



GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a **Meeting** of Gamlingay parish council held virtually on **Tuesday 9th February 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Chair C Smith, Councillors J Wright, P Webb, K Warburton, A Foster, R Petch, J Darcy, H Gould, W Boyne, L New. District Councillor B Smith, County Councillor S Kindersley (arrived late), and 1 member of the public. Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner.

146. To receive **apologies for absence and to receive declarations of interest** from councillors on items on the agenda.

Apologies from DF, TG, AK, SM.

To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) and to grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. KW has updated declaration non-pecuniary interest as Editor of the Gamlingay Gazette.

- 146.1 To formally receive the resignation of Vice Chairman A Goss. Vacancy to be advertised.

147. 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 MOP responsible for Full Fibre application for Church End/Dutter End/Church St/The Maltings (140 properties) updated the Council on progress. Scheme end date has been brought forward. 32 residents expressed an interest in the scheme. BS suggested further mailshot to raise profile and double the number of respondents-happy to help. Closure date now 19th February-time is short. Next government scheme is to be launched-unsure of remit. BS and MOP to discuss separately. PC Office printing available Wednesday and Thursday this week.

148. To approve as a correct record the **Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 12th January 2021 and to note any issues arising.**

Minutes approved.

To note minutes of F and GP 26th January 2021.

Noted. Article for April Gazette – KW apologized – he submitted this for March in error. Clerk LB explained it is more appropriate to be published in April as it relates to Council tax bills. LN says it can be removed.

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

i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council

Covid numbers still critically high in Cambridgeshire hospitals. SK arrived at the meeting. Covid numbers not steady decrease, bumpy. Vaccination capacity may be an issue end of March. Lots more vaccine centres are opening up to deal with the numbers of appointments. A new lateral flow testing centre has been set up at the Cambourne Hub-718 key workers so far have used the facility-tested twice a week. Flooding currently a problem in Bourn and other Cambridgeshire villages-back up of sewerage is the responsibility of Anglian Water. BS requested Emergency Plan to be updated with latest contact details. SCDC started its Climate environment fortnight, and has adopted a Doubling Nature strategy, involves planting trees- which should not ideally be within the floodplain. Business support team is busy with assessing lockdown grants for businesses- requiring extra manpower. Paperwork needs to be thoroughly checked before issuing a grant.

ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council representative.

County budget setting meeting- likely Council tax rise of 1% for Social care and 1.99% general fund-SK voted against. Pot holes currently are a problem- request interactive map be completed -some have been closed with no action occurring. Local Highways Initiative interview- clerk presented Mill Hill scheme well-as GPC have demonstrated self- sufficiency in obtaining s.106 -hope the project is successful (abstains as local member). One further full day of interviews to come. Decision in late March. Thakeham proposal-Freedom of Information requests to EW Rail, identified Homes England as a delivery partner. Call for sites- proposal running concurrently with proposed Central Government direct intervention via a Development Corporation. CS asked actions by Anthony Brown MP-SK AB supporting the 9 villages (West Cambs Action Group) against the proposal, having conversations with ministers- likely decision making occurring within Government offices. KW question- Gym issue is no further forward-trust is dealing with more pressing Education matters at present.

iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Community Safety Group, Police

WB -17 Coordinators, 3 or 4 not wanting to continue, one new one for east Hatley-need some new coordinators. Meeting next Thursday- Secretary of group doing a grand job with communication to coordinators. L Gardner PCSO is retained but unsure whether will cover Gamlingay patch. Rural Crimewatch report- notified of activity in Biggleswade this weekend and for farmers and MOP be vigilant re hare coursing. Purchase of domain name for group- info/sec/chair of GCSG.org- **Agreed to fund £15 per annum from crime prevention budget for email address/domain name for group.**

iv. Speedwatch – latest data from mobile signs and quote for additional brackets

Cinques Rd data- some excessive speeds of 57/58mph noted. PC waiting to hear from school re attachments license for sign for outside the school. Additional brackets-£214ex VAT- **Agreed to purchase additional brackets for Drove Rd and Station Rd.**

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

150.1 Gamlingay Guardians

i. To note participation in volunteer meal distribution scheme
Guardians are delivering hot meals to vulnerable residents (25 at present)-voluntary service at present.

150.2 **Community Buildings**

i. Old Methodist Chapel – suggestion for defibrillator, heating service booked (to note).

Heating is not working effectively-only 15 degrees this afternoon, no warning lights on system and pipes are warm. Vent and outside grill are clear. AF topped up the water level. AF has done an initial assessment. Service booked for July. KR to forward additional control panel information for

further fault-finding exercise. Additional temporary heating suggested during cold snap. AF suggested wall of chapel for new defibrillator- clerks to investigate whether a business may like to sponsor a further defibrillator for Green End, due to increased numbers of residents in the next year or so. To pursue once building works are complete around the chapel. Likely total cost £1500 - additional new budget required for replacement items (£200 for new battery)

ii. Eco Hub – to note update from Chair of GCC.

