

# MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6<sup>th</sup> April 2021 via Zoom

- Present** Cllrs Ms L Stephenson (Chair), J Hill, Ms L Llewellyn, A Curtis, N Wickens, J Thorne, S McCarthy & R Weston & residents Mr Westlake & Ms Cracknell.
- 4759** 1. **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr I McCord
- 4760** 2. COUNCIL MATTERS
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 4761** 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 2.3.21 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 3.2 Matters arising: None.
- 4762** 4. OPEN FORUM: Opened 7.06pm.  
No comments.  
Closed 7.07pm.
- 4763** 5. PLANNING MATTERS
- 5.1 Applications received:
- a) S/2021/0536/FUL & S/2021/0537/LBC – 7 Moorend Road. Variation of condition 2 of previous applications including replacement rear window, W.C. vent to side elevation, replacement patio doors to side & reconfiguration of ground floor rooms. Cllrs had no comments.
- b) S/2021/0514/TCA – 14 Mount Pleasant – Ash tree – to fell. Cllrs had no comments.
- 5.2 Applications approved:
- a) S/2021/0184/FUL – 25 Moorend Road. Variation of condition – amend roof details from local thatch to natural slate. 3 conditions.
- b) S/2021/0183/FUL – 33 Hesketh Road. Replace existing conservatory with single storey extension to rear. 6 conditions.
- 5.3 Other planning: Nothing to report.
- 4764** 6. **Finance Matters**
- 6.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:
- a) Clerk's salary Mar 21 = £398.00 (001319).
- b) PAYE Tax = £102.20 (001320)
- c) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Mar 21 = £50.00 (001381).
- d) BT – broadband - £30.50 – (paid by direct debit.)
- e) Enterprise Inns – field rent = £10.00 + £2.00 = £12.00 (001382)
- f) DNH Contracts – dog bins - £64.56 + £12.91 VAT = £77.47 (001383)
- g) Viking – stationery - £39.47 + £7.89 VAT = £47.36 (001384)
- h) CPRE - annual membership = £36.00 (001385)
- i) E.on - £134.23 + £26.85 VAT = £161.08 (001386)
- j) NCALC - Subscription, Internal Auditor fee & Data Protection Officer fee = £718.59 (001387)  
Proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Thorne. Authorised by all Councillors.
- 6.2 **Payments received**
- a) Allotment Rent = £60.00
- b) Field Rent = £120.00
- 6.3 OTHER
- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £36,211.64 (1.4.21) SW - £2,088.27 (1.1.21).
- b) Emergency Plan. Cllrs Wickens and Llewellyn had produced a draft plan for circulation and comment.
- c) Acknowledgement of donation from Macmillan Cancer Care.
- d) Horse Field lease. Cllr Stephenson had made contact with solicitors to obtain advice about the lease, which was currently rolling on existing terms. A rent review was being considered, together with the length of a new lease, and the future use of the land was also discussed to ensure any concerns raised were alleviated. Councillor Wickens requested the lease document be circulated to Councillors for review and comment.
- 4765** 7. **Councillor Reports:**
- a) STREET LIGHTING – E.on would shortly be replacing and upgrading the remaining obsolete lamps in the village and one lighting column (no 35) that had been damaged. Cllr Hill asked whether the column being replaced could be moved to allow residents better access, but column 35 did not impede access.
- b) VILLAGE TREES – Further reports about the Chestnut tree in School Lane field were awaited.
- c) ALLOTMENTS – Cllr Curtis had issued a newsletter to plottolders. An email had been received concerning the condition of the fence between the farmer's field and the allotments, which needed repairs. Cllr Curtis proposed that he be delegated £100.00 + VAT to spend on making the fence safe. Seconded by Cllr McCarthy. All in favour. A Facebook page had been created for plottolders to share ideas, and this had created so much interest that it had been opened to Yardley residents as well.
- d) VILLAGE HALL – Closed during the past months, but the Hall was always available for emergency use. A recent meeting had taken place outside and advice from ACRE indicated that reopening could take place from 17<sup>th</sup> May with guidelines in place. The Book Xchange could also open from 17<sup>th</sup> May, but possibly earlier, depending on legislation.
- e) RECREATION CENTRE – Closed during the past months apart from the café which had provided take away during the lockdown, but was planned to reopen on 16<sup>th</sup> April. It was recommended that an enquiry about enlarging the patio should be referred to WNC to determine the need for planning

permission.

- f) PLAYING FIELDS – A great deal of litter but no real problems reported, apart from an issue with the gates not closing properly, but whilst annoying this had not been considered a problem by the ROSPA inspector.
- g) HIGHWAYS – A resident has suggested creating a wildflower meadow on Elm Green, and the proposal had been forwarded to NCC for their approval.
- h) MOWING – The first cut had taken place, and Cllr Thorne had taken over responsibility for liaison with the mowing contractor. Cllr Stephenson thanked Cllr Curtis for his work over the past years and welcomed Cllr Thorne to his new role.
- 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 and there appeared to be no specific issues.

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**8. Community Items**

- a) Village Grant scheme – It was agreed that decisions on the applications be deferred until the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> May due to concerns about provisions in the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity.
- b) Village Bus Service – Cllr Wickens had publicised a letter on social media from the operator asking for comments about the routes and the service. The PC had thanked Mr Taylor for continuing the run the service but had nothing further to add.
- c) Dog fouling signs – Cllrs had noted comments on Facebook about the increased incidents of dog fouling and agreed that further action may be needed if the situation did not improve. To be monitored.
- d) Land off Woodville Crescent – Cllr Stephenson had taken advice from solicitors as to the way to regularise access across the land, and she proposed they be asked to draft a letter that will head off any future claim for adverse possession or the creation of a right of way across the plot, at a quoted cost of £150.00 + VAT. Seconded by Cllr Wickens. All in favour.
- e) ‘Tommy’ - Mark Roche had obtained support from residents for the purchase of one or two Tommy statues and the Clerk had made contact with the owners of suggested sites where they could be placed in the village; namely the 2 village greens and St Leonard’s Churchyard. The resident would be setting up a fundraising page and contributors could vote for their preferred site.

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**9. Date of next meetings:**

- a) Parish Council - 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 7pm via Zoom
- b) Annual Parish Assembly – 19<sup>th</sup> May 7pm Village Hall\*
- c) Annual Meeting of Parish Council & Parish Council meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> May Village Hall – after above meeting. \*

Meeting closed 8.15 pm.

\*The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 which allows local authorities to conduct meetings remotely expires on 7th May 2021, but is being challenged. The hearing is expected to take place during the week commencing 19 April 2021, and a judgement is expected within 7 days of the hearing.



