

## Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

### The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7.30 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] and Buckinghamshire Councillor Mr P Fealey.

#### 1. Chairman's welcome and condolence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and the great sadness of Members following the announcement of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the afternoon, was formally recognised and recorded. An appropriate announcement and statement of condolence to the Royal Family will be organised for the landing page of the website and for the noticeboards in the Village.

#### 2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor P Fealey

Councillor Fealey reported on the draft recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England which is conducting an electoral review to draw up new ward boundaries across Buckinghamshire.

The Commission has recommended that the Council has 98 Councillors in future and has drawn up a new pattern of wards accordingly. They recommend that Gawcott is placed in a ward with Steeple Claydon. Councillors may wish to instruct the Clerk about making appropriate comments as soon as possible. Given that Gawcott relies totally on Buckingham for services, it would seem sensible to include Gawcott within one of the Buckingham wards.

Councillor Fealey highlighted the Council's Helping Hand initiative which aims to assist pensioners on limited incomes, residents with energy cost problems and those needing assistance with food provision and household bills. A Welcome Spaces initiative will assist those finding heating a problem at home by providing warm refuges in community buildings – libraries and other public buildings.

The inferior performance of the Swan Practice was mentioned again. There are a number of medical staff vacancies which accentuate the local problems. It appears that funding has been secured for the new health centre adjoining Lace Hill.

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

#### 4. Apologies from Buckinghamshire Councillor Cornell.

#### 5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The Minutes were unanimously approved and signed by the Chairman.

#### 6. Matters arising: None

#### 7. Declarations of Interest: None

#### 8. Finance

|             |                       |            |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| PC Balances | Deposit A/cc 00165984 | £31,746.87 |
|             | Current A/cc 00152092 | £4,493.84  |
|             | Current A/cc 00672967 | £7,393.50  |

8.1. Councillors unanimously agreed to the payment of the following invoices, some of which were agreed remotely during August:

Karen Richards - Pavilion Cleaning: £320 [2x£160]; K Parker - Village Green and Verge Cutting: £560.00 [2x£280]; Village Hall Rent: £48.00; Swarco – repair of digital road sign: £645.25; E-on – Field electricity: £164.30 and £187.58; Playdale – Play area works: £2,118.

A fee payment is expected shortly from the Football Club in the sum of £2,745 and the second instalment of the precept, being £10,000.

8.2. Audit Return: No communication has been received from the Auditors even though their report deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> September.

8.3. Councillor Ulph reported difficulties with the Bank In arranging the transfer of management of the accounts from the retired treasurer. Once this is successfully achieved, internet banking will be organised.

## **9. Highways and Transport**

### **9.1. Traffic Management and Speed Reduction Plan.**

The Chairman reported that only the signage elements of the PC plan will be agreed from the grant submission. Councillors resolved to submit a further grant application for tranche three Road Safety Fund cash.

**9.2. The Radclive Road verge works** and resurfacing are being followed up by Councillor Fealey. Works to resurface Radclive Road adjacent to Red Lion House are included.

**9.3. Incorrect HS2 HGV routing** problems continue. Councillor Fealey is continuing to complain about these daily transgressions to HS2 management.

**9.4. Highways and Lighting maintenance.** The Buckingham Road lighting remains largely outstanding, in part from 2016/17 and the remainder since 2008' However, the new solar lamps are operational. Connections for the remaining lamps along the footpath to Buckingham and to the lamps outside the houses at Buckingham Road are still outstanding. The repair works at Back Street, New Inn Lane and The Rise have been satisfactorily completed.

**9.5. Traffic Data.** Excellent analysis of the data from the Hillesden Road speed sign is being provided by Councillor Bate. This will create a very useful databank of information to assist with future applications for traffic speed reduction schemes.

## **10. Planning**

### **10.1. Applications reported:**

- 22/00883/APP. Manor Farm Hillesden Road Gawcott. Further submissions, detailing proposals to rebuild, repair and refurbish the existing structure whilst retaining as many features of the original building as possible. The Chairman commented that the proposals which seek to return the building to a fully repaired structure appear appropriate and deserve the support of Councillors.
- 19/03498/APP. Old Park Farm Hillesden Road Gawcott (Conversion and extension of agricultural building to a single dwelling). No observations as planning consent has already been granted for the conversion. This application relates to drainage detail.