Comprehensive report provided by N.M, minor leak rectified by removing leaf debris from light catcher gullies.

iii. Cemeteries and churchyards – to consider quotation for replacement doors for noticeboard.

Agreed quotation for replacement joinery doors on noticeboard-£320.

150.3 Recreational Spaces

i. Millbrook meadows – to note repair completed to noticeboard

Noted

ii. Grass cutting- completed schedule for next season to note.

Spreadsheet still being finalized- total contract budget £21,163, pricing is within what has been budgeted. Awaiting confirmation of a final few items.

150.4 Library – Operating hours update- noted

150.5 Risk Assessment – annual review of overall policy

Annual Review- annotated in red changes-laptop purchases, opening further accounts to keep within £85k limits, auditing regime, and appointment of internal auditor and arrangements were noted. Employer Liability- now 5 employees poster to be fixed to PC office door (Health and Safety). Quality Council -now publish draft minutes. Northfield Close- action on registration to occur post lockdown. New website to comply with accessibility requirements- in next years budget. **Annual risk Assessment was reviewed and agreed.**

151. Information, communications and consultations

i. Neighbourhood Plan – to consider quotation from Planning Consultant for Basic Conditions statement

KR advised progress on feedback to respondents- should be done by the end of the month. RL working hard updating the plan. Basic Conditions Statement- RL limited time available- NP consultant found by clerk volunteering for another local neighbourhood plan.KW queried the need for a further quotation from another consultant. Clerk advised work is specialized, further quotations not essential. Consultant has a lot of experience, reasonably local-quotation provided for one off piece of work to update the BCS-**Agreed quotation £525 (no VAT).**

ii. Community Fibre Partnership Scheme- latest

Discussed in Open session item 147. LN- more active campaign suggested in the Summer- potential for whole village to be covered, depending on what the criteria is for a new scheme. Benefit future proofing the village, and will improve salability of properties. Broadband usage increasing 50% per annum, not just due to COVID. Potential to use Hub to promote a future scheme/person to person Q&A may drive up interest.

152. Community news

i. GSC Gateway – latest

KR attended outside socially distanced meeting with GSC representatives-discussed requirements for both parties and need to retain planter. GSC require 2 new parkland fencing panels for photo opportunity, may be option for Parish Council to increase fencing for a further 5 panels to the gate- as an option. GPC main interest in delivering the water fountain, does not have to be combined with heart motif. GSC to specify the scheme and obtain costings for consideration.

ii. NATS consultation on flight paths -Luton Airport- to note submission of Council response to consultation

Submission noted, together with other organisations submissions.

iii. Covid Vaccination programme – roll out to eligible volunteers to note 5 volunteers from GG have accessed early vaccinations due to volunteering role. Very pleased to receive this early for them to carry out their work.

153. **Financial**

i. To be approved- payments list -vouchers 278 -282, with two additions Voucher 283 and 284 AskIT for remote laptop set ups for clerks-**All agreed**

ii. Confirmation of precept to note- noted

iv. To confirm reappointment of internal auditor Bruce Huett been internal auditor since 2016- retired certified accountant, and is very thorough- **Agreed**

v. To consider renewal of membership of CPRE – Agreed £36 annual contribution. Clerks to email expressing interest in updates with regard to West Cambs Action Group (Thakeham proposal).HG to contact 9 villages to join CPRE.

154. **South Cambridgeshire District Council**

i. Parish e bulletin Jan 21 to note

Noted

ii. Weekly bulletin 3.2.21 – circulated by email

Noted

155. **Cambridgeshire County Council**

i. Local Highways Initiative Application 2020/1- update on presentation to panel 8.2.2021.

Presentation yesterday, competition for resources is high, different projects including 'Kipping coppers' ,bollards, footpath and safety schemes in the whole of Cambridgeshire.

ii. Road closure – 13-17th Sept 21. Long Lane to Hatley Rd.

Noted.

iv. Extension to footpath 10 closure - Green End.

Concern expressed by BP that footpath will not re-open- closure extended until September. Unlikely that the build out will conclude by then, so longer term closure is expected.

156. **Staffing and Councillor matters**

i. Increase to 5 employees – legal requirements to note.

Noted.

ii. Committees – to review membership following recent resignations and to elect members to fill vacancies as required. To consider temporary suspension of Standing Order 7b. requirement for training in advance of appointment.

Agreed to suspend Standing Order 7B, due to number of new councillors yet to receive training, and lack of members on both F&GP and Planning Committees. Training to be booked when available. LN and BP interested in F&GP, HG Planning and Publications. BP interested in Publications.

157. **General Correspondence** – available in the office.

Noted

158. **Items for the next agenda**

Return to 'Hybrid' or face to face meetings- NALC provisional advice to be discussed (for May 11th Annual General Meeting (tbc)

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

Full Council Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 7.30pm, F and GP 23rd February 2021.

Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings.

Noted

160. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting-9.20pm

Signed.....Dated.....