**GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**M I N U T E S (subject to agreement at the next council meeting) of** a meeting of Gotherington Parish Council held at 7.30pm, on **Wednesday 9 October 2019** in the Rex Rhodes Building, Gotherington .

Present: Chairman Howard Samuels, Vice Chair Mavis Rear, Allen Keyte, Simon Tarling, Lewis Harmer, Bev Osborne,

Also Present: Gill Jennings Clerk/RFO, County Councillor Rob Bird, Borough Councillor Mike Dean, 32 members of the public, Martin Hutchings (GRCC)

**2019.10/1. Welcome**, confirm meeting quorate, and to receive apologies for absence.

The Chairman welcomed attendees, the meeting was declared quorate. Apologies had been received from Borough Councillor Anna Hollaway. Cllr Colin Brown was absent.

1.1 The Chairman will then formally ask if anyone intends recording or filming the meeting.

No record requested

**2019.10/2**. **To approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th September 2019**

**The Minutes were approved as a true record.** Cllr Tarling requested the following additional notes:

At the start of the meeting the Chairman signed new Clerks contract.

5 - Action Point. The scope of work on the war memorial to be circulated by the Chair

5 - Action Point. Simon took an action point to draw up a terms of reference to consider provision of WiFi in the Village hall, RRB and JWP.

5 - Action Point. Simon took an action point to draw up a terms of reference for a review of the village NDP.

7.1 - Action Point. Simon took an action point to send out an update on the land covenant.

**The clerk advised that minutes would normally reflect discussion on the decision required under the agenda item**

**2019.10/3** **To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below**

**Councillor Samuels declared an interest in 2019.10/9 Planning and did not vote.**

**2019.10/4**. **Public Session**

4.1 Martin Hutchings to explain the GRCC Housing Needs Survey of

Gotherington (Councillors may ask questions)

Martin Hutchings explained that GRCC on behalf of Tewkesbury Borough Council will conduct a Housing Needs Survey by way of a questionnaire delivered to households. The responses are anonymous. This survey was taking place over 8 parishes initially, with Gotherington included. Results would be published by Tewkesbury Borough Council.

Comment: GRCC can expect low return due to the very personal questions in the survey. What is the point when there is an NDP in place?

Answer: A low return is expected but these surveys are required every 5 years to guide the Council’s development plans.

Question: Would the survey just obtain aspirational responses rather than true reflection of need?

Answer: The researchers have to depend on the data they obtain. **Councillor Samuels agreed to publish information on the survey on Facebook.**

4.2 To receive elector questions/comments regarding items on this agenda Resident: Raised concern that grass cutting on Freemans Field not frequent enough and unreasonable to expect clubs to foot the bill. Village takes pride in the field and the council should encourage sports activity. Not all children will be local but might attend Gotherington Primary school and have friends in the village. When setting the precept it is hoped the council allows for more frequent cuts.

Resident: Had played cricket on Freemans Field for 40 years and felt that the grounds were pride of the village. Cricket benefitted youngsters with 45 current players, and 30 adult players. Club has been self supporting and costs £1800 per annum to run. In the past the club has made donations towards the John Woolley pavilion. If cricket and other sports were not played the field would become a target for dog fouling.

Resident: A descendent of Mr Freeman spoke regarding the history of the field and his sadness that the upkeep might not tie in with the expectations of the bequest.

Resident: Sport adds to the fulfilment of children’s lives, the field is an important facility and cost cutting unnecessary.

Resident: Originally a muddy field which Mr Freeman and others worked hard to change into a facility for the village

Resident: If this is a financial decision could savings be made by not cutting other areas in the village, thereby protecting biodiversity and wildlife? Resident: With reference to 2019.10/6 the disposal of the roller could not go ahead as it is subject to a legal agreement between the cricket club and the parish council. The resident produced an unsigned draft agreement. Resident: New bus timetable not helpful, the gaps in service are too long, particularly for anyone wanting to go to the doctors surgery

Resident: Care needed in seeking repair of the war memorial because the one in Bishops Cleeve already deteriorating.

