

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday, 14th April 2022 at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

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

Buckinghamshire Councillors: Councillor C Cornell and Councillor R Stuchbury

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chairman echoed the great regret of all Councillors that the Parish Clerk has resigned for personal reasons. Councillors expressed their thanks to Mrs Kim Proffitt for her contribution during the short time she has administered the Council's affairs. Mrs Proffitt will continue for a short time to ensure the new accounting system software [Scribe] is fully up to date and functional.

2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor

Councillor Cornell tendered apologies from Councillor Fealey who is isolating.

Councillor Cornell confirmed that E>W Rail-related repairs are scheduled for Ox Lane [and beyond], that white lining upgrades are planned in the Village and that resurfacing/repairs are scheduled for Back Street, The Rise and New Inn Lane.

Bucks Council are emphasising that the 'Helping Hands' initiative is available to assist with the Ukraine evacuees resettlement, energy poverty and Council tax bills, alerting residents to the £150 rebate available to certain tax-payers.

A Jubilee celebration pack and information about street closure applications is available on-line.

Councillors Cornell and Stuchbury encouraged attendance at the Buckingham and Villages Community Board meetings which are designed to give North Buckinghamshire 'a voice' within the Council. The Chairman subsequently undertook to distribute links to the webpages for the Forum and Councillor Ulph subsequently suggested a volunteer might wish to take up the invitation to join the Forum at upcoming meetings. *[Note: the next meeting is 26th April].*

Councillor Stuchbury undertook to take up yet again the long outstanding street-lighting projects in the Parish and the matter of ensuring that s106 monies from the Wates development may be directed to low level traffic calming projects in the Parish. The matter of the s19 report on flooding and a programme to begin the immediately recommended remedial work, will also be perused by Councillor Stuchbury. It was emphasised that the contamination of the surface water drainage system by foul effluent elevates the urgency of the situation. This aspect should be the responsibility of Anglian Water and the Environment Agency. Culvert repairs are down to Bucks Council along with highway drainage issues.

3. Commencement of Parish Council business meeting

4. Apologies from Councillor P Fealey and Mrs K Proffitt.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 10th March 2022

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising

6.1. Councillor Ulph noted that Councillor Fealey was following up the outstanding Radcliffe Road repairs required to the verge adjoining Red Lion House and digital signage at the A421 roundabout. The Chairman reported that these issues continued to be followed up by Councillor Fealey but as with so many matters associated with HS2, it is a long process to achieve the end goal.

6.2. The Chairman reported that whilst works have been carried out by contractors at the entrance to Hodding Wood, these were organised by the Charity. There remains outstanding the suggested reinforcement of the entrance surface to the Wood either with mesh as used at the Playing Field, and/or with Type 3 fill. Whilst the suggestion of seeking assistance from the HS2 Community Involvement Manager is supported, the time involved in achieving a satisfactory response from HS2 is a substantial downside.

6.3. The Chairman further reported success in achieving acceptable wording for the s106 documents for the Wates development relating to leisure projects, but there continues to be no progress with highway-related funding application. This is being followed-up by Councillors Fealey and Stuchbury.

7. Declarations of Interest: None.

8. Finance

PC Balances	Deposit A/cc 00165984	£24,792.82
	Current A/cc 00152092	£5,946.84
	Current A/cc 00672967	£5,337.96

Councillors unanimously approved the year-end accounts presented by the Treasurer which are subject to independent examination prior to the Audit Return being submitted in June.

8.1. Councillors unanimously agreed to the payment of the following invoices:

Karen Richards - Pavilion Cleaning: £160; K Parker - Village Green Cutting; £170.00; Mrs S Burgess – plates for the Jubilee seats: £90; BALC - Subscription: £134.18; Scribe - annual software fee: £345.60; Cartwright Landscapes – Field grass cutting 2021: £4863.60; Replay Maintenance – AWP Maintenance: £1128.60; e-on – Field electricity: £464.68.

8.2. Standing orders and DD's noted.

8.3. Reported grant from Solar Farm of £500 for bulbs and plants at Hodding Wood. AWP income of £360.00.

8.4. The Chairman introduced the revised Financial and Management Risk Assessment and Governance Review document which was unanimously approved.

8.5. The Chairman explained the revised arrangements for the management of the cricket square over the summer. The Gawcott and Hillesden Cricket Club will manage the use of the square by Buckingham Cricket Club, overseeing all operational matters, including premises security, and will collect a fee for so doing.

8.6. Councillors approved the expenditure of £3438.35 for two additional Playdale 'springers' and the maintenance of swings, basket swing and cable-way.

The Chairman noted that the Treasurer has been attempting to retire for the last 18 months. However, the Treasurer has been unable to formally handover financial management due to the resignation of the Clerk, the yearend sign-off and the preparation of the Audit Return.

Councillor Ulph agreed to organise a meeting with the Treasurer and Clerk to identify outstanding issues and agree a strategy to allow the Treasurer to retire, to deal with changes necessary to cheque signatories [bank mandates] and to ensure Scribe is fully completed to enable the new financial year's accounts to be managed until a new Clerk/Treasurer is identified.

The Treasurer is hoping to present the Audit Return for approval at the May meeting following the independent assessor's approval of the accounts.

