

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next council meeting) of a meeting of Gotherington Parish Council to be held at 7.30pm, on **Wednesday 11 December 2019 in the Rex Rhodes Building, Gotherington.**

Councillors Present: Chairman Howard Samuels, Allen Keyte, Simon Tarling, Bev Osborne

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, Borough Councillor Mike Dean, 2 members of the public

2019.12/1 Welcome, confirm meeting quorate, and to receive apologies for absence. The Chairman will then formally ask if anyone intends recording or filming the meeting.

Apologies accepted from Cllr Rear, Cllr Leech, which left the meeting quorate. Apologies also received from Borough Councillor Anna Hollaway.

2019.12/2 To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below

There were no declarations.

2019.12/3 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2019

The Minutes were approved as a true record

2019.12/4 To agree the circulation of a Village Projects Survey
It was agreed that the survey would be circulated following the Christmas festivities.

2019.12/5 To receive and request Borough Councillor & County Councillor Reports

Cllr Mike Dean suggested that the council looks at the landscape impact of the proposed development off Ashmead Drive. He would put the council in touch with an expert for advice.

Cllr Q. The MP had expressed some negativity about the status of the NDP in context with the JCS/Local Plan.

Cllr A. There is a cascade down from the NPPF through the JCS/Local Plan to the NDP but will look into the comment about the NDP.

Cllr Mike Dean reported the death of former County Councillor Roger Wilson who had worked hard particularly for improvements in social care.

2019.12/6 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on any external meetings attended

None attended

2019.12/7 To receive reports from Working Groups:

Finance & Policy – report re hire charges circulated

Environment – no report

Recreation – no report

Events (to note VE day celebrations in 2020) Cllr Samuels asked if the History Group would assist with the celebrations. History Group are short of volunteers but will try to summon a contribution of help.

2019.12/8 Public Session (15 minutes)

4.2 To receive elector questions/comments regarding items on this agenda (Three minutes max per parishioner)

Resident comment: The idea of creating a woodland would be very welcome on the South side of the village to act as a buffer between Bishops Cleeve and Gotherington and reduce light/noise pollution. Queen Elizabeth woods were planted by volunteers from Gotherington, with assistance from Woodlands Trust, this might once more achieve social cohesion.

Resident comment: The Meadow should be referred to as the Lammas Ground. NDP still holds its own in terms of planning policy. It would be useful for the council to look at the Local Plan policy about strategic gaps between the settlements. TBC currently have a shortfall of 40 houses, this figure will be recalculated in Spring and does not take account of outline permissions. With regard to the NDP review the JCS is due in January 2020 and the Borough Plan will go to the Inspector in January 2020. Unlikely to know the outcome until the Summer.

2019.12/9 Finance

1. **To consider the draft budget for 2020/21 and consider any additions/changes (circulated) – allow for NDP review**

Cllr Samuels indicated that it might be too early to consider the budget line by line until there is agreement about the grasscutting. The Finance Working Group had amended the RFO's original budget and provided an expenditure estimate of £32475. With a precept requirement of £21275. Cllr Keyte suggested this could be cut to £14000 and produced an alternative budget. The RFO reminded the council that receipts were looking particularly healthy due to the late receipt of S106 funding £7700 which had been due in the previous year. If this had not been received the council would be in difficulty.

Cllr Dean offered to chase Peter Tonge (TBC) to attend a site meeting re grass cutting

2. **To approve payments to date (circulated) and budget report (circulated)**

Payments were approved as follows:

PATA £23.25

Poster Printing £60

Admin £485.44

Cleaning £218.50

HMRC £121.40

Office Expenses £17.33

Ink, storage boxes, paper £120.89

British Gas £59.91

The budget expenditure in November was agreed £1995.43, receipts £217.57

3. **To agree the bank reconciliation to 30th November 2019 (circulated)**

The bank reconciliation was agreed at £34271.59

4. **To appoint an Independent Internal Auditor for the 2020/21 accounts**

There are 3 options: GAPTC, DKE Audit Services, or a qualified clerk from another parish.

