

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

## Minutes

**Of a meeting held via Zoom on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 7pm with the Parish Council Chairman, Cllr Mavis Rear, Cllr Matt Dean, the Clerk and 2 members of the public in attendance.**

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for electors Gotherington to raise any matters of concern that relate to their local community.

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed those present. This being the first parish meeting since the start of lockdown it was unfortunate that it was not better attended.

2. Apologies for absence

Cllr Osborne was absent

3. To confirm and agree Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held in 2019

Taken as read

4. Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 2021 Annual Parish Meeting. This year the APM is being held using Zoom which still enables us to have a video and audio meeting albeit without the atmosphere of holding it in the Village Hall. Just a brief update on where we are regarding the make up of the Parish Council, we currently have 4 Councillors and we also welcome back Gill Jennings as the Clerk. Simon Tarling stood down from the Council and this is an ideal opportunity to thank him for all the work he did on our behalf during his time with us. We do however welcome Matt Dean as a new Councillor who will bring an element of youth to the Council! More Councillors are needed to help with the variety of decisions that affect our Village and these range from general spending that benefits the community, planning applications, war memorials and of course the monitoring of dog fouling!

We have seen further planning applications within the Village including Lioncourt's application for a residential development comprising 49 dwellings at Truman's Farm and Barton Willmore's proposal for 50 dwellings on the land off Ashmead Drive. Both of these applications have been strongly opposed by the Council and we have worked alongside local residents in this regard as well. Normally I would be welcoming guest speakers who are representatives from the various Village groups to give an overview of their particular organisation but this year is an exception. We are however pleased that many groups will be sending in their reports which will be available to read and included alongside all other APM documentation for 2021.

Our plans this year include the renovation of the Tennis Courts, the play area to be refreshed with new equipment and hopefully extension work on the Village Hall to allow greater numbers to be accommodated. We are also looking into establishing broadband into the Village Hall, Rex Rhodes Building (RRB) and the Pavilion and eventually to the tennis courts for electronic gate locks. This will allow only tennis players to enter the courts using an appropriate code.

During the early part of 2020 we met the criteria to apply for a small business grant from Tewkesbury Borough Council of £10,000.00 and another late on for £1,000.00 primarily for coronavirus issues. We have also purchased litter picking equipment including litter pickers, litter bag hoops, safety tabards and bags of course. These are all available for residents to borrow to help keep our Village and surrounding clear of all rubbish. We have invested in new CCTV for both the RRB and the Pavilion and this now gives us a complete camera view and capture of all Freeman Field, the car park and down the driveway towards Malleson Road. Before I finish, I would just like to mention the G FEST Music Summer Event taking place over the

August Bank holiday weekend on 28th , 29th and 30th . This is a community event for everyone in the Village to enjoy and we hope many people will come along and enjoy the music and all the festivities that will be going on. One of the G FEST team has written a short report with more details of the weekend and further publication will be forthcoming during the next few weeks. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and to say that we the council are always on hand for advice and for help whenever we can.

5. Community award for Gotherington

The Council were pleased to announce a Community Award to Ellen and Adrian Cook for their long standing service to the Gotherington Community.

6. Public comments, suggestions and questions are invited

A resident suggested that the Community Award be celebrated with a plaque in the village hall listing all those people with awards as an historic record. This suggestion would be discussed with the village hall committee

7. Updates from Gloucestershire County Councillor and Tewkesbury Borough Councillor Borough Councillor Dean gave his apologies and passed on a brief message to say that Cllr Andrew Reece had been elected as Borough Mayor.

8. Reports were gratefully received from Representatives of the following organisations:

Gotherington & Area Local History Society - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

Throughout all the various lockdowns that we've faced this year the Local History Society has managed to maintain a public presence. We were blessed with fine weather for the WW2 self-guided walk around Gotherington and Woolstone in May 2020, timed to coincide with the 75th anniversary of V.E. Day. Although the war was a time of national events the posters along the route highlighted the real and lasting impact on the lives of the locals. This self-guided walk led to work at the village school with Y.6 pupils. The LHS also supported Y.4 with their study of the Victorians. By the autumn the LHS was able to safely hold two monthly meetings at the Village Hall. We appreciated the support we received from local residents as well as from the speakers. Apart from this, members have, throughout the year, been able to attend county events via Zoom. The LHS was asked to provide two detailed house histories this year; always an opportunity to put all the numerous pieces of information we have on each dwelling into some order. We were also made aware that an archaeological survey that was undertaken prior to house building unearthed evidence that even in the Iron Age people liked to live in this area. In time, when the reports have been written we hope to invite the archaeologists to share their findings with the LHS. Finally, there have been donations of various kinds to the LHS. Old copies of 'Topics' including a first edition, photographs, and deeds for the LHS to copy have all been gratefully received. Once again the village is undergoing a metamorphosis, making it more important than ever to value and preserve our heritage.

