



Minutes of a Meeting of Gamlingay Parish Council ¹ held virtually on Tuesday 8th September 2020 at 7.30pm.

Present: Chair C Smith, Councillors A Goss, A Foster, S Martin, J Wright, W Boyne, K Warburton, J Darcy, R Petch, P Webb and A Kirby. District Councillor B Smith, County Councillor S Kindersley, 5 members of the public and Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner.

68. Resolved to accept **apologies for absence from councillors T Gurney, D Finnigan and S Jones**. **Applications for co-option** to fill one vacancy were considered from H Gould and L New. Chair C Smith thanked both candidates for their interest and regretted that there was only one vacancy to be filled as both would be very valuable members of the council. H Gould was co-opted by a majority vote, L New was invited to re-apply as soon as another vacancy arises.
69. To receive **declarations of interest** from councillors on items on the agenda, written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests and to grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. None.
70. To receive any **representations from Members of the Public and Press** relating to items of business on this agenda during a fifteen-minute Open Forum. A member of the public asked the council to support a revised approach to grass cutting to encourage wildflower verges. Cut less and cut later – to encourage biodiversity. (SK arrived at the meeting.) Clerk KR responded to explain that the Council was undertaking a strategic review with County Council (which is responsible for the verges) about verge cutting. County, as the highways authority, determines what needs to be cut for safety reasons. Chair referred member of the public to the Friends of Millbrook Meadows group (JW is liaison) to discuss ideas further and help create coordinated approach to biodiversity.
71. Resolved to approve as a correct record the **Minutes of the Meeting of 28th July 2020**.
72. To note any **Matters Arising** from these minutes. 60.1 i. Sale and removal of concrete cubes completed. £800 raised. 59. GAGA has accepted offer of S106 funding towards fencing – on payments list. 60.1 i. A meeting has been arranged between P Dolling and current Chair of GCC N Muirhead to discuss updating the long-term maintenance schedule. 60.2 i. Playground – remedial works and removal of unserviceable equipment will take place shortly. Steps almost complete. li. Football club has paid for a further cut of the field. 61. Clerks to arrange date for PW to attend office to confirm bank reconciliations prior to F and GP meeting.
73. **To receive correspondence** from Local MP, District and County Councillors, Police and reports from local groups
- i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council. Recent planning white paper has serious implications for the delivery of promised affordable homes in the region both already planned and future. Zero carbon funding – ends soon. Can be used to fund consultants to prepare a tree strategy for example. Parking at Gamlingay woods – hopeful that it will soon reopen after logging operations and some parking will be reinstated. Green End development – contact numbers are published on boards on site and Clerks have details in case of issues arising. SCDC Countryside homes “meals on wheels” service has been

¹ This meeting will be recorded



extended until October. Covid -19 cases in South Cambridgeshire – 7/8 new cases – 6 per 100k compared to national average of 13/14 per 100k. Continued vigilance is needed. Solar scheme launched – residents can register interest without obligation to buy. Review of shared planning service is underway – parish councils will be consulted in groups. Many thousands of new homes being planned in Cambourne and in areas surrounding Gamlingay. Continuing debate about where a new railway station will be situated. Funding for the A428 is still on offer. Draft prospectus for the Oxford/Cambridge Arc is now out. Local plan – 6k people attended pop up consultation events and around 9k online responses were received – these will all be published in the interests of openness and transparency. 700 sites have been put forward for development. For scale - last time 400 were put forward and 34 proceeded to development. South Cambs has around 150k furloughed staff and estimates that 25% may face redundancy. There is jobs growth in new sectors such as biomedicine. SCDC has a recovery strategy. Chair commented that he suspects the temporary measure of reducing the percentage of affordable homes may become permanent – similar has happened in the past.

ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council representative. Has been attending a meeting about encouraging more swifts to visit Gamlingay. HG asked SK if he could assist with getting advice from County highways about possible revisions to verge cutting to encourage more wildflowers. SK – great aspiration, he would encourage GPC to take over responsibility for the verge cutting from CCC if possible, in future (with a commuted sum). The new system of local liaison officers appointed to “cut through red tape” at CCC does not seem to be working well yet.

iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Gamlingay Community Safety Group - minutes

iv. Speedwatch – to note updated costs for order placed for speed signs. Chair very frustrated and angry that Gamlingay Speedwatch does not seem to be as visible and active as in surrounding villages. He does not consider that the Council gets any reports or feedback and doesn't think more money would be well spent. KW – is a volunteer and explained that no sessions have been done recently but that he can ask coordinator for an update. RP and HG have both undertaken training and are keen to get going. HG pointed out that exercises with the speed gun is only part of Speedwatch initiative. Clerk LB – the resolution has already been made to purchase 2 flashing speed signs (for Speed watch and GVP). The invoice presented is an updated cost for information only. Hold up is the attachment license required by County Council which had to be submitted online and the form is not straightforward to complete. For example, it does not allow for moving the signs randomly, but requires specific dates. Clerk anticipates that it will be rejected and more discussion with the officer concerned will be required before permission is granted for the signs to be attached to streetlight columns.

v. Forward Gamlingay!

vi. Police – feedback from Commissioners briefing 2.9.2020 – W Boyne. WB gave a summary of issues raised. Gamlingay was raised as a flagship parish for the Speedwatch initiative – the Police are very keen to promote community involvement in projects such as this and HGV watch, ecops, SCAMS partnership. SCDC Policing team is shortly to get 2 extra graduate officers – new scheme.

74. **To receive reports** on other Parish Council responsibilities and projects: -

74.1 **Local Council Award Scheme** – To note grant of Quality Award from the National Association of Local Councils, demonstrating that Gamlingay Parish Council has achieved good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Valid for 4 years. Council was very pleased to receive this



acknowledgement – Clerks were thanked for their hard work in submitting the application. Detailed feedback from NALC will be considered at F and GP and any actions agreed.

74.2 **Community Buildings**

- i. Old Methodist Chapel a. Rainbow Pre School – re opening. Noted AF had replaced lights and plumber has replaced taps (needs to return to correct labelling). Plug socket requested to be moved – Manager advised that a suitably qualified electrician must be used. Temporary but adequate solution of extension lead is being used. b. Party Wall Act – award to note. Noted nothing untoward raised in detailed report. Chair concerned about number of exclusions but suspects these are standard terms. AF offered to monitor the tell tales more regularly during demolition/construction phase.
- ii. Eco Hub i. Update on opening hours and note of rate changes. Noted, Clerks will get update on opening hours when they are in office this week. ii. Request for drawdown of money from Long Term Maintenance Fund. Resolved to approve request for £4577.71 for heat exchange plates. Clerk LB explained that there have been a number of recent calls on the LTMF due to GCC trustee N Muirhead investigating the various systems in the Eco Hub in great detail and ensuring that necessary replacements are made backed up with regular maintenance schedules. Cost cutting during build phase may have meant that some items that were installed were not as robust as originally planned (e.g. window winders) and hence have needed replacing sooner than expected. NM working very hard to ensure future maintenance schedules are robust and comprehensive. iii. Update on progress of review of long-term maintenance schedule. Meeting arranged between P Dolling and NM to look at original schedule and how best to update it. iv. Gateway feature – summary of progress and sketch impression of proposal. Local artist A Hipkiss had produced sketch incorporating all the elements suggested by Green Sand Ridge project officer. Councillors who had attended a meeting to discuss ideas felt that these had not been represented in the sketch. Resolved – Clerk KR to feed back to GSR – planter outside Hub entrance to remain. Sandstone boulder not accepted due to possible vandalism. Bench – councillors at meeting agreed intention to retain existing bench but it could be relocated to the recreation field and a replacement bespoke one installed, but the design should be more traditional with a backrest. Heart logo in coloured resin – accepted. Preferable to site fountain on this feature with the resin being replaced with some permeable surface to assist with drainage. Large upright feature signboard – too overbearing. The sign/info board on legs at the rear of the sketch is acceptable in the location. Councillors felt it was important to retain the significance of the Eco Hub and take care not to overpower the entrance area with GSR branding.

74.3 **Recreational Spaces**

- i. Playground and recreation field – i Installation of new steps – update. Almost complete. ii. Bowls club – to receive estimate of costs for installation of electricity and to consider response. Quotation of £4134 runs out this month. Costs cover cable laying only – all excavation/electrics/cabinet are additional costs. No designated budget for these works. Bowls club hope to relocate but uncertainly over timescales means they want to improve current facility. No update on possible relocation to ex First School site, deadline is approaching (although was set pre Covid-19) – awaiting news from County Council. If electricity is provided,



Bowls club would be liable for ongoing bills. Chair – if Bowls club relocates in future, Football club may use power supply for floodlighting. KW – will depend if supply is adequate. HG asked if other off grid options such as solar power had been considered – grants may be available. Unlikely that Bowls club would be eligible as do not pay any rates for rink. More formal clubhouse would trigger rates and other costs. PW asked what recent work had been done – JD – replacing/repairing concrete ditches. Member numbers have increased recently but could attract more with better facilities. Resolved – Council is not able to decide on this until an idea of timescales on relocation is provided by County. Deferred for 6 months.

