



GAMLINGAY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of Gamlingay parish council held at Gamlingay Eco Hub Kier Suite on Tuesday 14th September 2021 at 7.45pm.

Present: H Gould (Chair), W Boyne (Vice Chair), A Kirby, J Darcy, P Webb, R Petch, S Martin, K Warburton, L New, D Hooper. Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner. County Councillor S Kindersley and District Councillor B Smith (arrived at item 57.) and 3 members of the public

56. Resolved to receive **apologies for absence from councillors D Finnigan, A Foster, T Gurney and C Smith and to receive no 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. Noted vacancy can now be filled by co-option.
57. 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. No items raised.
58. Resolved to approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 13th July 2021, with amendment to the wording of 37iii as follows “ KW considers PM didn't respond appropriately to Anthony Browne MP's question in Parliament relating to East West Rail. HG remarked We don't have influence over how the PM responds to questions put to him in the house and feels a hiatus would be appropriate in light of the pandemic so those involved have a chance to assess how travel patterns have changed. CS understands that digging has already started in places – HG suggested this could be speculative. KW said it's a bad reflection of today's democracy. HG pointed out democracy isn't restricted to Parliament and that's why we're all here this evening. HG prompted KW to complete his comment. KW concluded he also feels that the Luton Airspace consultation was a fiasco.”

Special meeting 17th August 2021 – approval deferred to next meeting. F&GP meeting 27th July – noted. To note any issues arising.

-minutes Full Council 13th July- proposed amendments (HG) resolved to amend 37 iii as above.

-item 126 iv F&GP-Fireworks – resolved £1000 grant on terms set out.

Chair brought forward 61 ii. KW – proposed that GPC declare a Climate Emergency (CE). UK Government, higher tier local Councils and many parish councils have already done this. Groups have been set up focusing on local level net zero emissions target with separate strands looking at transport/housing and water/community food and energy. SK and BS arrived. KW suggested the process should be : declare CE, establish an action group, develop targets, identify wider targets. He has discussed this with other groups such as the churches, GVP, Gamlingay Eco Group and there is enthusiasm for being involved. Grant funding is available for climate change groups. GPC discussed declaring a CE in 2019 and it was not agreed, KW feels now is the time to review this. HG – asked councillors why it was not agreed in 2019. SM and Clerk KR responded – there was less information about, larger authorities had not declared a CE at that time. DH asked if KW had engaged with the younger generation as many have strong and passionate views on this topic. KW – would love to engage with all the community but hasn't done enough work on this yet. HG – agreed, very topical but needs to have meaningful actions, not just a statement and be relevant to the remit of GPC. It is a balancing act. A declaration can turn people off. Does it have to be done under GPC's umbrella or could it be separate? SM – an action plan will maintain the balance by acknowledging what part GPC can take in tackling climate change. DH –Important for the older generation to engage in taking balanced decisions for tomorrows planet. He personally would vote to declare a CE but it must be backed up with action. Make the statement and timetable how to move it forward as we are late to the table on this. HG – would rather do this the other way round. BS asked permission to speak, Chair agreed. Gamlingay has in fact been well ahead of the game on this, not late to the table. Has the award-winning Eco Hub, a community turbine and the diverse habitat rich Millbridge Brook Meadows - Gamlingay should celebrate its achievements to date. Plastic recycling and the water fountain also already in place. Gamlingay has led the way on adaptation to low carbon living. People should be reminded of this and reengaged by declaring a CE but not "Greenwashing" it – have a dynamic action plan, starting with something manageable such as a nature recovery strategy – small changes such as installing swift boxes and planting more trees. GPC could set the agenda, be ambitious – people will support it. This would help SCDC with its doubling nature strategy. SK added that there is both a moral responsibility i.e., do we have the right to continue destroying the planet and a community responsibility – GPC are community leaders, in a position to lead and to make change. MOP from Basingbourne (Parish Council has declared a CE). One of the benefits of declaring a CE is that it draws out expertise from within the community. Rev Hillary Young (St Mary's) – would be pleased to see GPC declare a CE, the churches take this seriously and the churchyard provides an opportunity, a lot could be done. Resolved – to declare a Climate Emergency in Gamlingay. 1 Mop left the meeting.

