

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOREFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL ON TUESDAY 4TH JULY 2023

Present: Councillors: Mrs L G Hodgson,(Chairman) P Thatcher, M Humphrey and Mrs N Hempsal

Councillors Mrs D Cutler and G Booth

One member of the public

Apologies: Councillor S King

46/23 **Public Participation**

One member of the public attend the meeting to report to the Council the likely demise of Village Voices in October due to the present people who are doing it are retiring and no volunteers have been found to take it over. The Village News letter was started by Wisbech St Mary and later on it included Parson Drove and Gorefield. The Parish Council needs a news letter to communicate with people. This will be put on the next Agenda for further discussion.

47/23 Minutes of meeting held on 13th June 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

48/23 There were no additional items for discussion

49/23 Councillor Humphrey declared a personal or prejudicial interest in any item concerning the Community Hall as he is a member of the Playing Field Committee. Councillor Mrs Hempsal declared a personal or prejudicial interest in the item concerning the allotments as a family member is an allotment holder

50/23 **MATTERS ARISING ON THE AGENDA**

(1) **Highway Matters**

Communication received regarding the 2022/23 LHI application. The current estimate for the projects is £21,700 of which £10,000 will be funded by Cambs CC there the balance of £11,700 will have to be funded by the Parish Council. Councillor Booth said that Parson Drove PC have been approached about this road with a request for a weight limit to be implemented. This seemed a better proposition to a speed limit reduction there it was agreed that this application be withdrawn and a new quotation be requested for only the double yellow lines opposite Oxfield Drive junction

Councillor King, who was unable to attend the meeting, sent an e-mail explaining how these costs are calculated.

A local resident has been in communication with County Highways concerning speeding along the High Rod and they were advised to urge the Parish Council to consider applying for such funding for traffic calming. They are to be advised that it is not possible to apply for another LHI until October and explain how the PC is not able to fund large projects because of financial restraints.

Bellamy Bridge – email received from Wisbech St Mary PC stating that they feel that the Joined LHI Scheme adding some red lines to the junction have not worked especially as they are now coming off the road. The Chairman suggested that the Chairs of all the PC's involved should lobby the Director of Cambs Highways.

(2) **Speed Watch**

The original Community Speed Watch leaflet to include Gorefield with a news flash calling all Gorefield residents to enable the village to join the scheme volunteers from Gorefield are needed. PC approved the use of this leaflet on local notice boards and social media. New A5 leaflets are to be designed to be circulated to all properties in Gorefield. Gorefield to be added to the top also pointing out that only one hour of anyone's time is required. To have 2,500 of these printed will cost £94.91. Councillor Humphrey proposed and Councillor Thatcher seconded the proposal that Gorefield PC fund these leaflets.

(3) **Play Area Inspection**

Inspection report received from Online Playground. They have pointed out quite a few repairs that are required. To be asked for a quote for all these items. They also pointed out that some of the trees are over hanging equipment and need cutting back. D Wheatley to be asked to quote for this.

(4) **Reports from Cambridgeshire and Fenland DC Councillors**

Cambs CC Councillor King was unable to attend this meeting but he emailed his report. Oxfield Drive – the adoption is still ongoing as the Deed of Grant of Easement is still waiting to be sorted. They have finally received a response regarding the Public Open Space but after a year they are now asking for them to remove the parking area from the transfer which is not acceptable to Tillia so it is back with the solicitors.

Fenland Councillor Booth was able to attend this meeting but as he normally works on a Tuesday evening he will not be able to attend many. The Parish Council is welcome to contact him at any time if they require his help with any matter.

(5) **Co-Option of Councillors**

Only one person has shown any interest so far. She is to be invited to attend the next meeting to make a presentation during public participation then asked to leave so a decision can be made. A copy of the Code of Conduct will be sent so she can see what she will have to sign up to.

(6) **Report from land and allotment inspection and review of land and allotment rents**

Councillors Thatcher and Mrs Hempsal toured around first visiting the garden allotments in Churchill Road, these are all very well kept. There are still 3 vacant ones. They then went to Cattle Dyke where the larger areas are and these are also very well managed.

It was agreed that the rents should stay the same for another year as they are in line with other rents in the area.

51/23 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

52/23 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning Application:

F/YR23/0548/O – Residential development of up to 5 dwellings – land west of 176 High Road – this application is nearly the same as the previous one which was refused and the Council will make the same comments as before – it is development in the open countryside, the site has a flood problem and one of the proposed accesses is adjacent to the junction with Hassockhill Drove. Gorefield is a low growth village and there are already a lot of building plots being developed.

53/23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Accounts to be paid:

None

Balance of Accounts

Current account	£16,696.22
Business Premium account	£21,315.10
High Interest account	<u>£5,822.59</u>
	£43,833.91

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Thatcher reported that most of the trees plants at Oxfield Drive have been damaged possibly some by the grass cutters and the rest by vandals. The sign was also damaged. A resident of Oxfield Drive has offered to make a steel frame for this. Councillor Thatcher would like to replace the trees but with much larger ones which will probably have to be funded by the Council.

Mention has been made on Social Media about a designated place to walk dogs in the village. Unfortunately there is no room on the playing field and purchase of further land adjacent to the Playing Field has been unsuccessful. Most residents are able to use the pavements and the local footpaths.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 1st August 2023 at 7 pm at **Gorefield Community Hall**

Signed Date