

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GORING ON THAMES PARISH COUNCIL
Bellême Room, Goring Village Hall 7:30 pm Monday 14th October 2019

Members Present:

Chairman	Kevin Bulmer (KB)
Members	Bryan Urbick (BU)
	Matthew Brown (MBr)
	Sonia Lofthouse (SL)
	Catherine Hall (CH)
	Mary Bulmer (MBu)
	Lawrie Reavill (LR)
	David Brooker (DB)
	John Wills (JW)

Officers Present:

Assistant Clerk	Mike Ward (MW)
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Up to 20 members of the public

19/200 Discussion with David Rouane, SODC Cabinet Member for Housing and Environment (Agenda item 7 brought forward due to possible power cut)

David Rouane (DR) had been invited to the meeting to speak about parking problems in South Oxfordshire and what can be done to address them. He explained that they fall into three categories:

Car Parks (which can be privately owned or owned by SODC)
Illegal Parking
Nuisance Parking.

SODC Car Parks tend to be cheaper than those that are privately owned, and are aimed at short stay parking (mainly for shopping). Privately owned car parks such as those at GWR stations tend to be expensive as they are viewed as a source of additional revenue by the company.

Penalties for Illegal Parking can only be enforced by the police, and it is not a priority for them. Vacancies for PCSOs in the Thames Valley have been as high as 60 in recent months. Some Councils have paid for a PCSO but found that they were unable to dictate how the officer was used. An alternative to this would be Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE), whereby responsibility for enforcing parking restrictions is transferred from the police to the local authority. This was agreed in principal by SODC in July 2019 but the Department for Transport requires all three Oxfordshire District Councils to submit a joint plan involving a feasibility study costing £30,000 per Council, and mapping of all yellow line restrictions in the county which has to be supplied by the County Council. Ultimate sign off rests with the Secretary of State. It is estimated that it will cost each Council £250,000 to set up the system, but it is likely to be approved as the pressure to do something is so strong.

Members of the public then raised the following questions/suggestions:

Use of 'unofficial' stickers on vehicles considered to be parked illegally. Response: stickers cannot be used but it was noted that in some areas (e.g. outside schools) notices placed on windscreens had been used to some effect.

Permits for on-street parking. Response (DR): Since the residents would need to pay for such a scheme it is unlikely to be popular with a majority of residents.

Use of parking meters. Response (DR): This would need to be done by the County Council as they own the roads, but they are reluctant to do it.

Police to employ civilians to do it. Response (DR): police not interested in doing this.

Signed:

Dated: 11th November 2019

Problem parking at the intersection of Lockstile Way and Wallingford Road – a case for double yellow lines or a time restriction e.g. 7 am to 9 am to deter commuters. Response (DR): if there is persistent dangerous parking in any location, call the police on 101 and contact OCC Highways, suggesting double yellow lines which might help psychologically even if the parking falls foul of the Highway Code. This does not need to be done through the Parish Council. Fixmystreet can be used to contact OCC Highways.

Use of CCTV. Response (DR): No need for CCTV as photos of offending vehicles can be used, but police are unlikely to view it as a priority for action. Very expensive to install and monitor. In any case not possible in residential streets.

Yellow lines not wide enough so cannot be enforced. Response (KB): This is not true as within a conservation area narrow lines are perfectly legal. Members of the public are encouraged to spread the word among those who think otherwise.

KB stressed that things are happening, albeit slowly. DR had explained the process and why it is taking so long. Estimated timescale for CPE to begin in South Oxfordshire is 18-24 months. In the meantime despite it not being a priority the police have been noted to take enforcement action in the village from time to time.

DR then explained how things are expected to change once CPE is in force. There will be one or two wardens employed who will visit different blackspots randomly. DB commented that this would not work and there would need to be far more visibility. DR suggested getting together with other Parish Councils interested in employing additional resources.

