



GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 9TH MARCH 2021

Present: Chair C Smith, councillors J Wright, H Gould, K Warburton, L New, R Petch, W Boyne, A Kirby, J Darcy, A Foster, P Webb. District Councillor B Smith, County Councillor S Kindersley, Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner and 2 members of the public.

161. Resolved to accept **apologies for absence from councillors D Finnigan and S Martin and to receive declarations of interest** from councillors on items on the agenda - none. SK will arrive late. To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any) and to grant any requests for dispensations as appropriate. To note one vacancy can be filled by co-option. No applicants.
162. 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. J Mckee re full fibre broadband application. Openreach has included 300+ more properties – out to the airfield – which increases the cost to £150k which won't be covered by the grant offered. May need to be looked at in a different way. Area out towards Potton (Farm Shop etc.) more likely as less properties/more commercial input – this is being progressed. The grant scheme is now closed but another offer will come out. Ideal is to future proof the system. L New is assisting with discussions. M Thomas (MT) re Millbrook Meadow maintenance and cutting regime. CS – has been aware of a lot of social media activity and criticism of the council on this topic. JW – responded as PC member on Friends of Millbrook Meadow. Explained rationale behind cutting regime. Has worked closely with RSPB, J Shelton, CPRE etc. Difficult balance to please everyone and is disheartening as a volunteer to see critical posts on social media, would advise people with queries to contact the clerks direct rather than posting on FB etc. MT –

works for RSPB and feels those with expert knowledge should be invited to be involved. JW – Friends of MBM has been asking for volunteer help for several years and is always delighted to accept offers of involvement. KR explained that MBM is a multifunctional park not an ecological meadow. MT left the meeting.

163. Resolved to approve as a correct record the **Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 9th February 2021 and to note any issues arising - none. Noted minutes of F and GP 23rd February 2021.**

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

i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council. Due to covid the council has seen large reductions in the collection of council tax and business rates. Central Government provides around 75% of this back. £7.5 million given in business grants in last 2-3 months. Concerns about youth unemployment and the plummeting of the uptake in apprenticeships. Vaccination programme has slowed due to a shortage but will be a surge mid-March. To last Friday 95% of over 75's had been vaccinated. 194 still in hospital – reduced number but people tend to be in for a long recovery period. Moderna single dose vaccine will have big impact on vaccination drive. Still on course to cover up to and including cohort 8 by the end of June. Peterborough and Fenland have concerning high numbers of infections (workplace driven outbreaks) although South Cambridgeshire overall has the lowest in Cambridgeshire- 40-45/100k, but important not to get complacent as situation is delicate. County council will cover vouchers for free school meals and online learning will continue to be available for those who cannot attend school due to isolating. Gamlingay gym – lots of work going on but can't share the information. Elections in May – challenge to make these Covid safe and costs will be more than usual. Advice is to get a postal vote if possible. Doorstep canvassing and leaflet drops now permitted. Unknown yet whether remote meeting legislation will be extended beyond May but great challenges to arrange in person Covid safe meetings if not. Council tax – SCDC's element will be £5 more per band D household. Oxford/Cambridge ARC is on Prime Ministers top 35 "to do" list. Prospectus now published, pleasing that the environmental aspect has high aspirations and ambitious targets. KW - Rail line is a key part of ARC, but still planning diesel locomotives. BS – lots of pressure to look at alternatives, won't be electric

but understands that diesel infrastructure can transfer more easily to hydrogen. HG – hydrogen is not sustainable in its current format but hopefully scientists can come through with progress.

ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council representative. County Council budget increase 1.99% general expenditure and 1% adult social care. Highways – all Gamlingay schemes delayed due to budget constraints. Negative publicity recently over Manor Farm in Girton. A large report made 31 recommendations on tenancy awards. Deputy Leader of council has resigned and moved away from area. Fire authority budget increased by 1.99% (£1.44 on a band D property). Census 2021 – reminder to return this. Has been on webinar re EW rail. Still want northern approach looked into with more transparency. Very frustrating that diesel trains are proposed, but the northern approach would make large carbon savings. Thakeham housing proposal – concern about possible use of “backdoor” approach to planning consent. HG – MP is “all over this “and has given update to confirm that SCDC will have final say, people shouldn’t be made nervous. CS supports SK, we need to remain alert about possible dangers. CCC recruiting more social workers. Potholes -SK is to produce a report about how these are assessed. CS – roads are in an appalling state and drivers down to avoid them – dangerous. SK and BS left meeting.

iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Community Safety Group – to note new email address, Police. WB – NHW coordinator meeting to be arranged as soon as possible. Private Whatsapp group set up between Rural Watch team and Police to share information. RP – new email address for GCSG now set up and looking at website options. Currently linked to GPC website.

iv. Speedwatch – update on progress of GVP attachment license. Clerk and JW have chased school but no response to date.

