

GREATFORD ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 25th May 2021, at the Village Hall

20/21 - 61 Present

Cllr David Anderson, Cllr Phil Britton, Cllr Gemma Taylor, Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Cllr Jason Halsey; District Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, District & County Cllr Kelham Cooke; Margaret Anderson, Nigel & Elizabeth Ashby, Ibis Channell, Bridget Everitt, Bob French, Alison Horton, Mike Stonestreet, Ann Sumner and Lois Webb.

20/21 - 62 Opening of meeting

Phil welcomed everyone to the meeting, the first face-to-face meeting in over a year.

20/21 - 63 Apologies

Richard McDermott, Elaine Hawkins, Popsy & Malcolm Wells, Dani Wheeler, Chris Granville-White

20/21 - 64 Election of Chair

Philip Britton was proposed as Chair by Gemma Taylor and seconded by Jason Halsey.

20/21 - 65 Election of Vice Chair

Gemma Taylor was proposed as Vice Chair by Phil Britton and seconded by Natalie Pretsell.

20/21 - 66 Election of Responsible Financial Officer

David Anderson was proposed as Chair by Phil Britton and seconded by Jason Halsey.

20/21 - 67 Declaration of pecuniary interest

The Parish Councillors are now : Philip Beritton, Gemma Taylor, David Anderson (RFO), Natalie Pretsell and Jason Halsey. All the Councillors signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms and Pecuniary Interest forms and handed them to the Clerk, to be sent to SKDC.

20/21 - 68 Approval of Minutes from APCM 26.5.2020

Approval was proposed by Helen Britton (Clerk) and seconded by Gemma Taylor.

20/21 - 69 Approval of Minutes GPC Meeting 30.3.2021

Approval was proposed by David Anderson and seconded by Phil Britton.

20/21 - 70 Matters arising from last meeting

None.

20/21 - 71 Finances

Responsible Financial Officer David Anderson presented the Parish Council Accounts for 2020/21 as set out in Section 1 of the Annual Audit Returns for the year ended 31st March 2021.

20/21 - 72 Finances

Responsible Financial Officer David Anderson presented the Parish Council Accounts for 2020/21 as set out in Section 2 of the Annual Audit Returns for the year ended 31st March 2021.

20/21 - 73 Finances - mid-year accounts

The current account balance at the start of the year was £4848.

Receipts to date are £5325, comprising £3500 for the precept, £1062 in VAT refunds re expenditure in 2020/21 and £463 as the first half year Community Cleaner grant for the tremendous work done by Bob French.

Payments to date amount to £2081.

The main items were £180 for hedge and grass cutting, £736 for the Playing Field projects including a sports gear storage box and further soil levelling. We also paid £120 for a Zoom subscription (needed for online meetings) and £180 in advance for the annual hall hire. £864 was paid for new table, however the School Fund will refund this along with a generous contribution of £906 towards the Playing Field equipment.

The Clerks fees have been raised to £260 per meeting from May 2021.

The current balance is therefore £8092.

As promised at the last but one meeting given the major increase in the scope and cost of the Playing Field project I revised the budget for next year.

The overall outcome is that I now expect our year end total funds to be £7456 compared with £7247 originally budgeted which puts us in a good position to cover off further major projects.

Phil thanked David for his report and for all that he does as Responsible Financial Officer for Greatford Parish Council.

20/21 - 74 Planning matters

The Planning Committee for the gravel extraction application at King Street is due to take place in July (date TBA). Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew advised that Cllr Robert Reid will take up the case on behalf of Greatford Parish Council.

20/21 - 75 Flood wardens report

Jason Halsey has taken over the role of Deputy Flood Warden from Mike Stonestreet. Mike will continue doing work to monitor the condition of the river.

Jason Halsey reported that, following flooding events of Winter '20/21, the Parish Council is working with the flood authorities on mitigation work. This has been identified as reinstating 200m of riverbank between the Shillingthorpe Gauge and The Steadings. Flood Wardens, Chris Granville-White and Jason Halsey, and Cllr Kelham Cooke, are due to meet personnel from the flood authorities on site on 7th July.

20/21- 76 Suggestion of a parish emergency plan

It was agreed not to pursue drawing up an Emergency Plan. Mike Stonestreet is liaising with Graham Hempell and Jewsons about delivery of 1 tonne sand and sandbags for parishioners to use in the event of flooding.

20/21 - 77 Playing field project update

Cllr David Anderson organised that the play equipment be inspected in May by Wicksteed and it was passed as safe. The Wicksteed inspection cost was £106 incl VAT versus the Kompan quote of £432. Some recommendations were made to reduce the risk from moderate to low of some items: swing timbers, swing seat bolts. It was agreed that the swing tyres will remain. Repairs will be actioned and have been accounted for in next year's budget.

Lois Webb thanked all the councillors and volunteers who have worked on the project.

20/21 - 78 AOB

A parishioner has raised that the condition of the road from Main Street to the church is in need of repair and is willing to work with LCC highways. In addition, it was suggested that the 30mph sign be moved further east out of the village. People concurred, pointing out that there is a lot of foot traffic along the stretch of road between the current sign location and the junction of Main Street and Barholm Road. The Clerk will contact LCC highways on these two matters. Greatford is automatically entered into the Best Kept Village competition and judging takes place in July. Greatford was awarded 2nd place last year but there were "lost marks for roadside verges being overgrown, some weed growth around street furniture, and a comment that the pub area was well maintained but looked uninviting." It was suggested that deliberately leaving verges and areas to grow long for the benefit of wildlife be signed.

The Clerk proposed altering signatories of the parish bank account to reflect the current parish councillors. Signatories will be David Anderson, Jason Halsey, Philip Britton and Gemma Taylor.

Parishioners have arranged a Party in the Park for everyone on Sunday 27th June. Teas and coffees will be served in the village hall. Donations of cakes are requested with proceeds going to a local charity.

The meeting closed at 8:45pm

Next meeting: 6th July '21 in the Village Hall at 7:30pm