



## GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 19:30, Belleme Room, Goring Village Hall**

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)

**Prior to the start of the meeting; Questions and comments from members of the public  
(limited to 10 minutes in total)**

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

No one asked to speak

#### **Members Present:**

Chair	Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)
Members	Cllr T Thurston (TT)
	Cllr B Newman (BN)
	Cllr R Williamson (RW)
	Cllr N Mallen (NM)
	Cllr B Urbick (BU)
	Cllr J Emerson (JE)

#### **Officers Present:**

Clerk	S Edmunds (SE)
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**Public and Press:** at least 6 members of public & Cllr M Filipova-Rivers

**Meeting started 19:30**

#### **24.29.1. To receive apologies for absence. [LGA 1972 s85(1)]**

Apologies received from Cllr M Stares

#### **24.29.2. 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)*

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

None Requested

#### **24.29.3. To note the resignation of Cllr S Bridle**

Noted



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### 24.29.4. Vacant Seat (LGA 1972 s89(6))

- 24.29.4.1. To note the Council has 2 vacant seats, and both are available to be filled through co-option
- 24.29.4.2. To hear representations from any eligible persons wishing to be co-opted to the council and approve co-opting the new Councillor(s) to fill the vacant seat(s) subject to achieving a majority vote from Councillors present.

David Bermingham, spoke to confirm he meets eligibility and as a resident of 23 years, believes the village has a vibrant voluntary sector, strong charity sector, the job of PC should enable and support the groups, serving the village, its best interests and transparent governance.

Proposed by BU

Seconded by BN

**Resolved:** Unanimously voted David Bermingham as a new Councillor.

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

**Resolved:** The declaration was signed and countersigned

David Bermingham apologised that due to a preexisting commitment he had to leave the meeting.

SL said to note there is a new proposed co-option policy

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

- 24.29.5.1. Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- 24.29.5.2. Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024

*The two nominees have accepted the award and are confirmed as John Boler and Mike Ward. There will be a formal presentation ceremony in due course.*

**Resolved:** both minutes were received

- 24.29.5.3. Matters arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda.

JE: 9<sup>th</sup> Sept minute 24.22.13.6. Approved-increase office relocation budget to £7k but after the OCC Cllr Priority Fund grant of £3070 Finance Committee only actually increased it to £4k

### 24.29.6. To review the Active List progress and update

#### Full Council Active List

**Resolved:** Reviewed and no changes to the published list

### 24.29.7. To Receive Minutes of Committees

- |            |  |                   |
|------------|--|-------------------|
| 24.29.7.1. | Finance Committee                                  |                   |
|            | • Meeting Dated 12 August 2024                     | <b>Appendix A</b> |
| 24.29.7.2. | Planning Committee                                 |                   |
|            | • Meeting dated 27 August 2024                     | <b>Appendix B</b> |
|            | • Meeting dated 10 September 2024                  | <b>Appendix C</b> |
|            | • Meeting dated 24 September 2024                  | <b>Appendix D</b> |
| 24.29.7.3. | Traffic Management and Pedestrian Safety Committee |                   |
|            | • Meeting Dated 20 August 2024                     | <b>Appendix E</b> |

It was clarified that in the Finance minutes, the payment to OCC was for the dropped kerb at the Station

**Resolved:** all meeting minutes were received

**24.29.8. To receive reports from each of the Committees, Working Groups or Village Liaisons: C-WG-VL-List**

*Where possible they should provide a written report and/or action list in advance of the meeting as per standing orders.*

24.29.8.1. To approve a budget of £760 for four speed surveys from TMPPS - **Appendix F**

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

24.29.8.2. To receive an update from Playgrounds Working Group **Appendix G**

**Received:** The WG had hoped to hear re the grant application by now, but it looks like it will be November. In case it is not successful, WG are looking at contingencies, maybe start on Bourdillon first. Co-ops WG members are looking at fund raising, the Cllrs feel we should be waiting to hear about the grant to understand how much is needed. The view at the Annual Meeting of the Parish was to minimally extend to what could be done without Planning Permission. but subsequently the WG are looking at making them bigger footprint. A MoP has raised concerns that there is currently insufficient information. The WG aim is to give more detail including working in conjunction with the school etc.

24.29.8.3. To approve a proposal from Chair RW to pause the Environment Working Group in light of the resignations of Cllrs Hutchins & Bridle, pending further discussion

*EWG Action List open items transferred to Full Council Active List*

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved and noted resolution correction from Chair to Cllr for RW.

