

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

The Parish Council met on Thursday 10th February 2022 at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

Present:

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

Parish Clerk: Mrs K Proffitt

Treasurer: Mr P Ramsden

Buckinghamshire Councillors: Mr R Stuchbury

MINUTES

1. Welcome

The chairman welcomed all those in attendance to the meeting.

2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors [10 minutes]

Cllr Stutchbury began his report by highlighting that the 3.9% council tax rise will soon take effect and made parish councillors aware that 10% of the total council tax will go to the social care precept. He attended a health meeting last week where the Chief Executive agreed not to close the community beds within Buckingham Hospital. He explained that Marlow and Thame Community Hospitals have both been closed therefore this is a positive piece of news. He added that with the formation of Community Hubs in those areas, care has been pushed back into the community to allow people coming out of hospital to stay in their homes however there are questions around how this is funded, whether it is the NHS, private or council funding.

Yesterday, Cllr Stutchbury met with the developers for Osier Way and he felt they only partly answered his questions for example when he asked about the new footpath and whether they know the current one floods in wet weather. He felt they were reluctant to meet with the Clerk at Buckingham Town Council and the surrounding parishes. He went on to explain that he will meet with the builders next as there needs to be a smooth handover between the developers and the builders as there are environmental aspects that need to be met for example, the land is currently home to dormice and therefore a new habitat and planting needs to be created. He also plans to meet with the Highways department to discuss the concerns around the traffic and footpaths.

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council still need to obtain formal agreement to spend some of the S106 funds on highways. He will email Cllr Stutchbury for him to help secure this agreement. **Action Chairman/Cllr Stutchbury.**

Cllr Stutchbury was asked who the builders were, he had the name within his notes (not present at this meeting) therefore he agreed to send it via email. **Action-Cllr Stutchbury to email AU.**

Finally, he concluded by discussing the Buckinghamshire Council Meeting which he will be attending next week, he intends to ask for an update around an agreement he received in 2020 to a motion he made around social/keyworker housing. He will be asking about the £800,000 that was lost in a legal fight with the incinerator company and there are ongoing planning discussions around what is and isn't greenbelt.

He was asked if the current TFB contract is set to be terminated in April 2023 and he explained that the contract is up for renewal and is currently out for tender.

3. Commencement of Parish Council business meeting

4. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Buckinghamshire Councillors, P Fealey and C Cornell.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2022

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising and Action List

An updated action list was distributed prior to the meeting by email. Outstanding actions were discussed:

6.1: Meeting with HS2 re Radclive Road (January 2: Report from Bucks Councillors) The Chairman explained that the meeting went ahead, and he would provide an update at the appropriate agenda item.

6.2: Fibre Broadband (January 6.2) The Chairman explained that Gigaclear have already started works in Buckingham and Gawcott is on the list of villages they intend to supply. Lenborough isn't however but TD is still looking into this.

6.3: Finance (January 8.1) The clerk supplied the name of the bank and AU has researched it. They are focusing on community groups therefore it looks like it would work well for the Parish Council. It is an internet-based bank.

7. Declarations of Interest – none

8. Finance and Management

PC Balances	Deposit A/cc 00165984	£28,450.49
	Current A/cc 00152092	£4,188.84
	Current A/cc 00672967	£3,326.81

8.1 Councillors unanimously **agreed** to the payment of the following invoices: £78.08 to Eon for electricity, £1,914.00 to Replay Maintenance for work on the All-Weather Pitch, £160 to K Richards for pavilion cleaning, £1589.90 reimbursement to AD White for the purchase of the Jubilee benches and £57.00 to the Village Hall for rent.

Councillors **noted** the following standing orders:

£360.00 to K Proffitt for Clerks Salary, £30.00 to Perceptive Creations for the website and £130.00 to A Hall for Field security.

Councillors **noted** the following income:

£0.27 bank interest, £2.98 bond interest, £140.00 from Buckingham branch for AWP fees, £60.00 from Morten for AWP fees and £2,000.00 from Buckingham & Gawcott Charity - grant for Hodding Wood tools.

The treasurer made parish councillors aware that he had submitted a VAT return on 20th January 2022 and £13,538.77 is expected once it has been processed. This amount of money coming in would probably push the upper limits within the audit process and the auditors would need to be made aware that there is a plan to spend money on traffic management.

