

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2nd April 2019

- Present** Cllrs Ms L Stephenson (Chair), A Curtis, G Phillips & J Hill & resident Miss P Weston.
- 4541** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs D Novakovic, R Weston, I McCord & County Cllr Walker.
- 4542** 2. COUNCIL MATTERS
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 4543** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 The Minutes of Meeting held 5.3.19 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 **Matters arising:** Festival of Transport - Cllrs were very positive and thought that the suggestion of a parade of cars to highlight the event was a good idea.
- 4544** 4. **Open Forum:** Formally opened 8.05pm.
Formally closed at 8.10pm.
Miss Weston leaves 8.10pm.
Comments attached.
- 4545** 5. **Planning:**
- 5.1 Applications received: None.
- 5.2 Amendments: None.
- 5.3 Applications granted: None.
- a) S/2019/0141/FUL – 19 Warren Road. Proposed annexe. 3 conditions.
- 5.4 Applications refused: None.
- 5.5 Applications withdrawn: None.
- 5.6 Outstanding Applications/Other planning. None.
- 4546** 6. **Finance Matters**
- 6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a) Clerk's salary March 19 = £366.70 (001179).
- b) HMRC – PAYE Tax = £117.60 (001180).
- c) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas and pocket park – March 19 = £50.00 (001181).
- d) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)
- e) DNH Contracts – dog bins – March 19 - £64.56 + £12.91 VAT = £77.47 (001182).
- f) Enterprise Inns plc – Coffee Pot field rent - £10.00 + £2.00 VAT = £12.00 (001183).
- g) Keeves Contracting – Coffee Pot field hedge = £152.00 + £30.40 VAT = £182.40 (001184).
CPRE – Annual membership = £36.00 (001185).
- h) Proposed by Cllr Stephenson and seconded by Cllr Curtis. Authorised by all Councillors.
- 6.2 **Payments Received**
- a) NCC – contribution to mowing = £484.29
- 6.3 OTHER
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £26,001.46 (15.3.19) SW - £2,087.87 (1.1.19).
- b) Workplace Pension scheme. The Clerk did not wish to be placed in a Workplace Pension scheme.
- 4547** 7. Committee Reports:
- 7.1 HIGHWAYS/R.O.W./MOWING/STREET LIGHTING/OVERHANGING VEGETATION
- a) Street Doctor – The Clerk had reported potholes in Chestnut Road (filled) & Moorend Road.
- b) Mowing – Cllr Curtis advised that regular village mowing had commenced.
- c) R.O.W. – Mrs Curtis as Footpath Warden had submitted a very detailed email about the condition of footpaths SH14, 15, 16 & 33 & RV's 10 & 17, and confirmed that everything now was as it should be. Cllrs were grateful for her dedication and the efforts she had made to resolve any issues.
- 7.2 PLAYING-FIELD/VILLAGE TREES
- a) Monthly play area inspection reports. No real problems reported.
- b) Coffee Pot field – boundary dispute. An email had been received from the residents concerned who advised that plans for reinstating the boundary fence were progressing. Cllrs acknowledged the progress that was being made.
- c) A draft lease document had also been received from Enterprise Inns, and after discussion the Clerk was asked to respond as follows 'After perusal it seems that the lease does not match the needs of the Parish Council as it is a generic lease that relates to licensed premises. Additionally Definition 11 does not allow the Parish Council to make its own decision concerning the use of the field by community groups but has to 'apply for the Landlord's consent for the Tenant to hold community and fundraising events at the Property (on a case by case basis) and such consent may be granted by the Landlord at their absolute discretion' – when EI themselves have already confirmed to a local resident that 'The land is let to Yardley Gobion Parish Council so you would need to ask them for permission.'
Could you please send a revised draft which relates to the land which is used for recreational purposes and does not refer to licensed premises. It might be helpful if you referred to the wording of the original lease. I also seek your clarification of definition 11 and confirmation that prior agreement of EI is unnecessary when we are considering requests for use of the field for community events.'
- 7.3 ALLOTMENTS
- a) Cllr Curtis reported that the hedge around the car park had been trimmed – thanks were due to Mr Huffer - and people were working on their allotments. There were now 3 vacant plots, with one of these being considered. The other 2 may need some work done before they can be let. The water would soon be turned on for the new season.

