about emptying their bins.

A discussion took place on the request to add an extra bin at Sheepcot. It was noted that areas with no bins encourage litter to be taken home and therefore it was -

**Resolved:** To remove the litter bin at Sheepcot for a trial period to see what effect that might have.

**16/255 To consider issues relating to village parking, email from a resident and to note the outcome of a meeting held with SODC regarding Wheel Orchard Car Park.**

The Chairman reported on a meeting held with SODC who suggested restricting the hours for parking rather than increasing the charges for longer stays. The options were discussed; it was noted that away from the village centre there are on-street parking spaces available for longer stays and no restrictions in Wheel Orchard on a Sunday.

**Resolved:** To leave intact the request for SODC to consider restricting hours to encourage short term parking.

Regarding Railway Cottages it was noted that the Council had objected to the Tesco development on traffic matters and The Chairman raised concerns over SODC's

continued blocking of attempts to take on civil parking enforcement.

**16/256 To consider a report on Gardiner Pavilion development.**

Work is due to start on 21 November with a target to finish in April.

**16/257 To consider a report on Recreation Ground issues**

Appendix J referred.

The Chairman was of the view that as the budget had now been considered and agreed for the following year that this proposal would now need grant applications, however in order to apply we require plans for the Council to approve, obtain quotes and carry out local consultation.

**Resolved:** To obtain the services of a relevant architect to assist with drawing up plans.

**16/258 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues**

Cllr. M. Bulmer reported that mowing and tidying is due this week which will improve the current slightly tired autumnal appearance.

**16/259 To consider a report on Lime Trees in The Rectory Garden**

Appendix K referred. Cllr. Reavill sought a management plan for the trees and to obtain some advice on options. The restrictive covenants were mentioned and Stephanie Bridle commented that as Trustees the Council could, if it so wished, apply to get those amended.

**Resolved:** To approach SODC tree officers about their views on crown lifting / thinning to allow more light in.

**16/260 To consider a report on Wallingford Road Pavement**

Appendix M referred.

It was noted that this is an ongoing project via MIGGS. The clerk was asked to circulate the NWR risk assessment report and the analysis summary to all councillors.

**16/261 To note a verbal update on the Weir Judicial Review hearing.**

Cllr's Wills, Hall and Urbick gave a summary of the hearing from the previous week, it was reported that an agreement with concessions had been made with the Environment Agency and that the ground against the EA had been dropped. The outcome is awaited.

**16/262 To consider a reviewed Risk Assessment for Christmas Trees and Lights**

**Resolved:** To accept the assessment at Appendix N

**16/263 To consider annual risk assessments.**

**Resolved:** To accept the assessments at Appendices O and O1

**16/264 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meetings held on 27 September and 25 October 2016.**

Received and noted.

**16/265 Correspondence**

1 A letter received from South and Vale Carers asking for a grant was considered.

**Resolved:** To award a grant of £100

2 A letter received from Citizen's Advice Bureau asking for a grant was considered.

**Resolved:** To award a grant of £50

**16/266 Matters for future discussion**

Cllr. Brooker reported he attended the Town and Parish Forum recently and wished to pass on details of the Go Active, Get Healthy initiative which may be of interest to suitable groups.

Cllr. Hall may have a contractor able to replace the gate between The Rectory Garden and

The Village Hall.

**16/267 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.**

**Resolved:** That the motion be approved.

**16/268 To consider quotations for maintenance work at Gardiner and Bourdillon playgrounds**

**Resolved:** To award the work to RPM at a quoted cost of £1,150

**16/269 Additional Agenda Item at short notice: To note the resignation of Mr Andy Best from the NPSG and consider a recommendation to appoint Enid Worsley to the vacant position.**

**Resolved:** Unanimously, to accept the nomination.

(For ratification at next Council Meeting)

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2120 hrs.