

## Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 8.00 pm by the Zoom video meeting facility.**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mr T Dugher, Mr P Fealey, Mr T Goodman, Mrs S Hetherington, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman].

Buckinghamshire Councillor: Mr P Fealey

Parish Clerk: Ms J Cole

Other attendees: Mrs R Bate, Mr R Stebbing

### 1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman thanked everyone for calling in to the meeting and Councillor Ulph and Mrs E Harris-Ulph for organising and administering the Zoom session.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome to the new Parish Clerk, Ms J Cole, who commenced duties wef 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Ms Cole was warmly welcomed by all attendees.

At this stage, no additional matters were raised for discussion.

### 2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Fealey

Councillor Fealey reported variously:

- The matter of the location of the MVAS post in Preston Road is in hand.
- The rat infestation at the allotments has been assessed and contractors have been appointed by the Charity to clear the vermin.
- Car Parking charges are being waived in Buckinghamshire Car Parks from 12<sup>th</sup> April to 11<sup>th</sup> May.
- The Buckingham Library will re-open on 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- Buckinghamshire is to receive Government funding to finance projects to prevent and alleviate flooding incidents. The Groundwater Resilience and Community Engagements [GRACE] scheme aims to transform how groundwater flooding is managed and mitigated by authorities and communities. The flooding in north Buckinghamshire before Christmas was principally due to river flooding which is 'managed' by the Environment Agency.

The Chairman expressed concern that the GRACE project grant was likely to benefit the south of the County and that Gawcott will suffer delays due to general budget deficits.

*Note for clarification. The flooding in Gawcott was caused [in the opinion of the PC] by the inability of the existing drainage infrastructure to cope with rapid run off. This was not a river flooding or groundwater issue. The wants of repair of drains beneath Main Street, known for over ten years to require replacement, and to blocked road gullies which are not maintained regularly, contributed to the build-up of water in Main Street and the flooding of properties. The s19 investigation under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 into the Gawcott flooding, will report later in the year but the delivery of recommendations to alleviate flooding in the village will depend upon County budget availability. It is unlikely that the GRACE project will have a direct effect on the Gawcott flood alleviation works.*

- The County has urged restraint during Ramadan which commences on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April and runs to 12<sup>th</sup> May. It is hoped that participants will continue to take Covid jabs during this period of prayer and fasting.
- To a question from Councillor Dugher on housing developments and resultant increased flooding dangers, Councillor Fealey stated that the Strategic Sites Committee of the Council looked very carefully at the possible effects of developments on the watercourses and drainage infrastructure locally for each larger development application.

**3. Commencement of formal meeting****4. Apologies:** None.**5. Minutes of the conference call meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

The Minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**6. No matters arising****7. Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Fealey made a declaration of interest about the consideration of planning matters and took no part in discussions about specific Parish planning issues.

**8. Finance**

<b>PC Balances</b>	<b>Deposit A/cc 00165984</b>	<b>TBC</b>
	<b>Current A/cc 00152092</b>	<b>TBC</b>
	<b>Current A/cc 00672967</b>	<b>TBC</b>

Councillors unanimously agreed to the payment of the following invoices: Mrs K Richards: £120 – pavilion cleaning; Starboard Systems: £582.00 – Scribe financial management software; Memorial Seat Co: £759.94 [plus delivery charge] – Eric Osborn Memorial; Harrod: £857.70 – netball/basketball posts; Replay Maintenance: £1128.60 – AWP maintenance; K Parker: £80.00 – Village Green mowing. Councillor Goodman questioned the cost of the Green cutting and the Chairman undertook to check when the cost increased from £70 to £80 per cut.

*Note. On checking payments records, the cost of cutting the Green by the Lawn Ranger [K Parker] increased to £80 per cut at the beginning of the 2020 season.*

The Chairman confirmed that final terms have been agreed with Ms J Cole and she took up the role of Parish Clerk on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Ms Cole was again welcomed to the Parish Council.

Councillors Ulph and White will discuss priorities with the Parish Clerk and these will focus initially on the arrangements with the Bank, signatories and the transfer of RFO. Councillor Goodman reminded the Chairman that Lloyds Bank hold the deeds of the Playing Field and the National Savings bond. A schedule of documents held by the Bank will be requested.

**9. Highways and Transport**

The schedule of outstanding highway repairs remains unchanged. At least one streetlamp has been repaired but a full survey is required to list outstanding repairs.

