



GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 10th June 2024 at 19:30, Gardiner Pavilion, Upper Red Cross Road, Goring RG8 9BD

All Councillors are summoned to a Meeting of Goring-on-Thames Parish Council.

Members of the public and press are invited to attend all council meetings.

(Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960)

Public Session – Prior to the Start of the Meeting

No representations were made

Members Present:

Chair	Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)
Members	Cllr A Smith (AS)
	Cllr S Bridle (SB)
	Cllr B Newman (BN)
	Cllr R Williamson (RW)
	Cllr N Mallen (NM)
	Cllr M Stares (MS)
	Cllr J Emerson (JE)

Officers Present:

Clerk	S Edmunds (SE)
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Public and Press: at least 1 member of public

Meeting started 19:38

24.07.1. To receive apologies for absence. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]

Cllr Toby Thurston gave their apologies

24.07.2. To Receive any Declarations of Interests for items on this agenda [LA 2011 s31]

Members to declare any interests, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interest they may have in agenda items that accord with the requirements of the Parish Council's Code of Conduct. (NB this does not preclude any later declarations)

24.07.2.1. To consider requests for Dispensations [LA 2011 s33]

Cllr SB regarding item 12 on the agenda

24.07.3. . Vacant Seat (LGA 1972 s89(6))

24.07.3.1. To note the Council has 1 vacant seat.

Noted

24.07.3.2. To hear representations from anyone wishing to be co-opted to the council and approve co-opting new Councillor to fill the vacant seat.

No applicants at this meeting

24.07.3.3. To receive declarations of acceptance of office from any co-opted Councillor. To be countersigned by the Clerk

N/A

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

24.07.4.1. Meeting held on 13th May 2024

Resolved: Unanimously approved.

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

None

24.07.5. To review the Action List progress and update

Action List

Received, noting the Coronation Oak will now be another species due to concerns regarding the processionary moth

24.07.6. To Receive Minutes of Committees

24.07.6.1. Finance Committee

- Meeting Dated 23rd April 2024

Appendix A

24.07.6.2. Planning Committee

- Meeting Dated 09th April 2024
- Meeting Dated 23rd April 2024

Appendix B

Appendix C

24.07.6.3. Traffic Management and Pedestrian Safety Committee

- Meeting Dated 26th March 2024

Appendix D

Resolved: unanimously received all of the above minutes

24.07.7. To receive reports from each of the Committees, Working Groups or Village Liaisons: List

24.07.7.1. To receive the Village Environment Working Group Action List

Appendix E

Received and discussed the removal of weeds along the tourist route between the bridge and the station. Establish the OCCH and SODC policies on weed control, ask Cllr Maggie Filipova-Rivers for support. The Clerk to ask if the litter picker can spend up to 6 hours weeding between bridge and station up to their discretionary spend of £75. A GGN piece to request to people to clean their own frontage

24.07.7.2. To receive an update from the Staffing Committee

Ref Staffing Levels, the committee visited the OJFS, to assess how much work is required to clear it prior to sale. Request Facilities to identify junk/stored items/potential saleable items/Shredding/items needing new storage provision eg ladders/gazebo

24.07.7.3. To receive an update from Playgrounds Working Group

Appendix F1

Received a report, now attached as Appendix F1

24.07.7.4. To receive an update from TMPPS

Appendix F2

Received a report, now attached as Appendix F2

24.07.7.5. Finance gave an update regarding movements between accounts

24.07.8. To Review & Approve revised Terms of Reference (ToR)

24.07.8.1. To approve the revised Planning Committee Terms of Reference

Appendix G

Resolved: Unanimously approved to have 6 members and remove the final phrase from section 3 “to ensure a planning committee meeting is quorate.”

24.07.9. To appoint members to Committees / Working Groups / Liaison

24.07.9.1. To appoint Cllr M Stares to fill the vacant position on the Finance Committee

Resolved: Unanimously approved

24.07.10. To note the OCC Cycling Initiative

Appendix H

Boost to cycling: OCC has approved its map for a ‘Strategic Active Travel Network (SATN)’. The map has straight line walking and cycle routes between settlements in Oxfordshire and towns/villages in neighbouring counties. Primary links include Chalgrove to Oxford, Wallingford and Culham, and Watlington to Princes Risborough (via Lewknor and Chinnor). Cabinet approved progressing to ‘stage 2’ – translating the straight-line network into on-the-ground alignments, design and costing.