- ii. First School Field. i To receive any update on future plans. No update.
- iii. Merton field – letter with offer of extension to lease. To resolve response and any action on tree works. Resolved to accept 5-year extension and to add tree works to normal annual schedule – will be arranged later this month.
- iv. Gamlingay woods – vehicular access removal. To receive any update. Closure of woods for two weeks for forestry operations to note. No update received. JW asked if an update on the WT's 5-year plan could be provided for residents. HG acknowledged that the WT cater for wildlife, not the public, although its overall aim is to preserve the ancient woodland. Clerks will ask WT for information.
- v. Tree planting strategy - Grow Gamlingay project outline for discussion/adoption. Plan to apply to SCDC Zero carbon fund to plant mini forest and improve hedgerow and extend copse, looking for permission from Council to plant on Millbrook Meadows and support for strategy. Chair -suggests applicants combine efforts with Friends of Millbrook Meadows and other members of the public looking to enhance biodiversity in the village to ensure a combined approach to planning and expenditure. HG – will anyone be calculating the carbon footprint of the village and any offset with this project? Clerk KR – has done much work on this and can advise HG. KW – how dense will the proposed tiny forest be? Very dense – paths not planned but can be incorporated. Intention is that it is not a rectangle – approximate size of a tennis court but fluid shape to fit in around current paths and planted areas with minimal maintenance, if paths are inserted then more health and safety considerations come in. Resolved – to support Grow Gamlingay application. JW to arrange a meeting to draw together interested parties to discuss coordinating ideas and efforts. KW liked the fact that the project intends to involve lots of people of different ages. JW thinks GVP would like to be involved. Chair thinks it is essential that all parties get together to produce a joined-up way to bring forward biodiversity proposals. JW gave apologies and left meeting.
- vi. Millbrook Meadows – volunteer wildflower planting plan – noted and approved. KR will discuss specific areas with volunteer.

74.3 **Cemeteries and Churchyards**

To receive any reports. No items.

74.4 **Library** – latest on opening hours and procedures. Deferred to F and GP.

75. **Information, communications and consultations**

- i. Greensand County- summary of training interactive consultation 12.8.2020. Noted.
- ii. Solution Gamlingay – update and analytics 1.1.2020- 3.8.2020 for information. Deferred to future meeting.



- iii. Cow lane/West Road – to consider letter from resident raising highways concerns. Noted not in GPC's remit – will pass concerns to highways authority.
76. **Community news**
i. Neighbourhood Plan r.14 consultation- cost summary and details of consultation events. SM explained the consultation has been launched and will be delivered to all households by the end of next week. Asked all present to promote consultation and try to engage residents in NHP.
77. **Financial**
i. To be approved- payments list -vouchers 102-126. Resolved to approve.
ii. S106 – update on funding position. Deferred to future meeting.
iii. Annual insurance policy – review. End of fixed term agreement. To consider quotations for renewal. Noted 4 quotations received. Resolved to remain with current provider on new 3 year agreement as best value.
78. **South Cambridgeshire District Council**
i.Planning Policy Monthly update. Noted.
ii. Planning - Green End. a. Notification of contractors for enabling works and arrangements for reporting issues. Noted. b. Road naming suggestions – to resolve recommendation. Resolved to recommend Wales Drive and St Edes Way.
iv. Confirm acceptance of Covid -19 Business Grant award. Resolved to approve. To consider items for expenditure and to note updated estimate of Covid costs to council. Noted. No discussion on expenditure items – defer to future meeting.
79. **Cambridgeshire County Council**
i. Verges – Consideration of revised strategy. Summary. Noted discussions are ongoing.
80. **Staffing and Councillor matters**
i. Leave requests. Noted and agreed.
ii. NALC – notification of national salary award (backdated to 1.4.2020). Noted and agreed.
81. **General Correspondence** – available in the office. Noted.
82. **Items for the next agenda – all deferred items as above.**
83. **To note the dates of the next Parish Council and Committee meetings**
Full Council Tuesday 13th October 2020 at 7.30pm, F and GP 22nd September 2020
Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings. Noted.
84. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting – 22.11

Signed.....

Dated.....