

Gretton Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th November 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 7 members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Mason.

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

The hall was opened early for public interaction before the formal session commenced.

- A member of public requested strong litter bags to pick up litter whilst taking walks.
- A member of the public proposed celebrating the 25th anniversary of the millennium in 2025 with a theme of activities throughout the year, in collaboration with the GVA, including creating a photographic record, they requested that this be featured in the newsletter, which was agreed by the council.

The same member highlighted the importance of preserving the village's rural character and raised concerns about the installation of solar panels on the village hall in order to conserve its rural character.

4. To approve Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 11th September 2024

The minutes were agreed and signed by the Chairman for Wednesday 11th September 2024.

5. Planning Matters

5.1. To make recommendations to the Planning Authority upon the suitability of the following planning applications

Reference	Location	Description	Comments
24/00677/FUL	Foxhill Evesham Road Toddington	Conversion of former agricultural building to dwellinghouse (Class 3)(Retrospective)	This is Plot 19 of Warren Farm, within the neighbouring parish. COUNCIL AGREED to resubmit previous concerns regarding this location and the potential of becoming a larger development site.

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

Reference	Location	Description	Comments
24/00418/FUL	Manor Farmhouse Gretton Road	<i>Amendment</i> Erection of garage and link extension together with installation of infinity pool and erection of detached pool building with associated landscaping.	COUNCIL AGREED to no objections to the proposed amendments. Which effectively reduced the extent of the previously proposed development.

5.3. Planning decisions

Reference	Location	Description	Decision
24/00694/TCA	Lynch Lane Farm Greenway Lane Gretton	T1 - Acacia - Remove all deadwood and reduce by 2m and shape to balance.	No Objections
24/00774/LBC	Lynch Lane Farm Greenway Lane Gretton	Revision to consent 24/00402/LBC to allow for alternative roof light arrangement in south east elevation.	Consent

5.4. Planning Appeals

Reference	Location	Description	Comments
23/00684/FUL	Plot 6 Warren Fruit Farm Evesham Road	Change of use of land to include the siting and occupation of two static caravans, siting of two touring caravans, and works comprising the erection of two day rooms, two storage buildings, creation of vehicle access, hard surfacing and installation of sewerage treatment plant to allow for permanent use as a gypsy site	COUNCIL AGREED to no further comment - the appeal will automatically consider the Council's previous comments

- It was noted that work has commenced for 'The Croft' (23/00291/FUL). The question was raised as to whether there is any S106 money associated with this development.
ACTION Clerk to follow this up with TBC Planning.

6. Village Communication

6.1. To receive update on the newsletter and discuss December issue

The content for the December newsletter will be finalised next week for printing and distributed for the beginning of December.

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

Cllr Butcher confirmed the email migration has been completed.

ACTION: Cllr Butcher to provide 1:1 support for any ongoing email issues.

7. Information and Correspondence

7.1. To discuss community emergency plans

Discussions focused on community resilience for environmental challenges such as flooding and snow. **COUNCIL AGREED** to publish a snow, ice, and flood plan on the Parish Council website.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson to draft website content.

ACTION: Clerk to source options for sandbags.

8. Highways

8.1. To receive an update on:

8.1.1 Village Gateway – BBB funding application has been approved

ACTION Cllr Green to liaise with the local landowner and resident committee regarding the placement of the gateway.

8.1.2 School Parking - Awaiting a suitable date to meet with the school. The police have suggested introducing a "mini police" initiative. Various options were discussed, but school involvement is essential for further progress.

8.1.3 Relocation of 30mph near new development 'The Croft' – Developers have acknowledged the requirement and are expected to engage with the GCC Highways team.

8.2. To discuss GCC public engagement exercise of potential route options for M5 Junction 9 and A46 Transport scheme

The public engagement exercise is open for comments until 2 December 2024. This is a long-term scheme with an anticipated timeline of 10 years.

9. Reports

9.1. To receive a report from the County Council

No report has been received.