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

i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council. SCDC is offering 6 free trees – hopes GPC will take this up. Uneven paving on Avenalls Way will be repaired. Announcement on gym will be soon. Blythe Way surfacing is being investigated – looks very uneven. Main topic is the newly published preferred options document of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan which has been prepared jointly with Cambridge City. During the “call for sites” phase, 900 locations for housing, industry and green space were submitted and assessed using the criteria of the environment and affordability – these are imperative. The principal producer of carbon in SCDC area is transport so reducing travel was a priority. The last Local Plan focused on creating “new communities “but more new towns would create more car dependance due to infrastructure shortages. 19 new sites are planned to be brought forward – none in or near Gamlingay. 380 additional houses are planned in other villages with good public transport links. 11k additional new homes are needed to 2041 (in addition to 38k already in the existing local plan). HG challenged these figures – BS referred HG to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Gamlingay already has new homes being built/approved at Green End and West Road sufficient to meet its assessed housing need. SCDC will be working with developers to speed up delivery of planned housing in strategic sites. EW rail may be a game changer – if a station is planned for Cambourne for example then it will attract more development and likely affect Gamlingay. HG asked BS how “affordability” is determined in housing terms. BS explained that this is determined by central government and includes buy to rent/shared equity options for example. SCDC only has direct control over its own stock of 6000 council houses. It uses profits to increase this stock. PW asked how many council houses are being built per annum by SCDC and how many people are on the waiting list? BS – 100 building starts per annum, around 2000 on waiting lists – but there are many options for housing those in need, not just SCDC council housing stock. SK – affordable housing is allocated to those on the SCDC housing list but requirements in planning consent often specify that only people with a direct connection to the village can benefit – e.g Poppyfields. HG felt it was inappropriate to talk about people moving into council housing. SK – it is appropriate as it is social for local people with local connections. DH asked if SCDC have a policy for affordable housing being retained at lower value – i.e restricting an increase in value on onward sale. There is a working model elsewhere in the county to ensure affordable housing remains affordable for a period of time. SK asked DH to forward him more information on this. BS explained that types of affordable housing is site specific, depending on what has been proven to be popular – e.g. equity share in Gamlingay is popular.

ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council. Report has been circulated. EW rail – 3 years on and no business plan is in place. Running diesel trains is not acceptable given the CE, so more expensive electric option may now be considered. SK presumes GPC will give a comprehensive response to the consultation on the Ox Cam ARC at the appropriate time. There will be a new car park at Foxton Station for Addenbrookes presuming planning permission is granted.

- iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Community Safety Group, Police. No reports.
 - iv. Speedwatch – latest. Co-Ordinator is unable to change the batteries at present, but is aware they need charging.
60. **To receive reports** on other Parish Council matters:
- 60.1 **Risk Assessment** – resolved to approve suggestion of walkaround inspection of areas quarterly in future – volunteers and dates to be decided. As many councillors as possible to attend walkaround and a report will then be prepared for the next relevant meeting.
- 60.2 **Gamlingay Guardians** – latest on vacancy, and administration arrangements going forward. Noted scheme uptake has been very low, even with revised costs. Head Guardian will continue in post at reduced hours until end of October. Committee will consider future of scheme at next meeting.
- 60.3 **Community Buildings**
- i. Eco Hub – a) bench and display board – completion of installation and progress of Gateway feature. Noted – bench has been much complemented by passers by. RP noted that water is pooling on the bench during recent heavy rain – clerks to make snagging report b) GCC Trustees -floor sanding completed. Noted.
 - ii. Cemeteries and churchyards -risk assessment report – agreed to seek quotation for replacement railings for Stocks Lane cemetery - and request for approval of weekend interment St Mary’s 2.10.2021. Interment approved.
 - iii. Old Methodist Chapel –Access problems, ASHP service update, lighting report (AF), Internal repaint request. Noted pavement works are now completed and access is fully restored. Lighting work – believed still ongoing (AF will update). Painting – resolved to seek quotations for next financial year.
- 60.4 **Recreational Spaces**
- i. Grow Gamlingay project – deadline for grant and latest. Noted that Lower field is second option if First School field is not approved by County Council for planting. SCDC need to know by the end of this month. F and GP may need to make final decision.
 - ii. Annual Tree works- to note and agree/approve quotation for works. Resolved to approve Oakes tree surgery quotation.
 - iii. The Butts Play Area- wasps nest report and actions. Noted not reported direct to GPC but clerk saw report on social media and called in pest control.
 - iv. The Cinqes dog/litter bin – to resolve whether to purchase new bin/liner. Resolved – council very dissatisfied with SCDC’s response and policy of mixing litter and dog waste. Clerks to write to SCDC to complain about lack of recycling option. Resolved to purchase suitable metal liner for Cinqes bin.
- 60.5 **Library** – latest on increased opening hours noted
- 60.6 **Gamlingay Village Primary**-further correspondence to note. Noted – deferred until Oct to see if GVP can find solution and recruit volunteers.
- 60.7 **Bowls Club**- meeting notes to note-deferred to November meeting. Noted.
61. **Information, communications and consultations**

