

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday, 13th January 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].

Parish Clerk: Mrs K Proffitt.

Treasurer: Mr P Ramsden.

Buckinghamshire Councillors: Mr P Fealey and Mr R Stutchbury

Four residents were in attendance; a record of attendees has been retained for Covid-security track and trace purposes.

1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed the four residents who confirmed they wanted to discuss particular topics. (Traffic/HS2; Traffic/Speed Limits)

2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors

Cllr Stutchbury reported that he has been involved in the budget scrutiny of Buckinghamshire Council. He highlighted the ongoing need for planners and a recruitment drive for social workers. Retaining qualified social workers is an issue that needs to be addressed. He made the Parish Council aware that the budget for the Community Boards will be cut across the county.

He spoke of the Osier Way development and has concerns there is little in the way of community space and about the crossing on the Gawcott Road. He also worries more housing developments are on the way.

Cllr Stutchbury will be involved in scrutiny of the plans for Marlow Community Hospital and discussed the strain Covid is still having on staff at the Council. Council Officers are being taken away from their main roles in order to deal with Covid issues and this has an effect on services. He will also be involved in the meeting regarding flooding issues in Gawcott.

Cllr Fealey reported that he chaired a planning meeting with the Osier Way developers, Wates. It was agreed that the S106 funds due to Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council could be partially spent on highways. He confirmed there are plans for a road crossing on the Gawcott road, a new path will then link to the new pelican crossing at the A421 roundabout and then follow on to another new path round to Embleton Way. Concerns were raised that it's a very busy road and children will end up being driven to school resulting in increased car movements. Cllr Fealey is confident the plans will work and mentioned that rather than one large estate, the new development will consist of two pockets to try to avoid any rat running.

He has also spoken with the Chairman and High Speed 2/East West Rail about the verge at the bottom of the Radclive Road which is being cut up by HGV traffic. A meeting is scheduled for next week as the amount of damage and number of vehicles passing through needs to be minimised. He said that the Council have pushed back against HS2 traffic plans at Turweston and is aware that local residents have problems with vibrations and noise caused by the HS2 related passing traffic and although the work can't be stopped, they can try to mitigate these issues.

A discussion occurred about the state of the roads and the various highway issues. Cllr Fealey confirmed that Buckinghamshire Council is responsible for the roads and that the highways team should be informed of any problems via 'Fix my Street'. He confirmed that all HS2/EWR vehicles have trackers and that they have sacked three or four drivers for not following the designated rules/routes. He meets regularly with representatives from both companies to try to work through issues. They do not have a budget for road repair but they have repaired the road at Steeple Claydon and will repair Ox Lane.

The problem of the verge was discussed in detail; the bottom of Radclive Road can get busy at times with the lights holding traffic back and there is no space for the lorries to pass other than driving

across the verge. The area is too narrow and lorries are on the verge and path every day. Local residents paid for their own cones however these were driven over and are now flat. Less problems occur when the lights aren't in place over the weekends [but there are few HGVs], the drivers are polite to one another but when the lights are there, they speed up to catch a green light.

The Chairman would like to propose a foundation with a tarmac top where the mud verge currently is so that when two large vehicles need to pass one another they have a passing space but to retain the kerb so that it is not a widened road for all to drive on. Two large vehicles would pass one another using this new tarmac verge however one large and one small would pass on the present roadway.

A resident suggested a cross-hatch yellow box on the 'up' side of the road and across the cut through to Main Street to ensure that all traffic sits back to wait if a large vehicle is passing through. Traffic already queues for the lights and it would help turning right as you come down the hill easier. **Action – Cllr Fealey and Chairman to meet with Chris James [HS2] to discuss as this is a big problem for residents.**

Cllr Fealey went on to report that the Boundary Commission will be recommending changes to decrease the current number of Buckinghamshire Councillors to 98 in total: two councillors per ward. Planning surgeries are being introduced and improvements made to enable councillors to feedback information more effectively. He reminded the Parish Council that HS2 Road Safety Funding is still available and that the gullies remain a problem throughout Bucks.

He spoke of the section 19 flooding report: foul water contamination has been found and needs to be resolved. The document is in draft form currently and not in the public domain. A meeting will be held next week between the relevant agencies and soon after it will be released to the public. He heard about the contaminated water issues faced by a resident at his property [Westbury House] and mentioned that there is another known site where foul water flows into an open field. The report has identified 11 houses which were damaged by flooding. At the meeting, Anglian Water, Environmental Health and Buckinghamshire Council will identify the issues for which they are each responsible and produce a remedial action plan.

Finally, Cllr Fealey confirmed that New Inn Lane is scheduled to be repaired during 2022 and that a sign for the corner on Lenborough Road [at the junction with Ox Lane] is on order and works have already started on the verge at that junction as agreed in the last meeting.

