



## **Minutes of a Council Meeting of the Goring-on-Thames Parish Council**

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023 at 19:30, Bellême Room, Village Hall**

**Meeting started 19:30**

**Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting**

**MoP1:** Representing the Croquet Club; He hopes anticipated results are fair, and believes that Croquet & Bowls are for all and the only sport to cater for the physically challenged or “older” sports player. Croquet has seen club grow, covering Bowls as well, arranging sessions for care homes etc. They will encourage Saturdays for juniors, match play and hold taster sessions for all. The green can be used all year round, being frequently/fully used. He supports option 1

**MoP2:** Re: Set up Goring mums support group during lockdown, is excited about the playground, it would be great to have something to share with the village.

**MoP3:** Re Speaking on behalf of the Whatsapp groups of parents. She was part of the previous group of teenagers that campaigned for a skate park, now a generation on, pleased that change is finally on the way, but a few swings will not do it. Make it bigger, improved, let children enjoy being away from in front of screens. As we move forwards, think how to future proof the play spaces. Saddened by a comment that playground should not be made bigger as it might affect pitch run off, asking for balance. Strongly supports a pump track, they are largely self-policing as skaters will protect their own environment. It also gives a place for toddlers to learn how to ride bikes. Volunteered to be part of the committee to take this forward

**MoP4:** Volunteer at the Lock, heard many comments saying Goring doesn't have easy river access, he's tried to find any guaranteed right of way to any of the old ferry sites, and the definitive shows a RoW over the open space to the tow path. The lock is dangerous, an unsuitable place to launch. River access is a big thing, with changes in working patterns, more time outside improves mental health. British Canoe club funding grants of up to £10k for improved river access, signing etc.

**MoP5:** A river user actively involved in canoeing, kayaking etc. Noted that in the 60s/70s GPC had access for small rivercraft proposed but nothing happened.

**MoP6:** He doesn't mind what is done, just do it quickly so his kids can benefit from using new facilities.

**MoP7:** Representing the Cricket Club (CC): A year ago the CC submitted a plan for new nets on the bowling green site, as the Bowling Club said it was moving then stayed, the CC then paused the process as didn't want to push out the BC which then folded saying facilities inadequate. Currently in pre-planning permission for new completely enclosed nets (36 yr warranty /minimal maintenance) are critical for safety as the current nets are homemade / open ended, not as safe. The issue with option 1 is there is currently not enough width so would lose trees or planted border. Enclosed nets will encroach on the field inc football pitches, which takes off a huge chunk of the recreation ground. Visually better on the self-contained bowls green, excited they could create elevated public viewing area with landscaping so people can watch the sport. They have 300 club members in academy,. Capacity issues, they are turning away kids, new women/girls cricket teams very popular. There is a community benefit, with free, year round net access to the whole village when not being club used.

**MoP8:** had the Cricket Club considered anywhere else to put nets other than the two sites suggested? Cricket Club replied explaining the other side of the pavilion is not big enough and the Cleeve end is too damp with the trees

**MoP9:** Took Croquet up 2 years ago, delighted at the opportunity to play, feels it would be vandalism to remove the bowls green and force them to move to Sheepcot.



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**MoP10:** Representing Goring FC; Wants the community to work together, without any divisions. Gardiner proposals to improve drainage will enable better class of football. There is lack of pitches in the village with 150+ children waiting to play football. To give current and future generations somewhere to go, the Football Association is offering grants of up to 90% of cost of 3G all weather pitch which could be used all hours, multiple games at the same time, inclusivity for all including walking football, better surface for a new disabled team or any who cannot play on uneven grass surfaces.

**MoP11:** Representing Goring Robins; it is their 50yr anniversary, teams are on the rise, in last few years grown to 350+ children, families being split due to lack of space. Plenty of capacity to run teams just not space. Not striving to be supersize club, responding to local demand. Pavilion, car parking etc all need to improve. Using out of area pitches but future use of them is unsure, and many are travelling 15/20 mins outside the village to use others facilities.

