

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday, 9th December 2021 at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors: Mrs R Bate, Mrs S Burgess, Mr T Dugher, Mr R Gibbs and Mr A D White [Chairman].

Parish Clerk: Mrs K Proffitt.

Treasurer: Mr P Ramsden

Buckinghamshire Councillors: Mrs C Cornell and Mr P Fealey

Three residents were also in attendance.

A record of attendees has been retained for Covid-security track and trace purposes.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman thanked those in attendance and introductions were made for the three residents in attendance.

2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Fealey began his update with the Wates development. There was a meeting this week where he raised the Parish Council's concerns with the planning officers in attendance. These included an extension of the 30mph limit on Gawcott/Buckingham Road westwards almost to Gawcott Fields Farm. A formal footpath crossing has been requested on the right hand side to help make the crossing safe for children who walk to school using this route. The footpath also floods at one point so a request has been made to transfer it to the other side of the road. Councillor Fealey confirmed that the outline planning permission includes two public entries to the development plus a footpath. He also confirmed that the S106 payment to be spent on leisure facilities that the parish council is due to receive may be used for traffic calming projects. Therefore; the implementation of a 20mph speed limit could be considered. The application will go to committee next week.

The Queens Jubilee Project is underway and the Queen has asked that trees be planted. Trees are normally distributed 30 at a time however smaller numbers are being looked into for practical reasons.

The planning department remain busy with over 300 planning applications being received each month and a backlog to clear.

Cllr Fealey urged the Parish Council to look into the HS2 road safety grants as there is still money available particularly for road safety projects. The Community Boards are also still a source of funding. The Chairman asked whether the previously agreed funding for a vehicle activated sign is still valid and it has been confirmed that it is, although it won't hurt to re-apply to ensure it is allocated correctly. **Action-Chairman**

The Council will be running a 'Warmer, Greener, Save Fuel' campaign over the winter months with the aim of providing environmentally friendly suggestions to help people keep warm especially in times of rising fuel costs.

With regards to the Covid 19 vaccinations, boosters are now available to all over 40's and people are strongly encouraged to have these. Over 1 million doses have now been administered across Bucks.

A safe drive campaign is ongoing across Bucks and the HAF (Holiday Activity and Food) programme will be available over the Christmas holidays for children in receipt of free school meals.

Residents who are housebound due to covid can get the help they need at home. There is a programme of covid jabs being administered in people's own homes if they are unable to get out; being led by the GP's surgeries.

Cllr Fealey gave an update on the Repro Plastics site on the Radclive Road as the Parish Council had submitted an enforcement complaint. He has been advised that there are no conditions on the planning consent and that the enforcement case is now closed. He is aware that there are

articulated lorries loading and unloading on the public highway therefore he will now take this to the Highways team.

A discussion took place in which a member of the public mentioned they had reported this two years ago also and Cllr Fealey agreed to chase this complaint also. The Chairman mentioned the health and safety issues including no access for emergency vehicles to the site and forklifts being in the road.

Cllr Fealey has also tried to chase up an issue with the grass verge on the Radclive Road being driven over by construction vehicles servicing HS2.

A resident brought up concerns about the safety of the bend on the Lenborough Road (at the junction of Ox Lane). Four accidents have now occurred, and the same area of wall has been hit by a vehicle on each occasion. There is no pavement at this spot, just gravel and residents regularly hear the tyres of the cars that come too close. They have already spoken with Highways who own the first metre and they have agreed to remove the gravel and build a kerb.

The residents will place reflectors on the bend, Highways are in agreement and the farmer who owns the piece of land has given permission for them to be placed. The residents requested help with a sign and speed limit from the Council. It was **agreed** that a bend sign could be put in place however a speed limit was much more difficult to put into place. **Action – PF to get the ball rolling.**

Cllr Fealey continued his update and informed all present that Ox Lane is to be rebuilt. It has been agreed that this work will commence after all HS2/EWR works are completed. At present, Ox Lane is closed for public use but still in use for HS2/EWR vehicles. A discussion followed regarding Ox Lane.

Buckinghamshire Council have agreed in principle to 20mph speed limits within towns and villages however they will not cover the costs, it must be funded by the town or parish council wishing for the limit. A discussion took place around the payment covering signage and legal fees and part time signage and 20mph speed limits being a good idea outside schools. Where the speed limit should change is for the parish council to decide and it will take a huge amount of work to implement a 20mph speed limit within the village. Cllr Fealey was asked whether there would be any funding available and although he was unsure, he mentioned the HS2 funding might help with some costs.

