

GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES (subject to agreement at the next Council meeting) of a meeting of Gotherington Parish Council held at **7.00pm** on Wednesday 10th March 2021 Venue Zoom

Councillors Present: Howard Samuels (Chairman), Mavis Rear (Vice Chairman), Beverley Osborne, Matt Dean

Also Present: Clerk/RFO, 4 members of the public

2021.03/208 Welcome

The Chairman will ask if anyone wishes to record or film the meeting

There were no requests

2021.03/209 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies

2021.03/210 To receive declarations of interest/requests for dispensation for items on the agenda below.

There were no requests

2021.03/211 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2021

The Minutes were approved as a true record

2021.03/212 To receive and request Borough Councillor & County Councillor Reports

Request consultation from the County Councillor re: new primary school - **Clerk to write to Councillor Bird**

Discuss consultation on Public Rights of Way definitive map – **Cllr Rear stated that the map seemed to be correct and no work needed**

Borough Councillor Dean reported by email:

"Re: The Meadow The council has issued a section 288 notice in respect of the inspectors decision. This is a statutory challenge (similar to a judicial review).We hope to show that the decision was flawed in the inspectors assessment of the Council's Land supply.The developers have 21 days from the date of the challenge to reply; this period elapses early next week. The presumption is that the developers will lodge their reply. If we are successful, the decision is quashed. Then we shall have a re-run of the appeal."

2021.03/213 To receive reports from Parish Councillors on any external meetings attended

- Wingmoor Liaison Meeting – Cllr Samuels had attended but had nothing to report which affected Gotherington
- Severn Trent Funding workshop – Clerk had attended and reported that funding was available up to £200K for projects

2021.03/214 To receive reports from Working Groups:

Please provide reports in writing so that they may be noted in the minutes.

- Finance & Policy (Cllr Samuels) – Debit card application progressing
- Environment & Highways (Cllr Rear/Samuels/Osborne) – Cllr Rear circulated a full

report:

Malleson Road/A435/Gotherington Fields junction improvement works. Shannonside, Persimmon/Charles Church sub contractors completed the works in mid February, one week behind schedule, to comply with planning requirements. Some concerns have been raised by residents with particular reference to the traffic islands, the reduced width of the main carriageways by the traffic islands, the narrow northbound turning lane and cyclist safety at the pinch points by the traffic islands. South bound traffic and in particular cyclists, turning into Malleson Road with no space to run off to prior to making the turn, to avoid being run down by vehicles travelling at a legal speed of 50 mph.

Gotherington Cross garage complex have raised concerns re removal of the filter in and out of their site, with nowhere for car transporters to turn or park - and the fact that they were not made aware at any stage of the intended improvement works and hence likely impact on the businesses within their overall site. During construction work they noted five burst tyres which included one car write-off. Their general safety concerns continue and they will continue to monitor and record events and to pass a copy to the parish council.

Extension of the footway on the east side of the A435 to the public footpath AGO 6 (the track to the straw barns) is part of Persimmon pedestrian safety plan, is to be welcomed. This is to encourage walkers to use this route to the filling station shop rather than using Malleson Road where this is no footpath. But the route past the barns is muddy, almost obstructed by a manure heap and an high stile and a grass surface area between the stile and the new Grangefield site surfaced footways.

Public Rights of Way

I met with Hilary Grace on 25 February 21 when she handed me a marked up with path numbers, display copy map of the public rights of way in Gotherington and immediately surrounding parishes. The aim is to provide easy reference to residents to check where footpaths/bridleways are and to facilitate reporting of any problems and to encourage use and care of this resource which has proved so valuable during Covid-19 pandemic lockdowns. During the meeting I raised the issue of the stile on AGO 6 and the state of the path between the stile and the non muddy area in the field beyond the stile. Replacement of the stile with a kissing gate was discussed and the need for both landowners agreement noted. An approach to Charles Church/Persimmon to meet the cost of the kissing gate bearing in mind their overall plan to improve pedestrian safety, subject to parish council approval was discussed. Subsequently I met with the landowner when checking over the path. He was keen to raise concerns about 'kids on bikes' and potential misuse. Since he raised the issue of path usage, it would be timely to display some up to date information about rights and responsibilities when using public rights of way alongside the new map. This will exist so I will obtain a copy for further discussion - possibly The Country Code.

Road Works in Malleson Road - Centaur Development - Highway maintenance

All utility services to the Centaur Development have been connected - assuming sewer work is completed this week. Taking advantage of the open trench, Western Power have completed work to install a new cable and to remove overhead power wires from the Woolstone Lane sub station to by 116 Malleson Road, with necessary domestic switch to underground supply. The poles have been shortened and ownership handed to BT. Restoration of the grass verge by their sub contractors, Kier, is almost complete, though this has resulted in a decrease in the width of the footpath because they did not

scrape back to the edge of the tarmac. Their sweeping of the footpath is poor. The section outside 106 is still outstanding with barriers still in place (07/03/21).

Resurfacing from 116-94 Malleson Road Work is scheduled to be undertaken from 10-12 March 21. It should be noted that this is the section fronting the Grangefield site only. Extensive heavy vehicle use over the past three years by construction vehicles has resulted in damage to the road from the A435 and some damage to Malleson Road by vehicles approaching the site from the east so whilst these works will tackle a short section of degraded road, this will not deal with all the resulting damage.

Action: Need for resurfacing to be raised with Craig Freeman (GCC) Clerk to write

Keir have started work but their licence ran out on 9 March and Highways road re-surfacing from 94-116 Malleson Road has commenced and will continue until Friday 12 March 21. Advance warning signage for this has been deplorable – simple signs were installed at affected both ends of Malleson Road stating Road Closed from 10-12 March were only put in place on Saturday 6 March after repeated contact between our Chair and Highways. No diversion signs were posted and residents, including Grangefield were not advised of the impending closure.

