

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7.30pm Monday 9 October 2017**

**Members Present:**

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer (KB)
Vice Chairman	John Wills (JW)
Members	Bryan Urbick BU)
	Carmela Boff (CB)
	Lawrie Reavill (LR)
	Catherine Hall (CH)

**Officers Present:**

Clerk	Colin Ratcliff (CR)
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Nine members of the public and press

**17/130 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies for absence were received from David Brooker (DB), Emrhys Barrell (EB) Matthew Brown (MBr) and Mary Bulmer (MBu)

**17/131 To receive any declarations of interests**

None.

**17/132 Public Forum**

None

**17/133 To approve minutes of the meetings held on 11 and 13 September 2017**

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

**17/134 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda**

17/84 Previous minutes, CR reported only one quote had been obtained for an entrance at the South East corner. No decision was made.

17/111 CH reported the Cricket Club had raised concerns about the use of Gardiner for a George Michael tribute. KB suggested continuing to work towards using Gardiner as it is central. CR reported the GM group had apparently discounted using the Gap Festival marquee as they estimate selling 2,000 tickets. It was agreed to have a standing agenda item about events.

**17/135 To receive chairman's report and announcements**

KB congratulated Goring Gap in Bloom on the achievement of a Gold Award in the Britain in Bloom competition, thanking all members and volunteers for a well-deserved award.

The school also received a special mention in the same competition and was congratulated.

**17/136 To consider a report on the Neighbourhood Plan**

Mike Stares reported that both NP documents should be in a quality state for submission to GPC within 2 weeks, he apologised for the delay due to shifting sands. SODC have revised the housing numbers for Goring from 251 to 140. Any further new information will now be considered during the consultation. He thanked CH, BU and CR for their assistance to the NPSG.

The Reg. 14 consultation will include a summary going to all households in the village, meetings with residents about site specific requirements and drop in surgeries. In response to questions; he said feedback requests will be structured, there is no order of priority for the Strategic Plans and there is pressure to increase density to 30 per hectare but Goring's unique characteristics affect that.

KB stated that GPC will receive copies and an Extraordinary Council Meeting arranged to consider moving to consultation but that meeting will not be to discuss the draft Plan in

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 13 November 2017

detail.

**17/137 To receive an update on the NP Strategic Project for Goring CE Primary School**  
CB referred to Appendix A.

Geoff Braham asked about further investigation of conditional preference for options outside of the current plan as that has been included in other NPs. BU asked Mr Braham to provide details of those NPs that include it and the School Group would discuss it with the NPSG. Mr Braham indicated Long Wittenham, though acknowledged that Goring may be different because of size and scope of plan. BU to review.

**17/138 Parish Finance:**

**1 To approve payments for September 2017**

**Resolved:** That the payments be approved

**2 To note receipts for September 2017**

Noted

**3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 30 September 2017**

Noted

**4 To review income, expenditure and the current budget at the end of the second quarter 2017-18.**

BU submitted a revised 2017-18 budget within Appendix H.

**Resolved:** That all adjustments to the budget be approved

**5 To accept and approve the annual return for 2016-17 following the report received from the external auditors BDO LLP.**

BU noted the comments which were being addressed.

**Resolved:** That the annual return be accepted and approved.

**6 To consider appointment of an Internal Auditor for 2016-2017.**

**Resolved:** To continue using Arrow Accounting.

**7 To consider a S.144 Local Government Act 1972 grant application from GGBN re Christmas**

Appendices G and G1 referred.

**Resolved:** To support the bid in full.

**8 To receive a draft budget for 2018-19**

BU presented a draft budget for 2018-19 and invited questions and comments over the next month. He proposed a 7% precept increase giving a Band D an approximate increase of 32p per month. Reasons being, inflation, keeping the precept similar over previous years but with increased housing numbers, GPC being tasked to take on more activities, a delay in CIL money and wish to contribute to projects and reserves. KB said GPC need to be more aware of ongoing maintenance issues and asked councillors to consider a higher increase of 15% to support reserves and other needs in the Parish. He noted that parish councils are the only councils not limited to a 4% rise due to their occasional need for significant funding and there is likely to be some significant growth in the village. BU mentioned the need for a strategy for grant applications and will make a proposal to the next meeting.

