



GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL- FULL COUNCIL MEETING 8TH DECEMBER 2020, 7.30PM VIA ZOOM

Present: Cllrs C Smith, A Kirby, A Foster, K Warburton, P Webb, J Darcy, W Boyne, S Martin, J Wright, R Petch, H Gould, clerks L Bacon and K Rayner, 6 members of the public, Cllr B Smith and Cllr S Kindersley

116. To receive **apologies for absence and to receive declarations of interest** from councillors on items on the agenda. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) and to grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate.

Apologies from DF, AG, TG. Declarations of Interest- item 122 (KW) -active in gym, has worked there, JW-item 122-personal friend works at the gym(Non pecuniary)RP- Gym user until lockdown(non-pecuniary)

117. 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.

Mr Russell Gray in attendance as Governor of GVP to answer questions on issues relating to the GVP proposal for a new preschool facility and matters relating to the gym closure, in particular matters raised on social media. Chair CS agreed to bring forward item 122 to follow item 119.

118. To approve as a correct record the **Minutes of the Meeting of 10th November 2020.**

Agreed. To note the F&GP minutes of 1st December 2020-noted and to note any matters arising- Item 106- Leaders of Coronavirus support group were commended by Cambridgeshire County Council Chief Executive, on recommendation of the Parish Council and Cllr Kindersley.

119. **To receive correspondence/reports from:**

- i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council

BS advised report has been sent in by SK. SCDC Business Support Grants available again- for the latest lockdown- Gamlingay businesses who applied last time have been contacted again. £0.5m distributed in first 5 days. Hardship fund- 20% retained for business discretionary grants for struggling businesses in supply chain/leisure/hospitality sector. SCDC welcoming a further 12 syrian refugee families to the area-do need considerable amount of support. Covid tier level the same as Cambridge City, determined now by Central Government. Lower incidences of Covid in SCDC area, likely rise for Christmas with relaxation of restrictions. Friday last 121 hospital beds filled with covid cases down from 132 the week before. Hospitals still very busy. Vaccinations for over 80's commencing-agreed clinical need to prevent bed blocking. Current rates 47 per 100,000 population in SCDC. SCDC need to make £5m savings -will attempt to do this via efficiencies and new income streams. Increasing 2nd green bin charging to raise revenue, and encourage home composting. Clerk (LB) advised GPC not able to claim this time as Old Methodist Chapel hirer continues to hire as preschool in second lockdown. HG- grants open to self employed? BS to check- CS- related to business rates, so if in an office paying rates should be able to claim.



ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council representative.

SK- notes not sent yet, new town plan announced for Barrington and Bassingbourn. Proposals not included in the call for sites. 25,000 houses proposed by consortium developer, on an undeveloped greenfield site. SCDC may need to include this late. Proposal is apparently Carbon neutral. Infrastructure does not fit in with current local plan/City council plan. Action group has formed .EW Rail- looks like the proposal is considered on the route to Cambridge South station. All current call for sites locations predominantly in the A428 corridor north of Cambridge. SK flight consultation with NATS, SK asking for suspension of consultation as options not been explained. Only two options have been proposed. Hertfordshire have concerns, Luton continually flouting conditions imposed on their operations. Consultation ends 5th February. Stack to form 7,000 ft over Gamlingay proposed. Addenbrookes and Peterborough started vaccinations- they will contact residents. Please act on appointment, continue to maintain social distancing. HG questioned whether Luton Airport will go bust, SK- too big to fail, HG raised carbon footprint.SK discussed hydrogen planes, new technology advancement in air travel.

iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Community Safety Group, Police

No report, informal discussions via email/chat-attempted abduction at school reported, false alarm.

iv. Speedwatch – report on trial of new signs.

CS- good news one sign is up, license is awaited for school sign. First report- statistics are encouraging. A few tweaks to data are needed-fastest on Waresley Rd 43mph in 30mph limit. -1,000 vehicles a day, most busy 12-2pm. Sign will be moved to new location next week.

v. Forward Gamlingay! – funding request for 2021-22

Funding request still awaited. Assuming £7k support, using £3k carry forward from this year. Item 122 brought forward:-

122. **Community news**

i. Gamlingay Village Primary – consultation on age range extension – to agree response