Caroline Meller Secretary May 2021

Gotherington Tennis Club - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

After a year in enforced hibernation Gotherington Tennis Club is now back open. Inevitably it will be a season of rebuilding for many clubs like ours. However, with the backing of the Parish Council, we have been able to offer a number of new incentives this year, to thank existing members for their ongoing support and encourage others to take a look at what our club has to offer: These include:

- A reduced annual membership fee
- New Family orientated Membership Packages
- Discounted court booking rates for members on Clubspark
- Free targeted coaching sessions with club coach Liam Gough

While we haven't got the final numbers in just yet, we are anticipating something in the region of 20 -25 full adult members this year. This will mean the club running just below break even for the year and while we have sufficient funds

to absorb this for a few years, we know we need to increase membership to keep the club on an even and healthy keel. On a more positive note, we have had 14 juniors join the club this year which is very encouraging. 11 of these are currently attending the coaching sessions we run on a Sunday morning and if popularity continues to grow we see our future as increasing these and maybe creating a once a week after school tennis club also, so fingers crossed all goes well. For the future, the most pressing issue is the state of the courts. They are starting break up. I fear they won't last another year and all the effort we have put in to getting tennis up and running will be lost. We have had the quotes on hold for some time now and the club have offered to work with the council to progress this as matter of urgency. The club appreciates the difficulties the council have at the moment with limited numbers and tennis may not be a top priority, hence we are happy to take on any tasks required to progress this forward ASAP. There were plans for a sub committee to do this but so far the club has heard nothing back. The club has taken over the running of the clubspark booking system from the council and so far all seems to be running smoothly. New 30 minute booking slots have been introduced which seem to have gone down well and I've not heard any issues with the small increase in charges. We still have the cheapest public court hire in Cheltenham by some way. The bookings for April show a healthy return (helped by a dry month), so hopefully this continues throughout the summer. All in all a steady start for the club but a very encouraging start for the junior side of the club. We were hoping parents might be tempted to pick up a racket once they see their children enjoying themselves, but this has not happened as of yet, despite our new family packages offers, however it is early days.

Ian Donnelly Tennis Club Secretary

#### Gotherington Football Club - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to share the ongoing progress of the village junior football club with you. We have held FA Charter Club status since 2006, and continually strive to maintain and improve the way we operate. This season we have seen a large increase in the amount of participation from Girls with over 40 regularly playing and training. We are likely to have 4 girls teams in leagues next season. On the boys side there will team from u6 up to u16, although not at every age level. We have been very grateful for the close working relationship we have built with the school who allow the youngest age groups to use the facility at the school, we do reciprocate by helping to purchase some equipment for them. We also appreciate the support we receive from the PC, and Gareth Cryws-williams has liaised throughout the covid19 era to ensure we have operated in line with Government and FA guidelines. We expect to have around 160-170 players next season, and the vast majority of the teams start out based on attendees at Gotherington school, which will be the case with new under 6 team in September. We rely solely on volunteers and have an excellent committee who cover Finance, Child Welfare, Equipment, Registrations, School Liaison, Communications, and dealing with the local leagues as well as The FA and GFA. All coaches are qualified, and have the safeguarding checks renewed regularly. The Club has now provided football for between 450-500 players since formed as Gotherington Juniors in 1999. Whilst enjoyment and participation are key drivers we have also had significant success over the years with many league and cups wins, this season we have two sides through to cup semi finals and one side already into the Cup Final. We have also received recognition under the FA Respect campaign and from our peers with several awards as the most sporting side in the league, which is another key value of the club.

Regards Rob Sharp Chairman and Secretary

#### Gotherington Cricket Club - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

Despite the impact of covid, Gotherington CC has continued to expand its activities, both at senior and junior level. The 2020 season saw a much later start due to Covid restrictions but our senior team managed to play as many games as in 2019, partly due to a number of midweek games, allied to reasonable weather. The seniors (like the juniors) have continued to attract new players several of whom have recently moved to the village. The development of our junior section continues to be one of the Club's principal objectives. We now have 45+ juniors aged 6-15 registered with the Club and this season we have entered league sides at U11, U13 & U15. Yvonne & Brian Cosgrove continue to lead our junior's development supported by several of our players and an external coaching firm - Gecko Training. The Club is committed to maintaining the highest Safeguarding and Welfare policies and practices. We now have 10 fully DBS certified individuals which is more than many much larger clubs. Our Safeguarding and Welfare Officer makes a number of 'spot checks' on both our training sessions and matches. The Club continues to be, effectively, self-supporting financially. However, the Club's fixed cost base (prior to any cricket actually being played) continues to rise. This year will see it reach in excess of £2,750. It should be noted that in addition to these direct costs members of the club also

undertake in excess of 150 man hours (from March - September) in keeping both the cricket square and wider field in a good condition both for cricket and junior football. Assuming £30 per hour (normal Groundsman rates) this equates to £4,500 time commitment. Gotherington CC continues to be an important community contributor. We will shortly require the purchase of a new square mower - estimated cost £3,000. The club would welcome GPC support for S106 support for the purchase.

