



**Minutes of a Meeting of Gamlingay parish council held at Gamlingay Eco Hub Kier Suite on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Chair H Gould, Vice Chair W Boyne, councillors A Foster, J Darcy, A Kirby, S Martin, R Petch, C Smith, D Hooper, L New, P Webb. Clerks L Bacon and K Rayner. County Councillor S Kindersley (arrived late) and 5 members of the public.

86. Resolved to receive apologies for absence from D Finnigan, T Gurney, K Warburton and B Smith, S Kindersley will arrive late 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. To receive any applications for co-option to fill vacancy. A member of the public expressed an interest and will get more information from the clerks prior to a possible application for cooption at next meeting.
87. 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. Item 1 - Wildflowers ( 90.2 iv). Proposal submitted to council by resident J Shelton for possible additional wildflower verges. AF – was involved in previous trial which received mixed responses and was discontinued. RP – verges are too neat, should be left wild except for visibility splays. CS and PW agreed that junctions need to be kept clear for visibility. HG – proposed verges are not on junctions. JS – yellow rattle should be sown to parasite the tall grass, encourages the more delicate wildflowers. Clerk LB suggested closed churchyards/old part of Stocks Lane cemetery may be appropriate for re – wilding/wildflower areas. Will need approval of Churches/County Council ecology officer (cemetery is County wildlife site) and consultation with residents. No issues of visibility as at junctions. JS – also potential for expansion of wildflower areas on Millbridge Brook Meadows. CS – need to be careful as there is already a carefully planned maintenance regime to protect the ecology in this area. PW asked JS when the best time is to sow wildflower seed – early spring or Sept. Clerks

have meeting with contractors tomorrow when they can discuss options. Public consultation and contact with other agencies will be required prior to any new wildflower areas being instigated. Public responses on social media/by email to wildflower verges – largely positive but some concerns raised about visibility splays.

Item 2 licensing (94 i). 3 members of the public outlined their objections to extension of hours and amendment of current condition for use for LJ's Sandwich Bar and Barista. Neighbors already suffer from noise and smell from the premises/courtyard and this will be made worse. Alcohol is sold without food. Radio music is played very loud, not just during operating hours but also when shop is being cleaned. Deliveries are disruptive early morning 2/3 times per week. Enjoyment of garden is affected due to noise. Wattle and daub house construction means noise and smells permeate through easily. LJ's has not worked with neighbors as promised in earlier application to install insulation/noise attenuation measures. Noise can be heard across street. Previously supported premises use but feels current license/conditions have been abused/not complied with. Needing to leave windows open for ventilation due to Covid makes problems worse. Environmental health is involved and issues are being recorded/diarized. Clerks explained that responses must be submitted on form to SCDC, GPC could respond as an organization representing residents and pass on concerns but all neighbors who object should do so themselves. CS commented that an A4 license classification was required – currently has A3 and A5. HG asked what MOP would be aiming for in objecting? Answer – the cessation of constant low frequency music. DH – MOP purchased a property on a high street so should expect some business activity but has to be a limit and should not become excessive or abuse licensing. MOP – accept this but he situation has changed. DH – key is presenting/collating facts and evidence to back up objections. Deadline for responses 22.11.2021.

88. Resolved to approve as a correct record the **Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 and F&GP meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October and to note any issues arising.** Gamlingay Gazette submission- noted (F&GP 156 (i))
89. **To receive correspondence/reports** from:
  - i. Cllr Smith- South Cambs District Council-apologies (COP26)

