

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Gretton Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th January 2024 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall.

Present: Cllr's Dave Butcher, Richard Green (Chairman) and Mark Oliver.

In attendance : Two members of the public

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Jackie Shields, Cllr Geoff Hanson and TBC Cllr's Madle, Gray and Mason.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Councillors were reminded to update their registers of interest held by TBC and to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda and their nature.

It was noted that Cllr Oliver is Chair of the GVA.

3. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Council Meeting Held On Wednesday 8th November 2023.

The minutes were approved and will be signed at the next meeting.

4. Financial Matters.

a. To consider invoices for payment.

The following payments were agreed:-

J Shields	Clerks Expenses	£91.41
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b. To ratify payments made between meetings.

The following payments were ratified:-

J Shields	Clerks back pay 2023-2024	£120.00
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Saxon Print	Newsletter	£231.73
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GVA	Grass cutting	£500.00
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c. Financial report.

Financial report had been circulated via email.

d. To consider the purchase of new batteries for the VAS.

The council agreed to purchase new batteries at £160.

e. To Ratify Clerks national pay rise and new standing order.

The clerks national pay rise and new standing order was ratified.

The council also approved up to £300 for repair to the bus shelter

It was noted that the council has yet to be invoiced for the dog waste bin relocation and replacement.

5. To Set The Precept For 2024-2025.

The Council agreed to a 3.5% increase to the precept, this will increase the yearly amount on a tax band D by 1.50. The council will receive £11,752.

6. To Discuss The Parish Council Applying For The S106 Monies For The Playing Field.

TBC has approved draw down of the S106 provision of £19,704.35 associated with "Play Facilities Contribution (towards play facilities at the Gretton Playing Fields)" from the S106 agreement dated 18/08/2016, with Spitfire, Planning reference - 15/00841/FUL.

The Council agreed that they will contract with the supplier for site preparation, groundworks and safety flooring noting that these items would have no asset value and no ongoing obligations. The Council will draw down the S106 funds in this regard.

The chairman asked Cllr Oliver in his GVA capacity to make the necessary arrangements with the Play Equipment supplier

7. To Appoint A Clerk.

The Council approved the appointment of Cathie Bridges as the new Clerk from 1st Feb 2024. A period of handover was considered necessary to ensure a smooth transition.

8. Planning Matters.

- a. Planning applications for consideration.
 - i. 23/01128/FUL - Park Farm Industrial Estate Evesham Road Greet.
The Council has no reason to object but notes that suitable planting should be mandated to screen the development from the viewpoint of the fields.
 - ii. 23/01196/FUL - Lily Barn Gretton Fields Gretton.
This item is new and required further understanding and consideration
 - iii. 23/01198/TCA - 10 Working Lane Gretton.
The Council has no reason to object
 - iv. 23/01171/FUL - Orchard Cottage Duglynch Lane
The Council has no reason to object
- b. Ratify comments on planning applications received that required a response before the next scheduled Council Meeting.
 - i. 23/01075/FUL - Well House Winchcombe Road Gretton. The parish council has no planning reason to object..
 - ii. 23/01076/LBC - Well House Winchcombe Road Gretton The parish council has no planning reason to object..
 - iii. 23/01087/FUL - Park Farm Industrial Estate, Evesham Road, Greet. No Objection. But, it is noted that the proposed new building and associated vehicles, will be visible from the road. It is therefore requested that a muted colour scheme is adopted, and that there is a scheme for additional landscape planting to help screen the buildings and vehicles. (Note also comments by the TBC Landscape Officer 11/12/23)
 - iv. 23/00953/OUT Land Adjacent Lily Barn Gretton Fields Gretton Cheltenham. Objection full comment on website.
 - v. 23/00832/PIP - 6 Stanley Cottages Gretton Road Gretton. GPC has no valid 'Permission in Principle' grounds to object. Full comment on website.
- c. Planning decisions.
Permitted by TBC.
23/00832/PIP - 6 Stanley Cottages Gretton Road Gretton
23/00637/PIP - Myrtle Cottage Gretton Road Gretton

9. Village Communications and Engagement Update.

- a. Newsletter
The newsletter had been well received. The chair thanked Cllr. Butcher for production of the newsletter.
The newsletter will be a quarterly publication with the next edition due early March. Cllr Butcher will develop a suitable format and Cllr Oliver will seek input from the village groups.
- b. Village and Council Archive.

The Village Archive, if progressed, would be undertaken by GVA. The Council archive is important and will be considered by the new Clerk as part of the transition of responsibilities and information.

c. Village Questionnaire.

The Village Questionnaire will be targeted to coincide with the next newsletter. Cllr Butcher would assess suitable tools, Cllr Green would assess the previous questionnaire and Cllr Oliver will work with GVA to ensure that this is a “village wide” questionnaire

10. To Review the councils

a. Social Media Policy.

Agreed at the last meeting.

b. Privacy Notice.

