

## GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 8th JULY 2014

**Venue**                    **The Church Centre Gotherington**

**Present**                Councillors Ellen Cooke, David Hearn, Caroline Ryman, Sylvia Stokes , John Stroud, Jacquie Waine and David Ward.

**In attendance**       21 members of the public and the county councillor

#### **1180. APOLOGIES**

1180.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Phil Aplin and Iain Angus

#### **1181. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

1181.1 There were no declarations of interest.

#### **1182. WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

1182.1 None.

#### **1183. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 10th JUNE 2014**

1183.1 The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

#### **1184. CLERK'S REPORT**

The clerk reported on actions from the last meeting as follows:

998.1 Following a meeting with Richard Waters, councillors Stokes and Price and two local residents in March 2014 it was agreed that further investigation of the drainage by Gloucestershire Highways was needed. The Clerk's Report will be updated.

#### **1185. BOROUGH COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

1185.1 No report.

#### **1186. COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

1186.1 Answered questions on the turning from Malleson Road into Evesham Road. Councillor Sylvia Stokes explained that the volume of traffic had caused concern and that she had met with Richard Waters on a site visit. Splitter islands on either side of the junction are being considered as protection for pedestrians crossing the road as well as to slow traffic. These would be cheaper £25,000 and possibly easier to finance than other alternatives suggested by the Parish Council (PC). The PC had suggested a roundabout or traffic lights.

The County Councillor stated would cost approximately £300,000 to £500,000 for these. Councillor Sylvia Stokes was concerned that she had been having meetings with Richard Waters for over a year and still nothing had been done. The concept of splitter islands will be looked at further to see if this is feasible. There will need to be a safety audit and consideration of priorities. Councillor David Hearn stated the PC would be interested to view any proposals. Councillor Sylvia Stokes stated that she was pleased that Richard Waters was considering possible improvements at the junction.

A fatality had occurred at the junction over a year ago this was discussed and until recently, a school bus, had dropped children off on the far side of the road. This meant that children had to negotiate their way across the busy road. It was noted that the bus now goes through the village so dropping children off by the Evesham Road has now ceased.

Councillor Sylvia Stokes stated that at peak times 1400 cars passed the junction to Gotherington. She felt without anything in place the area is an accident waiting to happen.

A risk assessment has been asked for.

Councillor Sylvia Stokes hopes Highways will take the traffic survey into account.

Councillor Ellen Cooke added that the lighting in the area was restricted.

Councillor Caroline Ryman wondered whether any lighting in the area would cause more accidents.

**The meeting was adjourned whilst members of the public could make comments under Public Question Time**

### 1187. FINANCE

1187.1 Bank reconciliation and receipts and payments information was accepted.

1187.2 Accounts for payment.

**It was resolved that** the following payments be approved.

10/06/2014 Garden Services Gotherington	Mowing	150.00	1646
10/06/2014 Howard Samuels	Weed Control	120.83	1647
08/07/2014 P Aplin	Web Hosting	45.00	1648
08/07/2014 Wicksteeds	Playground Maintenance	11.76	1649
08/07/2014 DOE Sports Ltd	Tennis Court Maintenance	3,820.80	1650
08/07/2014 Woolstone PCC	Hall Hire	60.00	1651
08/07/2014 Grant Thornton	Audit	240.00	1652
08/07/2014 D Roscoe	Clerks Expenses	78.56	1653

1187.3 **It was resolved that** the clerk's expenses be paid.

1187.4 The budget was reviewed and accepted.

1187.5 Councillor Caroline Ryman asked about the Clerk, saying if he was not able to fulfil his job title should he have the same salary?

Councillor David Hearn replied that the Clerk was expecting to have his salary curtailed.

Councillor Sylvia Stokes felt that as he was unable to continue due to personal reasons he should not be penalised for that. She proposed that two people should be appointed to examine the current financial statements to ensure that items were appearing in the correct places, Councillor Caroline Ryman (accountant) volunteered and Councillor Phil Aplin (retired accountant) would be approached. Seconded by Councillor David Hearn and passed unanimously.

### 1188 PLANNING MATTERS

- 1188 .1 Update on outstanding Planning Matters.