ii. Cllr Kindersley – Cambridgeshire County Council. Arrived after 90.2 iv. Report previously circulated. County met today in Burgess Hall in St Ives due to space needed for Covid distancing measures. Afghan refugee family placements discussed. A “Land Use Framework” was agreed. County is the largest farm estate in the County. SK presumes Greenacres surfacing is acceptable as not many complaints received – those received have been investigated. AF – most complaints made direct to contractors. He felt it was ludicrous and not environmentally friendly that contractors travelled from Kent. Standard of work very poor. AK – gully cleansing yesterday has improved Greenacres finished surface. Church Street gullies not done – need to liaise with residents in advance to ensure cars are not parked in the way. Stocks Lane – occasional flooding is caused by a collapsed gully under road but funding is not yet available to fix it. PW asked if there was any update on future of First School buildings. SK – no, but he understood lease of field was progressing. Clerks – no, County has stopped progress on this and halted valuation. Map supplied to outline extent of lease does not include any vehicular access. SK will follow this up. DH and CS queried the reason for term of lease/break clause at 6 months. SK explained that the term of 7 years less one day was to permit County to proceed without going to committee. CS – break clause not required as purchase could proceed at any point during lease term. SK stated that the PC should be reassured that the field is protected in perpetuity for community use. Clerks queried this – no legal evidence of this protection, just verbal by one officer. SK advised PC to proceed with re registering the field as a community asset. SK advised PC to respond to TTPO for Hatley Road (Croydon Hill) as diversion and timescales for work are very long and will impact residents/school buses. SK left meeting.

iii. Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, Community Safety Group, Police. Police surgery 4<sup>th</sup> Dec 10-12 in Eco Hub. GCSG to be in attendance with stall.

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

90.1 **Gamlingay Guardians** – formal winding up of scheme- details. Noted estimated amount to send back in unused grant - £5400. Donation of £250 to be given to another group which helps elderly/vulnerable local residents.

90.2 **Community Buildings and recreation spaces**

- i. Eco Hub – Grass mound-latest. Grass cutting contractors will trim on Monday prior to GCC sowing wildflower seed.
- ii. Cemeteries and churchyards – a. Common beech, St Mary’s Churchyard- actions- latest. Tree is to be felled on advice of tree surgeon – beech bark disease. Quotations to next meeting. Potential for monolith to be left. Options for re use of wood to be investigated and considered by Council. Tree works application will be required. B. Risk Assessment-Stocks Lane- completed. Noted.
- iii. Old Methodist Chapel – report of damaged floor-and actions taken. AF tested – damage does not appear to be beyond cracking of floor covering (lino). Will be noted and checked at next risk assessment. Surveyors have been notified but have not visited.
- iv. Review of experimental wildflower verges- feedback and consideration of extension to project. Discussed in open session. Resolved to submit for consideration by County Council as follows:
  - Extension of wildflower verge along the whole of Station Rd (excluding visibility splays for accesses)
  - Not cutting after early March the St Marys Churchyard, surrounding the church (a closed churchyard)- Parish Council managed site
  - Not cutting after early March the Baptist churchyard, in front of the Baptist Chapel- Stocks Lane (a closed churchyard)-Parish Council managed site
  - Not cutting after early March the old section of Stocks Lane cemetery – which is part of a County Wildlife Site- Parish Council owned site

90.3 **Library** – to note opening hours. Noted.

91. **Information, communications and consultations**

- i. Climate Emergency working party – update (KW) briefing, group members and meeting dates. KW not present, no update.
- ii. Action Plan 2022-23. Draft Action Plan to inform budget 2022-23. Noted inclusion of Neighbourhood Plan policies and some environmental actions – councillors encouraged to submit any suggested additions as soon as possible to be considered for next year’s budget.
- iii. Gamlingay to Potton cycleway – response from Waresley PC and Great Gransden PC. Noted positive engagement, no meeting date yet.

- iv. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority-Consultation on the regions transport future-response. Noted paper copy requested so responses can be circulated to councillors for comment prior to submission.
- v. Notification of closure of Gamlingay Wood- Wildlife Trust. WT could not find anyone able to attend this meeting, but invited questions by email. WT article will go in Dec Gazette to inform local residents – likely to be very unpopular decision. AF has written to WT to challenge closure of track for parking (owned by local farmer) – thinks WT does not have authority to do this. Awaiting response. WT will be restricting public access over winter/bluebell season to prevent damage. Guided bluebell walks will be offered by WT . HG understands the constant battle at WT between conservationism and public access, closure is for environmental benefit. AF objects to restricted access for public as he understands WT receives large annual donations from National Lottery and Biffa.

