

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 4th June 2019

- Present** Cllrs A Curtis, R Weston, J Hill & I McCord & County Cllr Walker.
In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Curtis as Vice Chair took the chair for the meeting.
- 4564** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs Phillips, Novakovic & Ms L Stephenson.
- 4565** 2. COUNCIL MATTERS
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 4566** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 The Minutes of Meeting held 14.5.19 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 **Matters arising:** None.
- 4567** 4. **Open Forum:** Formally opened 8.05pm.
Formally closed at 8.22pm.
Comments attached.
County Cllr Walker leaves 8.22pm.
- 4568** 5. **Planning:**
- 5.1 Applications received:
- a) S/2019/0888/FUL – 5-6 Mount Pleasant. Single & first floor rear extensions & alterations to split property back to two dwellings. Cllrs objected as follows "The Parish Council OBJECTS to the application. The property is within a unique and important historic setting forming part of the former Potterspurty Union Workhouse set within the Yardley Gobion Conservation Area. We are concerned over the mass of the proposed development over 2 floors and the potential for intrusion of privacy and loss of amenity to neighbouring properties, 3&4 Mount Pleasant and 14 & 18 High Street, due to their close proximity. The property is adjacent to 3 & 4 Mount Pleasant which are listed buildings and which will be significantly affected by the development. The development would be overbearing in nature in the context of the surroundings and is considered overdevelopment of the site. There is insufficient area for parking provision for a development of this nature. We strongly suggest a site visit is undertaken to fully appreciate the nature of the setting." Cllr McCord took no part in the discussion or the decision.
- 5.2 Amendments: None.
- 5.3 Applications granted:
- a) S/2019/0833/NMA – The Poplars, 4 Chestnut Road. Non-material amendment to add copings on the east elevation of the single storey side extension. Noted.
- 5.4 Applications refused: None.
- 5.5 Applications withdrawn: None.
- 5.6 Outstanding Applications/Other planning. None.
- 4569** 6. **Finance Matters**
- 6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a) Zurich Municipal – PC insurance = £523.16 (001196) – previously agreed under Minute Number 4560 6.3d)
- b) Clerk's salary May 19 = £391.12 (001197).
- c) Clerk's expenses May 19 = £7.32 (001198).
- d) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas and pocket park – May19 = £50.00 (001199).
- e) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)
- f) DNH Contracts – dog bins – May 19 - £80.70 + £16.14 VAT = £96.84 (001200).
- g) Indexkey Ltd – Computer fix/internet & installation of USB with dongle - £80.00 + £16.00 VAT = £96.00 (001201).
- h) Viking – stationery - £55.93 + £11.18 VAT = £67.11 (001202).
- i) Yardley Gobion United Reformed Church – room hire - £18.00 (001203).
Proposed by Cllr McCord and seconded by Cllr Weston. Authorised by all Councillors.
- 6.2 **Payments Received**
- a) SNC – 1st half of Precept = £12,750.00
- 6.3 OTHER
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £37,981.54 (10.5.19) SW - £2,087.92 (1.4.19).
- b) Workplace Pension scheme. The Clerk did not wish to be placed in a Workplace Pension scheme.
- c) Data Protection – GDPR compliance. 2 additional documents had not been adopted by the PC previously. The Clerk would circulate these in order that they could be adopted at the next PC meeting.
- d) Internal Audit report. In the report the auditor commented as follows 'I examined the Council's arrangements for the management and control of its business in the areas of bookkeeping, 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, data security and back-up and year-end procedures. I also 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. As a result of this audit, I would draw your attention to the following minor issues relating to the website that the Council should consider and address viz;
- whilst the physical notice board(s) fulfil the obligation for public display of Agendas for meetings of the Council etc, one of the primary functions of the website is to provide an electronic notice board - a shop window - for the display of information that should be made publically available in pursuance of the requirements of the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities*. To that end, the site could be more intuitive in respect of signposting, to assist

the enquirer find the information they require. The Parish Council tab provides access just to Accounts and Auditing and Agendas and Minutes; other core documentation is found elsewhere, including under the 'General Privacy Notice' tab. Although the Code is discretionary for Councils with a turnover between £25,000 and £200,000, compliance is recommended as it is deemed to be part of a council's good governance arrangements.

Through examination of the Council's website, hard evidence and questioning, I tested all the aspects of the Council's internal controls that I am required to consider. Notwithstanding the above comments 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 that forms part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Review (AGAR) as required.' The Clerk was thanked for her diligence and Cllrs agreed to review and update the website as recommended.