- 7.4 POCKET PARK
- 4549 a) The Park was nice & tidy & looking good and with no evidence of any problems.
8. Y G VILLAGE HALL
- a) The gas meter had been installed and SNC had approved a grant towards a new heating system & refurbishment of the toilets and kitchen. Afternoon Teas and Coffee Mornings continued to be well supported.
- 8.1 Y G RECREATION CENTRE - No report.
- 4550 9. COMMUNITY ITEMS
- a) New bus service timetable. Cllrs had been advised that a new timetable would be introduced in April, with no service to Towcester & most services going through the village via Hesketh Road. The Clerk had queried this plan as detailed in March's Minutes, and Cllrs were disappointed to receive the following response 'Thank you for your email. The reason is very simple- nearly all the passengers from Yardley Gobion are elderly, many with mobility issues and it's a fairly long walk round the village to catch a bus. I am sure the parish council would not wish to see mobility impaired people discriminated against, but please let me know if this is incorrect. I am surprised to read a comment that Moorend Road is very congested; living nearby in Potterspury, having close friends living in Yardley Gobion, I know the village well and aside from peak hours- which we do not include on this loop- I have never seen the road in a 'very congested' condition. I also note that it is traversed by school buses during peak hours- without seeming to cause further congestion. I trust you have noted that this route operates every two hours only. I am led to believe that there have been longstanding 'issues' between a local elected member and previous operators of the route, relating to the proximity of bus stops, to certain premises. Please let me know if I need to elaborate further on this, although I am sure I will not need to! With regard to school days Vs non school days, you are quite right- I do need to make this clearer. For some. It is based upon Northants school days, as it is primarily a Northants based service. As the elected representatives of the people of Yardley Gobion, naturally I cannot dismiss your 'concerns', and I am more than happy to withdraw the loop from our plans. However, to request a short notice alteration from the Traffic Commissioner will require a request or instruction from a statutory body and so I believe this will have to come from either Northamptonshire County Council, in their role as Local Transport Authority, and/ or a County Councillor. As far as I am aware, Parish Councils do not command sufficient authority to instruct this. It is a little disappointing that this is not the first negative comment I have received from Yardley Gobion, especially considering how well the service has been received in other villages. This service is in a trial period for the foreseeable future and whether it continues to serve Yardley Gobion depends not only upon passenger levels but also the goodwill and co-operation of local residents. Of course, if the service is re-routed I will explain why in an open and transparent manner.'
- b) ACRE – Good Neighbour scheme. After discussion it was agreed that Cllr Phillips would publicise this initiative via Facebook & the PC website, as the scheme would require a co-ordinator and a great deal of commitment from residents in order to run successfully. **GP**
- c) Annual Village Assembly – date & time agreed as 7pm on 14th May in Chestnut Road Chapel.
- 4551 10. **Date of next meeting:**
- a) 14th May 2019 – 7pm at Chestnut Road Chapel – Annual Parish Assembly. Followed by
- b) 8pm - Annual Meeting of the Council & May Parish Council meeting.

Meeting closed 8.45 pm.

Open Forum

Miss Weston asked if the cost of the double billing of Council Tax was known. She was also concerned about the number of potholes in Moorend Road between Field End and Moorend Manor. The Clerk had reported the potholes after the March PC meeting, and it was suggested that Miss Weston could report them again if she considered that no action had been taken.

As District Cllr, Cllr McCord had advised by email 'We wait for the decision from the Sec of State on the unitary authorities for West Northants. Our last meeting with Government officials indicated that we should hear something immediately after the Easter recess. Parliament comes back w.c 23 April so late April or early May is the next target date. We continue to plan for a positive decision. The West Northants Joint Committee met 26 March which will do some preparatory work for the Shadow Authority. At the same time the work to separate SNC from DDC continues and we expect to be done by June 2019.

As you are aware, because you all got a new bill, SNC had a billing issue which meant all the bills needed to be sent out again as a test file was used and not a real one. That problem aside I think everything else is on track with SNC. The important thing to stress for the parish is that the payments to you will be unaffected by this.

The application for the Village Hall was approved by the Community Funding Panel yesterday.'

