

# MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020 via Zoom

- Present** Cllrs Ms L Stephenson (Chair), R Weston, J Hill, Ms L Llewellyn, D Novakovic & A Curtis & resident Mrs Westlake.
- 4676** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr I McCord.
- 4677** 2. COUNCIL MATTERS
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Llewellyn declared an interest if the matter of the Pocket Park was discussed during the meeting.
- b) Resignation of Cllr Graham Phillips and declaration of a Casual Vacancy. Cllr Stephenson expressed her personal thanks to Mr Phillips and asked that the Clerk write on behalf of the PC to thank Mr Phillips for his years of service to the PC which had been much appreciated. Mr Phillips had agreed to continue with the PC's online presence, which was also much appreciated.
- 4678** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 The Minutes of Meeting held 12.5.20 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 Matters arising: None.
- 4679** 4. OPEN FORUM: Opened 4.08pm. Mrs Westlake expressed concerns about the future of the Pocket Park, but as the PCC had not yet met she was not able to provide the PC with their thoughts. Once they had met she asked if the PC would be willing to meet to discuss the matter. With regard to the oak tree, which was planted to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the PC, but was on Church land, she did not feel it was a danger at present, and hoped it could be discussed when it was appropriate.
- As District Cllr, Cllr McCord had advised that SNC planned to come slowly out of lockdown, and the final cost of the virus could be as much as £4M. He had received comments from residents about Agenda item 5.1 a) and would raise them direct with SNC Planning Dept. Closed 4.18pm.
- 4680** 5. PLANNING MATTERS
- 5.1 Applications received:
- a) S/2020/0836/FUL – Land east of Northampton Road. Proposed change of use of land to create a 4 pitch Gypsy/Traveller site comprising the siting of 1 Mobile Home, 1 Touring Caravan & the erection of 1 dayroom per pitch. After discussion, Cllrs objected and Cllr Stephenson proposed the PC responded as follows ‘This site is outside the village confines. The development would occupy only part of the land in the applicant’s ownership & we have concerns whether this would be the start of wider development plans for the whole of the site. We would question whether there is a proven need for the development as it is unsustainable in terms of public transport and footpath links to surrounding areas and services. There is no safe access to village amenities and school. The site is wholly within the Tove Valley Special Landscape Area and would be visible from surrounding areas. There are listed buildings in the vicinity at 15, 17 & 19 High Street and Manor Farm. It is close to the Grand Union Canal Conservation area and may have a detrimental impact on views to that area; it may also have a detrimental impact on views to and from YG Conservation area. The application at section 14 shows no plans for waste storage and collection, and section 10 states there are no trees or hedges which is incorrect. There are well established trees and hedgerows of significant importance supporting local wildlife. The site is adjacent to A508 and the risk of noise and air pollution must be considered; we have concerns over the welfare and safety of children on site. We dispute that there are sufficient on site amenities to service the needs of 4 permanent and 4 touring caravans. There is no access to health care. On sites for travelling showpeople we understand there must be sufficient space for the storage & maintenance of associated equipment and vehicles therefore additional screening may be required. We have safety concerns over the access by one point of entry to residential dwellings directly leading onto A Class road, and request that the Highways Agency views should be taken into account. The only dimensions provided are of the proposed day rooms. Prior to YG being connected to the main sewer this site housed a sewerage treatment plant which served the village. Asbestos was previously dumped on site resulting in clearance required by SNC. The proposed works are in close proximity to a high-pressure petroleum pipeline system and we would request that any works in the vicinity of the pipeline are carried out in accordance with the safety requirements of the British Pipeline Agency Ltd.’ Seconded by Cllr Hill. All in favour.
- b) S/2020/0859/LDP – Potterspurty Lodge. Certificate of Lawfulness for the introduction of C2 care home element to allow some children to be accommodated 52 weeks of the year. Cllr Curtis asked what was different from the current situation, and the Clerk was asked to query this.
- 5.2 Applications granted:
- a) S/2020/0561/TCA – 12 Moorend Road. Crown reduction of walnut tree. No objections.
- b) S/2020/0432/FUL – 12 Warren Road. Bespoke garden room. 3 conditions.
- 5.3 Other planning:
- a) Cllr Hill was disappointed with a recent planning decision and his views were echoed by Cllr Weston. Cllr Curtis took no part in the discussion. It was suggested that Development Control be contacted to express this disappointment, however, Cllr Stephenson pointed out that as volunteers, Cllrs were not aware of all planning policies.
- 4681** 6. **Finance Matters**
- 6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a) Clerk’s salary May 20 = £388.32 (001354).
- b) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – May 20 = £50.00 (001355).
- c) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)

- d) DNH Contracts – dog bins May - £80.70 + £16.14 VAT = £96.84 (001356).
- e) Yardley Gobion Recreation Centre – contribution to OAP party = £250.00 (001357).
- f) Yardley Gobion Recreation Centre – contribution to firework display = £400.00 (001358).
- g) The Ground Care Co – mowing contract - £580.00 + £116.00 VAT = £696.00 (001359).
- h) HMRC PAYE Tax = £95.00 (001360).