Noted. The Council supports Activity and Access for All

24.07.11. To approve delegating to the EWG to explore options and costs for composting green waste from the Gardiner

Resolved Unanimously approved to add to the EWG action list

24.07.12. To approve the Goring in Bloom Grant application for graffiti removal **Appendix I**

Resolved: Unanimously approved after some discussion of graffiti in the village

24.07.12.1. To approve waiving the Grants Policy section 5 clause restricting applications to once in a 12 month period as this is a response to vandalism in the village, not falling under the usual activities of Goring in Bloom.

Resolved: Unanimously approved to waive the grant policy section 5 clause

24.07.13. To note the recommendation of the Planning Committee and approve the design of the Britain in Bloom sign without logo. **Appendix J**

Noted

24.07.14. End of Year Finance 2023-2024

The following items apart from 13.3 (only received in the last week) and 13.7 (which has been pushed back a week due to the delay in receiving the IA report) have already been considered and approved by the Finance Committee

24.07.14.1. To note the reconciled bank accounts as of 31st March 2023.

Appendix K

24.07.14.2. To approve the annual accounts for 2023/2024, including:

Appendix L

- variances report
- reserves balances
- budget variations
- cash and investment reconciliation – Balance Sheet

- adjustments
- reconciliation of Box 7 and Box 8

Resolved: Unanimously approved subject to the removal of draft comments

24.07.14.3. To receive the Internal Audit report, consider recommendations & agree actions. **Appendix M**

Resolved: Unanimously Received and recommendations noted, actions added under matters for future discussion.

24.07.14.4. To approve suspending standing order 17E due to timescales requiring submission of completed AGAR by 30th June.

“17.E: A completed draft annual governance and accountability return shall be presented to all councillors at least 14 days prior to anticipated approval by the Council” NB the document has been reviewed by Finance Committee members.

Resolved: Unanimously approved to suspend SO 17E

24.07.14.5. To agree content and approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 1 “Annual Governance Statement” 2023/2024 **Appendix N**

Resolved: Unanimously agreed, approved and signed by the Chair, then the Clerk.

24.07.14.6. To approve the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) Section 2 “Accounting Statements” 2023/2024 **Appendix O**

Resolved: Unanimously agreed, approved and signed by the Chair

24.07.14.7. To approve the dates for the public rights of inspection: 17th June – 26th July 2024, being 30 working days including the first 10 working days of July.

Resolved: Unanimously approved the dates

24.07.14.8. To approve the Internal Auditor advice and Finance Committee recommendation to appoint JE as the Councillor for Internal Financial Control.

The 2022-3 Internal Audit report included (p6) “Financial Responsibility While the Clerks / RFO are responsible for the day-to-day running of the Parish, the Council should be reminded that, as a corporate body, it is the Council which is responsible for financial governance and this responsibility should not be taken lightly. I recommend that the Council continues to appoint a Councillor Responsible for Internal Financial Control to help the Clerks/RFO and the Internal Financial Control Policy is reviewed.”

Resolved: Unanimously approved to appoint Cllr JE as the Councillor for Internal Financial Control

24.07.15. To note reports from District and County Councillors

24.07.15.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: F Van Mierlo **Appendix P**

24.07.15.2. Oxfordshire County Councillor: K Bulmer **Appendix Q**

24.07.15.3. South Oxfordshire District Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers **Appendix R**

24.07.16. Matters for future discussion.

Standalone Playgrounds Management & Maintenance Policy

Playgrounds Inspection to include hard copy records

Legalities of repairing benches by the river

Cllr AS report of playgrounds feedback after the Annual Meeting of the Parish

24.07.17. To note the date and time of the next meeting Monday 8th July at 19:30

NOTE: Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than **29th June**, in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Meeting Closed at 21:22