Clerk to circulate details B/F

5. To authorise investment of reserves in a 45 day notice account at Nationwide

TSB have advised that they are not set up to take business investment at the present time.

Cllr Samuels to action.

6. Hallmaster administration

Consider the cost of an entry system for RRB.

There was lengthy debate and the item was deferred.

7. Loft Insulation RRB

Consider 3 quotations for loft insulation and agree to proceed to order

Having considered all the quotations the council agreed to proceed with Mr Hollings at £649.00. Cllr Samuels to action - work must take place when playgroup are on holiday.

8. Receive response of cricket/football clubs to hire proposals and agree way forward.

The clubs, having suggested themselves that they might take on some of the grasscutting, had now put forward the counter offer of paying £350 per annum towards the grasscutting without any voluntary grasscutting. There was lengthy debate about whether a volunteer group could be summoned to carry out the work on a rota, whether they would be provided with equipment, training, insurance, also whether there was sufficient storage for equipment. The Council were reminded that the issue was not about the peripheral cutting but about the main field and the clubs expectation to have 25 cuts per annum. **It was agreed that Cllr Tarling would write to the clubs explaining that it will be necessary to charge them £700 each per annum to cover the cost otherwise the council goes back to cutting 12 times per year.**

9. To consider a bespoke training course – conflict resolution – Clerk to obtain costs B/F

2019.12/10 Planning Matters

1. Consultation – 19/01071/FUL – Land off Ashmead Drive – 50 houses and associated earth/drainage works and agree S106 requirement. The Council agreed to object to this development on grounds of harm to the landscape, NDP, access. Councillor Tarling to draft response.

The Council agreed that the MUGA was not suitably located on this site and that creation of a tranquil space i.e. woodland with seating, and fitness trail would be more appropriate. **Clerk to write in response.**

2. Consultation – Gotherington Cycle Link – council to confirm necessity of new cycle path – **The Council agreed that although a safe cycle route would be helpful the current planned route was dangerous and needed revision. Clerk to write in response.**

3. Decision - 19/00650/FUL - 38 Gretton Road – Extensions – Permitted
Noted

4. GNDP review and terms of reference for working group – awaiting advice
No expert advice forthcoming from GRCC as yet but the Council agreed that it would be worthwhile the NDP group convening to review the plan against the current NPPF.

5. Planning enforcement actions required from Footpaths Working Group report – Charles Church site

Persimmon have informed TBC they have gained permission from Highways to implement the remaining pedestrian crossings points on 18.11.2019. This would see pedestrian crossing points implemented to the north of the highway and also across the access for Meadow House. Regarding the area which has been dug up by utility companies, it is not subject to the planning application and TBC have been informed it is privately owned so any damage caused would be a civil matter.

Cllr Keyte reported that satisfactory work to the pavement had been carried out.

6. Outstanding S106 queries Gotherington Grange

TBC have been asked to explain why they have dropped the playscheme from the site which was an agreed part of the landscaping without consulting the parish.

No response **B/F**

2019.12/11 War Memorial – to consider quotations, funding and legal requirements

Cllr Tarling has sent photographs showing the original memorial with railings/grassed surround. Awaiting advice from the Conservation officer.

2019.12/12 To initiate an In Bloom Group

Cllr Samuels to progress.

2019.12/13 The Council may adjourn to discuss a legal matter in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) 1960 Act.

1. Covenant on Land – (Cllr Tarling) – instruction required – Cllr Tarling reported that there were 2 covenants in existence. The latest covenant had been filed with the Land Registry only 2 weeks ago. **He would investigate whether the council could plant trees on the land. Copies of documents to be provided to the clerk.**
2. Bad debt collection (RFO) – update required – Cllr Tarling and Cllr Samuels had met with the hirer and a standing order for £900 per month would be set up to meet the hire charges with any balance being reconciled at the end of each quarter. The RFO enquired whether the arrears would be cleared? Invoices are to be sent to the hirer requiring payment. Payments will be coming from another business.

2019.12/14 Date of Next Meeting

8th January 2020 was confirmed as the next meeting date as Wednesdays seemed to be working well.

