

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 held at Gretton Village Hall.

Present: Cllr G Hanson (Chairman), Cllr D Butcher, Cllr M Oliver and Cllr R Green

In Attendance: Parish Clerk, Borough Cllr Madle, plus 1 member of the public.

1. To receive apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr David Gray.

2. To receive declarations of interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting.

It was noted that Cllr Oliver is Chair of the GVA and a Cotswold Warden.

3. Public consultation

To receive comments from members of the public

A member of the public expressed that the September draft minutes did not accurately reflect his intentions, and the council agreed to amend the comments accordingly.

The member of the public also inquired whether Gretton Tower could be added to the list of Gretton Parish Council assets and covered under the council's insurance, as the Tower does not generate funds to cover its own insurance. The council agreed to investigate this matter further.

ACTION – Clerk to seek clarification.

The member outlined the process for new street naming and reiterated that he considered that no response to the Borough Council's proposed street names would be seen as support, which could override public suggestions.

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10th July 2024

The minutes were agreed with the amendment agreed in Item 3. and signed by the Chairman for Wednesday 10th July 2024.

5. Financial Matters

5.1. **It was resolved that** the following payments had been made since the last meeting. Payment of these were approved. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green.

To ratify payments made between meetings

Payee	Details	Amount
ICO	DD – Data protection	35.00
RBL Poppy Appeal	Remembrance wreath	20.00
C. Bridges	Aug Salary	240.30
Saxon printing	Newsletter printing	192.58
D. Butcher	Expenses – Puzzle licence 24 puzzles	40.80
Total		£528.68

5.2. **It was resolved that** the following payments for September be approved. Proposed Cllr Hanson, seconded Cllr Green.

To consider invoices for payment

Payee	Details	Amount
C. Bridges	Clerks salary - Sep 2024	240.30
PATA	Payroll (Jul, Aug, Sept)	31.05
Community Heartbeat	Replacement adult pads	76.74
Total		£348.09

- **COUNCIL NOTED** that there will be an upcoming annual payment for the email hosting of £43.

5.3. It was noted that the following receipts had been received

To note receipts

From	Details	Amount
Lloyds	Bank interest – Jul	28.94
Lloyds	Bank interest - Aug	27.74
Lloyds	Bank interest - Sep	23.84
Total		£80.52

5.4. COUNCIL APPROVED the bank reconciliation (Appendix A) for the current state of accounts 11 September 2024

5.5. To review the proposed savings accounts

The council discussed options for savings accounts and **AGREED** to move £10K into a higher interest savings account at Lloyds. This option was chosen as it allows the funds to remain in one place, making it easier to manage transfers between accounts while earning a higher interest rate than the current 1%.

ACTION Clerk to open Lloyds higher savings account.

6. To Agree major project prioritisation for remaining budget allocation for 2024-25

The council discussed the remaining budget for 2024-25 projects and **AGREED** to the following:

- Allocate **£500** to support the Gretton social event, *Apple Rock* (Cllr Oliver did not participate in the vote).
- Allocate **£100** for the website and email services.
- Allocate **£120** for planting at the war memorial.
- Continue exploring the installation of a second defibrillator within the parish. Likely to cost in the region of **£1000**
- Undertake repairs to the bus shelter – max budget of **£500** previously agreed

The council **NOTED** and expressed particular thanks to the Cotswold Wardens for their improvements to the Greenway Lane footpath, concluding that no further action would be required from GPC.

It was **AGREED** that the remainder of the excess major project reserves, approximately **£11,000**, would be earmarked for a project in collaboration with GVA, potentially addressing improved Playing Field access.

It was noted that a new GVA committee will be voted-in during November.

It was **AGREED** to provide annual defibrillator training

The following projects were noted for consideration in the 2025-26 budget:

- Cutting back the Hornbeam tree on the green (Autumn).
- Annual replacement of defibrillator pads.
- Defibrillator training.

ACTION: Clerk to check s137 funding limit

ACTION: Clerk and Cllr Hanson to review the budget layout.

