

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOREFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD AT THE COMMUNITY HALL ON TUESDAY 7TH JANUARY 2014

Present: Councillors Humphrey, Holt, Mrs Humphrey, Mrs Hunns, Mrs Hall, Walpole and Fraser
Councillor Alan Lay and 1 member of the public

Apologies: PCSO Russ

1/14 **Public Participation**

The matter of the public footpath off High Road was raised. Rights of Way officer has been out to look but could not find a problem. Clerk will report the matter again.

2/14 Minutes of previous meeting held on 10th December 2013 were confirmed and signed

3/14 Additional item for consideration – None

4/14 Councillors Humphrey, Holt, Mrs Humphrey and Mrs Hunns declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item concerning the Playing Field as all are members of the Playing Field Committee. These Councillors have all been granted dispensation and will be able to speak and vote on any items concerning the playing field

5/14 **POLICE LIAISON**

There was no police presence at the meeting but the following information has been received by the Clerk.

Crimes since last report:

No reported crimes

Incidents:

Goredyke Bank – poaching - 2 males with 2 dogs hare coursing

Currently training two community speedwatch teams and have three already running. Anyone in Gorefield interested should contact PCSO Russ. Ideally a speedwatch team should consist of 3 people.

There have been a number of oil thefts across Fenland

E-mail received from Cambs Police & Crime Commissioner. He is proposing a 7p per week increase on the council tax to protect the frontline services.

6/14 **MATTERS ARISING ON THE AGENDA**

(1) **Highway Matters**

Chairman met with Neil Band and chairmen from neighbouring parishes to discuss the junction at Bellamy's Bridge. Neil Band has promised to get the road markings re-done. Since this meeting another accident has occurred and the bridge has been damaged. Neil Band to be informed of this.

Local Highway Improvement Panel meeting to be held at Hereward Hall on 27th January from 2.30 pm. Applicants will be allowed 3 minutes to highlight to the panel the benefits of their application. Chairman will try to attend.

(2) **Bowls Club Lease**

Meeting still to be arranged with chairmen and vice chairmen of both Parish Council and Bowls Club to agree a lease.

(3) **Play Equipment**

Safer surfacing has been completed and the invoice for £12,583.54 + VAT has been received from Fenland Leisure Products. This is to be sent on to SITA along with photographs and a completed project report. Invoice to be paid on receipt of the grant from SITA.

There are a few outstanding repairs needed on the play equipment. Chairman has received a price from FLP to carry these out but they require £120 for labour to fit £55 worth of parts. Has also asked the company who carry out the inspections at the moment how much they would charge. FLP have also quoted to take over the monthly inspection at £45 + VAT per visit. This to be compared with the present arrangement and discussed further at the next meeting.

7/14 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Cambs Community Services

A copy of their newsletter circulated to all the Councillors

Twinning visit to Fenland – 2014

The annual twinning tea party will be held on Wednesday 22nd January at 5.30 pm in the Council Chamber

8/14 **PLANNING MATTERS**

There were no planning applications to be discussed

9/14 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Concurrent Functions Grant

Letter received from Fenland District Council explaining how this grant will be phased out over the next two years. In 2014/15 two-thirds of the grant will be paid and in 2015/16 one third and 2016/17 no grant will be paid. Present grant is £2,730, which pays for playing field grass cutting and churchyard maintenance.

Parish Street Lighting

All Parish Councils have responsibility for a number of streetlights, which are managed on their behalf by Fenland District Council. Balfour Beatty who carry out all maintenance on the lights has carried out a structural survey of all the lights and the details of this will be passed on to Parish Councils. If any of the lights in the Parish require attention then it will be the responsibility of the Parish to have repairs undertaken or in certain circumstances replacements made. Information about the lights should be available shortly.

Parish Precepts 2014/15

Council tax support grant will be:	£1,215.00	
Concurrent Functions Grant 14/15	£1,820.00	
Net taxbase		362

Councillors considered all expenditure made to date compared with that agreed in last years Precept and agreed the figures as set out in the attached document. It was agreed that extra provision should be made for village maintenance to make up the difference with the Concurrent Functions grant.

Councillor Holt proposed and Councillor Fraser seconded the proposal that the 2014/15 Precept be set at £8,785 + Council tax support grant of £1,215 making a total of £10,000. Chairman will put an article in the next addition of the Village Voices explaining how this figure was arrived at.

Accounts Paid:

Leverington Feoffees (purchase of land)	£1,325.00
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Balance of Accounts

Current account	£9,605.97
Business Premium account	£2,157.58
High Interest account	<u>£800.86</u>
	£12,564.41

10/14

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Following the rain there is a lot of water laying around especially on High Road opposite the Post Office. The pavement along St Marks Road which was reported at the last meeting is very uneven. Both matters to be reported to Neil Band.

Councillor Lay reported that the 2 hour parking bays along Lynn Road will come into force in March.

The grass verge along the High Road between Hassockhill Drove junction and 30mph limit sign is very churned up caused when the bus turns around and waits there before returning into the village. Highways to be asked to put in white marker posts.

Flooding is also happening in Back Road and Back Road/Wolf Lane junction. To be reported to Highways.

Brick base on village sign – Peggs have been asked to do this.

Next Meeting – Tuesday 4th February 2014

Signed Date