The programme of road repairs which was due to happen in 2023 has been brought forward to 2022. Backstreet and New End Lane will be included in these works and other roads currently being reviewed for inclusion are the A421 between the Bourton roundabout and the Tesco roundabout and up to the Gawcott roundabout. Lenborough Road, although repaired four years ago, has buckled in hot weather and the road between Gawcott and Twyford is also a concern so they will try to consider this one also.

3. Commencement of Parish Council business meeting

4. Apologies received and accepted from Councillor A Ulph.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 11th November 2021

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising

The Action List was reviewed (please see Action List for January 2021)

7. Declarations of Interest: None.

8. Finance

PC Balances	Deposit A/cc 00165984	£30,525.67
	Current A/cc 00152092	£3,541.75
	Current A/cc 00672967	£3,479.41

8.1 Invoices to be considered for approval and payment

Councillors unanimously **agreed** to the payment of the following invoices:

£449.52 to Buckinghamshire Council for dog bin emptying; £360.00 to Mrs K Proffitt for clerks salary; £82.32 to E-on for electricity and £120.00 to Mrs K Richards for pavilion cleaning.

Councillors **noted** the following income:

£495.00 from the all-weather pitch; £0.39 accrued interest and £800.00 from G&H (cricket).

A question was asked regarding whether the All-Weather Pitch pays for itself and although it is believed that it does, the Treasurer would like to put some time aside to review the figures in detail. He mentioned that income from the All-Weather Pitch should go into the correct bank account but sometimes it goes into the incorrect one and it isn't always labelled correctly by the payee to make it obvious what the payment is for.

Next followed a discussion around the maintenance of the AWP carpet, a new one is very costly and although the current one is in good condition, it does need maintenance work to keep it that way. The Parish Council would like to be able to put some money aside for when it needs replacing. If the cost of running the All-Weather Pitch is covered by the football club, it would be sensible to put any additional income received aside for this.

8.2 Budget for 2022/23:

The Chairman had circulated a draft budget for the 2022/23 financial year to all councillors prior to the meeting. He asked if there were any initial questions, there were not. He welcomed any questions via email should they arise before the next meeting.

Councillors **noted** that the large figures within the budget included grass cutting as it is assumed the Parish Council will take on more grass cutting responsibilities and therefore an increase is necessary here. (Quotes have been requested but not received as yet.) The Clerk's salary is a new addition and necessary and insurance is also necessary but needs reviewing. Councillors also **noted** that the other large figure was money being moved from the main account to the smaller account to balance it.

Councillors were asked to review the figures presented as the precept and budget is to be agreed at the January meeting.

A discussion then occurred around digital invoicing. The Parish Council receive invoices by email which are then printed out. To avoid duplication of printouts, it was **agreed** that the Chairman would sign and date printed invoices as a 'first copy'. It was **confirmed** that all invoices go direct to the Parish Clerk email address therefore, when the Scribe accounting system takes on the accounts full time, this issue should no longer be a concern.

9. Highways and Transport

9.1 Highways – Open Forum

See item 2 – Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors and the issues with the Lenborough Road.

9.2 School Warning Sign

It was brought to the Parish Council's attention that there is a 'school' warning sign as you approach the entrance to the pathway that runs down alongside the church as you travel in one direction along Main Street but not the other. Lots of children use this pathway as they walk to and from school therefore it would help slow the traffic. It was **confirmed** that school signage is down to the county therefore the Chairman agreed to raise this with Cllr Fealey. **Action – Chairman.**

9.3 20mph Speed Limit

The Parish Council will make an application to lower the speed limit through the village in due course however consideration would need to be given to where the limit should change and the costs would need to be looked into especially the legal and admin fees. Councillors were reminded that there is a huge amount of legal work and time involved in speed limit changes.

9.4 Traffic Speed Through the Village

A pedestrian crossing was requested on Main Street, just along from Church Street as there are concerns over the number of HS2 trucks coming down the Radclive Road and through the village but unfortunately, this would probably not gain the required approval from Buckinghamshire Council. The installation cost would also be prohibitive. The discussion then turned to speed bumps however these are no longer in favour. It was **agreed** that the 20mph limit would help the situation but in the meantime enforcement could help. A local resident previously expressed an interest in setting up a Community Speedwatch group therefore the Chairman would get in touch to see if he was still interested. **Action – Chairman.**

10. Planning

10.1 Decisions:

10.1-1 21/04060/ATC. Cypress Conifer (T1) - fell because of excessive shading and low amenity value due to large size being out of kilter with other trees along this street. Replant with one hazel in same position as soon as possible. Penny Farthing New Inn Lane Gawcott. Approval **noted** by the Parish Council.

10.2-2 21/04245/APP. Householder application for Demolition of garage and erection of single storey side extension. Replace existing rear flat roof with pitched roof, insertion of front and rear roof lights and conversion of loft to habitable space. Old School House Church Street Gawcott. Comments were submitted by the Parish Council – the AWAITING DECISION status was **noted** by the Parish Council.