**MoP12:** Balance community desires with club needs. The green is not unused, it has been repurposed by croquet. If cricket moves in, it will cause the demise of two sports- croquet plus bowls.

**MoP13:** Don't waste time, start moving forwards, if you make the spaces beautiful, they will stay that way, as it encourages respect and improves for all.

**MoP14:** Asked if council purchase more space to enable more to be done.

### Members Present:

Chair	Cllr B Urbick (BU)
Vice-Chair	Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)
Members	Cllr C Ratcliff (CR)
	Cllr J Emerson (JE)
	Cllr E McCorkell (EM)
	Cllr D Brooker (DB)
	Cllr L Reavill (LR)
	Cllr R Osborne (RO)

### Officers Present:

Clerk	Sarah Edmunds (SE)
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**Public and Press:** at least 35 members of public & District Councillor M Filipova-Rivers

### 22.39.1. To receive apologies for absence and to approve the reasons given. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Cllr A Smith (AS) Cllr J Wills (JW) the reasons unanimously approved.

### 22.39.2. Declarations of Interests [LA 2011 s31]

None.

### 22.39.3. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]

None.



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**22.39.4. To approve the minutes of previous council meetings [LA 1972 Sch 12. Para 41(1)]**

**22.39.7.1 Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**Resolved:** Unanimously agreed the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and they were duly signed.

**22.39.5. To receive Reports from the Sports Clubs**

None (see above during public forum)

**22.39.6. To approve the interim use of the Bowls Green: To approve a request from Goring Gap Croquet (and Bowls) Club to have a Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) licence to use the Pavilion and Bowls Green for the playing of Croquet and Bowls**

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved to approve PAYG use of the Bowls Green by the Goring Gap Croquet (and Bowls).N.B. Fees for all sport clubs for the period 1st April 2023 – 31st Mar 2024 to be agreed at the March 2023 Meeting)

**Resolved:** unanimously approved to charge a weekly fee on a Pay As You Go basis

**Resolved:** unanimously to delegate to Clerk to discuss the license & fees

**22.39.7. To approve actions on the Thirlwall Report**

**22.39.7.1 To approve commencing work on the younger children's play area in Gardiner Recreation Ground, the play equipment on Bourdillon Recreation Area, and signage for the village.**

**Resolved:** unanimously approved to expand and replace the younger children's area on Gardiner

**Resolved:** unanimously approved to expand and replace the playground on Bourdillon.

**Resolved:** unanimously approved to move forwards with first stage signage, and when decisions about the various open spaces are made, move to 2<sup>nd</sup> stage

**22.39.7.2 To approve creating Committees for each of the above priority areas, and to appoint three Councillors and co-opting up to two members of the public to each Committee.**

**Resolved** Unanimously approved to appoint a single Playground Committee of 3 councillors, SL, EC & RO with two MoP/ electors with children under 5 and two MoP/ electors with primary age children.

**Resolved** Unanimously approved to appoint a Signs Committee of 3 Councillors, SL, CR & JE



**22.39.7.3 To approve Terms of Reference for the Committees**

**Appendix A**

**Resolved** Unanimously agreed a start-up budget of up to £1000 from Public Spaces EMR plus amend the TOR to provide regular reports and amend committee membership wording to include 4 MoP/elector co-option.

**Resolved** Unanimously approved a start-up budget of £500 for signage from Public Spaces EMR

**22.39.8. To agree items from this meeting to be included in the next edition of Goring Gap News.**

Committees, playgrounds

**22.39.9. Items for a future agenda:**

Use social media, Whatsapp groups & GGN to look for MoP interested in co-option onto the Playground Committee.

Sheepcot

3G pitch

Bowls green/cricket

Pump/skate track

Ferry Lane access

Committees to report what is required to enable them to progress further.

**22.39.10. If not agreed in the meeting here, a reminder that proposal of motion forms can be received by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 9b by 7th March 2023,**

**22.39.11. Confirm the time and date of the Next Council Meeting – 7.30pm 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023  
Village Hall, Bellême Room**

Confirmed

**Meeting Closed: 20:50**