

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6th July 2021

Present
4796

Cllrs A Curtis (Chair), N Wickens, J Thorne, L Llewellyn & R Weston & resident Ms S Bance.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllrs J Hill & L Stephenson.
2. COUNCIL MATTERS
 - a) **Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Llewellyn declared an interest in Agenda item 5.1b) and took no part in discussions.
 3. **Previous Meeting:**
 - 3.1 Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meetings held 1.6.21 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
 - 3.2 Matters arising: None.
 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION: Opened 4.32pm. Notes attached. Closed 4.41pm,
 5. PLANNING MATTERS
 - 5.1 Applications received:
 - a) WNS/2021/0581/FUL – 1 Brownsfield Road. Proposed demolition of existing detached garage and new single-story front, rear and side extension. Cllrs commented as follows "Councillors would request that any concerns raised by neighbours be taken into account when determining this application."
 - b) WNS/2021/0788/FUL – 20 Mount Pleasant – Proposed single storey with a tiled, pitched roof. Cllrs commented as follows "Councillors would respectfully request the Planning Officer visits the application site, as this proposed extension represents a significant enclosure of the courtyard of number 19 Mount Pleasant, which would not be apparent without a site visit. It appears that there are boundary issues which require clarifying, together with the matter of an adjoining listed building. Councillors would also request that any concerns raised by neighbours be taken into account when determining the application."
 - 5.2 Applications approved:
 - a) WNS/2021/0413/FUL & WNS/2021/0414/LBC – 15 High Street. Conversion of double garage to form an Annex. 4 conditions.
 - b) WNS/2021/0407/FUL – 41 Moorend Road – Replacement of existing flat roof with a tiled, pitched roof. 3 conditions.
 - c) WNS/2021/0229/FUL – 6 Grafton Road. Replace 7 windows. 4 conditions.
 - 5.3 Applications refused:
 - a) WNS/2021/0099/FUL – New barn land north of Wharf Lane Stables. Siting of 10 storage containers.
 - 5.4 Other Planning: None.
 6. **Finance Matters**
 - 6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
 - a) Clerk's salary June 21 = £345.60 (001408).
 - b) PAYE Tax = £86.40 (paid by direct debit)
 - c) Clerk's expenses (stamps) = £7.92
 - d) BT Broadband = £31.73 (paid by direct debit)
 - e) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – June 21 = £50.00 (001401).
 - f) DNH Contracts – dog bins June 21 - £64.56 + £12.91 VAT = £77.47 (001402)
 - g) The Ground Care Company – mowing contract - £1,145.00 + £229.00 VAT = £1,374.00
 - h) E.on plc - lighting maintenance - £134.23 + £26.85 VAT = £161.08
 - i) Enterprise Inns – field rent - £10.00 + £2.00 = £12.00
 - j) ROSPA – play area inspections - £144.00 + £28.80 = £172.80
 - k) SNAST Neighbourhood Watch – annual membership = £25.00Proposed by Cllr Wickens and seconded by Cllr Thorne.
 - 6.2 **Payments received:** None.
 - 6.3 OTHER
 - a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £41,571.94 (15.6.21) SW - £2,088.32 (1.4.21).
 - b) Emergency Plan. Progress was being made and the Plan would be circulated for comments after a further review.
 - c) Horse Field lease – In hand with solicitors. The Clerk was asked to request a response from the solicitors within 14 days.
 7. **Councillor Reports:**
 - a) Street Lighting – the order had been placed for the remainder of the village lights to be upgraded.
 - b) Village Trees – a complaint had been received about the Norway maple tree in School Lane field. Cllrs Wickens and Llewellyn had inspected the tree and had some sympathy for the householders concerned. The village tree warden had inspected the tree and commented that it was an attractive tree, important in the street scene. She mentioned the benefits of trees and felt that it would be a great pity to lose this tree and its removal should be resisted. The Clerk was arranging for WNC's Tree Advisor with ND Arb (BTech) qualifications to visit and appraise the tree and give his advice as to what, if any, action could possibly be taken to help the residents concerned.
 - c) Allotments – 2 of the 3 allotments previously giving cause for concern have been greatly improved and Cllr Curtis would speak with the other plot holder involved. Mention was made of where manure was being deposited and Councillor Curtis would also deal with this matter. **TC**
 - d) Village Hall – Now open for Yoga, Craft, the Book Xchange and Yardley Gobion Parish Council meetings. Other groups were anxious to return to the Hall and they would be welcomed in line with advice from ACRE.