KB noted that Wheel Orchard car park was often full of commuters who don't want to park at the railway station, but that the railway station car park was also often full. This needs to be addressed too.

A resident questioned whether it is illegal to park in turning bays. Response (DR): Ask OCC Highways to put yellow lines or 'KEEP CLEAR' markings.

DB advised that some parking problems in the vicinity of High Street would be alleviated by GPC's proposed works in High Street, and hoped that SODC would follow through on CPE as quickly as possible.

DR concluded that there is always a fourth option that often seems to be overlooked: to use cars less. He was thanked for his useful presentation.

19/201 To receive apologies for absence.

Debbie Gee (DG)

19/202 To receive declarations of interests

CH declared an interest in item 16 on the agenda (planning application P19/S2670/HH).

19/203 Public Forum

A resident pointed out that before bollards are installed in the Community Centre car park the number of parking bays should be reviewed in case more spaces could be fitted in. KB said that GPC will consider this.

A resident requested that GPC should exert any influence possible to resolve the traffic problems caused by on-street parking in Streatley High Street. Queues can go back as far as the Miller of Mansfield, and emergency ambulances have been severely delayed by this congestion. KB remarked that the problem had not been helped by WBC's decision to refuse additional parking for The Swan, despite Streatley PC and GPC being in favour of it. It was agreed to remind Streatley PC of GPC's concern and ask what more can be done to support them.

A resident asked if GPC had written to the CEO of the Youth Hostels Association asking them to stop the sale of Streatley YHA, currently on the market. KB responded that GPC was waiting to see what Streatley PC's response was, and how GPC could support them. It is understood they were discussing whether to try to register it as an Asset of Community Value. To be added to the agenda of the next GPC Planning Committee Meeting (29 October).

A resident noted that Maureen Whitcher has retired from the Litter Picking group, and asked if GPC would consider nominating a Councillor to head up the activity in future. See item 10 on the agenda (correspondence).

19/204 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 9th and 24th September 2019

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

19/205 Matters arising from those minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

None.

19/206 To receive Chairman's report and announcements

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Maureen Whitcher for all she had done over the past years with the Litter Picking group. The Council agreed to send her a letter of thanks.

He reported that the funeral of former GPC Chairman Norman Radley on 1st October had been well attended, and he was pleased that the plaque commemorating his efforts in the village had been unveiled at the station before he passed away.

He congratulated Goring Gap in Bloom for achieving Gold Award status (at which point there was applause from the attendees) and looked forward to the impending results of the national competition.

19/207 To receive a report from District Councillor Maggie Filipova-Rivers (MFR)

Appendix A refers.

KB added that the motion opposing Reading Borough Council's proposal for a third Reading Bridge had been passed resoundingly.

19/208 To receive a report from County Councillor Kevin Bulmer

Nothing further to report.

19/209 Correspondence: To consider an email regarding the regular village litter pick

C1 refers

BU pointed out that GPC has a budget for communication regarding the Litter Pick. The idea of appointing a Councillor was a good idea. KB said it will be considered; maybe more than one Councillor would be involved. It will be added to the agenda for the next full Council meeting.

19/210 To consider a proposal for a Street Play Zone

Appendix A refers

Resolved: BU to investigate what would need to be done and whether it is practical.

19/211 To consider and approve an annual General Risk Assessment

Appendix B refers

Resolved: Approved with the addition of Computer Back-up in Internal Controls under Business Activity

19/212 To consider and approve an annual Financial Controls Assessment

Appendix C refers

Resolved: Approved with grants merged into one heading.

19/213 To consider and approve a Review of Effectiveness of Internal Audit

Appendix D refers

Resolved: Approved

19/214 To consider a draft accessibility statement for publication

Appendix E refers

Resolved: The statement is to be published.

19/215 To consider the following planning application:

P19/S2670/HH 48 Cleeve Down Goring RG8 0HA

CH declared an interest and withdrew from the meeting during this discussion.