Councillors were presented with a quote for STIHL battery powered tools to be used for the maintenance of Hodding Wood. Three quotes had been obtained and they were all similar. George Brown's was the preferred provider as they are the most local. Parish Councillors **approved** the purchase of the tools for a total of £1,539.52 excluding VAT (£1,924.00 in total-the VAT can be reclaimed)

The Chairman and TD have been researching legionella assessments for the pavilion. A suitable contractor has been found and an assessment would cost £59.00 plus VAT. Councillors **approved** the booking of the assessment and payment of the fee.

9. Highways and Transport

9.1 Traffic speed 'management'

AU had success in obtaining data from the speed indicator sign located on the Hillesden Road and circulated some of his findings prior to the meeting via email.

He explained that he was able to obtain a years' worth of data but has presented 6 months' worth. He has not been able to extract the days where the battery was flat as there is so much data however, he does not believe this would alter the overall trends too much.

He was asked several questions about the figures and how the machine is set up. It was also noted that the machine only faces one way therefore true numbers of vehicles are approximately doubled.

AU explained the figures. He asked parish councillors what should be done with the data and

what will the Parish Council get out of the data? RB had questions regarding the data and wishes for police involvement. It was **agreed** that AU and RB would meet to discuss the data in more detail and the parish councillors would support her approaching the police with it.

The Chairman had drawn up a draft Traffic Management and Speed Reduction Plan which he had shared prior to the meeting via email. He was asked why he thought the limit should change at certain locations and he explained that he was working from experience as to what is likely to be approved by the relevant authorities. Councillors were reminded/informed that Cllr Fealey approached the police three years ago requesting a 40mph limit on the Radclive Road. The police were not willing to support this.

RG confirmed that he had spoken with the school administrator, and she confirmed that there have been no accidents involving pupils recorded in the last 10 years. They do constantly remind parents and children to take care.

The speed warning sign on Hillesden Road is currently not working. The Chairman confirmed that an engineer has talked him through the procedure for checking the battery over the phone and he needs to go down and do this. It would approx. cost £1,500.00 for an engineer to check the battery status therefore it is much cheaper for him to do it.

Parish Councillors **agreed** that the speed indicator sign on the Hillesden Road should be turned around to record the data from the other direction – outgoing vehicles. It was agreed to move the camera at the start of March so that January and February data could be compared to March and April data facing the opposite direction.

The Chairman asked councillors to send their thoughts on the draft Traffic Management and Speed Reduction Plan and the Clerk would arrange a separate meeting to be held in the pavilion where all of the speed and traffic issues could be discussed in detail. **Action – Clerk/ALL**

9.2 HGV routing

The Chairman reported a meeting with Councillor Fealey and Chris James from HS2 earlier in the day to discuss the issues from HS2 vehicles travelling through the village. He reported that HS2 have agreed to place a hard surface on the verge at the bottom of the Radclive Road hill which is currently being run over and churned up by HGVs entering the village. He confirmed that the verge would be reinstated after the works were complete. Councillor Fealey also confirmed that repairs to the road surface adjoining Red Lion house are being scheduled by BC/TfB.

HS2 confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council will not allow a 'No HS2 HGV's sign at the A421 Gawcott roundabout. This was intended to divert incoming vehicles away from Buckingham Road and to use Radclive Road only.

For outbound vehicles, there is a route advisory sign outside The Crown directing vehicles to use Radclive Road and the Chairman wonders if this could be made more visible as a short-term objective.

LGVs often connected to HS2 contracts have been noted speeding through the village along with the private cars of workers travelling to and from the Calvert construction sites. The HS2 representative agreed to place a notice in the staff newsletter reminding everyone to stick to the speed limits through all villages but especially through Gawcott.

Articulated lorries were discussed, and it was confirmed that Quick Sharp lorries all come off the A413, through Lenborough. They return using this route also. EWR seem to have signage and traffic ambassadors whereas HS2 do not. The Chairman will ask HS2 who within their organisation deals with traffic complaints. **Action – Chairman.**

9.3 Radclive Road: dangers to pedestrians and urgent repairs

Chris James accepted the potential danger to pedestrians from HGVs running over the verge and footpath in Radclive Road.

10 Planning

10.1 Decisions:

10.1-1 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 submitted by Parish Council - AWAITING DECISION - status **noted** by the Parish Council.