### **10.2. Decisions communicated**

- 22/01856/APP. Falcon Barn Lenborough Road Gawcott. A substantial rear extension. REFUSED.
- 22/02210/COUAR. Building off Buckingham Road Gawcott. Determination as to whether prior approval is required for the conversion of an agricultural barn to a dwellinghouse. REFUSED.

### 10.3. Applications awaiting a decision:

- 21/04245/APP. Old School House Church Street
- 22/00242/APP. Old Eagles Farmhouse Main Street

### 10.4. User issues

- Travellers, Radcliffe Road – no reports.
- Repro Plastics. The Chairman has agreed to meet with the operators to discuss long-held concerns about safety around the site and the safety of road users on Radcliffe Road.

### 10.5. Other planning issues

- 10.5.1. Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan. The Chairman will meet with Buckingham Town Council officers in due course.
- 10.5.2. Confirmation has been received that s106 payments can be applied only to leisure related projects.
- 10.5.3. Grendon Prison expansion appeal. Awaiting further information.
- 10.5.4. HS2 IMD Building. Awaiting application details.

## 11. Environment

- 11.1. **Flooding.** The PC is to prepare an Emergency Flood Plan.
- 11.2. **Hodding Wood.** The woodland management works continue.
- 11.3. **The increased verge cutting** is continuing with positive comment from residents.

## 12. Leisure

- 12.1. **Playing Field & Pavilion.** Playdale will be working on the Play Area in September.
- 12.2. **The ROSPA** inspection of the Play Area will take place after completion of the repair works.
- 12.3. **Electricity costs** at the Field and Pavilion. The Pavilion heating will be set to ensure the building does not freeze but otherwise provide minimal background heating.

## 13. Community

- 13.1. **Community Group.** A meeting later in the month is scheduled to plan activities up to Christmas and into 2023.
- 13.2. **Village Hall.** A Solar Farm grant has been approved for the replacement lighting. The electrical upgrade works have been completed.
- 13.3. **The Solar Farm.** Councillor Ulph confirmed that the results from the Farm are good and that more grants are available for energy efficiency schemes. With this in mind, it was suggested that efficiency projects might include the replacement of the floodlighting at the Field, insulation to the Village Hall [which has none], improved and increased solar panels at the Hall and pavilion and an assessment of the replacement options of the pavilion heatpump [now 10 years old].

Councillor Ulph indicated that consideration might be given to representations [through the Parish Council and local churches] for those in the Parish struggling with fuel poverty/costs.

It appears that the Solar Farm may be prepared to provide consultancy advice on projects such as insulation, solar panel size and replacement and heatpump upgrades.

Councillor Dugher undertook to carry out some initial appraisal work at the Hall and the pavilion with a view to assessing possible projects to reduce the energy costs of the buildings and assess the potential for greater generation from existing or replacement solar panels.

## 14. Administration

Councillor Ulph reported that he is investigating a possible option for filling the Clerk vacancy.

**15. Emergency Business:** None.

**16. Any Other Business**

Councillor Ulph highlighted the absence of a 'succession plan' for the Parish Council and the long-term danger to efficient operations without such a plan.

It was confirmed that the A421 study mentioned by Councillor Stuchbury at the July meeting [see Minute 22.15.04, Para 2. July 2022] is likely to report during the first quarter of 2023.

**17. Next Meeting**

**The next meeting of the Parish Council will take place on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at the Gawcott Village Hall Buckingham Road Gawcott, starting at 7.30 pm.**

**18. Closure of Meeting.** The business meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Alan D White. Parish Clerk.**

**05.10.2022**

**NOTE:**

**For information from the Buckinghamshire Council website about Helping Hand and other support available, refer to:**

[Help with the cost of living \(Helping Hand\) | Buckinghamshire Council](#)