3. Commencement of Parish Council business meeting

4. Apologies - none received.

5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 9th December 2021

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters arising Please see the Action List.

6.1 Speed Sign: In addition to the updated action to the first item on the list (Oct: 10 > Planning > 20MPH Speed Limit) a discussion occurred around the usefulness of the data recorded by the speed sign on the Hillesden Road. Data is limited to the numbers and speed of vehicles travelling past the sign in batches of time. What would the Parish Council do with the data? The police will not enforce the speed limit in this area as they have limited resources and it is a low a priority for them. The sign manufacturer could extract the information but would charge for this. It was mentioned that the sign planned for Main Street will have more modern technology and record more useful and easily retrievable data.

There is a concern that the new Osier Way development will make the roads through the village even busier and therefore a solution is needed. A '20mph is Plenty In Villages' sign was discussed; although not enforceable, it would be a deterrent and therefore ought to be considered. These signs are purchased/leased via the rail companies and there is potentially money available through the HS2 Road Safety Fund which could cover the costs. Overall, a 20mph speed limit through the village should be the ultimate goal and, although it wouldn't be policed, it would help reduce speeds and therefore the focus should be on this. This is an expensive project and will take a long time to complete and so in the meantime, it was **agreed** the Chairman would request funding via the HS2 Road Safety Fund to fund a '20 is plenty' sign. **Action – Chairman.** Other methods of traffic calming

were discussed but some [speed humps] are deemed outdated and are not now approved by Buckinghamshire Council.

6.2 Fibre Broadband: (November 16.1 > Fibre Broadband) Councillor Dugher informed councillors that he attended a webinar hosted by Gigaclear sharing their plan to introduce fibre broadband to Buckingham and the surrounding villages. They will be supplying fibre to the boundary of premises, using infrastructure that is already in place and their maps are complete, although Lenborough is not mentioned and a request will be made for its inclusion. The service is to be installed without reference to the numbers of potentially interested customers.

He also updated on the E-con company he was previously chasing. They have gone quiet, although a response was received on the morning of the meeting so he will keep chipping away at this project.

7. Declarations of Interest:

A number of councillors declared their interest in item: 10.2-1 (Planning Application - Milford House) as they are close neighbours to the property. Councillors Burgess and Ulph are immediate neighbours and Councillors Bate and White are Hillesden Road residents.

8. Finance

PC Balances	Deposit A/cc 00165984	£30,747.24
	Current A/cc 00152092	£3,028.84
	Current A/cc 00672967	£3,189.42

8.1 Councillors unanimously **agreed** to the payment of the following invoices: £360.00 to K Proffitt-Clerks Salary; £212.91 to P Ramsden-Honorarium/expenses; £29.99 to Wave (Anglian Water)-Water Bill; £75.93 to Eon-Electricity Bill and £120.00 to K Richards-Pavilion Cleaning.

Councillors **noted** the following income:

£120.00 from Foster (AWP Fees); £220.00 Morten & Rowe (AWP Fees); £1.57 Interest (bank & bonds); £40.00 (AWP Fees); £100.00 from the sale of redundant mowers and £2000.00 from B&G Charities (Woodland Grant)

Note from the Chairman who will be issuing the football invoices (around £2000 income in total) shortly therefore this should show in next months' figures.

The Treasurer reported that the Parish Council receives a regular interest income from a National Savings Bond, however, a bank fee of £15.00 per year is charged for securely keeping the Bond certificate. The interest received from the Bond now totals only approximately £3.00 per year, therefore, money is being lost. Councillor Ulph volunteered to research suitable banks and accounts for reinvestment of the Bond. The Clerk provided the name of a bank to research [Unity] which is popular among other parish councils for their favorable account fees. **Action – Clerk to confirm name of Bank and Councillor Ulph to research.**

8.2 Grants

Councillors **agreed** the following grants:

-£250 to the Holy Trinity Church

-£200 to the Chapel (to go towards the God in Gawcott Children's Group [GiG] which is currently funded by those who run it.)

8.3 Precept

Councillors **agreed** to raising the precept for 22/23 to the recommended £20,000. The Clerk will submit the details to Buckinghamshire Council. **Action – Clerk**

8.4 Bank Account Signatories and Access

Parish Councillors were informed that the current signatories are out of date. It was **agreed** to increase the number of signatories from two to four to ensure adequate availability and cover for emergencies/holidays. **Approved** signatories will be: the Chairman (current), The Clerk (new), A Ulph (new) and S Burgess (new). All other signatories will be removed. **Action – Treasurer/Clerk**

9. Highways and Transport

The issue of school signage was discussed. Councillor Gibbs noted 16 children leaving school via Church Street where there are signs warning drivers of the school entrance and 56 children leaving the school via the path alongside the churchyard where there are no signs. In addition, 28 children were taken by a teacher to a bus which was struggling to park on Main Street. On this particular day, cars were everywhere, parking and passing through and there are grave concerns about accidents. It is believed a child was hit by a car in 2007 due to these circumstances. Councillor Gibbs will speak with the school secretary and ask if they keep records and Mr Ramsden will ask the family for details.