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

165.1 Gamlingay Guardians

i. To consider renewal of Gazette advert. Resolved to approve £158.

165.2 **Community Buildings**

i. Eco Hub – GCC response to SCDC following report from consultants on gym and MUGA at Gamlingay Village Primary - to note. Noted GPC was not officially consulted by SCDC but GCC Chair approached Clerks and Chair of Council as the two organizations are financially linked

(SCDC were unaware). KW – worrying that only one recommendation was made, frustrating that other options not investigated, but understands that SCDC has not included GPC up until now – it should be told that GPC must be included. Clerks responded that GCC chair has made financial implications clear to SCDC.

- ii. Cemeteries and churchyards – repair to water pump at St Mary’s to note. Groundsman has put new notice to remind people to prime handle. Complaint re cemetery being used as a cut through to the school, noisy and disrespectful to mourners. Pavement on Stocks Lane corner is very narrow and cut through may be safer alternative. Gates open due to Covid - makes path more accessible. KW – suggests mourners should avoid cemetery during school in and out times but children should be taught why quiet and respect are needed in this place. Parents should ensure children do not use bikes or scooters but wheel them through (as they do in the school grounds). HG – happy to help work with JW to inspire people to care and be respectful of different spaces in the village. Clerk – enhanced signage could help. KW – as gates are currently propped open the “be quiet and respectful” signs are obscured – could be more impact if relocated. RP – would not want to ban children but they must be made aware to be respectful. Resolved – Clerks to respond to complainant with suggestions. JW/HG to suggest work with GVP.

165.3 Recreational Spaces

- i. Grow Gamlingay project – response to social media posts. JW – some posts amount to bullying and Council should not make decisions based on FB posts. Suggestions for alternative locations for mini forest - KR will compile list of alternatives, with assessment of suitability for discussion at future meeting.

165.4 **Library** – Operating hours update. No change.

166. **Information, communications and consultations**

- i. Neighbourhood Plan. Draft consultation strategy (should read “statement”) and to note changes to website administration. Statement summarizes all consultation since 2005. Appendix 10 to be added – what changes have been made. SM’s name to be added to

steering group list. By end of March document should be ready to submit to SCDC.

167. **Community news**

- i. Annual Parish Meeting – to consider postponement or cancellation this year due to Covid restrictions. Resolved to cancel APM due to Covid and use date for consultation committee meeting.

168. **Financial**

- i. To be approved- payments list -vouchers 301-313. Resolved.
- ii. to consider renewal of membership of CAPALC. Resolved with DPO service for additional £50 pa.

169. **South Cambridgeshire District Council**

- i. Gypsy Roma Traveller inclusion toolkit – LN and RP to attend training and workshop. Noted training to be undertaken online prior to meeting. Information will be useful to inform of legal position and ensure compliance with legislation. Councillors attending requested to do short review of training after attending. Certificates will be awarded to attendees.

170. **Cambridgeshire County Council**

- i. Cambridgeshire Local event 4.3.2021 – feedback (CS). Event focused on harnessing/continuing the good work of volunteer groups. No opportunity to raise matters of local concern that had been discussed at length pre covid with THINK communities. Momentum of this initiative seems to have stalled.
- ii. Road works – list of roads removed from surface dressing plan in 2021. Noted.

171. **Staffing and Councillor matters**

- i. Training – Climate change (KR)15.3.2021. Website accessibility (LB) 3.3.21. Finance LN and RP 15.6.21. New councillor 27.3.21 – LN. All noted. CS pointed out that councillors joining committees need training as soon as possible – last meeting agreed to suspend standing order on a temporary basis to fill vacancies.
- ii. Meetings – NALC advice on meetings after May 2021. To consider postponement of AGM. Resolved to move AGM to later in May – more members will have been vaccinated and country will be further along in “roadmap” to remove restrictions due to Covid. Social distancing etc. for meetings will be difficult to arrange for full council as so many attendees. F and GP to move to 11th May this year as smaller group easier to arrange to

meet in person. Legislation to extend permission for virtual meetings may be forthcoming.

- 172. **General Correspondence** – available in the office. Noted.
- 173. **Items for the next agenda** – policy review and consultation – 27th April (APM original date).
- 174. **To note the dates of the next Parish Council and Committee meetings**
Full Council 13th April 2021 at 7.30pm, F and GP 25th May (typo – should be March) 2021 (to be confirmed).
Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings.
- 175. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting 21.21

Signed.....

Dated.....