24.29.8.4. To receive an update from the Finance Committee **Appendix H**

**Received**

24.29.8.5. To receive an update from the Communications WG **Appendix I**

**Noted:** The ToR and update to be brought to the next meeting

24.29.8.6. To receive an update and approve disbanding the New Office WG **Appendix J**

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved to disband the New Office Working Group

Signs Update: Noted that signage was removed from two Wallingford Rd junctions yesterday, Warmingshams have agreed to hand out copied of our Posters & Signs policy to event organisers using their signs.

**24.29.9. To appoint members to Committees / Working Groups / Liaison as required**

24.29.9.1. To appoint new members as per the attached list **Appendix K**

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved the changes in Appendix K (attached to these minutes)

24.29.9.2. **Emergency Plan:** TT reported that he needed more information and help with the emergency plan to progress further. MFR agreed flooding is a multi-agency issue, all trying to understand the role of District / County etc and all plans should dovetail together, she will send further information.

24.29.9.3. **EWG/Signs/Public Spaces:** RW proposed the EWG, Signage, Public Spaces, phone box, waste, streetlights, street furniture, memorials /assets all combine as a new single WG subject to TOR at the next committee

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved a new combined WG subject to TOR at the next committee



**24.29.10. To approve the following updated Policies & Documents**

24.29.10.1. Open Spaces Working Group Playgrounds ToR

**Appendix L**

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

**24.29.11. To approve the following items proposed by the Playgrounds Working Group,**

*if approved, all actions regarding budget spend, to be delegated to the Clerk.*

24.29.11.1. To approve applying for full planning permission to extend the Bourdillon playground, budget £369.

**Resolved:** unanimously approved

24.29.11.2. To approve the cost of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment to accompany the Bourdillon planning application, budget £1000

**Resolved:** unanimously approved

24.29.11.3. To approve applying for full planning permission to extend the Gardiner playground, budget £369.

**Resolved:** unanimously approved

24.29.11.4. To approve the cost of an Arboricultural Impact Assessment to accompany the Gardiner planning application, budget £1000

**Resolved:** unanimously approved

24.29.11.5. To approve granting the WG permission to seek quotes for moving the top (north) emergency entrance from the corner of Gardiner near the playground to a new location on Upper Red Cross Road along from the pavilion, including installing a suitable ramp and pedestrian access. This is necessary to be able to extend the playground as planned in the Open Spaces Report.

*Any quotes received to be placed before Council for consideration & approval*

**Resolved:** unanimously approved permission to seek quotes for moving the emergency entrance subject to Council consideration & approval

**24.29.12. To approve permitting Goring Robins signage, noticeboards & temporary tractor storage solution at Sheepcot**

**Appendix M**

Temporary is until we get a new pavilion and it is safer to store the tractor on the field. The Sign is weather proof board, fixed to the wall with 6 screws.

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved. Facilities to supervise the sign mounting and Goring Robins to send over the proposed temp storage for approval before ordering.

**24.29.13. To approve fitting bollards at Sheepcot to prevent vehicles accessing the field from the overflow car park.**

*If approved, quotes to be sought and brought to full council for budget approval*

It was note that there were manhole covers that may need protection form vehicles.

**Resolved:** the resolution was amended to Unanimously approved to seek quotes to fit bollards at Sheepcot to prevent vehicles accessing the field from the overflow car park

**Item 24.29.19.2** was moved up so Cllr M Filipova-Rivers could speak before having to leave:



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To add to her report (appendix R) and draw attention that the local plan is out for consultation, there are innovative things like new property zero carbon, embodied carbon during construction, asking to request 50% affordable housing and tighten policies too open to interpretation – feel free to comment as PC or as individuals. They are doing it now as national planning policy changes are coming and SODC has spent much time and money preparing this and want to submit before losing it. This offers a pause and allows new developments to be built to higher standards. Lack of street cleaning is causing concern and making flooding worse with leaves are blocking the drains etc OCC have 4-year cycle for cleaning which is not good enough. Suggestions to improve this are welcome. SODC continue to encourage reuse/recycle, use less etc-and food waste now powering 3k homes

### **24.29.14. To approve submitting a request for preplanning advice for the Sheepcot Development** **Working Group** **Appendix N**

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

### **24.29.15. Clerk Report: The Clerk would like to remind everyone that any concerns or defects should be reported directly via email at the earliest opportunity.** **Appendix O**

24.29.15.1. To approve a budget of £1500 to undertake a specialist survey of streetlights used for hanging baskets, after consulting with our contractor.