Appl Number	Application	Update
14/00183/FUL	Land Adjacent The Old Bakery 45 Gretton Road Gotherington	<b>Demolition of existing garage and erection of new dwelling and detached garage (Revised Scheme) Permit</b>
14/00316/APP	Homelands Farm Gotherington Lane Bishops Cleeve Cheltenham	<b>Phase 1 of Homelands 2 development for the erection of 133 dwellings including 53 affordable dwellings pursuant to Outline Consent 10/01005/OUT. Responses by 16/7/14</b>

**1188.2 To consider the hiring of a consultant and the next steps following the Edward Ware Homes meeting.**

Councillor David Hearn said Alderton had hired a Consultant but it had not helped.

Councillor Caroline Ryman said that Woodmancote had also hired a Consultant and had an action group (the village had acted as a whole to contribute to a Consultant). All agreed anything to slow the process down should be tried.

Councillor Ellen Cooke felt that there was a lot of expertise in the village so she did not feel there was a need to hire a Consultant.

Councillor David Hearn asked the audience. It was felt that the people who had expertise were working people and should not be expected to act as unpaid consultants. It was felt that a Consultant should be hired. It was agreed that there was a lot of gossip and hearsay at the moment. Also that hiring a Consultant would not cost a lot of money. It was agreed by the public that something tangible had to be done. Consultants would be up to date with precedents and everything else.

The Neighbourhood Plan was considered, Councillor David Hearn said that it did not need a Consultant.

Councillor Sylvia Stokes explained that the PC cannot employ a Consultant without knowing how much it will cost. The Public asked for quotes to see what service the parish would get for how much.

Councillor Sylvia Stokes asked the audience what would happen if TBC did not object to the planning application. We only need to look at Alderton. TBC agreed with the Alderton objection, it went to appeal and was passed. A member of the public said that Martin Goodall's Planning Blog showed how to object. Councillor Sylvia Stokes said even if a consultant was employed it would need numerous letters as well.

Public: that until now we have been talking about Moat Farm, but what about the Raspberry Patch?

Councillor David Hearn talked of Gloucestershire Regional Rural Council and that a grant would be available for a Neighbourhood Plan of approx. £7000, this would not include the cost of a referendum which the Borough Council would pick up.

Councillor Caroline Ryman suggested that we should talk to other villages and how they have tackled development.

Public: every application will be looked at on its own merits. Councillor Sylvia Stokes said that TBC will do that anyway.

Public: asked could the PC make tentative approaches to a Consultant?

Public: Developers have said that they have enough money to outdo the Council and that they would carry on until they get what they want!

Councillor Sylvia Stokes said that the Joint Core Strategy will give some protection.

Councillor David Hearn said that the Neighbourhood Plan had been started and there is already a Parish Plan and that the Housing Needs Survey had been completed. The Neighbourhood Plan would be registered with TBC within the week.

Public: Want to be able to shape our village and not have things imposed upon us.

Councillor David Hearn said there had been some confusion over the Neighbourhood Plan the councillor for TBC seemed to be saying do not go ahead but other villages have said that it should.

### **1188.3 To consider the next steps regarding the proposed solar farm**

The question was asked whether the planning application had been submitted?

Councillor David Hearn/Caroline Ryman : said no. If this went ahead the general guidelines seem to say that the PC will gain.

Councillor Ellen Cooke added any money due to the PC will be used at the PC's discretion.

Councillor David Ward added that solar panels were not like housing in that there would be no cars etc. The land will only be rented so it will eventually go back to the farmer, who will also be able to keep sheep on the land.

### **1188.4 Homelands**

It was stated that it is not in Gotherington Parish, it is in Bishops Cleeve Parish.

Councillor Caroline Ryman thought there was outline planning for a Primary School in that area. Councillor Ellen Cooke stated that there is no longer provision for a new primary school in Homelands 2 "as we have been told that it is not needed". Instead both Cleeve schools and Woodmancote are being enlarged.

### **1189. To consider the vacant position of clerk and RFO.**

Councillor Jacquie Waine will take the Minutes until the position is clearer.

Councillor David Hearn said he and David Roscoe (Clerk) had a long conversation with the Clerk giving the reasons for his decision.

### **1190. Risk Register**

Not discussed

### **1191. To agree a meeting with Borough and County councillors in the w/b 14th July**

The County Councillor Rob Bird agreed to meet the Parish Council on a date to be arranged when the availability of the Borough Councillor was known.

### **1192.To consider progress with the Parish Plan Implementation.**

PC Neighbourhood Plan going ahead.

### **1193.To update actions concerning a Neighbourhood Plan**

The parish council would register its intention to proceed with a Neighbourhood Plan with Tewkesbury Borough Council within the week in order to be eligible for funding. Proposed Councillor David Ward, Seconded Councillor David Hearn.