10.2 Applications to consider:

10.2-1 21/04319/APP Variation of condition 1 (plans) attached to permission 15/A2724/NON (Demolition of existing building and construction of three detached dwellings) Bassetts, Main Street, Gawcott. The Parish Council **noted** that comments were submitted in objection to the plans. Comments were approved via email as the deadline was prior to the meeting.

10.2-2 21/04416/APP Householder application for the Erection of a two storey side, front and rear extension including soft screening (Amendment to previous application 20/02902/APP) Montana House, Radclive Road, Gawcott. It was **agreed** that although the council does not object to the building plans, they do object to the garden being used to site a mobile home. The mobile home does not have the required planning permission. The chairman will draw up comments to this effect. **Action – Chairman.**

10.3 Enforcement:

10.3-1 Manor Farm Hillesden Road – The property was sold at auction and there is some contractor activity from time to time.

10.3-2 Travellers Field at Radclive Road and development at Kilcara, Radclive Road. This was discussed under planning item: 10.2-2.

10.3-3 Repro Plastics This was discussed in item 2, Report from Buckinghamshire Councilors.

10.4 Other planning issues:

10.4-1 Plot adjoining Milford House, Hillesden Road

The owner will submit a planning application and the Parish Council will comment when it is time to do so.

10.4-2 Wates Osier Way development:

This was discussed in item 2, Report from Buckinghamshire Councilors. It looks as though planning permission will be granted and the Parish Council will benefit from the S106 payment. This money is supposed to be spend on 'leisure' however Cllr Fealey has already confirmed that it can be put towards the new 20mph speed limit.

11. Environment

11.1 Flooding investigations

There is still no update on the report being issued.

11.2 Hodding Wood

There is one dangerous ash tree however it is lodged 30ft up so it is difficult to reach. Phillip and Tom are currently considering how to resolve this.

11.3 Village Green and verge cutting

Quotes have been requested and are awaited. The Parish Council also **noted** that two of the hedges had been cut and look good however there are still a few overhanging stems from one. Mrs Burgess asked if she could trim them herself. The Chairman will write to the householder for permission. **Action – Chairman.**

11.4 Platinum Jubilee project; two Jubilee Seats

Councillors to send their thoughts on having the seats engraved to the Chairman before he orders them. **Action - All**

12. Leisure

12.1 Playing Field

The Parish Council **noted** that the football club have not been clearing mud from paths and floors at the pavilion. The Club have been informed that if extra cleaning has to be undertaken by the Parish Council, they will incur additional charges. Members were reminded of the amended charging policy which involves the Club paying additional fees from next season for the use of the pavilion.

12.2 Application for grants

No Updates

13. Community

13.1 Community Group report

The community group have sponsored a visit by Father Christmas, who will be appearing in the village on Wednesday 15th December from 5.30pm. They have also paid for a Christmas tree on the Green and are looking into planting for the Queen's Jubilee.

13.2 Village Hall report

The Village Hall is still being used by the Tingewick Pre-School and there are a few evening users. All is going well.

13.3 Solar Farm report

Nothing to report.

13.4 Web site report

Updating the website is problematic as the Parish Council does not have access to make additions and alterations. These are made at the request of Councillor Ulph to the external website manager. The cost is included in the monthly charge made to cover the supply and management of the site. The Clerk shared how the website updates are completed in the other Parish she works for; she is responsible for website reviews which she conducts every three months. She compiles updates and sends the wording through to her website administrator for uploading. She also forwards on any public information received including notices, news and road closures as it is received to be uploaded as current information.

13.5 Facebook

The Clerk had requested information from other parish councils regarding how they manage their Facebook account and how much time is allocated to it. She compiled this into feedback which she sent via email prior to the meeting. A brief discussion occurred around Facebook and it was decided that a separate discussion was required as the Parish Council need the ability to post news quickly.

14. Administration

14.1 PC vacancies.

The existing position is still vacant.

14.2 Scribe Accounts

The Clerk reported that she had completed some Scribe training on budgeting and has more training courses booked in over the next month. She has liaised with the Treasurer, and it has been decided that he will provide her with the information required to populate the system from April 2021 until December 2021 and then she will run the accounts on the system between January and March 2022 alongside the Treasurer doing it the current way. They will complete the year end together and compare notes. This will give her an opportunity to iron out any issues before taking over the accounting as of April 2022

15. Emergency Business: None.

16. Any Other Business: None

17. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 13th January 2022 starting at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

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

Signed.....

Date.....

Mrs K Proffitt
Parish Clerk

9.12.2021

DRAFT