Action – RG/PR

Continuing the discussion, it was noted that there is nowhere for the school bus to park, double yellow lines would increase the parking issues, is a staggered barrier at the bottom of the path needed (would this create accessibility issues for wheelchairs/pushchairs?), digital/programmable school signs cost £14,000 (the Chairman has checked), consent for signs would be required from Bucks but they could be funded via the S106 funds due if the Parish Council wished.

There are concerns that the existing school signs are being ignored by HS2/EWR traffic therefore the Chairman will mention this at the upcoming meeting. **Action – Chairman.**

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 - **noted**

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. Comments submitted by Parish Council. – AWAITING DECISION - **noted**

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 – approval **noted** but no mention of the mobile home.

10.2 Applications to consider:

10.2-1 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)

The application was discussed and the Chairman will prepare appropriate comments to be approved by Councillors via email, thereafter to be submitted via the planning portal. **Action -ADW/ALL**

10.3 Enforcement:

10.3-1 Travellers Field at Radclive Road and Mobile Home at Kilcara/Montana House, Radclive Road. No updates. The Chairman will chase with the Enforcement Officer.

Fly tipping at the mobile phone mast site is becoming worse. Councillor Ulph and the Chairman will try to find out who owns the land via the Land Registry (A check to be made for any signage on the mast itself). **Action – ADW/AU**

10.3-2 Repro Plastics No Updates, Chairman to chase as above.

10.4 Other planning issues:

10.4-1 Wates Osier Way development.

The Chairman reported that he has put forward some wording (after seeking agreement from all councilors) to be agreed by the Bucks Council in relation to the S106 deed and will also request confirmation of the agreement allowing some of the money to be spent on traffic calming. This is

important as the s106 deed must accurately specify all relevant expenditure for the monies deposited by the developers.

10.4-2 Buckingham Neighborhood Plan

Buckingham Town Council are working on a new Neighbourhood Plan and it has been suggested that the Parish Council might discuss proposals with Buckingham Town Council officers to ensure an alignment of policy each side of Town and Parish common boundaries. The Chairman will discuss and report back so that the Parish Council can keep up to date with proposals. **Action – Chairman.**

10.4-3 Manor Farm Hillesden Road.

Councillors were informed that an architect has been appointed by the new owners and is requesting help sourcing photos of the farm 50 years ago. **Action – SB/PR to ask around.**

10.4-4 Parameters for s106 payments.

(See 10.4-1 Osier Way Development)

11. Environment

11.1 Flooding investigations

As discussed in the Cllr Fealey's Update (Item 2)

11.2 Hodding Wood

Mr P Ramsden reported that work is ongoing to clear spaces to increase air flow through the Wood. The grant for equipment has been received so that appropriate tools and protective clothing can now be purchased to assist with tasks.

11.3 Village Green and verge cutting

The Chairman reported that the estimate for verge cutting is still outstanding. He will chase this.

Action – Chairman

11.4 Jubilee Seats

It was **agreed** not to engrave the Jubilee seats but to place a plaque on them. The siting of the seats will be agreed at a later date. The Chairman will order two plain benches and Councillor Burgess will order two plaques. **Action SB/ADW**

12. Leisure

Councillors were made aware that maintenance work will be required at the pavilion including checking the showers are free from legionnaires disease. Councillors are requested to suggest names of suitable contractors. **Action All/TD**

13. Community

13.1 Community Group report

Community Group member numbers are decreasing. Viable projects/schemes will be discussed at the next meeting but

13.2 Village Hall report

No update – all is running satisfactorily despite sporadic Covid outbreaks at the Pre School. The Hall is fogged after school use if there is an evening event.

13.3 Solar Farm report

Councillor Ulph reported that grant money is being distributed and that the electrical charging point project needs looking at. He also confirmed that Adult Keep Fit equipment is something the Solar Farm would fund via a grant.

13.4 Web site report

Nothing to report.

14. Administration

14.1 Facebook

This topic will be dealt with when there is more time (once Scribe has been set up and is running).

15. Emergency Business: None.

16. Any Other Business: None.

17. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Thursday 10th February 2022 starting at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

18. Closure of Meeting. The business meeting concluded at 10.02 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

**Mrs K Proffitt
Parish Clerk**

16/1/22