

## MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOREFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL ON TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022

**Present:** Councillors: G Clifton (Chairman), Mrs L Hodgson, A Holt and P Thatcher

Councillors S King and Mrs S Clark

**Apologies:** Councillors Mrs Hunns and M Humphrey

A minutes silence was held in remembrance of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

### 185/22 **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present

186/22 Minutes of meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

187/22 There were no additional items for consideration

188/22 Councillors Clifton and Holt declared a personal or prejudicial interest in the item concerning the Community Hall as they are all members of the Playing Field Committee.

### 189/22 **MATTERS ARISING ON THE AGENDA**

#### (1) **Highway Matters**

Local Highway Improvement Member Review recommendations will be considered by The County Highways and Transport Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> October. The timescale for 2023/23 applications starts on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and closes 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023. It was agreed that a joint scheme for double yellow lines opposite Oxfield Drive and a reduced speed limit to 50mph for Highside be submitted. Traffic calming for High Road could be considered for next year but a consultation of local residents would need to be carried out. To be put on next month's Agenda for further discussion.

Gote Lane flooding is still ongoing, County Senior Flood Risk office has still to meet with the local highways officer to arrange work to clear the drain pipe.

Oxfield Drive adoption is still on going but the play area remedials are schedule to take place in October. Confirmation is required for when the tree planting will be carried out. Councillor Thatcher reported that the trees have still not been dispatched but should be October/November.

Church Road and Gorefield Road Leverington are to be re-surfaced within the rolling capital programme.

Wolf Lane – highway officer is waiting for a quotation for laying planings in unofficial passing places. Some of these have now been done but there are a few left without planings.

Hassockhill Drove and Cross Drove surfaces – Councillor King has requested that these be inspected by the highway officer to determine the best course of action.

New Highways Maintenance System – A new online fault reporting system is being considered and should be implemented in 2023/24.

Fenland Local Plan – consultations are taking place on the Draft Local Plan. Comments must be made by 19<sup>th</sup> October on [www.fenland.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.fenland.gov.uk/newlocalplan)

(2) **Play Equipment**

All the old seats have been painted bright colours and one has had the new planks installed.

(3) **Resignation of Councillor Ms Reynolds**

Letter of resignation has been received from Ms Reynolds. Clerk to write a letter of thanks to her for her service and dedication to the Parish Council over the years. Clerk to contact Electoral Services about whether a co-option needs to be done or left to the election next year

190/22 **CORRESPONDENCE**

Letter received from Pathfinder Clean Energy introducing Gorefield Solar, a solar farm in the early stages of development that is proposed on land east of Guanockgate Road. This is a pre-application phase and they are keen to meet with local elected representatives to discuss their plans. It has been the policy of Gorefield Parish Council not to comment on projects until a full planning application is submitted. Agreed not to comment at this time. Councillor Mrs Hodgson suggested that if Gorefield is to have a solar farm it would be better to set up one run by the local community and not through a large energy company. This is to be further discussed at the next meeting.

191/22 **PLANNING MATTERS**

**F/YR22/1058** – Erect an agricultural storage building at Willow Farm Honey Hill Road – no objections

**F/YR22/1060/F** – Erect a dwelling (single storey 2 bed) including demolition of existing timber shed at land east of 19 Churchill Road – the Parish Council does not support this application – it is back land development not in keeping with the surrounding area – the entrance is very narrow already serving 3 other dwellings and the entrance to the sewage plant which is serviced by large agricultural vehicles.

**F/YR22/1091/F** – Formation of an access (to serve existing barn) at Barn north of Silver Birches Allens Drove – no objections

Planning applications approved

**F/YR22/0926/VOC** – Removal of condition 1 (agricultural occupancy) relating to planning permission F/0619/75/F (erection of an agricultural house and garage) at The Orchards, Fendyke Lane

192/22 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Review of Council Budget – this is well in line with the Precept except for the play area maintenance.

Bank Reconciliation at 4<sup>th</sup> October 2022 – this was confirmed as a true record

External Auditor Report and Certificate 2021/22 – this has been signed off the only point raised was the advertising of proper provision being made for the exercise of public rights – this has been carried out correctly this year.

Clerk's Salary – a National Salary Award 2021/22 was issued 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022. Clerk's salary should be increased from £11.76 to £11.97 per hour back dated from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Councillors agreed to this. Councillor Mrs Hodgson suggested that the clerk's salary should be reviewed and asked for it to be put on the next Agenda for discussion.

**Accounts to be paid:**

	<b>Cheq No</b>	<b>Nett</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Gross</b>
PKF Littlejohn (Annual Audit)	101088	£200.00	£40.00	£240.00
Cambs CC (2021/22 LHI scheme)	101089	£1,524.03	£0.00	£1,524.03
R Gagen (clerk's salary 6 months)	101090	£1,755.24	£0.00	£1,755.24
HMRC (tax on clerk's salary)	101091	£177.60	£0.00	£177.60
R Gagen (clerk's expenses)	101092	£79.20	£0.00	£79.20

Second instalment (£10,000) of Precept paid into the bank account on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022

**Balance of Accounts**

Current account	£12,298.99
Business Premium account	£21,270.26
High Interest account	<u>£5,808.56</u>
	£39,377.81

193/22 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Chairman and Councillor Thatcher attended the proclamation of HM King Charles III and the Chairman also attended the thanksgiving services for HM Queen Elizabeth II

Streetlight along Gote Lane is not working.

Chairman will have a look at the trees over hanging the path outside the chapel grave yard to see if he is able to cut them back.

Allotments are now ready to be ploughed

Councillor Mrs Clark suggested that Police Inspector Andy Morris be invited to the Annual Assembly.

Dragon patcher has been through High Side but there are areas that have been missed. Councillor King will report this.

**Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022 at 8.10 pm

Signed ..... Date .....