Agreed at the last meeting.

c. Publication Scheme

The Council requested that the new clerk review the Council procedures as part of the transition plan. The aim is to ensure suitable procedures are in place and that they reflect best practice from TBC and other Parishes

11. Reports.

a. Clerk

Report had been circulated

b. Greening & Environment Group

Nothing to report

c. Traffic and Speeding.

Over the past year our Community Speedwatch has made a positive impact. Qualitatively, we have received positive feedback, a growing awareness and thanks. Quantitatively, the data shows that when we are regularly visible the proportion of “speeding” traffic reduces.

The morning team will now be mobilised by Cllr Oliver. Cllrs present were unable to support the afternoon team and so a leader is required.

The new VAS will be put on hold until usage of the existing cameras is optimised

Snowhill Parish had thanked GPC for supporting the development of the speeding action plan

Status on the Village Gateway near Redwood Close was not available.

d. GVA.

The GVA continued in good health:

- A table tennis table has been purchased.
- With the support of TBC Warm Space funding the Gretton Hub has opened on 5 occasions and has 5 more openings planned. The Hub opens on a Sunday morning and a Thursday afternoon to attract max interest and is being well supported.
- Apple Rock, Walk for the Park and the Christmas Quiz had been successful
- The Funding Agreement with Enover Community Trust has been completed and a Play Equipment provider selected. Work is planned to be complete by mid-2023.
- Funding for the Paths, Greening and Activity Space is still being sought.
- The GVA AGM was held with a good turnout. MT Green has stepped down as secretary and Hayley Brooks has succeeded her.

GVA has submitted a list of tasks to GPC where GPC may wish to support the community.

e. Cotswold Wardens.

The Greenway Lane path has held up well to some challenging weather.

f. Gretton Primary School

Parking was once again raised as an issue due to the nearby rental property. Evidence is to be gathered and, if necessary, Highways/Police notified

g. Councillor Advocacy Scheme.

This is a new forum to strengthen links between PCs, the Police and the Police a Crime Commissioner.

Cllr Oliver will attend this forum and liaise with the local community policing team

h. Dog bins.

No action required. The council decided that this item need not be included in future agenda.

i. Communication and Engagement

The "Gretton Village Notices" Facebook Page has 140 "Followers" and is seeing increased reach and reaction due to the number of GVA posts. GPC is encouraged to use the site more to drive visibility through more frequent activity.

12. Tewksbury Borough Council and Gloucestershire County Council Update.

See Below.

13. Information and Correspondence.

All correspondence had been circulated.

14. Items For Future Agenda.

Adoption of the 2024 GPC List of Activities

Approval of the Village Survey.

15. To Agree Date of next meeting.

Wednesday 13th March 2024

Signed

Date

Report for Gretton PC Meeting 10 Jan 2024

Medium Term Financial Strategy

Council approved the MTFS at December's meeting. The council is in a relatively secure position for the next couple of years but funding arrangements are unknown beyond 2025.

Flooding

There are currently five flood warnings still in place and three flood alerts in the Borough.

Flood water remains high in parts of the Borough and the number of properties flooded is still unknown. Following the emergency team meeting on Mon 8 Jan the council are moving out of response phase into recovery phase and are working with Ubico to manage the waste disposal of items and waste from affected properties. Residents can contact the team outside of normal working hours on 01684 293445

Garden Town Charter Consultation

Feedback on this charter is open until 31 January, Local stakeholders and the wider public are now invited to provide feedback on the draft charter, including its content, design and any ideas for how it can be developed further. <https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/forms/garden-communities-engagement-questionnaire/>

Strategic and Local Plan

A consultation will open in January on the new SLP between Tewkesbury, Gloucester and Cheltenham Councils. There will be an online consultation and a programme of engagement events. Officers are particularly keen to hear from young people. More information can be found here <https://strategiclocalplan.org>

Local banking & Post Office facilities

Due to the closure of the Post Office and upcoming withdrawal of the mobile banking service to Bishops Cleeve and Bourton-on-the-Water and uncertainty about when/if the Post Office would reopen I asked Link if they would do a banking review to see if Winchcombe would qualify for a Banking Hub. Unfortunately Link's review has determined that in their view our local area currently has enough access to cash and banking facilities and does not qualify. However in the meantime I followed up with the Post Office and have been given permission to share this statement:

"Post Office have engaged with Councillors and Laurence Robertson MP with regards to restoring Post Office services to Winchcombe. Post Office have advertised for applicants on their website, and have visited Winchcombe to speak to some of the businesses in the town to assess their interest in an application. There is some interest and Post Office are not currently inviting any further applications while discussions continue.

Post Office sincerely apologise to customers who are travelling further to access services while the branch is closed. The nearest alternative branches are at Gotherington, Bishops Cleeve, Alderton and Cheltenham. More information about the Post Offices in the local area and their opening times is available on the Post Office website. [Branch Finder](#) | [Post Office](#)

When there is a confirmed proposal to restore a Post Office to Winchcombe, we will share a further update."