Rob Sharp Chairman

#### Gotherington Primary School Report - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

It has been so wonderful to be able to welcome all our children back to Gotherington Primary School after a period of juggling quality remote learning for the vast majority of our children over lockdown and remaining open for the children of key workers and those who are vulnerable. Our children, staff and parents have shown incredible resilience and adaptability in the face of such a challenging period for us all and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole school community. As ever I feel incredibly privileged to be part of such a wonderful school. We are looking ahead to a summer term full of exciting learning opportunities and the children are all immersed in their new learning themes. Our school family work together with kindness, to achieve our Gotherington GOALS and provide a purposeful curriculum for all which is experiential, creative and memorable. We inspire a life-long love of learning by encouraging our children to be independent, resilient and curious. Success for our children means they are happy, confident and responsible individuals who aspire to be the very best they can be. We are looking forward to using our newly renovated library which is full of exciting new books for us to enjoy and our Forest School where we have been planting fruit trees in our 'save the planet' campaign with the fantastic support of our families. Our school dog Hero has been enjoying spending time with our children and we are very excited to be designing a new Treehouse learning space which we are hoping will be ready to use in the autumn term. We are so looking forward to being able to welcome parents and the community into school again as restrictions are eased so we can all learn together as a whole school community and continue to strive to be the very best we can be every day. Do visit our website for further information

<https://www.gotherington.gloucs.sch.uk/> We have been delighted to welcome Caroline Mellor who led history walks for our children in Y4 with a Victorian focus and Y6 with a WWII focus. The children learnt so much from Caroline and used this knowledge in their learning themes. We have also met recently with Gotherington Gardening Club and we are really looking forward to working with them to improve our outdoor space with an initial project of a wildflower garden. We would love to explore further ways we can work together with the village.

Katie Langley Head Teacher

30/04/2021

#### Gotherington Wine Club - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

No club meetings have taken place for over a year though occasional outside 'ad hoc' committee meetings have occurred when allowed by Government Guidelines. We expect future membership to be in line with the current level of around 70 though this number attending, when we are able to restart meetings, may cause issues due to space constraints. (Typical club meeting attendance averages 45). We hope to restart in July with an outdoor meeting near the pavilion and the first indoor meeting will not be until September, assuming the Government guidance remains as expected. Finances are extremely good with last year's accounts having been audited and we expect the club to continue in strength and to encompass some of the new members to the village.

Christine Godsell 20/04/2021

#### Gotherington Petanque Club - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

The club continues to have a strong membership and has even recruited 5 new members over the last year. Twice weekly sessions have gone ahead when Government Guidelines have allowed, with various safety rules put in place to keep everyone safe. When the restrictions are lifted, the club will look at maintaining some of the safety rules in order to minimise any health risks but without compromising the members' enjoyment. Finances are in good order but there is never an intention to hold excessive amounts. The playing piste is in good condition but the club is experiencing some disturbance from mainly children who ride their bikes over the piste or scrape up gravel into heaps which will slowly cause the playing area to deteriorate. Any help to avoid this would be appreciated.

Christine Godsell 20/04/2021

### Gotherington Gardening Club - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

Following its AGM in February 2020 the Gardening Club had to suspend all meetings and events because of Covid restrictions. This included the usual summer and Christmas parties and a planned club outing to Winterbourne House and Gardens in Birmingham. However, members stayed in touch by email, with information on surplus plants and equipment, links to virtual NGS and RHS garden visits and Zoom talks via the Tender Shoots Garden Network, and short personal articles on gardening. In February 2021 the club held its first monthly meeting using Zoom; after a short AGM the local National Garden Scheme co-ordinator gave an interesting talk on the scheme and local NGS gardens to visit this year. Although some members are unable to or not comfortable using Zoom, it proved successful and the club has held 2 further Zoom talks, one of them attracting 40 viewers, comparable to attendance in the Village Hall. As at our usual meetings, visitors are very welcome and several have joined our virtual meetings, some attracted by posts on the village Facebook page. Subscriptions have been suspended for the last year so talk fees are being met from club funds but will remain modest when they restart in the Autumn. As lockdown restrictions ease, the club is developing plans for 2021. Meetings in the hall may not start until September but the annual plant sale is planned for the first Saturday in June on the upper playing field. A varied programme of talks has been arranged and once the club restarts we hope to attract new members; many villagers have enjoyed spending more time in their garden this last year and some, including new residents, have expressed their interest in joining the club.

Cathy Thompson/Kirsty Buxcey 30/04/21

### G FEST - Report to Parish Council APM 2021

The plans for G Fest for the 3-day August Bank Holiday weekend (a local social and music festival for residents) are well in hand and much progress has been made. It is planned to be a non-profit making event, but if there are profits, it is expected to retain them towards future events. Plans to open a bank account for this and future events are in hand. The organising team appreciate the offer from the Parish Council for funds and it is hoped that, if a profit can be made, there will be no need to call on the Parish Council to help fund future events. The G FEST team are aware of necessary safety precautions. They aim to ask residents to help out to ensure that the event goes according to plan and does not cause any disruption to those residents who do not wish to be involved. Numbers will be limited via controlled ticketing sold from local outlets/clubs to avoid any potential overcrowding. G FEST team:

Christine Godsell, Cora Patel, Jenny Ross, Linda George, Ray Chase, Howard Samuels