9.2. To receive a report from the Borough Council

- It was reported that changes have been made to Tewkesbury Borough Council's planning process to address a backlog following the cyber incident. Applications for under 50 houses will not automatically go to the committee, with decisions now made by the director and committee chair. Borough councillors are expected to engage earlier in the process. This scheme will be reviewed after one year to determine whether it becomes permanent.
- A Youth Engagement Officer is being recruited to align with the strategic plan.
- Discussions are ongoing with GCC to retain the old youth centre in Winchcombe as a community asset under a long lease.

9.3. To receive a report from the Clerk

Report circulated prior to meeting and content noted.

The **COUNCIL NOTED** that the Gretton Road to Gotherington will be closed from 13–18 January 2025 for National Grid Electricity works. This closure will be posted on the website in December.

9.4. To receive a report from Village environment

200 mixed daffodil bulbs have been ordered and will be planted by the end of November with the assistance of Simon Silvester. Residents were commended for trimming their hedges, and special thanks were given to volunteers who replanted the war memorial before Remembrance Day.

9.5. To receive a report from Traffic & Road Safety

No Speedwatch activities have taken place recently due to availability, but three new volunteers have joined, and a training session will be scheduled. Speeding remains the primary concern, particularly on Gotherington Road and through Gretton Fields.

The latest Speedwatch report and GRCC Speed Toolkit have been circulated.

COUNCIL AGREED to consider the funding of a traffic mirror outside the village hall entrance to improve safety for vehicles exiting.

ACTION Cllrs Oliver & Hanson to discuss with residents and propose options.

9.6. To receive a report from GVA

Recent events, including the Murder Mystery and Apple Rock, were successful, raising approximately £1,500 to be shared with the school.

The Hub continues to thrive, supported by £850 from Tewkesbury's Warm Space provision to fund winter opening. Discussions are ongoing about a visit from TBC councillors.

At the GVA AGM on 7th November, a new committee was elected. Plans for 2025 include an annual fete, Apple Rock in autumn, and events marking 25 years since the Millennium. Feedback from the survey has highlighted interest in fitness-related activities, events for men, and more adult-focused events.

The next committee meeting will confirm priorities for fundraising and projects. Upcoming events include a quiz night on 29th November and Advent Windows, concluding with a Christmas Eve social. GVA is also pursuing grants for solar panels for the hall.

9.7. To receive a report from Flood Group

No update, and no cases of flooding have been reported

9.8. To receive a report from Cotswold Warden

No specific tasks were undertaken in the parish, though path clearance continues.

Path APR15 (Stanley Barn Farm to Lower Stanley) requiring investigation.

Flooding on the "new" path from Greenway Lane due to blocked stream flow.

ACTION Cllr Oliver to organize a working group for ditch digging.

ACTION All councillors to review the AONB consultation document.

9.9. To receive a report from Gretton Primary School

The Headmaster had no specific updates for the council. Dates are being arranged for a meeting with the Head and Chair of Governors to discuss GPC and GVA matters.

9.10. To receive a report from the Police

The Police and Crime Commissioner Advocacy Group continues to provide valuable input, focusing on speed, neighbourhood watch, and school parking. Concerns were raised about long emergency response times to Gretton. Updates on Speedwatch activities, police involvement, and Highways discussions were also shared.

10. Parish Council Assets

10.1. **To receive update on Street Lighting**, exploring the feasibility of reduced lighting hours, and the extension of lighting down to Redwood Close – correspondence with Gloucestershire Highways has confirmed their policy to operate streetlights at 80% brightness in residential and rural areas, dimming to 30% between midnight and 5:30am to balance safety and cost efficiency. Light screening options are available for lights causing a nuisance to residents. Extending street lighting in the village would require funding, potentially through a community match funding grant.

ACTION: Cllr Hanson to discuss further with Glos Highways and also with the developers of 'The Croft' regarding street lighting alongside the new footpath.

10.2. **To receive update on Bus stop refurbishment** - Ongoing **ACTION** Cllr Hanson

10.3. **To receive update on War memorial** – Repairs to the curbing to be carried out. **ACTION:** Cllr Green. Options to re-furbish the memorial were discussed; the preferred option is likely to be, to simply refresh the memorial lettering. It is possible that a local resident may volunteer to help.

