



## GORING-ON-THAMES PARISH COUNCIL

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

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 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)**

*This provides an opportunity for members of the public (who are not usually permitted to speak during the meeting except by special invitation of the Chairman) to participate before the start of the meeting. Members of the public may make only one address to the council of no more than three minutes' duration and only concerning topics on the agenda. No decision can be taken during this session, but the Chairman may decide to refer any matters raised for further consideration.*

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

None

#### **Members Present:**

Chair

Cllr S Lofthouse (SL)

Members:

Cllr T Thurston (TT)

Cllr M Stares (MS)

Cllr J Emerson (JE)

Cllr B Urbick (BU)

Cllr N Mallen (NM)

Cllr B Newman (BN)

Cllr R Williamson (RW)

Cllr D Bermingham (DB)

#### **Officers Present:**

Clerk

S Edmunds (SE)

#### **Public and Press:**

4

Meeting started 19:30

### AGENDA

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

Apologies received from Cllr B McKenzie



**24.74.2. 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)*

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

None

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

24.74.3.1. Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

24.74.3.2. Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025

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

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved

**24.74.4. To Receive Minutes of Committees**

24.74.4.1. Finance Committee

- Meeting Dated 06 January 2025
- Meeting Dated 25 February 2025

**Appendix A**

**Appendix B**

24.74.4.2. Planning Committee

- Meeting dated 25 February 2025
- Meeting dated 11 March 2025

**Appendix C**

**Appendix D**

24.74.4.3. Travel and Transport Committee (formerly TMPPS)

- Meeting Dated 18 February 2025

**Appendix E**

**Resolved:** Unanimously voted to receive all of the above minutes

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

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

**24.74.5.1.** To receive an update from Traffic & Transport Committee

**Appendix F**

Cllr RW spoke – PPL in Station Rd, been long time coming, thanks to the Cllrs of TMPPS and John Boler/MIGGS. The other PPL has been marked from the station across Gatehampton Road today. Further projects under discussion are included in the appendix F

**24.74.5.2.** To receive a report from the Sheepcot Committee

**Appendix G**

The Architect has been to look at the Pavilion, it is in poor condition. Drawings are being prepared for a future meeting and they are also looking at the parking.

**24.74.5.3.** To receive a report from the Finance Committee

**Appendix H**

Finance Committee paper is the financial year end is now closed, the last ¼ as required by SO and a summary of the year. Receipts were higher than expected and slightly lower payments. Funds have been identified for the Playground to £204k and Streetlights £ leaving other EMRs untouched.

**24.74.5.4.** To receive a report from the Playgrounds Committee

**Appendix I**

Since the last FC meeting, the team have renegotiated to tweak the design, take out pergolas, upgraded to a higher quality zip wire, upgraded wet pour – this has all reduced the cost. The contract has been signed, construction aimed beginning of June with a finish of the end of July. Comms with residents is key. Not anticipating any issues for residents. Competition for the children to design panels on the apparatus.



**24.74.5.5. To receive a report from the Place & Assets WG**

**Appendix J**

Cllr TT spoke– drafted doc on computing requirements to review with Clerk then with the full council. The appendix has maps, the beginning of a PAWG assets list, RW & TT spent a morning cleaning street signs. Identified missing signs include open spaces. The third map is the 2025 hanging basket locations. Lastly streetlights plan for upgrades.

**24.74.5.6. To receive an update from the Staffing Committee**

**Appendix K**

Cllr NM gave a verbal report: They have had feedback from Cllrs re staff appraisals, discussing future staffing requirements, contracts and appraisals in the next couple of weeks.

**24.74.5.7. To receive an update from the Comms Working Group**

**Appendix L**

Cllr BN gave a verbal report: Comms have been quiet apart from playgrounds, but next project is to prepare for the AMP. They were looking at the website, but it is being held until the IT update has been completed

**24.74.6. Committees / Working Groups / Liaisons**

**24.74.6.1. To approve any changes to the attached list of Committee/Working Group/Liaisons**

**Appendix M**

**M**

To note that in May, all Cllrs are reappointed to committees, groups. Look at prioritizing the work – speak to OALC about best practice.