*This is following concerns from Goring in Bloom requesting that we seek advice from our contractor about streetlights in the village which have been fitted with brackets and hung with floral baskets.*

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

24.29.15.2. To approve a budget of £750 to replace the locks on the Gardiner so all doors are keyed alike

**Resolved:** unanimously approved

24.29.15.3. To approve a budget of £300 to maintain & winterise the Jubilee Garden to Feb/March 2025

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

24.29.15.4. To note the receipt of the Post Grant Evaluation forms from Goring in Bloom and the Gap Festival.

**Noted**

### **24.29.16. To approve the following for the White Hills Burial Ground:** **Appendix P**

24.29.16.1. The idea, in principle, of expanding the burial ground services (as previously approved) to include natural burials and a memorial garden for the scattering of ashes. Consent to put together the formal plan with the final, fully costed plan to be approved by the full council).

Concerns it was too soon for allocating budgets at this stage but this was only to approve the construction of a business plan that would return to council for approval including funding.

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

24.29.16.2. To Commission a landscape design (for plots, planting, benches and fencing/memorial wall for plaques) for the 'natural burial ground' and 'memorial garden'



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24.29.16.3. To approve a budget of up to £5,000 to commission an experienced Landscape Architect to propose a design for the natural burial ground and memorial garden. The Landscape Architect and the costs to be approved at a full council meeting.

24.29.16.4. To approve developing a plot map, with different designations (ie specified tree, specified bush, wildflower, etc) based on Landscape Architect advice and full council consent.

Items 24.29.16.2&3&4 were grouped for discussion & Decision as they all involved setting up a new asset

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved to convert the Paddock to a natural burial site, subject to a business Case being put before full council.

24.29.16.5. To approve principle of works to burial ground though seek costs for final approval (this decision is proposed to be made whether or not there is approval for the principle of a natural burial ground and memorial garden for scattering of ashes).

24.29.16.6. To approve creating (with landscaping) two access points/stairs/ramps: one off the parking area; the other to join the upper 'natural burial ground' with the lower traditional burial ground

24.29.16.7. To approve converting the shed/garage to disabled toilet (probably with septic tank)

24.29.16.8. To approve recommissioning the WHBG office – all burial ground records to be stored there, burial ground tool storage, existing desk for burial ground Clerk to work, meet funeral directors, families, and regular overview of burial ground needs (lawn, cleaning, etc) etc.

16.8.1. Office clean and simple decoration (i.e. paint the walls)

16.8.2. Install Electricity

16.8.3. Heater

16.8.4. Sink/running water

16.8.5. Designated laptop, small printer, Wi-Fi dongle

Items 24.29.16.5-8 were grouped for discussion & decision as they were all involving existing assets

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved to ask for a business case to be put before full council.

Discussion about availability of grants including for these proposed works

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved BU to apply to OCC Councillor Priority Fund for £5k grant for consultant to propose a design for the natural burial ground and memorial garden

**Noted:** there are many smaller grants available and open to any who apply for them subject to meeting eligibility. These are published on the SODC and OCC websites amongst others

24.29.16.9. To approve the internment of historic bones in a non-denominational plot, accompanied by the ashes of a late resident of Goring, subject to securing appropriate government licence **Appendix Q**

**Resolved:** unanimously approved



**24.29.17. To approve GoTPC adopts the British Heart Foundation strategy for the location of well-dispersed defibrillators throughout the parish; and supports obtaining grant funding from various sources to achieve this overall strategy in the coming years** **Appendix R**

*If approved, this action is delegated to the Clerk, in conjunction with Cllr B Urbick*

Council budgets will need to reflect the costs of an annual check and battery/pad replacements. Should consider if they are all in a two minute drive apart rather than walk. Fit the new defibs in stages. It may not a good idea to mount on streetlights in the conservation area

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved for BU to seek a proposal for cost and locations for five additional defibs balancing existing locations with new ones.

**24.29.18. To approve sending a thank you letter to Cllr Bulmer for his support of the GoTPC Office move**

*Minute ref 24.22.14.2. from the 9<sup>th</sup> Sept meeting – Cllr BU approached Councillor K Bulmer for a Councillor Priority Grant to cover some costs of the office move, the application was submitted, approved and the funds (£3,070) have been paid. This grant was to cover the cost of a removals company to conduct the move, new signage, postbox, doorbell, installation of a ceiling mounted projector, and purchase of window blinds. This was a significant contribution to the total costs of the office relocation.*

**Resolved** Unanimously approved to send the thank you letter to Cllr KB

**24.29.19. To receive reports:**

24.29.19.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: K Bulmer

**Appendix S**

24.29.19.2. South Oxfordshire District Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers

**Appendix T**

**24.29.20. Matters for future discussion.**

Remembrance Day

Comms ToR & Update

New WG ToR as per 24.29.9.3

**24.29.21. To note the date and time of the next meeting Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 19:30**

NOTE: Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than **1<sup>st</sup> November**, in accordance with the Standing Orders.

Meeting closed 21.27