10.1-2 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. – AWAITING DECISION - status **noted** by the Parish Council.

10.1-3 21/04416/APP Householder application for 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. – APPROVED - status **noted** by the Parish Council.

10.1-4 21/04832/APP Milford House Hillesden Road Gawcott Buckinghamshire MK18 4JF. Variation of condition 3 (plans) relating to application 19/01727/APP (Erection of 2 dwellings (Amendment to 17/03593/APP) – AWAITING DECISION - status **noted** by the Parish Council.

10.2 Applications to consider:

10.2-1 22/00242/APP (Householder) and 22/00243/ALB (Listed Building) applications for replacement of driveway gates and side panels, erection of boundary fencing and pedestrian gate. Old Eagles Farmhouse Main Street Gawcott Buckinghamshire MK18 4HZ. Councillors raised no objections to these works and felt they would improve the look of the property. The Chairman will draft a response. **Action – Chairman.**

10.2-2 Appeal notice received:

Pole Barn Primrose Hill Farm Preston Road Gawcott Buckinghamshire MK18 4HT Proposal: Conversion of the existing disused storage Barn into dwelling Application Ref: 21/00681/APP Appeal Ref: 21/00105/REF Planning Inspectorate Ref: APP/J0405/W/21/3284931

Councillors were informed that an appeal has been lodged with the Secretary of State against the Buckinghamshire Council's decision.

10.3 Enforcement:

10.3-1 Travellers Field at Radclive Road and development at Kilcara, Radclive Road – No update.

10.3-2 Repro Plastics

No update however the chairman will send photographs of the site to the enforcement officer in a bid to speed up a response. **Action - Chairman**

10.4 Other planning issues:

10.4-1 Wates Osier Way development – As discussed earlier.

10.4-2 Buckingham Neighborhood Plan – The chairman plans to meet with Buckingham Town Council and report back.

10.4-3 Manor Farm Hillesden Road – No photos have been found.

10.4-4 Parameters for s106 payments – As discussed earlier.

11 Environment

11.1 Flooding investigations

The draft report is due to be forwarded to the Parish Council next week.

11.2 Hodding Wood

P Ramsden reported that he is encouraging residents to take a walk through the woodland as the tree clearance scheme is taking shape. Trees had originally been planted too close together and were struggling therefore clearings have been created to allow sunlight in and improve the overall

health of the remaining trees. He would like to plant wildflowers as a community initiative. AU will send him an application form for a Solar Farm grant as this is something they would support.

Action – AU

11.3 Village Green and verge cutting

Despite discussing the estimate with the contractor via telephone, the quote still has not arrived. The Chairman will chase this. Action - Chairman.

11.4 Jubilee Seats

SB presented draft the wording for the plaques. The wording was agreed by councilors however the Clerk will check the Queen's official title and confirm prior to the plaques being ordered.

Action - Clerk

12 Leisure

12.1 Playing Field

The chairman reported that all is running smoothly, and the AWP maintenance works have been completed. He mentioned that there has been an increase in enquiries for use of the AWP.

13 Community

13.1 Community Group report

The Community Group are focussing on the upcoming Jubilee celebrations. 17 planting boxes have been built and plants are on order. The filled planters will be sited around the village. Bunting is also being organised for Main Street. Group members are low and there is a meeting on 7th March at the Chapel in Main Street which hopes to draw out volunteers to help.

13.2 Village Hall report

The village hall is running well.

13.3 Solar Farm report

AU reported that the Solar Farm is going well, they have funds to distribute and are trying to attract grant applications. There is a big planting initiative on the site itself and plans to introduce bees. It is hoped that wildflowers and bees will help make the site eco-friendlier.

13.4 Web site report

AU reported that the website is up to date. A long-term plan needs to be considered once other issues are out of the way.

9 Administration

14.1 Facebook – As with the website, a long-term plan needs consideration once other issues are resolved.

10 **Emergency business:** None

11 **Any other business:** None

12 **The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the 10th March 2022 commencing at 8.00 pm at Gawcott Village Hall Buckingham Road Gawcott.**

13 **Closure of Parish Council meeting:** The meeting concluded at 21:52.

Chairman's Signature:

Signed.....

Date.....

**Mrs K Proffitt
Parish Clerk**

12/2/22