

## Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

### The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 8pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman].

Parish Clerk: Mrs K Proffitt.  
Treasurer: Mr P Ramsden  
Resident: Mrs R Bate

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

#### 1. Chairman's welcome

#### 2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor/s [10 minutes]

- There was no report from the Buckinghamshire Councillors as they were not in attendance due to the meeting clashing with another.
- Report on 'Scribe' virtual seminar:

Mr A Ulph reported that the underlying theme of the scribe event were the frustrations Parish Clerks felt around lack of feedback and support from County Councils. They felt everything was a battle and were coming to terms with the fact that they had to join forces or amalgamate for their voices to be heard. The increasing difficulty in populating individual parish councils strengthens the argument for amalgamation with the support of local town councils. Parish Councils want a voice but County Council's don't respond to them.

Remote meetings were discussed as these are not currently legal for Parish Councils and Communications, in particular social media. This is a big area for the Parish Council as communications need improving and a Facebook page is needed.

A discussion around the need for Facebook then took place. Currently the only means of electronic communication the Parish Council has is through the website. Questions were asked including: Are people interested? What percentage of the village use Facebook? How to populate/manage it? How much feedback should be allowed? Would usage increase?

#### 3. Commencement of Parish Council business meeting

#### 4. Apologies from Mr R Gibbs, Mr T Dugher, Cllr P Fealey and Cllr R Stuchbury

#### 5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021

The Minutes were unanimously **approved** and signed by the Chairman.

#### 6. Matters Arising: No matters to be dealt with.

#### 7. Declarations of Interest: None

#### 8. Finance

PC Balances	Deposit A/cc 00165984	£34,059.83
	Current A/cc 00152092	£3,447.11
	Current A/cc 00672967	£1,155.25

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

£408.00 to PKF Littlejohn for the External Audit Fee; £30 to Gawcott Village Hall for Hire Fees; £364.00 to K Proffitt for Clerk Payment; £80.00 to K Parker for Mowing the Green; £209.45 to P Ramsden for Treasurer Honorarium and Expenses; £150.00 to K Richards for Pavilion Cleaning

and £45.00 to S Burgess reimbursement for Engraved Plaque from Seahawk Trophies for the Osborn Memorial seat.

Councillors noted that the second half of the precept money, £9,500.00 had been received from Buckinghamshire Council and that since the last statement, K Proffitt had been paid £423.99 for salary and software reimbursement and Assured Drainage had been paid £132.00 for jetting the pavilion drains.

- Auditors Report: Will be distributed by the Chairman via email. **Action – ADW**

The Treasurer highlighted that current standing orders and direct debits to Buckinghamshire Council amounts to 20% of the precept followed by a discussion around current outgoings and incomings. Councillors discussed to option of charging a fee for the football clubs use of the pavilion and it was **agreed** to consider this in December when next years budget is set.  
**Action – KP add to December agenda.**

## 9. Highways and Transport

The Chairman reported that two HS2 vehicles had been spotted on the Buckingham Road despite the fact they should not use this route and that he received a call regarding siting the MVAS and he will be meeting with the Local Area Technician on 19<sup>th</sup> October to show them where it is to go.

Councillors also noted that the HGV advisory sign opposite the The Crown had been repaired.

## 10. Planning

Councillors **noted** the following planning decisions:

- 21/03470/ATP. Tree works. Ash Tree House Hillesden Road Gawcott. **APPROVED**
- 21/03122/ATC. Tree works. Old Stocks House New Inn Lane Gawcott. **APPROVED**
- 20/03180/APP. Erection of B2 general industrial building, retrospective erection of B2 general industrial building and B8 storage building, and new associated car parking and landscaping. Quicksharp Ltd Signal Hill Lenborough Road Gawcott **APPROVED**
- 21/00681/APP. Conversion of the existing disused storage Barn into dwelling. Pole Barn Primrose Hill Farm Preston Road Gawcott. **REFUSED**
- 19/01174/APP. Erection of stable building, laying of hardstanding, access improvements, construction of all-weather horse exercise area and post and rail fencing. Land West of The Barracks Gawcott. **APPROVED** November 2020

Enforcement - there were no updates regarding the following:

- Repro Plastics premises at Radclive Road
- Manor Farm Hillesden Road – repair works suspended and property to be auctioned
- Travellers Field at Radclive Road and development at Kilcara, Radclive Road

Other planning issues

- Prison expansion at Grendon  
This is now with Buckinghamshire Council for a decision. Councillors were made aware that the Ministry of Justice have gained approval for new or enlarged prisons at Wellingborough and one in Essex.

Wates Osier Way development:

- Mr A Ulph gave a report on a virtual meeting with Wates:  
He stated that Wates were supportive of delivering something to the area and gave a positive presentation of the traffic management situation promising that nothing would be coming through the village, all traffic involved in the project would be directed in off the A421. Money would be spent on schools and they recognised the local healthcare issues including the situation with the proposed health centre and surgery.