KW- logical to extend age range within primary school setting. Recognized need for a further preschool facility within the village after closure of Sunshine Preschool , and loss of eco Hub nursery provision in 2016/18, and additional housing development in the pipeline. KW concern expressed for loss of community use of small hall should nursery start. School Governor Mr R.Gray in attendance to answer questions relating to preschool proposal, and separate discussion regarding the gym. RG advised that the school building continues to offer space for hire to the community and this will not change. Kitchen in small hall not ideal, but can be accommodated. Concern expressed about parents within the safeguarding area. RG advised have a strong early years staff , and continuation into school transition easier. SEND issues can be identified prior to reception entry. SK advised Montessorri year ¾ full, 2/3 nearly full, new development on its way. LB advised Rainbow Preschool not full, not projecting to be full, but residents may leave preschool joining later due to pandemic. RG advised GPC consulted as landlord to Rainbow Preschool. First school site not CAT site, returned to Cambridgeshire County Council- site is being used for preschool purposes currently. AF- asked whether the small hall would be big enough for demand, already identified by CCC? Some criticism that consultation was not advertised and many did not know about the proposal. RG explained can not consult with those yet to have children, difficult to identify this user group. SM wanted to work together and understand the needs of preschool community. CS- Preschool provision does need to be increased. AF- traffic already disastrous, proposal will mean more cars, children, no parking on site will add to the chaos. At least 10-12 more cars, there will be a serious accident. JW- parent of children who



have attended village schools, recognizes benefit to parents to have different choices of childcare settings within the village. Parking, previously looked into community minded solutions to easing the traffic issues, with all groups and the Highways department.

Clerk summed up the discussion, **Councillors proposed to support preschool facility being offered, to provide parents with additional choice within the village setting whilst recognizing the increased traffic problems this will cause.** Response to be provided to CAT, RG advised GVP agreed to do all it can to alleviate risk of accident.

- ii. Gamlingay Fitness Centre – proposed closure. To note correspondence from users, football club and County Councillor and discuss a way forward.

Proposed closure issue -responses from users noted. SK advised this situation is fast moving, employees of the gym present, so sensitive to what is being said. SK sits on board of CAT, but wants to act as a bridge between all parties to seek a community solution. Gym brought into focus due to Covid- closure, cancelled memberships etc. Health and wellbeing of residents an integral part of any community, Covid has highlighted importance of mental and physical wellbeing. Money needs to be spent to make it Covid safe(difficult). RG advised there were two issues: 1. Safeguarding children on site and 2. Gym is in a perilous financial state and it is illegal for CAT to fund a loss making third party organization. BS- Gym and MUGA funded by SCDC as dual use facilities , community and school. 12 year agreement has 4 years to run- there is a financial penalty to break this agreement early. BS as local member alerted SCDC, can not participate as Leader in discussions at District Council, or vote. SCDC Officers involved in discussions and have appointed external consultants to investigate options for the gym and a report is imminent. Meeting yesterday about this. The village needs to maintain a gym, it has not been aggressively marketed and many local people are unaware of its existence. Relying on alternative gyms outside the village is not a solution as these are not accessible to all. Valuable service/facility needs to be retained- GP referral system highlights the need within the village. Health and wellbeing is a major determinate of whether individuals can survive the current health pandemic. Contract requires CAT to pay SCDC for break in contract, SCDC should ringfence the money to be reinvested into the village to continue access to facilities. SK has asked local employers to help sub the gym- currently making £1,000 loss per month. No reason why the gym can not be self- funding through membership and local support.

RG advised that in the past, older GVC children could use the gym facilities but with change in school age range to primary, this is no longer appropriate. GVP pupils still use MUGA. Gym is not covering its costs – CAT provides space free of rent and utilities costs. CAT took on staff from the gym through TUPE. RG explained that the design of the school hall did not allow for safe emergency exits. £18k has had to be paid to correct this, but the main hall has not yet been used for a full school assembly. RG clarified that SCDC funded GVC £60k for gym and £50k for the MUGA. RG stated that both facilities were taken on ‘in good faith’, but that the gym is not sustainable. CS asked RG if gym would still be accommodated on GVP site if it was self-financing. RG did not answer this question but reiterated the difficulties of safeguarding and financing. AK- Understands that GVP needs space, but the Gym is a brilliant asset to the village that should be retained. Her husband used it through the GP referral and rehabilitation service and found it to be busy in the past. i HG- in support of the gym, subject to it being able to self-financing– too early to write it off at this stage until all avenues pursued. SK representing County do not want a gym on the site, should be able to construct a community gym, will be an asset. Equipment needs to be good enough to attract sufficient users. Not looking for a ‘David Lloyd’ facility, GP referral is very important community service. Primary school is a secure site.