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

**24.74.7.1. To approve the Health & Safety Policy**

**Appendix N**

*Last approved 2021, now due for reapproval, no changes made.*

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved

**24.74.7.2. To approve the General Risk Management Policy**

**Appendix O**

*Last approved 2021, now due for reapproval. It has been updated.*

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved

**24.74.7.3. To approve the Sheepcot Committee TOR**

**Appendix P**

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved with .4 phase 1 – amended to replace as with and

**24.74.8. To receive an update from White Hill Burial Ground**

**Appendix Q**

Cllr BU gave a verbal report: New design with burial ground, draft plan under construction, hoping to have it ready to put before the council in May, if goes to plan then hoping to be open by the end of the year.

**24.74.9. To discuss the implications of the issues relating to hanging baskets on the bridge**

TT, we currently have 7 lamps with pairs plus no 7&6 are not viable to continue. All other locations will be hung as per last year. We must have a sensible route for the contractor so chose the Station Road to have new baskets positions. The bridge brackets will be relocated. PAWG will identify lamps to repair.

Cllr BU made a Motion without notice to delegate to facilities to begin the discussions regarding the baskets

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved.



**24.74.10. To approve pickle ball coaching/ games on the tennis courts, it is offered by many tennis clubs, as a lower impact, more inclusive option**

*The club believes it would fall under 'purposes of a tennis club' in their lease: Section 6.3 Use:*

*To use the Demised Premises only for the purposes of a tennis club and for playing tennis (and social activities associated with tennis).*

Tennis are advertising pickleball at their open day. GoTPC have been working with the tennis club and under the lease section 6.3 it is not permitted, no mention of public access but it fits requirements for wider range of sports and participation. Before any agreement to permit it, sound impact should be considered, a trial is attractive, and it should be time restricted. There is a concern that it might increase the parking- what would tennis club do to discourage car use.

**Resolved:** Unanimously approved to seek further information from the tennis club about noise levels from pickle ball games on the tennis courts for a 1 month trial not including on a Saturday after 2pm or after 8pm on any day and to consult with the neighbours. Clerk to ask other Clerks if they have experience of this sport and any associated issues to consider.

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

24.74.10.1. To approve Goring Free Church permission to use Rectory Gardens on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 for the annual Teddy Bear's Picnic for pre-schoolers. The event would be publicised as 10 -12.

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved.

24.74.10.2. To approve purchase of RBL tommy & land girl remembrance items

*Silhouettes for Rectory Gardens, Tommy plaques for light columns.*

**Appendix R**

**Resolved:** Approved by majority with one abstention.

24.74.10.3. To approve using the WHBG skip for green waste arising from the Council land

*Grundons have confirmed this is an acceptable type of waste for the skip*

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved

24.74.10.4. To approve updating sports club licences for 2025-2026 with a clause to remove and appropriately dispose of all waste generated by their activities on our property.

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved

TT said composting grass is difficult as you have to add and turn it for it to decompose – if we do compost then it will need constant maintenance.

24.74.10.5. To approve traffic access prevention measures to the Bourdillon field

*Drop down bollards to protect the field from unauthorised vehicular access, budget £500*

**Resolved:** Unanimously Approved

24.74.10.6. To note the clerk team, with support from PAWG, will price up two options for weed clearing in key areas of the village: (1) for mechanical clearing; (2) for safe chemical clearing. The intention is for options to be presented for approval at full council in May.

**Noted**



**24.74.11. To consider and, if thought fit, approve the following motion: In view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw. LGA 1972 s.100 (a) (2)**

**Confidential Papers**

**Unanimously Approved** to exclude the Public & Press, they were thanked and asked to leave.

24.74.11.1. To approve a request for a WHBG reserved plot, due to extenuating circumstances.

**Resolved:** Whilst we are sympathetic to the requestor's circumstances, the unanimous decision of the Council is to not approve a reservation.

**24.74.12. To receive reports:**

24.74.12.1. Oxfordshire County Councillor: K Bulmer

**Appendix S**

**24.74.12.2.** South Oxfordshire District Councillor: M Filipova-Rivers

**Appendix T**

None received

**24.74.13. Matters for a future agenda**

Policy renewals & annual updates

Updated committees, working groups and liaisons format

the old station orientation plaque – new location if the Library decline.

Training – OALC dates to be sent round.

WHBG Natural Burials plan

Commencement of recording of meetings

Streetlights Part night light options

**24.74.14. To note the date and time of the next meeting Annual Full Council Meeting Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 at 19:30**

NOTE: Proposals of Motion to be received by the Clerk no later than **30 April 2025**, in accordance with the Standing Orders