



## GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Meeting** of Gamlingay parish council held virtually on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Chair C Smith, Councillors J Wright, P Webb, A Goss, A Kirby, K Warburton, A Foster, R Petch, J Darcy, H Gould, W Boyne. District Councillor B Smith, County Councillor S Kindersley (arrived late), Head Guardian F Boissieux, Greensand Country representatives C Poulton and C Maudlin and 1 member of the public. Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner.

131. Resolved to receive **apologies for absence from D Finnigan and S Martin. No declarations of interest** from councillors on items on the agenda. No written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests.
- 131.1 Receive applications for co-option for councillor vacancy- L New. Resolved to co-opt L New by majority vote. Clerks to provide required paperwork for signature and information about training.
132. 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. K Mingay has set up dedicated Facebook group to assist with fundraising and organizing Christmas lights/event in future. Clerk LB to liaise with KM to pass on all relevant information. Chair explained that the problem was more bureaucratic than financial and thanked KM for the initiative. Thanks also to P Middlicott of All Growth Ltd for arranging 3 Christmas trees free of charge for the village. KM left the meeting.
133. Resolved to approve as a correct record the **Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020, and any issues arising.** Precept rounded to £206k. New playground equipment delivery next week.
134. **To receive correspondence/reports** from:
  - i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council. Covid – 19 update. Latest cases and deaths statistics detailed and arrangements for vaccine roll out were explained. Centrally administered “push” model being used. Greensand medical practice has been very good in communicating. Each local area has

been asked to identify suitable sites for distribution of vaccine. Situation is fast moving. FB and CP joined the meeting. BS advised residents not to turn up too early for vaccine appointments to minimize queuing. Hospital admissions have slowed slightly in last 3 days. Caroline Maudlin (Central Beds Councillor-GSC) joined the meeting, Claire Poulton (GSC) joined the meeting. Those shielding previously have been advised to do so again. Schools – very late notice given by the Government of closures. Keyworker definition is the same but more people permitted to work so some schools still have high percentage of pupils in attendance. County is offering support to nurseries for preschool meals. SK joined the meeting. Number of Universal credit claims much increased. Many furloughed workers will later face redundancy. 25% of local businesses have less than 3 months of cash reserves. 30% of South Cambs workforce are classified as key workers. KW asked about progress on Gamlingay Fitness Centre discussions. BS has seen confidential report which presents options, but CAT response needed before any further discussions and it is not a priority for them now due to Covid. Historic Gamlingay “Moon Gate” has been designated a “building at risk” by SCDC. SCDC recently seized a large collection of sound equipment from a house locally which had attracted noise complaints.

ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council representative. Agreed that CAT cannot focus on the gym issue now. SK expressed thanks to those who gave interviews to the consultants drawing up the report. NATS consultation – closes 5.2.2021. Urges PC to respond. Thakeham developers proposal – 25k houses. Will now include the proposal in the call for sites but are looking for a national designation to permit development – very worrying. East West Rail – SK is anxious about this and is looking for a proper comparison between the proposals for Cambridge North or South. HG – asked SK to clarify the planning process with relation to the Thakeham proposals. SK explained that although it had not been submitted during the call for sites, it legally could and should be included to plan a robust spatial strategy. The Greater Cambridgeshire Planning Partnership does not think the proposal is likely to succeed, but it must be alert to large development proposal like this as large developers have the resources to investigate all options for getting approval, direct from central government (National Formal Designation such as a Development Corporation). HG knows many

people are very concerned about it and things these concerns need managing. CS agreed – the proposal will affect the whole infrastructure of the area if approved and is very worrying. SK and BS left the meeting.

iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Community Safety Group, Police. WB – no meetings but recent crime report highlights 3 catalytic converter thefts in Gamlingay and one in Hatley. Clerk to post warning on social media.

iv. Speedwatch – report on mobile signs. Christmas message needs changing. JW asked about progress on Gamlingay Village Primary sign – Clerk LB provided all the relevant information and documents again that the school needs to submit its application for the attachment license but has heard nothing since.

v. Forward Gamlingay! – latest. Clerk LB has contacted FG to find out what funding is actually required for transfer this financial year (due to Covid forcing closure of youth club) and what can be reappropriated.

135. **To receive reports** on other Parish Council matters:

135.1 **Gamlingay Guardians**

i. First formal report by Head Guardian. FB – report had been circulated to councilors. Difficult to promote scheme during pandemic as no face-to-face contact permitted, but FB is not disheartened and is still championing the scheme. Article and advert in Gazette have helped spread the word and more adverts will follow. Wonderful that the village has lots of goodwill and people and groups (such as the Baptist church) who have more time due to being at home are helping those less mobile or able now. This means the demand for a paid for assistance scheme is currently reduced – but will change once things start to get back to normality. FB to draft some proposals for amendments to the scheme for consideration by the Guardians committee in February. Volunteers currently signed up have been DBS checked. Some have offered to help take people to vaccination appointments – Clerk LB to check insurance implications. Council totally appreciates the difficulties to date. SCDC to be sent an interim update about current challenges of signing up clients. FB thanked for her work to date. FB left the meeting.