**17/139 To note reports from County Councillor / District Councillor Kevin Bulmer.**

Appendix I refers.

KB added that SODC have released their Local Plan for consultation.

Signed:

K. Bulmer

Dated: 13 November 2017

- 17/140 To consider a report from the Police**  
 JW reported a homeless person sleeping rough had moved back to Reading and the police have re-released their appeal for witnesses regarding a sexual assault.
- 17/141 To consider a report on High Street issues**  
 Appendix J refers. BU stated Goring Village Hall trustees had suggested trying a temporary cone system on the grass verge outside The Rectory Garden when events are taking place. This was welcomed.  
 CR stated there are spaces available in the Community Centre Car Park and was asked to advertise on the website and on notice boards.
- 17/142 To consider a report on Recreation Grounds issues**  
 LR reported that refurbishment at the Sheepcot Pavilion was needed, suggesting £10k for the budget.  
 Replacement swings are being fitted at Bourdillon Field on October 10<sup>th</sup>.  
 A meeting of the recreation equipment working group would be arranged this month.  
 He proposed that an arboriculturalist be asked to report on the potential for thinning and crown lifting at The Rectory Garden.  
**Resolved:** That an arboriculturalist be asked to supply a report for consideration.
- 17/143 To consider a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues**  
 None
- 17/144 To consider a request from Goring CE School for GPC to make a formal offer regarding the use of Bourdillon Field for the school**  
 BU said the school required a formal offer for consideration in using their existing site versus other site studies. There are some covenants and it is registered with the Charity Commissioners whose permission would be needed should any offer progress.  
**Resolved:** That the offer be made subject to GPC's approval of any proposal and final approval by the Charity Commissioners.
- 17/145 To consider a complaint regarding parking by Tesco Customers in Sloane Close**  
 It was noted this was one of the issues raised by GPC in the planning process.  
**Resolved:** That GPC write to Tesco to ask what they might do to help alleviate the situation.
- 17/146 To review the council's complaints policy**  
**Resolved:** That the policy at Appendix L be approved.
- 17/147 To consider an offer from SSE for six staff members to do a day's volunteer work in the village.**  
 CB said a team from her workplace are available on to assist with a day working on anything that needs doing in the village.  
**Resolved:** The offer was welcomed and suggested a deep clean at Sheepcot Pavilion would be useful.
- 17/148 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2017**  
 Received and noted.
- 17/149 Correspondence**
- 1 To consider an email received regarding a donation for a memorial bench for George Michael**  
**Resolved:** That GPC take up the offer of a lease of land on the High Street and ask the donators of funds for a design and costs of a memorial bench in stone.
  - 2 To consider a s.137 Local Government Act 1972 grant and ongoing electricity**

**supply to Goring Robins for a defibrillator box and permission to mount on the external Sheepcot pavilion wall**

**Resolved:** That a grant of £375.00 be awarded and agreement for GPC to take on the ongoing costs of an electricity supply once fitted.

**3 To consider a S. 137 Local Government Act 1972 grant request for a defibrillator at Goring Railway Station**

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

**4 To note letter of thanks received from Goring Cricket Club**

Noted

**17/150 Matters for future discussion**

CH said she had held a meeting about The Gap Festival 2018, there was a request to identify areas where 'busking' might take place; The Rectory Garden, Arcade and Lock Approach were suggested as possible locations. The organisers would like clarification on the posters policy and a more permanent notice board for advertising. It was suggested GPC have nothing suitable and that private property or premises may be more suitable for a notice board.

JW asked about security lights at Sheepcot. CR reported they had been fitted recently.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 2045 hrs.

**Abbreviations:**

GM	George Michael
GPC	Goring on Thames Parish Council
NP	Neighbourhood Plan
NPSG	Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group
SODC	South Oxfordshire District Council