Resolved: That GPC has **no objections**

19/216 To consider a report on Wallingford Road pavement widening

Appendix F refers

It is expected that MIGGS will contribute £3,000 which will release GPC earmarked funds.

Resolved: GPC to pay £6,000 towards the scheme, £5,000 from reserves and £1,000 from other appropriate budget(s) to be determined by the Clerk/Assistant Clerk

19/217 To consider a report on Sheepcot Pavilion

Appendix G refers

DB questioned the decision of the extraordinary meeting held on 24th September at which it was resolved to defer replacing the boiler until the sports clubs had submitted their plans so that it was known what capacity was required. KB explained that they were trying to avoid spending money on something that might need to be replaced soon after. LR said it was irritating that the sports clubs still had not presented any plans but there was no alternative to replacing it.

Resolved: SL and DB to review the proposals to check that the lowest priced option meets current requirements. If not, consider the next lowest priced option. The lowest priced suitable option will be implemented. Money from CIL to be allocated to cover this.

19/218 To consider adoption of telephone box in the High Street (removal notice in place from BT)

Resolved: To pay the £1 adoption fee and request that the electricity supply be retained. Possible future uses of the phone box to be discussed at a later date.

Standing Items:

19/219 To receive a report on the NP Strategic Project for Goring CE Primary School

No update since the last meeting

19/220 To consider a report on the NP Strategic Project for traffic management, parking and pedestrian safety in the village centre

Appendix H refers.

Resolved: That Glanvilles be appointed to develop the High Street improvement plans.

19/221 To receive a report from the Police

11/09/2019 Theft from vehicle – Icen Close

12/09/2019 Theft of disable buggy

13/09/2019 Malicious communications

23/09/2019 Business burglary – Penelope’s Doggy Boutique

1/10/2019 Criminal damage to vehicle in Cleeve Road: youths jumping on roof of car

3/10/2019 Criminal damage to vehicle: windscreen smashed (also in Crays Pond, Whitchurch and South Stoke)

3/10/2019 Shoplifting at Tesco

7/10/2019 Theft of garden furniture

19/222 To receive a report on Recreation Grounds issues

LR reported that the Bourdillon play area has a new surface. There had been an issue with the water supply at Gardiner for which Thames Water was responsible but thankfully this had been resolved in time for the weekend fixtures.

19/223 To receive a report on White Hill Burial Ground issues

MBu reported that the flowers cared for by Greenfingers were looking lovely. MBu, BU and KB are drafting a letter concerning the revised Burial Ground regulations.

Resolved: Clerk/Assistant Clerk to send a letter of appreciation to Greenfingers.

19/224 To receive a report regarding planned events in the village

Nothing to report.

19/225 To receive a report on the Conservation Area Appraisal

Nothing to report.

19/226 Parish Finance:

1 To approve payments for September 2019

Resolved: That the payments be approved

2 To note receipts for September 2019

Noted.

3 To note the bank account and reserves balances as at 30th September 2019

Noted.

4 To review income and expenditure as at the end of Quarter 2 2019/20

Noted.

19/227 Reports from Planning Committee – to receive minutes of meeting held on 27th August 2019

Minutes received.

19/228 Matters for future discussion

JW advised that he had received two serious complaints about odour from the fish and chip shop in High Street. KB advised that this was an issue for SODC.

SL agreed to suggest locations for more dog poo bins to be considered at the next meeting.

19/229 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

19/230 To consider quotes for tree surveying

Resolved: To award the contract to Heritage Tree Services.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.22 pm.

Abbreviations (where used):

CA	Conservation Area
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
GiB	Goring on Thames in Bloom/Goring Gap in Bloom
GGN	Goring Gap News

GPC Goring on Thames Parish Council
MIGGS Mobility Issues Group for Goring and Streatley
NALC National Association of Local Councils
NP Neighbourhood Plan
NWR Network Rail
OCC Oxfordshire County Council
SODC South Oxfordshire District Council