

GREATFORD

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in Greatford Church 21st May 2019 at 7.00 pm

Minutes

Present : Nigel Ashby (Chairman), Parish Councillors: David Anderson, Ibis Channell, Jon Workman Philip Britton, Gemma Taylor.
Parish Clerk : Lois Webb
members of the Public : Alison Horton, James & Bridget Everitt, Chris Granville-White, Margaret Anderson, Maggie Kaye, George Aylett, Steve Dean, Rod Campbell, Jason Halsey, Bob French. Popsy Wells., Elizabeth Ashby

1. Opening of Meeting :

Cllr Ashby welcomed all present, and asked if anyone objected to their names being listed. There were no objections.

2. Apologies for absence:

Richard McDermott (V.Hall Chairman) Dani Wheeler
(late arrival from : L Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, DCllr Kelham Cooke.

3 .Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd May 2018.

On a proposal by Jon Workman, seconded by David Anderson, the minutes of the annual meeting 22nd May 2018, copies of which were circulated prior to meeting, were approved and signed.

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMANS REPORT: Nigel Ashby

Introduction

Another year has passed and Greatford Parish Council endeavours to ensure the village is a good place to live in, keenly aware of the privilege of our status as a Conservation Village.

Highways

The PC tries to monitor the state of the roads within the parish and alert Highways to urgent repairs required. Road surfaces were not hit by winter conditions this year; the grit bins within the village have been sparingly used as a result, but the PC thanks those volunteers who have spread grit on the few frosty mornings. Highways does top up the bins, for which the PC is grateful.

It was noted in the 2018 Report that the damaged finger post at the King Street/Baston Road junction remained too low in priorities to be repaired: still no action has taken place. I note that the Greatford sign on the Barholm hill finger post is now damaged: perhaps both can be repaired in the forthcoming year.

The SID sign has been operating for 2 years. Its battery was faulty and was replaced this year FOC. It continues to operate perfectly and I hope it has some effect on traffic speed at the various locations as it is moved around the village.

Drains and Watercourses

The PC is grateful to Mr Chris Granville-White the Flood Warden for monitoring the Shillingthorpe Guage and for keeping in touch with the EA over matters in the Glen and blockages in the dykes. The EA plan for establishing flood mitigation measures upstream of the village remain on the drawing board, dependent on longer term budgets.

Cleanliness of the Village

The PC again thanks Bob French for organizing the Litter Picking Day in March. The work of adults and children in clearing litter from the verges of the four roads in to the village is very much appreciated.

The PC is grateful for another Big Clean operation from SKDC.

Greatford was not entered for the Best Kept Village Competition this year.

Planning

This year saw many fewer planning applications most pertained to reducing or removing trees. Trees dating from the original Greatford Gardens development have attained mature size and in some cases have overgrown their space. As always it is hoped the Carlby Road exit from the village, continue to grow well. The village needs to be mindful of national Ash Die-back and the effect this could have on our landscape. We should be prepared to plant suitable alternatives when necessary.

The development of Manor Barn continues: the PC is grateful for the unveiling of a beautiful house in the centre of the village.

The Lincolnshire Mineral & Waste Plan

After discussions with CEMEX it is clear that operations could begin at the so-called Manor Farm mineral extraction site (MS25-SL) as soon as 2024. It is understood that development of this site depends on agreements with the landowner (Ashton Estates). It has been suggested to CEMEX that preliminary tree planting should take place on the perimeter as environmental mitigation. This needs to be explored in more detail and with greater urgency.

Parish Plan

The work on this by Richard McDermott and his team has been much appreciated and is now concluded in digital form. Publication and distribution can now take place.

Playing Field

Last years very dry summer saved the PC about 250. Moles and rabbits have made less damage than previous years.

Dog training classes have continued at weekends with little disruption to other users.

The PC is pleased to be able to allow this facility. There are no complaints of dog fouling.

Car parking for those who use the VH and the Playing Field remains a tiresome feature for traffic and some residents of Carlby Road, but this is outweighed by having a village facility in much demand.

contd.. mins Apr 21.5.19

A demand for alternative parking arrangements will not ever be met in reality. (It should be noted that in very rare circumstances the playing field can be hired for parking itself). The Rota Bounce and the Horse Springer installed in March 2018 have remained in popular use, and the rubber safety matting has naturally disappeared into the grass as it was intended.

Defibrillator

The good news is it is still unused although there was a false alarm in the Hare & Hounds, which required the emergency services to be told it was not used. Maintenance costs are not insubstantial as the battery has to be replaced. The PC remains grateful to Mr David Trawford and Mr Chris Granville-White for administering the system and for refreshing the volunteer

5. **FINANCIAL REPORT**

David Anderson the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) distributed copies of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2019.