135.2 **Community Buildings**

- i. Old Methodist Chapel –toilet seat replacement and latest on grant application. Noted Rainbow staff will be reimbursed for toilet seat expenses. Grant – will find out if progressing to full application next week.
- ii. Eco Hub a. update on opening. Closed except for select and collect library service b. Defibrillator report. Taken off line before Xmas due to battery fault. New one ordered.
- iii. Cemeteries and churchyards- mole activity, Stocks Lane. Pest control have been called out. Normally used around twice per annum.

### 135.3 Recreational Spaces

- i. Millbridge Meadows- tree damage. Noted not definitely vandalism. JW - Some debris will need clearance after recent flooding and mole hills near tennis courts need to be levelled.
- ii. Grass cutting- latest (proforma) to note. Areas highlighted will be cut less to allow wildflowers to establish and encourage biodiversity. In previous years, wildflower areas have received mixed responses. Cutting regime on lower field will change once Grow Gamlingay project starts planting. Dogwoods and thickets are to be cut later this year as per resident's request. Clerks to compose article for Gazette detailing changes to preempt queries. JW – asked about proposals from a member of the public about wildflower trial at Church End. Clerk KR to send map to pinpoint area as it is suspected this may be private land. KW – hedgerow on Station Road gets choked by brambles and impinges on pathway. This is on Merton Grange land and responsibility of the landowner.

135.4 **Library** – Opening hours. Noted as tier 4 – select and collect option still offered and emergency IT access can be arranged.

### 136. **Information, communications and consultations**

- i. Neighbourhood Plan – feedback report. 42 pages of responses from residents and developers now worked through and replies being drafted for end of Jan. Hoping that after update of basic conditions statement the revised plan can be sent to SCDC by the summer.
- ii. Community Fibre Partnership Scheme- latest. Volunteer is drafting leaflet for distribution to Dutter End/Green End to elicit support for scheme – need 40-70 properties to make it viable. Businesses attract a higher percentage of

grant. Full fibre will give much better internet connection to each household. As a Hub trustee, he would like to see it extended as far as the Eco Hub which could really benefit from the enhancement. LN – as a business his concern is not bandwidth but robustness of service and response time to address problems. Update to next meeting. MOP left the meeting.

137. **Community news**

- i. Christmas Lights-way forward. Discussed earlier.
- ii. GSC Gateway and route for cycleway-consultation. Gateway – resolved that the info board should be realigned to use the trees around the playground as backdrop, rather than the building. Clarified that the planter should be retained but a sandstone boulder was not supported. Benches should have a back to them. GSC want the feature to be a photo opportunity for those starting or finishing the Greensand Ridge Walk and to encourage local people to feel part of the Greensand Country brand but do not want to impose on the marketing/branding of the Eco Hub itself. KW - the design has been knocked into shape and now reflects is wanted. CS – happy for clerks to finalize details with GSC partnership. Route – both options have some highway safety concerns, neither without risk. Green route would take walkers through centre of village and might help boost local economy. Red route is more scenic and historic (Clopton Way). Resolved to vote for the red route as it is more in keeping with continuation of a countryside walk – more rural and mostly off road. CP and CM left the meeting.
- iii. Grow Gamlingay- SCDC- ZC Grant confirmed to establish Tiny Forest on Lower Field-noted.
- iv. NATS consultation on flight paths -Luton Airport- RP. CS to circulate details of FB group which has lots of information about the proposals prior to further discussion and agreement on a response at next F and GP.

138. **Financial**

- i. To be approved- payments list -vouchers 243 to 255 were approved.

139. **South Cambridgeshire District Council**  
 i. Gamlingay Gym/Fitness Centre- latest update. Discussed, no update.
140. **Cambridgeshire County Council**  
 i. Local Highways Initiative Application 2020/1- path cycle to Farm Shop, Mill Hill- consideration of scheme costs and parameters-resolution. Noted scheme has been altered to include extension of 40mph by 25 m and involves pedestrians/cyclists crossing road twice to reach farm shop. PC contribution increased – includes large contingency. Would need funds to be vired from other proposed highways project. JW would not support this as she considers the Church Lane/Station Rd highways issues are very important to be addressed in future. JD – has measured the verge outside Brogan group and it is not a problem to lay a footpath there. KW – concerned about public perception if council committed so much funding to access to one shop. CS – proposal should be seen as a stage in a bigger plan – i.e. eventually to provide a footpath to Potton. HG felt a footpath to the farm shop would be very well used. Clerk KR - NHP principle is to encourage people to walk and cycle more. Difficulty in discussing path when no map/plan is available. Resolved – Clerk KR to discuss with County officer the ability to reduce scheme costs and contingency to bring it closer to the available S106 funding (£46.5k), to discuss having the path outside Brogan group premises to eliminate need to cross the road unnecessarily, and to remove the 40mph extension, if it is not essential on safety grounds but to continue to pursue the application.
141. **Staffing and Councillor matters**  
 i. Annual leave – current position. Resolved to agree that all staff can carry forward more than the current allowance of 5 days into next year.
142. **General Correspondence** – available in the office. Noted.
143. **Items for the next agenda – quarterly risk assessments. NATS – response to consultation (F and GP)**
144. **Noted the dates of the next Parish Council and Committee meetings**  
 Full Council Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.30pm, F and GP 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021.  
 Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings.
145. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting – 22.03  
 Signed.....Dated.....