It was confirmed that 35% would be allocated to social housing, the Government norm is 40% but they get around this by allocating 5% to self-build properties. They seem confident about being granted planning permission but commented that the planning process with Bucks had

been difficult. If planning permission is granted, it is expected in early 2022 with work to begin late 2022. They expect to create 500 jobs.

415 houses are planned including 120 of which would be within the parish, there is a 5 year build time and significant investment has been promised in the areas of community, leisure and transport. The developers have already been in discussions with local bus companies and have decided a pelican crossing should be located on the A421 just west of the Gawcott roundabout. Concerns were raised over whether this would hold up the traffic (would a footbridge be better?) but a traffic monitoring company have already agreed that it would not. People prefer using crossings to footbridges and there is not enough space for bridge footings on one side of the road.

There would be no new schools but Maids Moreton school would be extended as many children from Maids Moreton currently attend Buckingham schools due to limited capacity. Buckingham schools would then have spaces for the children from this new development. Councillors discussed the pressure on the Gawcott Roundwood School campus and that it would be wise to secure the land next to the school for future expansion.

- s106 payments:  
It is understood these payments can only be directed to leisure and no other areas such as traffic calming. Councillors discussed when s106 payments are made/asked for and it was confirmed that planning permission is not granted until s106 conditions are agreed. The parish council still needs to determine when these payments are issued and the process involved. They have asked if Cllr P Fealey will get involved to help determine this. **Action – Cllr P Fealey**

Note: Parish Councillors were recently asked to consider supporting a 20mph speed limit across the whole of Buckinghamshire and councillors **agreed** they were keen to do as the Oxfordshire, Berkshire and London now have 20mph speed limits in built up areas. **Action – Chairman to redistribute original email.**

## 11. Environment

- Flood alleviation investigations:  
The Chairman had received a note to say that the drainage situation is more complex than at first anticipated and the report is still being completed.
- Hodding Wood Update:  
Mr P Ramsden reported that the wood is dense with small trees and the greenery is all high up, there is a plan in place to remove some of these smaller trees, create clearings and allow light to get in. Coppicing will also take place. He confirmed certain trees such as oak will be kept while others such as ash will be removed.

He requested a grant from the Buckingham and Gawcott Charitable Trust for a good quality, battery powered equipment including a chainsaw, strimmer and hedge cutter as these tools would help complete the work whilst being environmentally friendly. The grant request was **approved** by councillors following a discussion around whether contractors ought to be hired to complete the works. **Action – Chairman to apply for £2000 before the deadline of 23 October 2021.**

Mrs R Bate expressed an interest in helping out with the placing of bird boxes etc. Mr A Ulph confirmed the Solar Farm could fund these items therefore Mrs R Bate will put a plan together for next year when the fund is open for applications again.

- Village Green and Verge Cutting:  
The Chairman has requested estimates from the current grass cutting contractors for increased areas to be cut, in Main Street and Radclive and Hillesden Roads.
- Platinum Jubilee Project:  
The community group are looking into placing planters around the village to celebrate the jubilee as opposed to the Best Kept Village initiative which has proved too demanding on the volunteer 'labour' available.

**12. Leisure**

- Playing Field Memorial Seat:  
The memorial seat and plaque is in place to remember the life of Eric Osborn and his incisive contribution to both the playing field and the pavilion.
- Application for grants:  
Request for equipment for Hodding Wood **Approved** (See 11 Environment)

Mr A Ulph reported that the solar farm is doing well, refinancing means there is £70,000 available to the local community (within 5 miles). He asked the council to consider installing electric car charging points at the Richard Roper Playing Field, he explained customers would pay to charge their cars and the council could take a small cut from the proceeds. The parish council was in support of this idea therefore he will consider plans in more detail.

**13. Community**

- Community Group report:  
Despite a 50% reduction in people involved in the group, they will be working on Halloween and Christmas activities. There will be no Christmas party for children this year, planting is planned for the jubilee and village fete on 4 June 2022.
- Village Hall Update:  
Tingewick Pre-school now hire the hall five days a week following the destruction of their building. This provides an income for the village hall.
- Solar Farm Report:  
An article about the solar farm will be uploaded to the website soon.
- Website Report  
The website receives lots of HS2 road closure emails however they aren't always uploaded as they can be very confusing and updates often come after the closure has happened. Diary dates will be added to the website soon. **Action - Chairman to send to both website and clerk.**
- Facebook:  
To be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

**14. Administration**

- PC vacancies  
Mrs R Bate attended the meeting at the invitation of the Chairman with a view to becoming a co-opted member. Mrs Bate **agreed** to join the council as a co-opted councillor. Paperwork to be dealt with. **Action – Chairman/Clerk/Mrs R Bate**

The Chairman has also contacted Ms Beverley Payne who has expressed an interest in returning as a parish councillor. Chairman to maintain contact and discuss timeframes. **Action – Chairman**

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

Councillor Burgess to deliver letters regarding Main Street hedge trimming as prepared by the Chairman. **Action – Mrs S Burgess**

**17. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2021 starting at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.****18. Closure of Meeting.** The business meeting concluded at 9.41 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

**Mrs K Proffitt  
Parish Clerk**

**13.10.2021**