

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5th January 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 & resident Mrs S Tapp.
Cllr Stephenson welcomed everyone to the meeting and wished all a Happy New Year.
- 4732 1. **Apologies for Absence:** None.
- 4733 2. **COUNCIL MATTERS**
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr McCarthy declared an interest in Agenda item 6.3 c)
- 4734 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 1.12.20 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 Matters arising:
- i) Cllr Llewellyn noted the PCC had recently held a meeting and advised that there was a lack of space in Potterspurty churchyard as well as in Yardley.
- ii) The Christmas tree on Elm Green had been much appreciated by village residents and thanks were due to Les, Justin & Geoff who made it happen.
- 4735 4. **OPEN FORUM:** Opened 7.03pm.
 Mr Hill commented on the recent flooding of Malborough Way and Eastfield Crescent, which was the worst he had seen in 46 years. He could not recall the last time the drains were cleared, and the problem needed to be dealt with.
 Closed 7.07pm.
- 4736 5. **PLANNING MATTERS**
- 5.1 Applications received:
- a) S/2020/2048/TCA – 21 High Street. Various tree works on Yew, Beech, 2 x Alder & 2 x Ash. Cllrs had ‘no objections.’
 Cllr McCord took no part in the above Agenda item discussions.
- 5.2 Other planning:
 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 had no objections at this time but requested any concerns raised by neighbours be taken into account when determining the application.
- 4737 6. **Finance Matters**
- 6.1 **ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**
- a) Clerk’s salary Dec 20 = £398.00 (001292).
- b) HMRC PAYE Tax = £102.20 (001293)
- c) Clerk’s Expenses Dec 20 (stamps) = £7.80 (001294).
- d) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Dec 20 = £50.00 (0011295).
- e) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)
- f) Enterprise Inns field rent - £10.00 + £2.00 VAT = £12.00 (001296)
- g) Mr D Allen – contribution to village bulb display - £52.00 (001297)
- h) E.on – street lighting maintenance - £134.23 + £26.85 VAT = £161.08 (001298)
- i) DNH Contracts – dog bins - £145.26 + £29.05 VAT = £174.31 (001299)
- j) Society of Local Council Clerks – annual subscription = £112.00 (001300)
- k) Ladywell Accountancy Services – PAYE operation & RTI filing = £51.00 (001301)
 Proposed by Cllr McCarthy and seconded by Cllr Weston. Authorised by all Councillors.
- 6.2 **Payments received**
- a) Allotment Rent = £120.00
- 6.3 **OTHER**
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £40,091.90 (29.12.20) SW - £2,088.22 (1.10.20).
- b) Workplace Pension scheme. The Clerk did not wish to be placed in a Workplace Pension scheme.
- c) Review of PC Grant aid. After discussion Cllr Weston proposed and Cllr Hill 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 Hill, 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. Also to be made available if the events take place - YGRC fireworks - £400.00 & YGRC – over 65’s party - £250.00. All in favour (Cllr McCarthy abstained). The Council discussed setting up a fund to provide financial assistance to village charities and organisations or individuals where there was a specific project in mind and this would be publicised on Facebook and in The Old Mail. The applications would be discussed and consideration given to a grant for capital expenditure and not running costs,
- d) Funding costs for new website - Cllr Wickens suggested options for the website which were to maintain it as it is, upgrade the site, use a website provider, use the ‘My Parish Council’ provider or perhaps an IT student in YG who would like to have the experience of setting up a live site. He would write an article for Facebook and The Old Mail. He had monitored the website and noted that there had been 91 hits of the PC’s Facebook page when the Christmas Tree was switched on

and 70 after a post about funding for vulnerable groups.

- e) Budget & Precept 2021-2022. The Clerk had prepared a spreadsheet showing the breakdown of costs for the current year and suggestions for the budget and precept had been circulated to all Cllrs. These were discussed in full and Cllr Stephenson proposed that the budget be approved as follows: Salaries £5,500.00, Admin £1,500.00, Street Lighting £4,000.00, Mowing £4,500.00, Playing fields £2,500.00, Section 137 £2,500.00, Other £5,000.00 – a total of £25,500.00. Seconded by Cllr Wickens. All in favour.

Additionally from reserves Cllr Stephenson proposed £5,000 to complete the replacement of street lights and £5,000 to be spent on projects approved by the Council put forward by residents (see above). Seconded by Cllr Wickens. All in favour.

- f) Cllr Stephenson then proposed a precept of £25,500.00 for the Parish Council, the same as last year. Seconded by Cllr Wickens. All in favour.

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7. Councillor Reports:

- a) HIGHWAYS – A pothole opposite 32 Hesketh Road had been reported, and the Clerk was asked to request that the drains along Eastfield Crescent & Malborough Way be cleared as a matter of urgency, also a proper survey was required on the stretch of Moorend Road past the water tower.
- 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 would obtain firm quotations.
- c) VILLAGE TREES – Further reports about the Chestnut tree in School Lane field were awaited.
- d) ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Curtis reported that he had received 4 responses to the letter to allotment holders reminding them that the rent was due in January, and 2 general comments. The rats were now being dealt with by a contractor. Rent for 6 plots had been received, and 2 had been relinquished.
- 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.
- h) MOWING – Cllr McCarthy expressed his concerns about the length of the grass in School Lane field, which made youth football difficult. Cllr Curtis advised that the field was cut to a length for general use and if the junior pitch required a shorter cut then there were alternatives available. As in previous years Cllrs agreed to join the NCC Urban Highway Grass Mowing scheme.
- i) 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.

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8. Community Items

- a) Complaint about parking outside Asana Lodge. A resident had advised that parking in the road outside Asana Lodge had caused lorries and buses to damage the verge at the junction of Moorend Road with Hesketh Road. Cllrs discussed contacting the manager at Asana Lodge but were aware that one of the vehicles belonged to a resident. The Clerk was asked to compose a letter to Asana Lodge to ask if vehicles visiting could park more considerately if the car park was full, and also to contact Highways and ask if the junction could be reconfigured for use by large vehicles. The matter seemed to have improved over the previous 2 weeks, and would be monitored over the next two weeks.
- b) To appoint a Police Liaison Representative to act as a single point of contact with Northamptonshire Police. Cllr Llewellyn volunteered for this role.
- c) Further bulb planting in village. Mr Allen had planted crocus and tulip bulbs at the three corners of Elm Green. He was thanked once again for his efforts to brighten up the village.
- d) Malborough Road/Eastfield Crescent drainage. After discussion it was decided to contact both Anglian Water and Highways to try and arrange for the whole circle of drains in Malborough Way and Eastfield Crescent to be cleared.

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9. Date of next meeting:

- a) 2nd February 2021 7pm

Meeting closed 8.38 pm.