

APPROVED MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 7th December 2021

- Present** Cllrs L Stephenson (Chair), A Curtis, L Llewellyn, N Wickens, J Hill, J Thorne & R Weston.
- 4849** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
- 4850** 2. **COUNCIL MATTERS**
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Weston declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda items 5b) and 6.1 c) and took no part in discussions.
- b) Resignation of Cllr Tony Curtis as Vice Chair. Cllr Stephenson thanked Cllr Curtis for all he had done in his role as Vice Chair, which was very much appreciated.
- c) Appointment of Vice Chair. Cllr Curtis proposed Cllr Wickens as Vice Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Llewellyn. All in favour. The Clerk would provide the paperwork for Cllr Wickens to sign to confirm his acceptance of the office of Vice Chairman.
- 4851** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1** Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 2.11.21 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 4852** 4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Opened 7.17pm. Notes attached. Closed 7.26pm.
- 4853** 5. **Community Items:**
- a) WNSP Spatial Options Consultation – closing 24th December. The Clerk had prepared a response to this which had been circulated to all. Cllr Stephenson and the Clerk would review other responses prior to sending it in.
- b) Solar2 proposals - Solar2 had been asked if representatives from Potterspurty and YG could visit an installation, and a response was awaited. Councillors were also awaiting details of the proposed village presentations.
- 4854** 6. **PLANNING MATTERS**
- 6.1** Applications received:
- a) WNS/2021/1863/LBC – 5 Moorend Road. Repair rear extension roof. Cllrs had ‘no objections.’
- b) WNS/2021/1957/FUL – Moorgate Farm. Farm Building. After discussion Cllrs commented as follows ‘Councillors would ask where is the planning statement referred to in the Application? The building is stated to be a biosecure farm building but no use has been given. It is a 3-bay building with roller shutter doors, but unfortunately the plans do not have any dimensions. Yet again this appears to be incremental development of the site without a clear plan and Councillors should like to see a detailed plan for the future use of the site.’
- c) WNS/2021/1970/SCR – Land South of Church End, Potterspurty. Screening opinion for Solar Farm. After discussion Cllrs commented as follows ‘We are of the view that an EIA is necessary and appropriate for the following reasons:
There is a significant aesthetic impact on the view to and from Furtho Farm which is a site of historic interest.
The impact of glare from such an intensive construction on both sides of the road.
There will be significant impact to the area by construction vehicles via the A5 and A508 and access and egress to and from the site which has been minimised in the documentation.
There are environmental issues for consideration which have been downplayed. There are ground nesting birds including skylarks and deer in the area.
There are several public rights of way criss crossing the sites and their rerouting and screening by security fencing amounts to significant loss of amenity to users.
The loss of use of this high-grade soil (unusual for the area) will impact on self-sufficiency and sustainability for the future.
At the expiration of 40 years, should the land be returned to farmland, then its condition will have deteriorated due to the lack of light and rainfall.
We face climate issues that must be addressed however the construction of such a site in this location must be weighed against the environmental impact of the construction (and deconstruction) of the site itself.’
- d) WNS/2021/2039/TBC – 60a Moorend Road. 1 x Lime – tree work. Cllrs had ‘no objections.’
- 6.2** Applications approved:
- a) WNS/2021/1553/FUL – 10 Grafton Road. Proposed two storey extension. 3 conditions.
- 4855** 7. **Finance Matters**
- 7.1** **ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**
- a) Clerk’s salary Nov 21 = £345.60 (001447).
- b) PAYE Tax = £86.40 (paid by direct debit)
- c) BT Broadband = £31.73 (paid by direct debit)
- d) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Nov 21 = £50.00 (001448).
- e) DNH Contracts – dog bins Nov 21 - £64.56 + £12.91 VAT = £77.47 (001449)
- f) Complete Ground Management Ltd - mowing contract - £310.00 + £62.00 VAT = £372.00
- g) TEEC Ltd – new website set up costs - £643.99 + £128.80 VAT = £772.79
- h) Society of Local Council Clerks – annual subscription = £112.00
Proposed by Cllr Thorne and seconded by Cllr Weston.
- 7.2** **OTHER**
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £44,513.76 (15.11.21) SW - £2,088.42 (1.10.21).
- b) Goat Field lease – The draft lease had been sent to the proposed tenant for him to consider.
- c) New website update – Work in progress. The cost for a gov.uk domain address was £60 per annum and after discussion Cllr Curtis proposed this be accepted. All in favour.
- d) Review of PC Grant aid. After discussion Cllr Weston proposed and Cllr Wickens seconded that

the Council in accordance with its powers under Section 142 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, was in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure – a donation of £400.00 to The Old Mail. The other grants were then discussed and following proposals from Cllrs Weston and Wickens, the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, agreed to incur the following expenditure which, in its opinion, was in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and would benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure – Royal British Legion - £200.00, Willen Hospice - £350.00, Macmillan Cancer Care - £400.00 & Warks & Northants Air Ambulance - £500.00 & YGRC fireworks - £400.00. All in favour.

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- e) Bank reconciliation 1.4.21 – 30.6.21 – This had been checked by Cllr Weston. Noted & approved.
- 8. **Councillor Reports:**
 - a) Street Lighting - the order had been placed for the remainder of the village lights to be upgraded.
 - b) Village Trees – the tree safety survey had been received and noted no urgent work was necessary. It was agreed that a quote be requested to reduce the impact of the Norway Maple in School Lane field on the residents of 4 Lime Road, and for any other work noted on the report to be carried out. It was noted that there were gaps in the line of pink Hawthorne trees at the southern entrance to the village, and Cllr Wickens proposed that a budget of £1,000.00 + VAT be set in order to replace lost trees with more substantial specimens. Seconded by Cllr Llewellyn. Cllr Stephenson & the Clerk would liaise with the village tree warden for advice.
 - c) Allotments – The annual allotment holders meeting was planned for 11th January.
 - d) Village Hall – The new Committee was beginning to bed in, and some long serving members had resigned. The key safes were now installed and Cllr Curtis was looking at using internet banking. Plans for then future included redeveloping the kitchen and toilets.
 - e) Recreation Centre – Cllr Weston reported that the Recreation Centre AGM had been cancelled; however, the firework display went well and there were activities planned for Christmas.
 - f) Playing fields – Towcester Tigers' work on the Coffee Pot field was much appreciated and matches were now scheduled until the end of the season.
 - g) Highways. Argon Utility had set up a compound on the land off Woodville Crescent for the gas work being carried on around that area. The Clerk and Cllr Curtis had received an email from them confirming that any damage to the land would be made good.
Mowing – no issues reported.

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- 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
11th January 2022
 - a) Allotment Holder's meeting 7.00pm (Village Hall/Chestnut Road Chapel/Zoom)
 - b) Followed by Parish Council no earlier than 7.30pm, as above.

Meeting closed 8.50 pm.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

The Clerk had received an email concerning the possibility of installing electric car chargers in the village. As the Council do not own any suitable sites the suggestion was discussed and details forwarded to the committees of the Village Hall and the Recreation Centre, and also to the managers of The Coffee Pot.

A further email had been received from the Save Towcester Now group expressing their concerns about the DHL planning application at Towcester – it was agreed that details be posted on the PC website.