Action: As there will be a delay before restoration work of the grass verge/footway is completed Cllr Rear proposed an explanatory note from the PC to residents. This was agreed.

Freeman Field (Cllr Samuels) Fencing not yet progressed. Trees have been cut back. Cllr Samuels reported " We had a meeting today (Wednesday 10th March 2021) with Julie Davis and Martin Clark both from TBC regarding grass cutting at Freeman Field. Martin will be the link between TBC and Ubico for the grass cutting schedule. Mavis and myself along with two representatives from Gotherington Cricket Club met with TBC to discuss the grass cutting schedule and gave TBC a cricket Club programme of games. The cutting will be by a rotary mower. I will liaise with Julie over the payment rates that were agreed last year and once we know the number of cuts we can then have a clearer idea of the overall cost".

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- JWP: (Cllr Osborne) – quotes to be obtained for April meeting
- Broadband: (Cllr Samuels) – in progress

Review Working Group Membership – **Councillor Dean offered to join any groups requiring assistance and for the time being would assist with the Broadband project**

2021.03/215 Public Session (15 minutes) Public speakers will be offered the opportunity for an officer to read out their questions or statement at the meeting, or to attend the meeting over Zoom to read out their questions or statement themselves. All questions to be sent into the clerk prior to the meeting.

There were no public questions

2021.03/216 Finance & Governance

- To approve payments/receipts to date: **The following payments were approved:**

Payments since last meeting:

Xero UK	subscription	21.6
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British Gas energy bill		233.84
I&I	web hosting	4.2
British Gas energy bill		102.2
I&I	email account	17.96
HMRC	PAYE/NI	137.2

Payments in March:

H Samuels	RRB Post Box	50
Water Plus	Water Rates	170.33
Clerk	Office Expenses	26
Clerk	Admin	549.72
D Gibbons	RRB Cleaning	149.5
PATA	Payroll Services	23.85
HMRC	PAYE/NIC	137.2
TBC	Garden waste service	98

- To note the bank balance as at the end of February – **The bank balance was reconciled as follows:**

ACTUAL	\In	\Out		
Feb	576	2810.02		
Jan	858.43	2410.37	29410.48	O/Bal
Dec	2159.17	2308.35	-25539.3	
Nov	1207.49	4851.79	44996.62	
Oct	5031.49	4940.35	<u>48867.8</u>	Feb 28th
Sept	1658.65	3396.01		
Aug	1618.90	361.01		
Jul	739.00	672.8		
Jun	2510.44	1775.73		
May	14084.00	549.36		
Apr	<u>14553.05</u>	<u>1463.51</u>		
	<u>44996.62</u>	<u>25539.3</u>		

- To note budget reports/opening bank balance on Xero are incorrect and accounting method will switchback to Excel in April

XERO

In	Out	O/bal	29530.48
		closing	48987.8

37619.32 22298.73

- Discuss future face to face meetings – The Council discussed advice received from GAPTC that the current regulations for remote meetings expires on 7th May. It was anticipated that the May meeting might still be held remotely with a delayed meeting in June to be a combined general meeting/Annual Parish Meeting to be held in person with protections in place.
- Consider the purchase of a map display case £600 – **there was difficulty in finding a location for a wall mounted case therefore costs would be obtained for a freestanding noticeboard.**
- To appoint an Independent Internal Auditor for 20/21 accounts – **agreed to appoint GAPTC to carry out the internal audit**

2021.03/217 Planning Matters

1. Consultations:

20/00245/FUL Detailed planning application for the erection of 121 dwellings, provision of access, diversion of public right of way, drainage, public open space, landscaping and ancillary works. Former Nortonham Allotments Land – **agreed to raise an objection**

2. Decisions

20/01155/FUL Erection of a first floor side extension 46 The Lawns Gotherington
Permit

3. Public Consultation - Claydon Solar Farm update – awaiting outcome – no further information

4. Consider whether to proceed with an NDP review – Councillor Samuels reported that he had been in correspondence with Jo Symons of TBC who suggested waiting until completion of the TBP and JCS review. There was some reluctance by the previous working group to go through the whole process of consultation again. The clerk advised that consultation was not necessary unless policy changes were made.

5. Gloucestershire County Council have published their updated Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (MWDS) 2021/22 – 2023/24

2021/03/218 Projects

- 1. To discuss CIL/S106 funding consultations – it was agreed that a consultation would take place at the Annual Parish Meeting**
- 2. Tennis Courts – discuss quotations received in 2020 which need updating and review of content – the Clerk to review these with three suppliers with a view to progressing the project in October**
- 3. Play Equipment – Cllr Osborne reported that she had met with 2/5 suppliers to date to gather design ideas and quotes. There was a possibility of moving the fence and relocating the gate to give more room. Equipment installation at the Grange to be chased by the Clerk.**

2021.03/219 Date of Next Meeting

14th April 2021 7.00pm

A Resolution will be called for the Council to exclude members of the public and press Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 due to the sensitive nature of the business to be transacted under :

2021.03/220 Legal Matter

The three members of the public still present were content to leave the meeting.

- Report on discussions held with the Village Hall Management Committee and to agree to instruct solicitor to make appropriate searches/provide written advice to the Council – **a report had been circulated which indicated a dispute over ownership of the village hall, a specialist solicitor had been recommended by GAPTC and a quote obtained.**
- To agree expenditure on legal fees due to a challenge to the Council's ownership
Costs up to £600 were anticipated.

Cllr Rear proposed, Cllr Dean seconded that the specialist be appointed to advise the council up to £600 fee level, agreed Cllr Osborne (Cllr Samuels abstained from voting)