Proposed by Cllr Curtis and seconded by Cllr Weston. Authorised by all Councillors.

## 6.2 Payments received

- a) SNC – second half of Precept = £12,750.00
- b) Scottish Widows interest = 0.05p

## 6.3 OTHER

- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £42,056.25 (15.5.20) SW - £2,088.12 (1.4.20).
- b) Workplace Pension scheme. The Clerk did not wish to be placed in a Workplace Pension scheme.
- c) Internal Audit report. Internal Audit report. In the report the auditor commented as follows ‘I firstly sought evidence that the previous year’s reports from Internal and External Auditors had been properly reported to and actioned by the Council; they had. I then examined the Council’s arrangements for the management and control of its business in the areas of book keeping, due process (ie compliance with the proper practices as set out in the Practitioners’ Guide), risk management, budget setting and monitoring, payroll, asset register, bank reconciliations, internal control and year-end procedures. This was achieved through examination of the publically available information displayed on the Council’s website – policies, procedures, agendas, minutes, financial and other records – and where necessary I requested and was provided with supplementary evidence to enable me to reach a conclusion regarding the enquiries I am required to make as set out in the Annual Internal Audit Report (AIAR) that forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR). This supplementary information was provided in the form of written answers to the questions raised together with scanned documents, including the Accounting Statements, section 2 of the AGAR and in discussion on the ‘phone on 21 May. This is a well organised and managed council and I observed acceptable standards of compliance, both with regulatory requirements and the proper practices in all areas and aspects of the council’s business and activities examined. I am pleased to say that I identified no audit issues that I need to draw to the council’s attention. This report is based on the evidence made available to me and consequently the report is limited to those matters set out above. Through examination of hard evidence and questioning, I confirm that I tested all the aspects of the Council’s internal controls that I am required to consider and I am satisfied that effective systems to manage, monitor and control the Council’s business are in place. Accordingly, I have completed and signed off the Annual Internal Audit Report at page 3 of the AGAR as required.’ Cllr Hill proposed this report be noted and accepted. Seconded by Cllr Weston. All in favour.

## d) Annual Return 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020:

- i) All Cllrs had received a copy of the Annual Return and all supporting paperwork. Cllr Weston had carried out an independent audit previously. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement was read out to the meeting. Cllr Hill then proposed that Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement - be received, noted and approved. Seconded by Cllr Curtis. Approved by all Cllrs. Cllr Stephenson as Chairman and the Clerk then signed the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of the PC.
- ii) The Clerk as RFO had previously signed & dated the Accounting Statements prior to presenting them to the PC. Cllr Weston proposed that Section 2 – Accounting Statements - be received, noted and formally approved. Seconded by Cllr Llewellyn. Approved by all Cllrs. Cllr Stephenson as Chairman then signed the Statement of Accounts on behalf of the PC.

4682

## 7. Councillor Reports:

- a) HIGHWAYS – Cllr Weston queried whether a 50mph limit could be imposed on the stretch of the A508 going past the village, as there had been a recent accident at the northern exit, and others at the southern entrance to the village. He had also reported fly tipping along the A508.
- b) MOWING – Cllr Curtis had no comments to make.
- c) STREET LIGHTING – Nothing to report.
- d) VILLAGE TREES – NCC had been contacted about the trees that were their responsibility and their decision was awaited. Mrs Westlake had mentioned the oak tree outside the PP in Open Forum, but this did not appear to pose an imminent threat, so it was agreed that the condition be monitored on a regular basis and any work be done after discussion between the PC & the PCC. Further reports about the Chestnut tree in School Lane field were awaited.
- e) ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Curtis reported these were being generally well used, and all were now in good condition. However, work was required alongside the hedge and the car park, and he asked if an amount of £50.00 could be agreed to cover the cost of this. Proposed by Cllr Stephenson and seconded by Cllr Hill. All in favour. Cllr Curtis also raised the problem of moles on the allotments, which it was understood were covered by the current contract.
- f) VILLAGE HALL – Cllr Curtis reported that this remained closed, but was being checked once a week to ensure it remained safe. He had received a further £125.00 from the proceeds of the clothes sale held last year, which was much appreciated. He had been asked about opening the Book Xchange, but it is currently illegal for public libraries to be physically open in England, according to the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (England) Regulations 2020 5.1.
- g) RECREATION CENTRE – Cllr Weston advised this was also closed, together with the play area. The extension of the storage area was going ahead whilst the building was unoccupied. Whilst the RC was closed, the waste collection service had been cancelled, and rubbish was now building up.

Cllr Stephenson proposed that the PC pay 50% of the cost of waste collection (c£110.00) if the service was reinstated. This would be subject to review on a quarterly basis. Seconded by Cllr Hill. All in favour.

- h) PC RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS – The village volunteers were collecting prescriptions and doing shopping for residents and were generally quiet, but much appreciated. Cllr Llewellyn suggested the information in The Old Mail be revised and Cllr Stephenson would write a shortened version.

4683

**8. Date of next meeting:**

- a) TBA

Meeting closed 4.58 pm.