7. Planning Matters

7.1. To ratify Comments on planning applications received that required a response before the meeting

Reference	Location	Description	Action
24/00675/FUL	Myrtle Cottage, Gretton Road, Gretton	Application for Technical Details Consent for the erection of 1no. self-build dwelling with associated landscaping (pursuant to Permission in Principle application ref: 23/00637/PIP)	GPC concerns: • the proposed new dwelling is inappropriate due to its location on an exposed AONB hillside • outside the village settlement boundary

			• overlooking neighbouring houses • relying on a disputed and unsuitable access road. GPC requests further clarity on the house's elevation and drainage plans and recommends that no work begins until the access dispute is resolved.
24/00694/TCA	Lynch Lane Farm Greenway Lane Gretton	T1 - Acacia - Remove all deadwood and reduce by 2m and shape to balance.	No objection comment

7.2. Planning decisions

Reference	Location	Description	Decision
24/00461/TCA	Old Tower Cottage Working Lane	Birch tree, on boundary of corner of Working Lane. Remove as it is completely dead Leylandii on northern boundary of property. Dying back	Permit
24/00501/TCA	Manor Farm Cottage Gretton Road	T1 Ash Remove 4/5 overextended limbs. T2 Cherry Reduce by approximately 1.5m and shape T3 Greengage Reduce by approximately 1.5m and shape T4 Magnolia Reduce by approximately 1.5m and shape	Permit

7.3. Tree Preservation Order

Reference	Location	Description
TPO (# 434)	1 Manor Fields Gretton	Formal notice that on the 3rd September 2024 the Council made #434, 1 Manor Fields, Tree Preservation Order.

ACTION Clerk to seek outcome on the enforcement investigation

8. Village Communication

8.1. To receive update on the newsletter and discuss improvement

Positive feedback for the September issue has been reported.

Agreed to keep similar sections including; What's On, a surrounding area informational piece (eg Robin bus service) and the addition of a historical piece which will include pictures.

Next issues: 1st December 2024 and 1st March 2025.

8.2. To receive an update and agree actions on the GPC email addresses and domain

ACTION Cllr Butcher to reset emails accounts and review costings options for Weebly and the gov.uk domain

8.3. To receive an update and agree actions to make the GPC website more accessible

Cllr Butcher has installed a web accessibility tool.

ACTION Cllr Butcher and Clerk to review the alerts to make website more compliant with WCAG 2.2AA accessibility standards.

9. Information and Correspondence

9.1. To discuss cutting back the Hornbeam tree on the Village Green.

Council AGREED to carry out the maintenance of the hornbeam tree on the village green in Autumn 2025 which will be accommodated in the 2025-26 budget.

9.2. Temporary Road Closure on 18/9/24—20/9/24, Winchcombe Road, Gretton.

10. Highways

10.1. To receive an update from the meeting with Gloucestershire County Council Highways

Council noted that there will be a new Local Highways Manager for the Northern Area, a handover is to be expected.

Village walkthrough with GCC Highways took place on 30th July. Cllr Hanson reported the following:

- 10.1.1.1. White 'H' markings were suggested to help with the congestion during school pick-up/drop-off times. Possible locations being in front of problem blocked driveways and to create a passing-place refuge, near railway bridge. GCCH to inform GPC of application process.
- 10.1.1.2. A new quote for the project is £360 higher. The BBB application will be submitted.
ACTION Cllr Hanson will arrange a meeting to discuss the siting of the gateway with all relevant parties.
- 10.1.1.3. School Parking – the school is open to further discussions.
ACTION Cllr Oliver will arrange a meeting with GPC, the Head Teacher, and GCC Highways.
- 10.1.1.4. Gotherington Approach Near New Development -The Bayhill developer has agreed in correspondence to address speed signage at the village entrance, as the 30mph speed limit will be relocated.
ACTION: Cllr Hanson to follow up with the developer.

10.2. To receive an update on overgrown hedges

Most of the reported overgrown hedges have been addressed following communication.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson to follow up with the owners of the house road-side (near the railway bridge) and offer assistance.

10.3. New VAS post

GCC Highways have agreed to install a new VAS post to be situated on the RHS of the road, as you approach Gretton from Alderton, a sensible distance after the current 30mph zone sign, just before the corner.

11. Reports

11.1. To receive a report from the County Council

No report has been received.

11.2. To receive a report from the Borough Council

- The name change has been confirmed: North Gloucestershire Borough Council
- The Borough Council has experienced a cyber-attack, they are confident that there was no data breach and it has not spread from their systems. Their focus is on high need areas such as social care. There is a central contact number and email for urgent issues. Currently no additional time has been provided by the Planning Inspectorate.
- Drop-in sessions are being held at Abbey Fields Community Centre for council staff to address concerns or queries.