The following HS2 and EWR-related matters were discussed:

- Radclive Road traffic management lights. There has been no complaint about this traffic management measure. Obstructive parking seems to have ceased.
- There continue to be breaches of the routing by HGVs servicing EW Rail and complaints have been registered. This will be raised by the Vice Chairman at the liaison meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> April. Councillor Dugher asked that the seriously damaged verges on Lenborough Road, which have been left un-repaired following widening works, should be raised at the meeting with requests for rectification.
- Councillor Dugher suggested that there should be a speed restriction on the A413 around the altered junction with Lenborough Road.
- The Chairman outlined a conversation with Chris James of HS2 about the damage to verges, infrastructure within the verges [for example, a BT inspection chamber] by large vehicles and the serious deterioration of the edge of roads due to verge erosion. It was suggested by Mr James that application could be made to the HS2-funded Road Safety Grants fund to potentially enable kerbing to be provided and edge of road strengthening.

The Back Street no thoroughfare/narrow road signage is on order.

Councillor Goodman pointed out that there are blocked road gulleys at Radclive Road, Preston Road, Hillesden Road, the Crown and along Main Street. It is unfortunate that these have not been cleared since the PC is of the view that these blockages were in part the cause of the pre-Christmas flood.

Councillor Goodman mentioned that footpath repairs are required at Lenborough Road and Hillesden Road. It is advisable to report these at the Fix My Street site.

## **10. Planning**

The Chairman reported the approval of material and joinery details for the Listed Building alterations at Westcott House.

No observations were thought necessary for the change of use application at Primrose Hill Farm, Preston Road.

The activities of Repro Plastics in Radclive Road involving highway loading/unloading, are still under consideration by Bucks Highways and the Planning Enforcement Department.

Works of repair are continuing at the listed Manor Farm Hillesden Road.

## **11. Environment**

The flooding investigations continue as noted at para 2 above.

Mr Stebbing confirmed that being a riparian owner, he has organised a clearing of the ditch at Main Street/Preston Road and has reported finding contaminated material to Anglian Water. Councillor Fealey advised that this should also be reported to Environmental Health as it represents a health hazard. Anglian have previously reported finding cross contamination in the culvert beneath Main Street following a partial CCTV survey. There is every prospect of the number of authorities involved failing to agree which is responsible for finding a lasting solution to this long-running problem.

Councillor Goodman confirmed that he is prepared to continue to look after Hodding Wood. This offer was gratefully accepted with thanks. Concern was expressed about the access roadway to the Wood and Councillor Fealey confirmed that this will be levelled by contractors for the Charity and a new stone surface finish provided.

Councillor Ulph will provide details of the Jubilee Tree Canopy due for publication in May. Councillor Goodman advised caution about planting trees close to drainage runs at the Playing Field.

## **12. Leisure**

The Field reopened on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The pavilion remains closed apart for the use of the lavatories. The Cricket Club will take over use of the main field from 11<sup>th</sup> April.

Councillor Burgess suggested notices on the litter bins in the Field requesting dog waste be placed in the bin at the entrance to the Field. All expressed concern about the continued running of dogs on the field, usually by non-Gawcott residents. Investigations will be made about enforceable regulations to prevent this potentially anti-social use.

The Chairman reported that works to create the Netball practice area at the Field will be started next month. In the meantime, the posts will be ordered from Harrod.

The Chairman will recheck the wording required on the Osborn Memorial seat before the order is placed.

**13. Community**

The Community Group has decided that the Village Fete should be cancelled. A village garden party/competition in July/August may be considered.

The Village Hall remains closed. The first re-opening 'event' will be for the election on 6<sup>th</sup> May. The PC will meet on 13<sup>th</sup> May and the Village Hall AGM will be held on 27<sup>th</sup> May.

Councillor Goodman suggested that the location of defibrillators should be noted on the PC website.

The Chairman confirmed that a full report on issues affecting the 'management of the Village' will appear in the Newsletter to be published early next month.

**14. Administration**

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council will take place on 13<sup>th</sup> May starting at 7.45 pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> July starting at 7.30 pm. This meeting will be immediately followed by the monthly business meeting of the Parish Council

**15. Emergency Business:** None.**16. Any Other Business**

Prior to concluding the meeting, the Chairman recorded that this was the last meeting of a five year session. The Chairman thanked Councillors for their time and energy directed towards the management of Parish affairs. In particular, Councillor Goodman was thanked for a total of 30 years' service to the Parish and Councillor Fealey for 14 years' service. Neither Councillor is standing for re-election. A letter of thanks will be sent to Councillor Clare who is not standing for re-election to Buckinghamshire Council.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Liz Harris-Ulph for her great assistance in administering the Zoom meetings this year.

**17. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 commencing at 7.45 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall Buckingham Road Gawcott.**

This meeting will commence with the formalities of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and the signing of papers of Acceptance of Office by the re-elected Parish Councillors. The business meeting of the Parish Council will follow.

**18. Closure of Meeting.** The business meeting concluded at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Alan D White. Chairman.**

**11.04.2021.**