- e) Recreation Centre – The bar is now open 3 days a week and badminton and ballet classes have returned to use the hall. Gearing up for the football.
- f) Playing Fields – The ROSPA inspection had taken place and highlighted areas requiring attention. Cllr Wickens noted a repeat finding, which was of concern. After discussion Cllr Wickens proposed that the PC’s contractor be used to deal with the issues. Seconded by Cllr Thorne. Cllr Weston abstained; all other Cllrs approved. The work would be inspected once it had been carried out.

Towcester Town Football Club had requested use of the Coffee Pot field for 13-18 football on Saturdays or Sundays for the next 3 seasons. After much discussion Councillors agreed that the use of the field for a further 3 years was acceptable in principle subject to a review at the end of next season when the field had been used as originally proposed, and any issues raised had been satisfactorily resolved. The following clauses were to be added to the agreement – ‘Parking Arrangements – The Club agree to ensure that when cars are parked along Yardley Road there is a 2 car space every 4 or 5 cars to avoid problems for cars passing through or damaging the grass bank on the other side of the road. Toilet Arrangements - The Club agree to ensure toilet facilities are available if required.’

- g) Highways – Moorend Road by The Poplar had been flooded again and the Clerk had heard nothing further from WNC since an email on 13th April from the Director of Place and Economy, and she was asked to make contact and ask for an update on what action had been taken.
- h) Mowing – no problems reported with village mowing; however, Yardley Youth football team had raised queries about the condition of the field for matches. The Clerk was asked to respond as follows ‘The field is scheduled to be mowed 14 times from the end of March to the beginning of October. There is no mowing done from October to March. The timing interval between each cut depends on the weather but averages out at once every two weeks. The height of the cutting blades is set to provide a surface suitable for a general recreational space. This applies to the whole of the field and the grass may therefore be longer than is suitable for some activities. The provision and maintenance of surfaces suitable for playing sport is the responsibility of the club or organisation that wishes to use the field and they are responsible for the cost of any additional work that may need to be done. The role of the Parish Council is to ensure that any work done does not create any long term or permanent damage to the field. For example, using chemicals to mark out the pitch which may kill the grass.’

8. Community Items

- a) Position of Memorial bench. It was felt that the bench could be a distraction to traffic if placed on one of the village greens, and also it would not be too pleasant a spot to sit as there would be traffic on three sides, plus the danger of having to cross roads to reach them. Additionally Chestnut Green did not really have a view as such. The Churchwardens had indicated that the churchyard was not an option. However, after much discussion, the grassy area outside the shop was suggested. This is a more communal area, and the bench might be better appreciated by residents. The bench outside the Church was in reasonable condition, and it was unfortunate that the two benches in the village that require attention were not in a suitable position for a memorial bench (Coffee Pot field & Moorend Road), but Councillors felt that outside the shop would be a good compromise, as there is no seating anywhere around. The organiser was asked for their thoughts.
- b) MK2050 – Cllr Wickens was concerned about plans for the land around Furtho and the extension of the A5 dual carriageway. This would be a watching brief.
- c) Flooding at rear of Hesketh Road/Eastfield Crescent. Cllr Wickens would prepare the wording to send to the agents for the owners of the field in order to arrange a meeting.

9. Date of next meeting:

- a) Parish Council – 3rd August 2021 7.15pm in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed 6.17 pm.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Ms Bance outlined her concerns about the planning application for 20 Mount Pleasant.

An email had been received asking who funded new play equipment as the resident concerned felt that the School Lane play area was very tired and indicated that parents were going to nearby villages for better facilities. The Clerk was asked to make contact and ask the resident for their suggestions to improve the play area.

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ii)

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b)

c)

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e)

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- h)**
- i)**
- 8.**
- a)**

- b)**
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- 9.**
- a)**