Resident: Overhanging vegetation Lawrences Meadow, Old Bakery, by phone box and Clematis Cottage.

Resident: Drains blocked and dislodged in Malleson Road.

Resident: Grass cutting in Lawrences Meadow very poor and cuttings being left loose. Can GPC pay to have them collected up? Resident would contribute £25 to the £50 cost. (Cllr Dean offered £25)

Resident: GPC needs to raise the precept, it is one of the lowest rates locally.

**Councillor Samuels advised the attendees that the Council intends to meet with the sports clubs to discuss hire charges/grasscutting in more detail and has taken on board the comments made.**

4.3 To receive and request Borough Councillor & County Councillor Reports

Councillor Rob Bird explained that the bus service W1 and W2 previously run by Marchants would cease and a new service would be operated by Pulhams, subsidised by Glos County Council. There would be 9 buses instead of 12. The subsidy is meant to provide an essential service for workers and school children and a bit of general use.

Borough Councillor Dean advised the council of Gloucestershire Hate Crime Strategy Week 12-19 October from which they will launch a communications resource. He had recently attended a meeting of GMB and Unite to discuss the 3 day working week. He urged the council to give feedback to the county council about the location of the new primary school. Cllr Rob Bird explained that he had expressed concerns that the three options had been presented with the inference that only one option would be acceptable. The justification for this had not been properly explained. The reason that the school had been dropped from planning conditions of recent developments was a mystery. Bishops Cleeve PC very concerned about how the 630 pupils will travel to the Two Hedges Rd site. Borough Councillor Hollaway provided a written report that at the July TBC meeting a motion was put to declare a climate Emergency, it was decided to pass it on to Overview & Scrutiny. They came back with recommendations to the T.B.Council meeting 1st Oct to:

Commit to doing all in its power to make T.B.C offices carbon neutral by 2030 Call upon central government to provide additional powers and resources. Commit to working with partners in Gloucester to achieve Countywide carbon neutrality. This motion was passed and Overview and Scrutiny informed the meeting that T.B.C. has already addressed the problem of single use plastic and has shown a strong commitment to recycling and sustainable transport but more needs to be done.

A motion was voted through to write to One Gloucestershire calling on it to withdraw and revise its current proposals and commit to retaining long-term A&E services at both Cheltenham G.Hosp. and Gloucester R.Hosp. And write to the Health secretary asking him to investigate the widespread concerns. The Clinical Commissioning Group have been invited to come to present their latest proposals at an all member group.

The full council voted to agree funding to be added to the capital program to finance further purchases in line with commercial Property Investment Strategy.

Local Ward Councillors attended a Place Meeting.

New school places was a hot topic. The G.C.C Head of Education is going to be asked to a place meeting in January to explain their proposals .

The G.C.C officers talked and are still optimistic about the Bishops Cleeve to Cheltenham Racecourse Cycle Path. More funding is needed. G.W.Railway have said they would want their very rare ticket office moved out of the pathway route.

**2019.10/5. To receive a report from the Finance Working Group and decide on hire charges for facilities, discuss disposal of the grass roller, grass cutting costs**

A report had been circulated but the matter was deferred until the council had met with the sports clubs. **B/F**

**2019.10/6. To receive a report from the Freemans Field Group - accept signage offered by Glos CC, revisit quote for fencing**

**The offer of signage was accepted together with the cost of £32** for a pavilion sign. The Council **were firm in their decision to contribute £400** toward wire fencing repairs. Councillor Samuels reported that permission had been sought to trim back the hazel trees, and he had ordered the memorial bench requested at last month’s meeting. **The Council agreed that a £50 fee would be charged for ongoing maintenance of any donated seats**.

