



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Virtual Meeting of the Goring On Thames Parish Council Monday 09th November 2020 at 7:30pm

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

MoP1: Budget queries, 1 High Street Works and S106 Line has reduced significantly.

Goring in Bloom: Read a pre-prepared statement regarding the budget over concerns regarding the previous funding of the Bloom Group by the Council.

MIGGS: Asks for a fair wind with the Correspondence with respect the Station Road, there is no current budgetary request with the request.

Members Present:

Chairman	Cllr K Bulmer (KB)
Vice Chairman	Cllr John Wills (JW)
Members	Cllr Bryan Urbick (BU)
	Cllr Laurie Reavill (LR)
	Cllr David Brooker (DB)
	Cllr Matthew Brown (MB)
	Cllr Sonia Lofthouse (SL)
	Cllr Emma McCorkell (EM)
	Cllr Tony Virgo-Harris (TVH)

Officers Present:

Clerk	Laura White (LW)
Assistant Clerk	Mike Ward (MW)

Public and Press: Total: 11, including District Cllr M Filipova-Rivers.

Meeting started 19:43

20.07.1. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given. (LGA 1972 s85(1))

20.07.1.1. To approve the absence of Cllr M Bulmer of more than 6 months from the date of last attendance to allow full recuperation from their recent illness.

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous.

No other apologies.

20.07.2. Declarations of Interests (LA 2011 s31)

None

20.07.3. To approve the minutes of previous council meetings

20.07.3.1. Meeting held on 14th September 2020

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous.

20.07.3.2. Extra Ordinary Meeting held on the 05th October 2020

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous.

20.07.3.3. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

None

20.07.4. To receive Chairman's report and announcements

The Chairman welcomed the two new councillors. The reports received from the Co-options Working Group said every candidate was of high quality and the chairman offered thanks to all candidates for putting themselves forward.

20.07.5. To receive Clerk's Report

20.07.5.1. Approve creation of the Staffing Committee, approve ToR and appoint members.

Resolved: Approved, to create Staffing Committee and Terms of Reference, appointing KB, MB, TVH, by Majority

20.07.5.2. To advertise the vacancy for Facilities Assistant to be advertised as soon as Job Description is finalised by the clerk in conjunction with members of the Staffing Committee.

Resolved: Approved, to advertise for a Facilities Assistant, Unanimous.

20.07.5.3. To approve using the £200 previously agreed, for the little Christmas Trees.

Resolved: Approved to use £200 for the little trees on the high street, Unanimous.

20.07.5.4. Meeting with bloom, cannot award grants, therefore cannot pursue Bloom activities as we need a committee.

Noted

20.07.5.5. To note, members of the public have been writing directly to the landscape architect with requests.

Noted, Landscape architect to be asked to direct queries back to the Council.

Motion without Notice: To appoint further members to the Open Spaces Working Group:

Resolved: Proposed & Seconded EM to join the Open Spaces Working Group, Approved, Unanimous.

20.07.5.6. To note Goring United's FA Award

Noted

20.07.6. To receive Facilities Report

20.07.6.1. To consider training for a Level 2 inspector to complete monthly and 3 monthly checks of the Play Equipment Areas.

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous.

20.07.6.2. To consider closing the Bourdillon Play Equipment Area again.

Proposal: to write to the Public Health Officer to ask for guidance with regard to this, assuming the guidance from the Public Health Officer is clear, to apply the guidance accordingly.

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous.

20.07.6.3. To approve request for a Memorial Bench in the Rectory Garden

The Council discussed that as it is a memorial garden, it would be inappropriate to add a memorial bench for someone else to this location. Clerk to write to the requester, that the council is not accepting application for more memorial benches at this time, subject to the Open Spaces Review, and will get back to them in due course.

20.07.6.4. To approve felling of 1-off tree at WHBG driveway, to prevent further damage to East & West Cottage Septic Tank.

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous.

20.07.6.5. Considering new information, to approve repairing the Yew Tree Court Fence and associated budget.

It was discussed that keeping the fence would leave the council open to a future liability to maintain or repair the fence in the future.

Resolved: Modified motion: To remove the fence as previously agreed, £400 budget, Majority.

20.07.6.6. To approve adding maintenance of the Yew Tree Court Area to the annual grass cutting and maintenance contract.

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous

20.07.6.7. To note the gates have been installed at Gardiner, our Thanks are offered to Grundon for the gates and Community for the installation and locks.

Formal thanks offered to Grundon and the Community, Unanimous

20.07.6.8. To consider whether to remove the Nettles at Ferry Lane open space.

Resolved: To maintain the nettle patch, asking the maintenance contractor to trim them back to maintain the open space, once per year at the end of the summer, Unanimous

20.07.7. To receive reports from the representatives of Oxfordshire County Council and South Oxfordshire District Council

20.07.7.1. County Councillor K Bulmer

Comments in addition to the report:

Lockdown 2.0: The spread of COVID-19 had been increasing locally anyway, and anticipated to move to the high level of restrictions, OCC were already putting the appropriate interventions in place, so was ready to action them when the announcement to go in to another national lockdown was announced.

Winter 2020: Preparations are underway and OCC is ready in case of an early occurrence of Snow or Ice

20.07.7.2. District Councillor M Filipova-Rivers

Comments in addition to the report:

Lockdown 2.0: SODC was also ready to move to a higher level.

Civil Parking Enforcement: South, Vale & Cherwell are in the last 12 councils in the country to not have CPE. The government would like it to be one project for all. Cherwell have deferred decision to the Dec cabinet meeting. It is hoped they will also come onboard. If approved in the December 2020 meeting then should be able to hit the original timeline for implementation. An SODC cabinet member will go to speak at the public meeting of Cherwell District.

Grants: When the councillor grant policy was reviewed, done in good faith to encourage Parishes and Towns to use their own reserves for some of their projects, rather than applying for grants. The policy states grant making bodies cannot apply for grants. This one size fits all has not worked for especially the smaller parishes, it is now under review, one option being that a cap be applied depending on size of population. Going forward, even SODC are reconsidering granting in light of the extra financial pressures of COVID-19. SODC Disability grants have now been expanded from just physical disabilities.

Planning: KB raised the point of changes to the planning policy and who can call applications in to planning committee. MFR confirmed the temporary delegation of powers will lapse. There is a 70 application backlog for review by planning committee at the moment. MFR welcomed feedback on how the policy could be changed to ease the current backlog. The current powers of flagging through district councillor

require there to be a material planning consideration and the 28day limit from when an application is registered on the website must be adhered to for asking it to be called in to Planning Committee.

20.07.8. Planning

20.07.8.1. To receive minutes of the planning committee, meeting of 25th August

Resolved: Received, Unanimous

20.07.8.2. To receive minutes of the planning committee, meeting of 15th September

Resolved: Received, Unanimous

20.07.8.3. To note the response to the NALC Planning White Paper Consultation

Noted

20.07.8.4. To appoint additional members the Planning Committee.

No members to be appointed at this time.

20.07.8.5. To consider response to application P20/S3832/HH: Chalfont, Croft Road, Goring

No further comments where registered for this planning application.

20.07.8.6. To consider response to application P20/S3858/FUL: Sheepcot Recreation Ground, Goring Tennis Club, Goring

Action: SL to visit the site to ascertain the anticipated remaining space available for other users to pass by if the toilet were positioned where currently indicated in the plans. To discuss directly with the tennis club alternate locations if the space remaining is not sufficient.

Resolved: Approved, to ask for an extension from the planning officer until after the next GPC planning committee meeting in light of new information from member of public comments regarding the possible lack of space for the other Sheepcot Recreation Ground users, whilst further investigations are completed, unanimous.

20.07.8.7. In light of updated plans, to reconsider response to application P20/S2910/FUL: The Orchard, Manor Road

No further comments where registered for this planning application.

20.07.9. To receive Items of Correspondence and agree actions arising.

20.07.9.1. SERG Surveys

Resolved: Received, Unanimous

20.07.9.2. Request from MIGGS to consider options of pedestrianisation of parts of Station Road.

BU suggested a working group arrangement with MIGGS, and noted there is no budget available to support the scheme at this time. DB suggested there be a Parish Council committee, with MIGGS representation, and a public consultation in due course to gauge public support for such a scheme.

Acton: to place on the next agenda to form a committee with MIGGS representation.

20.07.10. To receive reports and consider actions arising on Standing Items

20.07.10.1. Summary Report from Cllr Brooker

Noting Road Closure signs have gone up, advertising

20.07.10.2. NP Strategic Project – Goring CofE Primary School

Report provided in advance of the meeting, from Parent Governor; to be circulated after the meeting, including:

A plan to approach the development in two phases, the first to clear and make space within the school boundary, the second to review what building may be possible in the space driven by the funding they believe to be achievable.

A request for advice from the P.C. and District Councillor on CIL funding availability, both from new developments already in place and future.

Request to meet with the P.C. school working group within the next 2-3 weeks if possible.

A hope to have a clear agreement of the amount of funding available to us, prior to Christmas, to then agree and instruct phase one of works potentially next summer.

Proposal: To appoint 2 more members to the working group, asking for 2 councillor volunteers to attend the next meeting with the school representatives as requested and formally appoint them at the next parish council meeting.

20.07.10.3. Police & Local Crimes (JW)

28/09/20	Theft from vehicle, Icknield Road.
13/10/20	Hare coursing, South Stoke
16/10/20	RTC Icknield Road
17/10/20	RTC Cleeve Down
18/10/20	Hare Coursing, South Stoke
19/10/20	Parking Obstruction
23/10/20	Theft of wallet.

20.07.10.4. Conservation Area Appraisal

Report from Member of Public heading up the Project:

1. We've been in touch with the Conservation Officer since your last meeting and who has said that the three character areas we have drawn up look excellent. To remind the council, these are:

- a. the Anglo-Saxon ecclesiastic core including St Thomas' Church and the riverside environs
- b. pre-Victorian village centre
- c. 'Victorian suburbs' - this is the rather loose term that we've coined for the scattered areas that surround b) above.

The aim is to show how Goring has developed from its Saxon core and distinguishing this from later stages of development will simplify the story.

2. We have concluded our survey and have started to draft the report. We are making slow progress, largely due to other pressures on our time. However, the Conservation Officer said they were impressed with the progress we'd made under difficult circumstances.

20.07.11. Finance FY 2020/2021

20.07.11.1. To approve finalised payment schedule for September & October 2020

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous

20.07.11.2. To note receipts for September & October 2020

Resolved: Noted, Unanimous

20.07.11.3. To note the reconciled bank account and reserves balances as at 31st Oct 2020

Resolved: Noted, Unanimous

20.07.11.4. To review budget against yearly spend to date and approve updated budget

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous

20.07.12. Finance FY 2021/2022

20.07.12.1. To approve budget for 2021/2022, and value of the precept request.

Narration was given on grants and the works taken to investigate how to give grants, and the definition of a grant and grant in kind, predominately given using the "free resource" of LGA 1972 S137.

Readibus donation is being given under the power Transport Act 1985 106A(a) and a small sum of £750 has been included in the budget for this year, and it has been verbally agreed with SODC this would not

negatively affect grant applications to them this year. It was noted in the same conversation that larger grants or grants in kind would not be looked upon as favourably such as to Going Forward Buses or Goring in Bloom.

It was reiterated that if the Goring Parish Council grant policy was reinstated in the future all bodies requesting monies in this way would need to follow the full procedure of opening up their accounts to full scrutiny.

Action: MFR to facilitate a meeting with SODC Grants.

Resolved: Approved the budget as attached; and precept request of £158,306 to be submitted to SODC, Unanimous

20.07.13. Governing Documents

To approve updated versions of the following for the Financial Year 2020-21:

20.07.13.1. To approve effectiveness of Internal Audit document for 2020/21

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous

To accept and approve the following new documents.

20.07.13.2. Financial Risk Assessment Policy document for 2020/21

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous

20.07.13.3. Internal Controls Statement for 2020/21

Resolved: Approved, Unanimous

20.07.14. 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: Approved, Unanimous

20.07.15. To consider a nomination for a Freedom of the Parish Award

Resolved: To not accept this nomination at this time, as it does not fulfil the criteria of the award.

20.07.16. To complete the required once per electoral term review of the freedom of the parish.

Resolved: The council considers the list to be appropriate for the current times.

20.07.17. Matters for future discussion.

To review the granting policy at the next meeting, in light of any meeting or advice from Grant Awarding Bodies in the interim.

20.07.18. To confirm the time and date of the next meeting: Virtual Meeting 11th January 2021.

Confirmed

Meeting Closed: 22:00