MOP advised GVC did not subsidize the gym. She served on the management committee that ran it – not intended to be a money spinner, but it broke even, paid overheads and staff. Equipment got old and MUGA



came along, both facilities together made it viable. Incorrect to say apportionment of rates, electricity, water was not factored into accounts. Gym and MUGA handed over, making a small profit, to be used for sinking fund for MUGA carpet replacement. Limited Company- so could not apply for grants. Clerk (LB) asked about legal set up of gym- company has been wound up, following transfer of the equipment, and staff to CAT in 2018. KW asked RG about 'risk to children'- gym very well managed, manager had a covid secure method of operating, but not allowed to reopen. Gym deep cleaned after every session, even outside handle. Notable risk to children not accepted. RG- risk to users from children expressed as reason. RP- a lot of residents don't know the gym exists, old equipment but is well maintained. GP referral 12 weeks half price then continue at full price. Important also for mental well being. It is a valuable community asset, two assets on one site. CS repeated question to RG about whether CAT would accommodate the gym if it was self sustaining. RG replied that the Parish Council would need to come up with £20k pa to keep the facility going. SK - need to have a way forward for everyone, understands the current set up may not be viable - possibly a Community Interest Company is the way forward (suggested by the clerks). Clerk (LB)- SCDC has contacted the PC to indicate that a report on the situation will be shared very soon. As SK indicated, the situation is fast moving and no decision/recommendation can be made by the PC without further information. Agreed to wait for further information and discuss at the next meeting. 6 MOP left the meeting, SK and BS left the meeting.

120. To receive reports on other Parish Council matters:

120.1 Gamlingay Guardians

- i. to note first formal report by Head Guardian to January Full Council-
Noted

120.2 Community Buildings

- i. Old Methodist Chapel – application for double glazing.
An expression of Interest has gone in this week, with consultant support allocation to cover their costs. Should hear back next week, whether can move forward to full application. PW query on works to adjoining site- no movement on tell tales reported to date.
- ii. Eco Hub a. update on January opening.
No update yet, to follow.
- iii. Cemeteries and churchyards. To consider any items.
No items

120.3 Recreational Spaces

- i. Completion of annual tree works - report
Tree works completed last week. Recreation field silver birch- works to wrong tree halted, however did need thinning. Willow trimming- JW to assess whether works to willow in brook are adequate.

120.4 Library – Opening hours over Xmas and new year.

Opening hours changing. 1 MOP left the meeting.

121. Information, communications and consultations



- i. Gazette submission Jan/Feb – Gamlingay Guardians, Christmas trees and lights

Submission re faster broadband also to be made- asking for community volunteers. Issue arising out of Neighbourhood Plan r.14 consultation. HG- considering role, will need a lot of time to deliver project. Looking for community volunteers who live in specific areas. Deadline March 2021.

- ii. Neighbourhood Plan – feedback report.

Group meeting weekly going through the feedback from residents, landowners and developers. Meetings likely to continue into the new year. Item (iv) generated by BT approach (community not land use matter)

- iv. Community Fibre Partnership Scheme. Report and proposals.

As above- scheme requires active individuals willing to generate sign up of residents within a specific area. Summary to appear in Gazette.

122. Community news- brought forward to item 120

123. Financial

- i. To be approved- payments list –

Vouchers 227-242 agreed. Additional payment for tree works (item 120.3(i) £942- also agreed- voucher number to be added.

- ii. To agree budget 2021-22 – recommendation from F and GP.

Following detailed discussion at F&GP, the committee recommended a 1.69% increase. This equates to 0% increase per band D property due to the number of properties in Gamlingay increasing.

Resolved- to unanimously support the recommendation of F&GP - Precept of £205,999.20 agreed.

124. South Cambridgeshire District Council

- i. Virtual Covid 19 briefing 6pm 10.12.2020- link has been circulated.

125. Cambridgeshire County Council

- i. Covid -19 -latest community update

Sending links information for social media- being posted on facebook by clerk.

126. Staffing and Councillor matters

- i. Christmas office closure to note

KR in 21st December, last day LB 22nd December. KR will attend office on 30th December if there are Burial Authority matters to attend to requiring an office presence.

127. General Correspondence – available in the office.

128. Items for the next agenda –

NATS- air space consultation, Gamlingay Guardians, further information on gym closure.

129. To note the dates of the next Parish Council and Committee meetings

Full Council Tuesday 12th January 2021 at 7.30pm, F and GP 26th January 2021.

Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings.

130. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting



9.30pm

Signed.....Date.....