

**MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 via Zoom**

**Present**

Cllrs Ms L Stephenson (Chair), J Hill, Ms L Llewellyn, A Curtis, N Wickens, I McCord, J Thorne, S McCarthy & R Weston & residents Mrs H Westlake, Mrs E Robinson & Mr & Mrs Roger Weston.

4741 1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.

4742 2. COUNCIL MATTERS

a) **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr McCarthy declared an interest in Agenda item 6.4a), Cllr Weston declared an interest in Agenda item 5.1 c) & Cllr Llewellyn declared an interest in Agenda item 8 a)

4743 3. **Previous Meeting:**

3.1 Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 5.1.21 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.

3.2 Matters arising: None.

4744 4. OPEN FORUM: Opened 7.03pm.

Please see attached notes.

Closed 7.14pm.

Mrs Westlake leaves 7.14pm

Mrs Robinson leaves 7.15pm.

4745 5. PLANNING MATTERS

5.1 Applications received:

a) S/2020/2161/FUL – 27 Moorend Road. First floor extension constructed over existing attached garage. Installation of Bi-fold doors in place of patio doors and window to rear elevation. Cllrs commented as follows “Councillors would request that any comments made by neighbours are addressed when determining this application.”

b) S/2021/0029/TCA – Poppy Cottage, 17 High Street. T1 Alder – Fell. T2 Alder reduce in height by some 30%. Cllrs had ‘no objections.’

c) S/2021/0099/FUL – Land north of Wharf Lane Stables. Siting of 10 no. storage containers and new access/hardstanding. Cllrs objected as follows ‘This will be sited in a prominent position and represents over development and industrialisation of rural farming land. The application makes reference to the installation of electric gates and these should be included in the application. The site is wholly within the Tove Valley Special Landscape Area and would be visible from surrounding areas including the adjoining footpath and (possibly) the canal towpath. There is no plan to provide landscaping or screening to minimise the impact and visibility to the site. 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 development would occupy only part of the land in the applicant’s ownership & Cllrs have concerns whether this would set a precedent and be the start of wider development plans for the whole of the site given its proximity to the A508. There will be additional vehicle movements onto the junction of an A road. 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 (who is a consultee), as the land slopes in that area and would require work to ensure the containers are level.’ Cllr Richard Weston abstained in the vote to object to this application.

Mr & Mrs Weston leave 7.25pm.

d) S/2021/0118/FUL – Homestead Farm, Watling Street. Agricultural building. Cllrs commented as follows ‘Councillors would draw attention to sections 10, 13, and 22 of the application, without which they are unable to properly consider and respond. Is this a SLA/Tove Valley or other significant site? There is no landscaping plan and given the scale maybe that can be considered. It is a large barn measuring L30.4m x W13.5m x H6m and is difficult to judge the relationship of the barn to the existing farm and other buildings and surroundings so Councillors would request a location plan depicting the proposals. There are also concerns over the increase in vehicle movements in and out of the farm from an inadequate field gateway off the A5, and it is noted that the Highways Agency have not been consulted about this access.’

Cllr McCord took no part in the above Agenda item discussions.

5.2 Applications approved:

a) S/2020/2088/TC A – The Elms, Moorend Road. T1 Pear tree. Fell. No objections.

5.3 Other planning:

4746 6. **Finance Matters**

6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:

a) Clerk’s salary Jan 21 = £397.80 (001302).

b) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Jan 21 = £50.00 (001303).

c) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)

d) DNH Contracts – dog bins - £64.56 + £12.91 VAT = £77.47 (001304)

e) Keeves Contracting – cutting of Coffee Pot field hedge - £152.00 + £30.40 VAT = £182.40 (001305)

Viking – stationery - £40.02 + £8.00 VAT = £48.02 (001306)

g) E.on – electricity = £765.62 + £153.12 VAT = £918.74 (001307)

h) Miss L Ratcliffe – cont to telephone = £22.59 (001308)

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

- 6.2** Payments received
- a) Allotment Rent = £440.00
  - b) Scottish Widows interest = 5p
- 6.3** OTHER
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £40207.34 (13.1.21) SW - £2,088.27 (1.1.21).
  - b) Approval of change of payroll provider. The current payroll provider will cease providing a service on 31<sup>st</sup> march. Cllr Stephenson & the Clerk had negotiated a new contract with Connolly Accountants in Stony Stratford for the same cost and this was approved by all Cllrs.
  - c) Bank reconciliation 1/10/20 – 31/12/20. Checked and approved by Cllr Weston. Noted.
  - d) Review of Risk Assessment. To be circulated.
  - e) Review of appointment of internal auditor. Cllr Stephenson proposed they be reappointed in line with NALC’s recommendation. Seconded by Cllr Hill. All in favour.
  - f) Review of level of PC’s fidelity guarantee insurance cover - £250,000 as standard. Cllr Stephenson proposed the PC continue at that level of cover. Seconded by Cllr Thorne. All in favour.
  - c) Review of Code of Conduct. To be circulated.
  - h) Review of Standing Orders. To be circulated.