### **1194.To consider quotes for refurbishment of RR Building**

Not discussed

### **1195.Gretton Road Speed Limit**

Councillor Phil Aplin sent an email last week to Richard Waters and it is progressing.

#### **1196.Potholes in Gotherington Fields**

Councillor Ellen Cooke asked if it was on the highway or the verge. Councillor David Hearn suggested that the width of the tractors makes the verge become a highway. There is a need to demonstrate that this is dangerous.

#### **1197.Maintenance of footpaths**

To assess the maintenance of footpaths: Public paths at Longfurlong Lane are overgrown. Councillor Sylvia Stokes has obtained a quote of £150 from Vince Larcombe as agreed by council at the June meeting and the work has been completed.

#### **1198.To consider security for the tennis courts**

Not discussed

#### **1199.To review the valuation of the village hall as an asset.**

Not discussed

#### **1200.Village of the Year Competition**

Councillor John Stroud said three years ago we won a consolation prize, two years ago we won it outright, last year the GRCC did not run the competition .. It was agreed to enter the competition with contributions for the various categories being supplied by villagers as well as councillors and Councillor David Hearn agreed to complete the application form.

#### **1201.To consider possible provision of a new graveyard.**

The Vicar is meeting with the Archdeacon to discuss space in Oxenton and Woolstone grave yards. They are rapidly running out of space. Friends of Woolstone Church will clear the grave yard to assess the situation.

#### **1202.The War Memorial**

Not discussed

#### **1203.Items for future agenda**

None

#### **1204.Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

12th of August at 7.30pm in the Church Centre

#### **Public Question Time**

- A member of the public congratulated Mr Cook for cutting the grass. A member of the public stated that the drains were blocked and full of grass and weeds. Who should see to this, was it the PC or Highways, or the public. Also he had not seen a road sweeper in the area. Several other members of the public and PC explained that the road sweeper had recently been along parts of Gotherington.
- Concern was expressed about the number of parking places set for association/social housing in Bishops Cleeve also cars had been seen parked on the pavement.
- Councillor David Hearn explained that there were garages at the back of the houses.
- Councillor Sylvia Stokes explained that this was in Bishops Cleeve's Parish not Gotherington.

- Social housing in Gotherington was discussed. Concern was expressed about the number of parking places.
- Highways Local – PC did not know of this name and thought it was Gateways Local. The County Councillor explained this is a fund that gives small amounts of money for small road safety issues eg, access for mobility scooters and not just road maintenance. Councillor David Hearn gave him a list. The County Councillor explained that this fund was not for general maintenance such as pot holes.
- Councillor Caroline Ryman asked if it could target parking by the school? The County
- Councillor stated that this involves traffic regulations and an order for lines etc.
- Councillor David Hearn asked if someone needed to be killed first. Councillor Caroline Ryman said that a child had been hit. The County Councillor asked if there was a record of the incident.
- Public – the left turning was obscured by an overgrown hedge. The County Councillor explained that the turning into Longfurlong Lane was not ‘adopted’ and that owners are responsible for the vegetation growing on their land.
- Councillor David Hearn stated that it was not always obvious that people were slowing down to turn and so it was dangerous.
- Councillor Caroline Ryman felt we ought to write to the owners. **Action: JW - Write to owners.**
- It was pointed out that the white lines in the layby on Gretton Road, are incorrectly placed. Public comments-where are these white lines on Gretton Road? **Action: JW - Write to highways.**
- The potential development at Moat Farm was discussed, all the audience were against this. The Public want to set up an action group with support from the PC.
- Councillor David Hearn explained that no formal application had been sent to Tewkesbury and so until then there was nothing that could be done. He continued that if/when an application was received by Tewkesbury, the Borough Council may not object. He explained that the Joint Core Strategy had not been adopted and this will probably not be until summer 2015.
- Howard Samuels asked everyone to remember that there were two potential developments.
- The Public asked why the Tilleys could not convert their barns and build on their brown field sites.
- Councillor David Hearn explained that Edward Ware Homes had highlighted a number of plots in various places and that they approached the Tilleys and not the other way round.
- John McGuffie – Chair of Oxenton Parish Meeting, was concerned about developments in Woolstone . He reminded people that surface water drains into the Tirlle Brook which then floods (1 ½ metres of water) onto the village road and that this had increased with flash flooding. Sewerage is also a problem, one pipe goes to Oxenton sewage works which can be overloaded. Planning advice had been that boundaries should not be over built. David Hearn noted that Manor Lane also floods.