He pointed out that explanatory notes had been made against all items of receipts and payments and went on to expand on a number of these. The following are the main items referred to, but please also read the overview at the foot of the accounts.

The PRECEPT of 3300. was 13% on last year following 11 years unchanged.

Bob French obtained a full year litter grant of 814.32, which was likely to be repeated next year. This money was used to pay for litter pickers and to replace the village hall gates. £1094.80 was received as the balance of an 80% grant from SKDC for the new play equipment installed last year.

The high VAT refund was mainly from the play equipment expenditure last year.

Total receipts were 6795.41. This will be lower next year.

The clerk fees had been increased by 50. per meeting, but we had just 5 meetings in the year so the yearly increase was only 120.

The dry weather meant that grass cutting costs were lower and also obviated the need for mole and rabbit control.

The emergency phone line for the defibrillator cost 200. Covering 2 years, 2017/18, having been billed late.

New swing seats were purchased costing 138. And new gates to the village hall cost 667 of which the Village Hall Committee kindly contributed 327. 50.

A new lithium battery for the defibrillator cost 264. But this will last 4 years.

The litter pickers and high viz jackets cost 176. 82.

Total payments amounted to 4672. 81.

The surplus for the year was therefore £2122.60 giving cash funds at the year end of £7005.18. This was broadly in line with the target and would give a good base to fund new projects in the future.

The Chairman thanked David for his report,

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6. Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew Report 2018. Deepings West & Rural

No report was given in her absence

7. District Councillors Report: Cllr Kelham Cooke.

No report was given in his absence

8 **Village Hall Report:** Chairman, Richard McDermott.

Greatford Village Hall Committee Chairs Annual Report 2018/19

It has been another successful year on most fronts for the village hall.

It remains a great resource for the local community. Whilst it is in need of some investment and repairs, the main hall remains an attractive and sound space that is well used for a number of different activities. The number of regular bookings has increased this year which is incredibly important and reassuring to the Committee as it means there is a base level of regular income that should cover most of the running costs of the hall.

The regular activities include: Dog and Puppy Training with Pawprints (Saturdays) High Impact Interval Training with Max (Thursday), Band practice on Wednesday, Pilates, Clarinet classes, Lambda Drama Classes. Meet you neighbour events (free/no charge to this group)

The hall has also been booked for other one off activities including:

Choirs , Childrens Parties , Weddings , Wakes and christenings , Community Events Primary school leavers events, Polling station for local and EU elections (this week!) This has meant the hall has been on a safe financial footing.

We also are incredibly grateful for the contribution from the Christmas party and all who came up with the idea (the Kayes) and helped, which raised a phenomenal amount towards the refurbishment of the toilet area which we are looking to commission builders to complete ASAP (does anyone know a good reliable builder who wants work and can do it this decade?).

Andy Eliot does a great job looking after the keys and bookings though we have now moved online to have a shared in box and confirm bookings via emailed calendar appointments. The email address is: greatfordvillagehall@outlook.com

Bookings can also be paid for via electronic bank transfer which has all but removed handling of cash which is a helpful development for all, removing some administrative burden from the team.

I would also like to put on record our grateful thanks to Bob French who has done a huge amount of handyman type works and stopped a couple of leaks and mini floods. All of this has been done on a voluntary basis. We have also employed a new cleaner, Angus.

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We remain incredibly grateful to the hard work of the trustees and the remaining committee members and in particular Heather Hopper and Nigel Ashby. On a more worrying front the existing committee are swamped with work, family and other commitments meaning we are only really able to struggle to do the bare minimum administrative tasks for the hall and find it difficult to dedicate the time to additional activities. This is a shame and as with so many village activities it is disappointing that so much burden falls on such a small number of people who are prepared to roll sleeves up and do the work. However it is rewarding to see the hall being used so frequently now and we do appreciate its value and importance as a village amenity.

The committee has also seen the resignation of three members recently (2 moved out of the village) so we are down to a very small core and desperately need some new membership from people committed to the village and with some time available. We would therefore be incredibly interested in any support and interest from any resident of the village in becoming a committee member. You will receive a lot of support from existing members. If you are interested please get in contact with me via the email above or on 07701 370583.

The Chairman thanked Richard McDermott for his comprehensive Village Hall Report, and extended the parishes grateful thanks for the VH Committees work in all aspects

9. Public Forum There were no other responses

10. Close of Meeting

The Chairman thanked all those present for their participation closing the meeting at 7.30 pm

Chairman : Nigel Ashby

Clerk : Lois Webb