- e) Council Broadband. The broadband speed had been recorded as less than 1 – Indexkey had carried out work and it was now recorded at approximately 20 – the Clerk would monitor speeds for a month.
- 4570 7. Committee Reports:
- 7.1 HIGHWAYS/R.O.W./MOWING/STREET LIGHTING/OVERHANGING VEGETATION
- a) Street Doctor – The Clerk was asked to report a pothole at the Yardley Road junction & also the sinking of the road opposite the Church where utilities had been connected.
- b) An email had been received concerning various village R.O.W. and this was being dealt with by Mrs Curtis, Parish Path Warden. Cllrs were very appreciative of her work in this role.
- c) An email had been received concerning an encroaching hedge along Hortonsfield Road. The Clerk was asked to contact the resident accordingly.
- d) Mowing – Cllr Curtis would make contact with the mowing contractor about strimming areas which had now become untidy. **TC**
- 7.2 PLAYING-FIELD/VILLAGE TREES
- a) Monthly play area inspection reports. No real problems reported apart from with the gate mechanism, which Cllr Hill volunteered to investigate. **JH**
- b) Coffee Pot field - A draft lease document had been received from Enterprise Inns and it was agreed to refer this for approval to Cllr Stephenson. **LS**
- c) Nothing had been heard from the residents involved in the boundary dispute since 1st April and the Clerk was asked to request an update.
- d) The field had been left in an immaculate condition after the recent Festival of Transport and those residents involved were to be congratulated.
- 7.3 ALLOTMENTS
- a) Cllr Curtis advised that he would be checking the allotments again at the end of next week. Some were in need of attention and others were in a condition that would soon affect other plots. He asked for delegated authority for a further £30.00 to pay Mr Huffer for clearing vacant allotments. Approved by all. Cllr Curtis also noted that he would be writing to all allotment holders regarding rubbish that had been left on empty plots & advising that any extra expenditure incurred would be recovered from ploholders. **TC**
- 7.4 POCKET PARK
- a) The Park was in need of strimming, but otherwise was tidy.
- 4571 8. Y G VILLAGE HALL
- a) An Asbestos Management Survey had been carried out & the Village Hall was legally compliant. The Committee would shortly be instructing contractors to carry out work on the new heating system. Afternoon Teas and Coffee Mornings continued to be well supported.
- 8.1 Y G RECREATION CENTRE – no report as the previous meeting was the same night as that of the PC.
- 4572 9. COMMUNITY MATTERS
- a) Parking in the village. An email had been received concerning alleged illegal parking in the village. As this was not a PC matter, the Clerk had taken advice from the Police as to what action residents could take and the response was as follows *'Incidents of parking obstructions need to be called in at the time that its occurring (to 101) and if officers are available to attend, they will use discretion and professional judgment to decide a course of action, whether that is words of advice or removal of a vehicle.'*
- b) Additional bus services to Towcester & Northampton. A service to Towcester on a Tuesday and Northampton on a Wednesday would run from July.
- c) NCC - Consultation on shaping specialist provision for children & young people with Education, Health & Care Plans. Closing 14th July. Cllr Phillips was to be asked to put this on the website. **GP**
- 4573 10. **Date of next meeting:**
- a) 2nd July 2019 – 8pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 9.18 pm.

Open Forum

County Cllr Walker apologised for not attending recent meetings. He remains our County Councillor until the next election. He had little to report apart from information that was publicly

available. He reported an additional bus service to Towcester on Tuesdays & Northampton on Thursdays. NCC had appointed a new Chief Executive & a new Finance Officer. 2 government commissioners were also involved in the running of the authority.

As District Cllr, Cllr McCord advised that from April 2021 there would only be 3 Councillors covering the areas of 6 at present. The 'Prospectus for Change' had just been published to indicate the way forward. The West Northamptonshire joint committee was meeting on 5th June to discuss the constitution for the shadow authority. Unfortunately the Audit had been delayed due to no fault of SNC. The separation from Cherwell was well advanced and should be as completed as possible by the end of the summer.

An email had been received asking if anything could be done about dog fouling and 'uncontrollable' barking of dogs in the village. The Clerk was asked to respond as follows 'The Parish Council itself has no role to play in the issues you raised, and therefore no powers to intervene. However, the responsibility for dealing with these matters lies with South Northants Council's Environmental Health department, if you would like to contact them direct. You could also raise the matter of uncontrollable barking of dogs with an animal charity such as the RSPCA.'