**2019.10/7 To receive a report on the Town and Parish Council Seminar of 24 September 2019.**

Councillor Rear had attended the seminar and presentation slides had been circulated. Council to consider responses to the Local Plan at the November meeting. **B/F**

**2019.10/8. Finance**

8.1 To approve payments to date and agree purchase of Christmas tree £100 & Wreath £25.

The following payments due in September were authorised:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DD  | I&I Internet  | 8.44  |
| DD  | I&I Internet  | 11.99  |
| FPO  | Cleaning  | 115  |
| FPO  | HMRC PAYE  | 111  |
| FPO  | Administration RS  | 444.15  |
| FPO  | Office Expenses  | 20  |
| FPO  | Grasscutting  | 180  |
| FPO  | British Gas  | 19.43  |
| FPO  | British Gas  | 79.03  |
| FPO  | Administration GJ  | 485.64  |
| FPO  | Administration RS  | 143.36  |
| FPO  | HMRC  | 157.20  |
|  FPO PATA PAYROLL  | 30.95  |

The Council also **approved** payment for a Xmas tree £100, RBL Wreath £25,

Defibrillator battery £250 plus £10 postage (approx.), audit fees £240, cleaning £207, grasscutting £180 (in addition to the listed payments)

8.2 To approve cashbook entries reconciled to the bank statement to end of

August 2019 – **The cashbook entries were approved and the bank balance of £35916.21 agreed**

8.3 To agree the budget report to the end of September 2019

The budget report was noted. **Council agreed the virement of £500** from

Events budget to cover the cost of the defibrillator battery if necessary. The RFO pointed out that a S106 receipt might be relevant to the previous financial year and required a breakdown of the spend.

8.4 To appoint councillors to undertake an internal audit of the accounts **Councillor Harmer offered to undertake an audit.**

8.5 To review risks and discuss investment strategy

The RFO provided a draft risk register for the working groups to review.

The RFO provided information on investment accounts open to local authorities. The Council required more time to consider the options and in the meantime a debt needed to be collected in full. **B/F**

8.6 To note and initially consider the use of the S106 funds for 19/00422/APP - Part Parcel 9527 Gretton Road, Gotherington, consider correspondence with Tewkesbury Borough Council and S106 survey and receive an update on any relevant covenants

The Clerk had prepared a draft S106 survey and would be meeting with the S106 officer. **Council deferred a decision. B/F**

8.7 Authorise the purchase of IT equipment and metal filing cabinet (budget £1000)

**The Council considered probable costs of items and agreed to set a budget of £1000 for immediate purchase of equipment**

8.8 To adopt 2019 Financial Regulations

**Item deferred B/F**

8.9 To add the RFO to the bank mandate for online payments

**Agreed by unanimous vote**

8.10 Report on GAPTC audit and consider arrangements for next year Council voiced their disappointment in the content of the audit. Further quotations would be obtained. (**Clerk**) **B/F**

8.11 To receive and note the External Auditor’s report for Yr End 2018/19 The report was circulated and published to the website. Council were asked to note that errors had been made in the figures in box 3 and 6 of the prior year.

**2019.10/9. To review Gotherington planning applications**

19/00650/FUL 38 Gretton Road front and side/rear extension

**No objection was proposed by Cllr Keyte/seconded by Cllr Harmer, carried by majority vote.**

**2019.10/10 Review of Working Groups, appoint members and to set tasks (Cllr Tarling to provide draft of NDP Review terms of reference)**

**Decision deferred B/F**

**2019.10/11 War Memorial – to consider quotations, funding and legal requirements**

**Decision deferred B/F**

**2019.10/12 Footpaths Working Group – to receive a report**

Overhanging vegetation and an obstruction had been reported on AGO 22 and 44 and was referred to Glos CC. There is concern that the temporary closure of the footpath behind Gotherington Fields does not become permanent.

**2019.10/13 Date of next meeting & Remembrance Day arrangements** 13th November 2019

In the meantime it was agreed to hold a Strategy meeting to assist the council in moving forward.

Councillor Samuels was representing the council in making Remembrance Sunday arrangements.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm