

## Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

### The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 7.45 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mrs R Bate, Mr R Gibbs, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman], Mrs P Molloy [Parish Clerk designate] and one resident.

#### 1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining that this short session establishes the Chairman, Councillor and other responsibilities for the coming year.

#### 2. Apologies

Apologies received from Councillors Cornell, Fealey and Stuchbury and Councillor Dugher.

#### 3. Appointment of Chairman, Council Members and Officers

There being no nominations, Councillors unanimously returned Mr Alan D White as Chairman for another year. The Chairman thanked Members for their support.

Members agreed to oversee the Parish business areas noted. Officers appointed as shown.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| C Alan D White   | Chairman; Field oversight; Planning [Clerk duties relinquished from 31.05.2023]         |
| C Tony Ulph      | Treasury, Scribe, Solar Farm representative [non-exec]                                  |
| C Tim Dugher     | Web site oversight; Facebook reporter   |
| C Rhona Bate     | Highways statistics; digital signage  |
| C Sylvia Burgess | Footpaths   |
| C Ray Gibbs      | Village centre and signage  |
| Mrs Pam Molloy   | Parish Clerk wef 01.06.2023   |
| Mr Tom Goodman   | Buckingham Almshouses Trustee designate<br>Hodding Wood manager and Parish tree advisor |

There being no further business the Chairman closed this part of the meeting at 7.55 pm.

**There follow the Minutes of the business meeting of the Parish Council.**

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council  
Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 8.00 pm at the Gawcott Village Hall.**

**Present:** Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mrs R Bate, Mr R Gibbs, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman], Mrs P Molloy [Parish Clerk designate] and one resident.

**4. Commencement of Formal Meeting**

The Chairman opened the monthly business meeting.

**5. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023.**

The minutes were unanimously approved with no Matters Arising.

**6. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**7. Finance and Management**

**7.1.** Current balances were reported as follows:

| Bank Account                | Balance    | As At Date |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| Current A/C-00152092        | £1,062.92  | 01/05/2023 |
| Playing Field, A/C-00672967 | £5,753.65  | 01/05/2023 |
| Deposit A/C-00165984        | £49,106.23 | 01/05/2023 |
| Total Cash Held             | £55,922.80 | 01/05/2023 |

The following invoices were unanimously approved for settlement:

| Payee            | Invoice  | Notes                          |
|------------------|----------|--------------------------------|
| Mrs K Richards   | £160.00  | Pavilion Cleaning              |
| DBS Waste        | £192.00  | Septic tank empty and disposal |
| K Parker         | £280.00  | Verge cutting                  |
| E-on             | £319.79  | Field electricity              |
| Zurich Municipal | £2715.58 | PC Insurance                   |
| BMKALC           | £132.97  | Subscription                   |
|                  |          |                                |

**7.2.** Preparations are in hand to complete the Audit Return and submit the documents for independent checking. It was agreed that the Chairman should seek an extension to the external audit 'window' to the end of July.

*Note: It is confirmed that the Auditors have agreed the audit extension request.*

**8. Highways**

**8.1. HS2 Road Safety Grant Fund - Traffic Management and Speed Reduction Plan.**  
No further update.

**8.2. The Radcliffe Road speed limit reduction petition**

The finally revised petition forms have been supplied to Mr Ben Lewis who runs Repro Plastics. Mr Lewis has canvassed Radcliffe Road businesses for support for the petition.

**8.3. HS2 HGV routing**

The Chairman will make representations to the newly appointed HS2 Community Relations Manager.

**8.4. Highways and Lighting maintenance**

No action by BC on road repairs or lighting replacement/maintenance.

**8.5. Traffic data**

Councillor Bate provided a brief report on the MVAS data. Regular data reports will appear on the website and in the Newsletter.

**8.6. Digital speed signage**

Councillor Bate is further investigating Vehicle Activated Digital signage suppliers following an additional meeting of Members to consider the preferred specification of the signs. It was also agreed that further delays in acquiring a sign at Preston Road could not be justified even if, as a result, a grant is not available.

**9. Planning****9.1. Planning applications and approvals**

No applications or approvals have been reported since the last meeting. However, the previous application at Primrose Hill Farm for a new agricultural building has been withdrawn.

**9.2. Travellers Radcliffe Road**

Nothing to report.

**9.3. Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan and Springhill Prison Appeal**

Nothing to report.

**10. Environment****10.1. Main Street Flooding**

It is understood further investigations are required in order to ascertain the proximity of utilities to the proposed line of the new culvert.

**10.2. Hodding Wood**

Mr Goodman reported that the removal of a fallen tree is being managed. The newly planted daffodils have had a decent season although the snowdrops and bluebells have been less successful but should improve once established. The accessway from Main Street is proving difficult and dangerous for small equipment and requires regrading and surfacing. The Chairman will inform the Charity Secretary.

**11. Leisure****11.1. Pavilion and Field**

Councillor Ulph presented a revised estimate from Crown Windows for the pavilion in the sum of £11985 including VAT. Unanimous approval was given to proceeding with the works. An inquiry will be made to see if grant assistance is available from the Solar Farm given that the new windows, and particularly the doors, will improve insulation.

Councillor Dugher has received an estimate of £1750 excluding VAT from Homefix for additional insulation to the roof of the pavilion. A second estimate was substantially higher. It was agreed this should be progressed although a grant application to the Solar Farm is required before the works proceed.

Councillor Ulph reported on a meeting with the Chairman and the Football Club. It was reported that the Club is under some financial strain and seeks to reduce the Field fees by 50%, to £1650 per annum for the grassed areas. The Club is also concerned about paying for the block booking of the All-Weather Pitch when it cannot be used during frosty weather.

Councillors were not sympathetic to any reduction in fees, indeed, Members maintained that the Club is fortunate fees have not been increased given the inflation in the costs of maintaining the Field. The Club also needs to remember the support given by the Parish Council over the years through Field improvements and the stability in the level of fees charged.

The Chairman was asked to revert to the Club conceding that a rebate will be given at the next invoice date on fees for the All-Weather Pitch when weather prevents safe use. However, no concession is possible on the fees for the grassed areas. Whilst efforts will be made to hold fees at the current level for both facilities, steadily increasing costs may make this impossible.

'Dogs must be kept on a lead' signage for the Field will be erected in due course.

**11.3. The ROSPA** inspection of the Play Area will take place shortly.

**12. Community**

**12.1. Village Hall** is presently running satisfactorily. The Tingewick Pre School is likely to vacate at the end of the summer term.

**12.2. Solar Farm.** Councillor Ulph reported further outreach work with schools and village halls within a five mile radius and the continuing availability of grant funds.

**12.3. Community Group.** The next event being planned is the Village Fete on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> June at the Green.

**12.4. Coronation.** The new memorial bench has been ordered. It will be inscribed: Coronation King Charles III 6 May 2023 The total cost is £875.

**12.5. Village Clean-up Day.** Thanks to Councillor Fealey and to a good number of volunteers, the clean-up day was a great success. The cost to the PC was £225 being refreshments at start and finish at the Crown.

**13. Administration**

**13.1.** It was unanimously agreed that the position of Parish Clerk be offered to Mrs Pam Molloy on terms which match those by Padbury Parish Council. The Chairman and Councillor Ulph were requested to confirm all necessary formalities for a start date of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023.

**13.2** Councillors confirmed the appointment of Mr Tom Goodman as the Gawcott trustee representative on the Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity Board.

**14. Emergency Business:** None.

**15. Any Other Business:** None.

**16. Next Meeting:** The Parish Council will meet on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Gawcott Village Hall Buckingham Road Gawcott, starting at 7.30 pm.

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

Signed.....

Date.....

Alan D White.

28.05.2023