GVA, has compiled background information on all soldiers listed on the war memorial, which could be added to the website, possibly as part of the Millenium +25 initiative.

10.4. **To receive update on grit & salt bins** – Gloucestershire Highways has agreed to replace and install a new salt bin. The proposed location has been submitted.

10.5. **To receive update on mobile speed sign** – Gloucestershire Highways has approved the installation of a new post for the Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) near the triangle.

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

11.1. The church has declined to host a second defibrillator in the church porch despite further discussions. The council is exploring alternative solutions, including seeking permission and a quotation from Gloucestershire Highways to install a second defibrillator powered by streetlight electricity along the road. **ACTION** Cllr Hanson

12. Financial Matters

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

Payee	Details	Amount
Public Works Loan	Loan repayment	1168.08
GVA	Grass Cutting	600.00
GVA	S137 – Apple Rock	500.00
C. Bridges	Oct Salary	240.30
R. Green	War memorial planting	64.75
Total		£2573.13

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

Payee	Details	Amount
C. Bridges	Clerks salary - Nov 2024	240.30
GVA	Meeting room hire & Hub contribution S137	348.00
R. Green	200 mixed Daffodil bulbs	47.98

Total **£636.28**

- **COUNCIL AGREED** to adopt the NALC pay scales effective from 1st April 2024.
It was noted that there would be a £15 charge by PATA to carry out this calculation.

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

From	Details	Amount
Lloyds	Bank interest – Oct	23.09
Lloyds	Bank interest - Oct	10.31
Total		£33.40

12.4. COUNCIL APPROVED the bank reconciliation (Appendix A) for the current state of accounts 6 November 2024

12.5. To receive an update on bank accounts

Lloyds Bank has notified the council that the current Treasurer's Account will transition to a Community Account on 14 January 2025. This change will introduce a monthly maintenance fee of £4.25, along with additional charges for various transaction types. The council agreed to take no immediate action but to monitor the impact of these charges on GPC finances and include any adjustments in next year's budget.

A 35-day notice account has been opened, with £10,000 already transferred to benefit from a higher interest rate.

COUNCIL AGREED that it would be advantageous to transfer additional project reserve funds to this account, with the amount to be decided between meetings.

12.6. To appoint an internal auditor for 2024-2025 financial year

COUNCIL APPROVED the appointment of GAPTC as its Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 Financial Year. GAPTC is competent and independent of Council.

12.7. To discuss 2025/26 budget

The year-end forecast is expected to remain on budget. The General Reserve will continue to cover 12 months of operational costs.

Potential projects for 2025/26 include:

- Installation of a second defibrillator
- A GVA project
- Pruning of the Hornbeam tree on the village green

ACTION: Clerk to circulate the draft budget between meetings for approval at the January meeting.

13. To discuss the inclusion of Gretton Tower under GPC public liability insurance

GPC reported that it is not possible to include the Tower under the Parish Council's public liability insurance. The Tower is currently owned by a charity, which has managed repairs to-date and is now considering its future ownership and management, as a long-term historic asset for the village. Discussions are ongoing regarding ownership, future planning, and the scope of any limited repairs required moving forward. The Tower charity committee was asked to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Council.

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

- GVA projects
- Review 2025-26 Budget and agree Precept

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 8th January 2025, commencing at 7.00pm.

APPENDIX A**BANK RECONCILIATION - 6 NOVEMBER 2024**

Balance per Lloyds TSB C/A statement	06/11/24	302.48	
Balance per Lloyds TSB B/A statement	06/11/24	18120.01	
Balance per Lloyds TSB 32 day notice	06/11/24	10013.75	
			28436.24
Unpresented cheques			
	chq no	0.00	0.00
	chq no	0.00	0.00
			0.00
Balance as at 6 November 24			28436.24

Cash Book

Opening balance at 1st April 2024	23950.10
Add receipts in the yr	35616.45
Less payments in the yr	31130.31
Cashbook balance on 30 June 2024	28436.24

Total to carry forward	£	28,436.24
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