**6.4** Donations

- a) The Old Mail - £400.00 (001309)
- b) Royal British Legion - £200.00 (001310)
- c) Macmillan Cancer Relief - £400.00 (001311)
- d) Willen Hospice - £350.00 (001312)
- e) Warks & N’hants Air Ambulance - £500.00 (001313)

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**7.** Councillor Reports:

- a) **HIGHWAYS** – A resident has suggested creating a wildflower meadow on Elm Green, and the proposal had been forwarded to NCC for their approval.

It was noted that parking outside Asana Lodge was now significantly better, but would continue to be monitored. A resident had expressed concern over an item in The Old Mail about the possibility of reconfiguring the junction between Moorend Road and Hesketh Road and after discussion the Clerk was asked to respond as follows ‘Any discussions are at the initial exploratory stage only. There is no commitment to do any works at the site and in any event if there were any intention to do any works - there would be consultation with the residents likely to be affected. Councillors are very well aware of the current planning issues involving AL & it would not be their intention to commit any public funds to a scheme where there is very little long term benefit when compared to the cost and especially where the parking issue may resolve itself in due course.’

Comments had been received about overhanging and encroaching vegetation from properties in the village and the Clerk was asked to contact the residents involved to ask if they could assist by trimming the trees or shrubs back from the pavements.

The Clerk was also asked to write to the landowner and tenant of the fields behind Eastfield Crescent/Hesketh Road as follows ‘Recent heavy rainfall caused significant run off from your field behind Hesketh Road where it joins Eastfield Crescent. The water ran down the footpath and adjacent garden, then overwhelmed the storm drains. The run-off then flowed down Malborough Way and overwhelmed the storm drains at the other end of Eastfield Crescent causing flooding of the road and property. There does not appear to be a ditch at the edge of the field to control run off by directing it away from roads and property. If there once was one it appears to have become filled in. We would like to add that in recent days this run off has been repeated, although not to the same extent. On at least one subsequent event there was significant icing on the pavement as a result. Could you please consider the position and take steps to avoid the situation recurring?’

The problem of flooding on Moorend Road outside The Poplar was also discussed and it was hoped a full survey and a meeting with the County Council could soon take place.

- b) **STREET LIGHTING** – Mr Novakovic had indicated that to upgrade lights not previously upgraded in the village in the last few years would cost approx. £5,000.00. He was obtaining firm quotations.
- c) **VILLAGE TREES** – Further reports about the Chestnut tree in School Lane field were awaited.
- d) **ALLOTMENTS** – All allotments were now occupied, with 2 new plotters coming forward.
- e) **PLAYING FIELDS** – Litter in the bins in School Lane field had got under the metal liners and was difficult to remove. Cllr Thorne was dealing with these bins.
- f) **VILLAGE HALL** – Closed during the past month. Re-opening would only be considered after receiving advice from ACRE, but the Hall would always be available for emergency use.
- g) **RECREATION CENTRE** – Closed during the past month apart from the café which had provided take away during the lockdown. An all-purpose court had been suggested for the car park area.
- h) **MOWING** – The mowing contract being put out to tender, in order for a decision to be made at the next PC meeting.
- i) **RIGHTS OF WAY** – Public Footpath SH36. This footpath had been reclassified in error in 2016 by NCC and this order prohibits all motorised vehicles including cyclists to allow the routes to be used for pedestrian access only. Thanks were due to Cllr Steven Hollowell for his hard work and diligence in identifying all the affected footpaths in the district.
- j) **PC RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS** – The village volunteers had been generally quiet, but much appreciated and always available and willing to assist if required. The hotline was still up

and running. The vaccination roll out appeared to be going well and TADD drivers were currently taking residents to appointments.

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**8. Community Items**

- a) Pocket Park. Mrs Westlake's letter had been circulated to all Councillors, but after much discussion it was agreed that the matter be deferred until such time as a public meeting could be held – hopefully in the autumn.

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**9. Date of next meeting:**

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 7pm

Meeting closed 8.56 pm.

**OPEN FORUM**

Mr Weston gave details concerning his planning application for 10 containers.

As District Cllr, Cllr McCord advised that SNC was focussed to orderly close in 59 days time, so there was not much to report there. However, at west Northants the budget was set to be approved, recruitment was ongoing, new email addresses were being set up and discussions were ongoing concerning policies that required harmonising. Communications would shortly be sent out to residents outlining details of the new authority.