Councillor Ulph will also investigate and report back on the procedure to be followed if it is decided to transfer banking arrangements from Lloyds to Unity Bank.

9. Highways and Transport

9.1. Traffic Management and Speed Reduction Plan. Councillors were asked to comment upon the draft plan circulated by the Chairman. Councillor Bate requested that examples of the 'informal' highway signage be included in the final version of the plan. The Chairman further explained that a flier with an outline of the plan will be distributed to all households very shortly. This will direct residents to the plan appearing on the PC website where Councillor Ulph has arranged a specific tab.

9.2. The Radclive Road verge works and resurfacing is being followed up by Councillor Fealey.

9.3. Highways and Lighting maintenance. The long-outstanding lighting projects are being followed up again by Councillor Stuchbury. Councillor Fealey has confirmed that works at Back Street, New Inn Lane and The Rise are imminent. Works to resurface Radclive Road adjacent to Red Lion House are also promised.

The Chairman reported that Mr Benedict O'Halloran. Has registered a Gawcott Speedwatch Group with TVP. [See para 16 below].

10. Planning

10.1. Approved applications

10.1.1. 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.

10.1.2. 21/04832/APP Milford House Hillesden Road Gawcott. Variation of condition 3 (plans) relating to application 19/01727/APP (Erection of two dwellings (Amendment to 17/03593/APP).

10.1.3. Applications awaiting a decision: 21/04245/APP. Old School House Church Street Gawcott; 22/00242/APP. Old Eagles Farmhouse Main Street Gawcott; 22/00459/APP Householder application for single storey front extension. 6A The Rise Gawcott.

10.2. Application to consider

10.2.1. 22/00883/APP (householder) and 22/00847/ALB (listed building) applications for rebuild and renovation of partially collapsed listed building. Buildings At Manor Farm, Hillesden Road, Gawcott. Councillors were unanimous in support of the application which describes in outline the extent of works to repair, refurbish and return this listed building to full order.

10.3. Enforcement

10.3.1-2. Travellers Radclive Road. Councillor Dugher noted that a mobile home had been delivered to Oakhaven Park. Councillor Fealey to be requested to follow up with the Enforcement Officer the dumping of waste builders material at the Traveller's Field, the placing of mobile home without consent at Kilcara and the additional residential mobile home delivered to Oakhaven Park. The latter almost certainly further infringes the occupation numbers set down in the planning consent for this 'development' granted following an appeal.

01.3.3. Repro Plastics – no action to report apart from continued loading on the highway.

10.4. Other planning issues

10.4.1. Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman will meet with Buckingham Town officers in due course.

10.4.2. Councillor Stuchbury will take up the matter of the Wates development s106 documents and appropriate wording to allow expenditure on low level highway schemes to reduce the increased traffic impact of the scheme across the Parish.

10.4.3. Councillor Ulph recommended that a Meeting Minute should record the lack of confidence which Councillors have in the Planning System, in particular following the recent incidents of the Eagles Farm planning consent and, elsewhere, the issue of a planning approval before the details of the application appeared on the Planning website. There are also the continuing irregularities reported any number of times to the Enforcement Officer re the Repro Plastics operation and the various issues at Oakhaven Park [occupation conditions] , Kilcara and the Travellers Field in Radclive Road. Councillors unanimously agreed with this recommendation.

11. Environment

11.1. Flooding. Councillors await a report from Bucks Council and other bodies about essential remedial work recommended by the s19 Flooding report.

11.2. Hodding Wood. Woodland management works continue. Councillors thanked Mr T Goodman and Mr P Ramsden who are organising the thinning of trees in the woodland over the next six months.

11.3. The increased verge cutting has commenced to positive comment by residents.

11.4. Jubilee seats are ready to be placed in the Field and on the Green.

12. Leisure

12.1-3. Playing Field & Pavilion. A schedule of repairs to the Field and Pavilion has been prepared. Playdale will be working on the Play Area in due course [see para 8.6].

13. Community

13.1. The Community Group and Church are organising Jubilee events on 4th and 5th June. The Crown is holding an evening event on 4th June.

13.2. The Village Hall Trustees

13.3. The Solar Farm grants are available now.

13.4. Website – in the process of being updating and now with a Traffic Management tab.

14. Administration

14.1. A PC Facebook presence is being actively considered.

14.2. Councillor Ulph enquired about a separate and outstanding grant application to the Solar Farm. The Clerk will be asked for a progress report.

15. Emergency Business: None.

16. Any Other Business:

The Chairman reported that the owner of Red Lion House is witnessing cars passing through the Radclive Road temporary lights when red and excessive speeding through the narrow section of the road. This will be reported to HS2.

Councillors thanked Mr Benedict O'Halloran for his work in registering the Parish Speedwatch Group. Councillors agreed to the grant of £550 for set up equipment and the speed gun and a further £500 for Speedwatch signage to be affixed to the Village entry gates.

17. The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on **Tuesday 10th May 2022** commencing at 7.30pm. **This will be followed by the usual Parish Council meeting commencing at approximately 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall Buckingham Road Gawcott.**

18. Closure of Meeting.

The business meeting concluded at 9.35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Alan D White. Chairman

18.04.2022