92. **Community news**

- i. Response regarding village Jubilee party-facebook. Many “likes” for idea but only one volunteer. Further post to be made explaining that this will not be organized without volunteers coming forward. DH – some residents have expressed an interest direct to him to be involved. He has ideas for sponsorship and free publicity for an event. Clerk explained that it would best be arranged by a separate working party or committee (like the ex Gala committee or Village Show) with the PC making a financial contribution if requested , but that village celebrations are not specifically within the PC’s remit. DH – date may be problematic as event may need to be cancelled at short notice. May be idea to tie to delayed Eco Hub 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration.
- ii. Queens Platinum Jubilee beacon and tree planting scheme-latest. Church has not yet discussed whether it is participating in beacon scheme. Trees – offer of large trees to replace Beech in St Marys – new planting in closed churchyard may be very difficult due to old burials – trees may need to go elsewhere. Suggestion of avenue of new trees to be planted on recreation field border with GVP .

Resolved to contact GVP to suggest. Some issues to overcome – e.g. Possible climbing and security problems.

- iii. Feedback on Gamlingay Fireworks Event- Friends of GVP. Event sold out for first time and feedback has been very positive.
- iv. Christmas Lights- latest. Thanks to JD who has taken lights to be tested by Brogan Group – certification paperwork will be provided to GPC. Date for lights up – 4<sup>th</sup> Dec suggested. AK reminded Clerk that she wants to be involved in organizing any event. Resident K Mingay has been gathering volunteers for an event organizing group.
- v. GVP- request to parents regarding speed sign management outside school-latest. No response to date.

**93. Financial**

- i. To be approved- payments list -vouchers 199 -203 approved
- ii. To consider items for budget consideration-2022-23 (23<sup>rd</sup> November meeting). Noted included in Action Plan.
- iii. Annual maintenance inspection of skatepark, works report. Inspection completed but report not yet received - To future meeting.

**94. South Cambridgeshire District Council**

- i. License extension application- LJ's Church Street, Gamlingay- any comments. Resolved to submit response as organization representing resident, listing concerns raised by 3 mop's during public open session under prevention of public nuisance category.
- ii. Greater Cambridgeshire Local Plan- Consultation is now live-consideration of response-key areas. A briefing paper will be prepared for councillors – F and GP may need to resolve response.
- iii. Parish Liaison Forum-11<sup>th</sup> November- to note. Noted, clerks to clarify attendee.
- iv. Asset of Community Value- consideration of renewal of the First School Playing Field site (linked to item 95 (i)). Resolved – to submit application to renew listing as asset of community value.

**95. Cambridgeshire County Council**

- i. Lease/purchase of First School Field- report on progress. Discussed under 89 ii.

- ii. Climate change webinar- 11<sup>th</sup> November-for information (COP26). Noted.
- iii. Blythe Way- resident survey of potholes and actions resulting. Noted comprehensive report by I Wakeling has resulted in action from County. RP reported that potholes have been filled and resurfacing will be done next year. RP has also sent in reports detailing potholes and surface defects. Resolved – to formally thank I Wakeling for his efforts to get this resolved.

96. **Staffing and Councillor matters**

- i. Training – feedback on Chairmanship training (WB). Very useful and informative, good video.
- ii. Safer communities NALC-30 March 2022-RP zoom training. Noted.
- iii. Quarterly Risk Assessments- report on first walkaround, review. Noted. Other areas need checking. AF offered to cover Northfield Close, St Mary’s and the Pitt. RP offered to cover the Cinques – Clerks to send map of area to be checked.

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

98. **Items for the next agenda** – Budget/precept setting, Bowls Club-feedback, grass cutting contract-review and matters arising. Quotations for Beech removal.

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

Full Council 14<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm, F&GP 23<sup>rd</sup> November (budget setting/precept meeting) 7.30pm.  
Planning meetings 7pm prior to all meetings.

100. To formally record the **time of closure** of the Parish Council Meeting. 21.15

Signed.....

Dated.....