**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 15th January 2020** in the Rex Rhodes Building, Gotherington.

Councillors Present: Howard Samuels (Chairman), Allen Keyte, Simon Tarling, Bev Osborne, Mavis Rear (Vice Chairman)

Also Present: Clerk/RFO Borough Councillors Mike Dean & Anna Hollaway, 2 members of the public

**2020.1/1 Welcome**, confirm meeting quorate, and to receive apologies for absence. The Chairman will then formally ask if anyone intends recording or filming the meeting.

Cllr Leech had sent apologies due to work commitments. Cllr Harmer was absent.

**2020.1/2** **To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below**

Cllr Samuels & Cllr Osborne declared an interest as Trustees in item 12.

**2020.1/3 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2019**

**The Minutes were approved as a true record**

**2020.1/4 To receive and request Borough Councillor & County Councillor Reports**

Cllr Dean reported that there was a consultation on the proposals for 11000 new homes and a cyber park West of Cheltenham which runs from 13th January to 17th February 2020. He also advised that he had checked the S106 contribution for schools from recent local developments and it stood at £3,710,668 to be spent on Grangefield, Bishops Cleeve and Woodmancote Primary education. Woodmancote has already benefited from expansion at a cost of approx. £1.2 million.

Councillors expressed concern at the lack of strategic planning for infrastructure **PARTICULARLY A SCHOOL AT HOMELANDS.**

Cllr Dean urged the council to make representations to the MP and planning consultants Grassroots.

**2020.1/5 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on any external meetings attended**

**Cllr Osborne indicated she had circulated a report on the A46 to councillors**

**2020.1/6 To receive reports from Working Groups:**

Finance & Policy – report on grass cutting costs/hire charges circulated

**Cllrs Samuels, Tarling and Keyte reported on a fairly successful meeting with contractors to renegotiate the grass cutting costs. These had now been reduced and adjusted together with the hire charges in the budget draft.**

**The football/cricket clubs would each pay £250 annual hire charges.**

**Environment** – discuss VAS proposal and whether it should be researched by the working group – Cllr Rear asked the council to consider newspeed reduction signs – additional locations? Gretton Road and Cleeve Road – smiley/cross faces are reputed to be more effective plus solar panel charging – new posts probably needed. Quotations needed and PC approval. The Council agreed the first stage in the process should be to request a traffic survey **-** AFTER discussion with the Police and the Highway Authority on its effectiveness and enforcement.

Cllr Rear stated that she would like all councillors to report potholes in the roads as the more people complained, the more likely it was that something might get done. A flooding notice had been put up on the A435 by Showlands. She asked whether the council would be able to get the war memorial repaired in time for the VE 75th anniversary –

Cllr Tarling reported that he was in discussion with the Conservation Officer and War Memorials Trust and hoped to have further information soon. She reported blocked gulleys on Gretton Road and some on Malleson Road between Shutter Lane and the last one by 98(?) – **Clerk to action.**

A435 – flooding nearShowlands. She had made a site visit, on foot, to check whether this was being caused by water draining from Grangefield’s balancing pond. Certainly, there is a wet area in the field where the ditch leaves to cross under the A435 but the field is a lot lower than the road so perhaps water not draining from the road?

**Recreation** – Cllr Osborne enquired whether she could work with external volunteers given the lack of councillors – this was agreed by the council.

Events – Cllr Samuels has started the process with volunteers

**2020.1/7** **Public Session** (15 minutes)

A member of the public asked whether the VAS could be improved. The signs are quite small? Cllr Tarling advised that they were standard sizes.

**2020.1/8 Finance**

* To consider the 2 versions of the draft budget for 2020/21 and consider any additions/changes (circulated) **and pass a resolution to request the precept**

There was a discussion about the treatment of VAT, following which Cllr Rear proposed that the Finance Working Group budget as presented by Cllr Keyte be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Keyte and was unanimously supported – including the precept – to be notified to Tewkesbury Borough Council.

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

**Payments were approved**

**TBC Grass Cutting £931.64**

**Cleaning £172.50**

**GRCC subscription £25.00**

* To agree the bank reconciliation to 31st December 2019 (circulated)

**The bank reconciliation was agreed at £33423.79**

* B/F 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.

**B/F**

* To advise progress in investment of reserves in a 45 day notice account at Nationwide and consider changes to current account banking

**The current 45 day notice account was 0.85% and it was felt that it was not worth the effort for any change at this time**

* To consider costs of a bespoke training course – conflict resolution - £300 for 2/2.5 hours, plus mileage .45p.

**B/F**

**2020.1/8 Planning Matters**

* B/F 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.

* 19/00758/OUT – Amendments to application Homelands – 65 houses instead of 70 with 40% affordable, and biodiversity landscaping

  **The COUNCIL state that the small reduction in numbers have no impact on our OBECTION to this application. The site was originally needed for a school site which is still required and a part of the vital infrastructure.**

* 19/01164/FUL -Conversion and alteration of garage into 2 storey annexe - 55 Gretton Rd The **Council had NO OBJECTION**
* 19/001170/FUL - Single storey rear extension/ Woodstock, Lawrences Meadow, Gotherington. **The Council have NO OBJECTION to this application and indeed would support it.**

**All comments to be submitted to the Planning Authority in the usual way.**

**2020.1/9 B/F War Memorial – to consider quotations, funding and legal requirements**

**Advice from Tewkesbury BC Conservation officer was that the surrounding sounds could be replaced on a like for like basis using the same material. An approval for such work has been provided.**

**2020.1/10 B/F To initiate an In Bloom Group**

**B/F**

**2020.1/11 B/F Tree planting on covenanted land**

**B/F**

**2020.1/12 To consider a query regarding village hall land/premises**

**Cllr Tarling suggested that the issue of ownership of the Village Hall be separated from the operation of the hall. He proposed that the parish council should support the village hall committee in the proposed change in charitable status to a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO). With the matters relating to ownership of the hall being deferred.**

**The Council voted unanimously to accept the proposal “as owners of the Village Hall we support the Trustees in the move to CIO”**

**2020.1/13 Application for a Memorial Bench**

**The council voted unanimously to support the application for a memorial bench on “Shutter Island”**

**2019.12/14 Date of Next Meeting**

12th February 2020, preceded by a closed CIL training session at 6.30pm