- i. Neighbourhood Plan - plan submitted 26th August 2021 to SCDC. Noted. Group congratulated on work getting this to submission stage. Documents available to view on dedicated website.
 - ii. Climate Emergency and carbon action plan KW -proposal. Discussed earlier. KW will now try to recruit more supporters to move this forward.
62. **Community news**
- i. Full Fibre proposals- Openreach- for information. Noted and agreed to wait until projected delivery date, voucher scheme very complex to coordinate.
 - ii. Gamlingay Hubbub- Funding proposal and report (9th October 2021). Noted report on bookings of entertainment so far and remaining budget. Resolved to approve use of remaining S106 funds (£778) for equipment for use during this and other Eco Hub events in future. Resolved to approve reservation of £2707 excess budget as outlined in report as contingency funding for the event – details of any expenditure to be reported to next F and GP.
 - iii. Village show – to note arrangements, decide presentation and populate roster for volunteers on the day. HG is available to cover all time slots. RP volunteered for early slot. Other councillors to indicate their availability – clerks to circulate details on email. Presentation materials – NHP information, maps, standing orders, details of areas of responsibility. Library will have an unmanned book sale – donations in honesty box.
63. **Financial**
- i. To be approved- payments list -vouchers 126 to 152 were approved
 - ii. Internal Auditor vacancy- to note. Noted so far no quotes received for this service. Clerk will investigate who other nearby local councils use.
64. **South Cambridgeshire District Council**
- i. Development pressures- zoom session- 4th and 11th October (KW/WB). Noted.
 - ii. Greater Cambridge Local Plan First proposals – a. Briefing note. Noted. KR concerned that Neighbourhood Plans are not often mentioned. b. Noted committee reports - deferred to 9th November Full Council meeting to discuss consultation response.
 - iii. Zero Carbon -6 free trees- consideration and proposed location/s. Resolved to agree to apply for one large oak or hornbeam as advised more suitable for chosen location at Butts play area upper space.
 - iv. PHV and Taxi policy- amendments- noted
65. **Cambridgeshire County Council**
- i. Draft terms for lease/purchase of First School Field- further report and resolution- valuation and solicitor advice. Resolved to agree cost of red book valuation provided by County approved solicitor - £1500 – and proceed with this immediately. Noted the estimate of preparing a draft lease for the parish council is £2.5 to £3.5K (excluding County solicitor costs) County expect GPC to cover their costs too. Resolved – to ask for County Councillor to assist with getting County to agree to pay their own legal costs as it

will benefit financially from the disposal by reduced maintenance and insurance costs. GPC would then proceed with the understanding that its legal costs would be refunded by County should it pull out, if it moves forward with alternative plans for the land. MOP asked Chair if he could comment – Chair agreed. He has been involved in similar negotiations and suggested that GPC should investigate County Council’s development arm “This Land”.

- ii. Footpath at Mill Hill- road closure (for survey work). Noted project may start in approx. 10 weeks’ time, after more accurate costing has been provided.
- iv. Winter gritting programme- volunteer requests and details. Reminder to be sent to councillors with details of main routes needed to be covered.
- iv. Local Highways Initiative- Funding round 2022-deadline 30th September. Noted that small scale schemes are eligible – summary of past supported schemes were outlined. No scheme identified for 2022.
- v. Footway closure-Footpath 10- further extension application to April 2022 (Morris Homes)-HG and WB. HG summarized meeting with site manager – not receptive to appeal to reopening footpath in whole or part in near future due to health and safety requirements of demolition/construction. Clerk subsequently had telcon with County Rights of Way officer who was very supportive of need to reopen footpath for residents as soon as possible. Intends to object to extension application - developers should be able to overcome obstacles, other sites have managed access safely. Site meeting to take place between ROW officer and site manager this Friday.

66. **Staffing and Councillor matters**

- i. Training – CAPALC- induction training for new councillors, completion of in- house planning training (KR). HG – to book on Chairmanship training. Other councillors to let clerks know of training requirements.
- ii. Annual leave- latest requests for leave. Resolved to approve.

67. **General Correspondence** – available in the office. Noted.

68. **Items for the next agenda** – Climate Emergency update. More members needed for Planning committee.

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

Full Council 12th October at 7.30pm, F&GP 28th September 7.30pm.
Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings. Noted.

70. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting. 21.49

Signed.....

Dated.....