11.3. To receive a report from the Clerk

No report has been received.

11.4. To receive a report from Greening Environment Group for planting plans

ACTION Cllr Green to carry out a walkthrough of the village to identify areas for bulb planting.

Tree planting was discussed to improve the aesthetic of the village and may aid in slowing traffic on entering the village. It was noted that GCC is offering tree whips and hedges as part of their Ash Dieback replanting scheme.

11.5. To receive a report from Traffic & Road Safety

Speedwatch has only been out once since the last meeting. With the return after the Summer, they aim to be out more regularly. They have had two new volunteers but need more to make the Speedwatch a viable deterrent.

In the last weeks there have been three discussions with residents:

- Excess speed reported on the Gotherington exit from the village.
- Traffic on the village centre is an issue as people depart Greenway Lane (a reported issue with a cyclist) and the Village Hall.
- Gretton Fields is raising speed issues regularly

11.6. To receive a report from GVA

Resignation of three committee members jeopardised the future of GVA. An urgent communication campaign was held which resulted in a positive meeting. Volunteers came forward both for the committee slots and a new "GVA supporters" team. The GVA AGM will be on 7th November when the new committee will be finalised.

The Hub continues to be successful and GPC support is appreciated. Dates: 13th October, 10th November (Remembrance) and 8th December.

The inaugural Fete was success with a full cross section of the community getting involved. The Fete made c £1.3k which will be split between GVA and FoGS. The GPC Grant was appreciated.

Upcoming events include: Village Scarecrows from 22nd September, Bishops Cleeve Players 27th September, Apple Rock 5th October, Christmas Quiz 20th November.

Exploring the Thriving Community Grant Scheme to potentially provide the village with an outreach service.

11.7. To receive a report from Flood Group

Flooding areas were reviewed on the recent meeting with GCC Highways. Highways have confirmed that the ownership of the culvert next to Stoneville (Gretton Fields) remains with the track / landowner. However, they have encouraged photo evidence of any flooding problem.

11.8. To receive a report from Cotswold Warden

The Wardens have procured a wheelbarrow, fencing pliers and a pry bar. A thank you for the GPC donation has been received.

Path clearance has been the main focus due to the recent growth rate. GPC gave a particular thanks for clearing of Gypsy Lane.

11.9. To receive a report from Gretton Primary School

The Headmaster has nothing to raise to GPC. Suitable dates have been requested for a meeting with the Head and Chair of Governors to discuss GPC and GVA matters.

11.10. To receive a report from the Police

The Cllr Advocacy Group with the Police and PCC continues to be positive. The Handbook has been shared and includes contact details for various incidents/concerns. The next meeting is 10th October with the Neighbourhood Watch lead. November meeting will be Speed watch.

12. Parish Council Assets

12.1. To receive update on Street Lighting – to explore the feasibility of reduced lighting hours, and the extension of lighting down to Redwood Close - Ongoing Cllr Hanson.

12.2. To receive update on Bus stop refurbishment - Ongoing Cllr Hanson

12.3. To receive update on War memorial repairs – Ongoing Cllr Hanson

12.4. To receive update on grit & salt bins – Gloucestershire Highways have agreed to replacement and install new salt bin.

12.5. To receive update on mobile speed sign – Gloucestershire Highways has agreed to install a new post for the VAS.

13. To receive an update on the potential acquisition of a second defibrillator within the parish.

A letter has been sent to the church, currently awaiting a response.

14. To discuss Other Items for Information Only/Future Agenda Items

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 13th November 2024, commencing at 7.00pm.

APPENDIX A**BANK RECONCILIATION - 11 SEPTEMBER 2024**

Balance per Lloyds TSB C/A statement	30/08/24	3223.70	
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A statement	30/08/24	28096.92	
			31320.62
Unpresented cheques			
	chq no	0.00	0.00
			0.00
Balance as at 11th September 2024			31320.62

Cash Book

Opening balance at 1st April 2024		23950.10	
Add	receipts in the year	35579.61	
Less	payments in the year	28209.09	
Cashbook balance on 11 September 2024		31320.62	
Total to carry forward		£	31,320.62