

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOREFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE COMMUNITY HALL ON TUESDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2023

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

Councillors Mrs D Cutler

One member of the public

Apologies: Councillors S King and G Booth

73/23 Public Participation

None

74/23 Minutes of meeting held on 5th September 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

75/23 One item for discussion at the end of the meeting

76/23 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.

77/23 MATTERS ARISING ON THE AGENDA

(1) Highway Matters

Motion on weeds to the 18th October Full County Council meeting.

Councillor King urges the Parish Council to object to this change in policy and ask for reversal. An e-mail has been received from County Council asking for completion of survey giving views on this new policy. To be sent to Councillors for completion.

Progress on the Local Highway Initiative for yellow line along High Road – waiting for a reply from the interim Project Manager, Design and Delivery Team

Future LHI applications – a paper will now be considered at the next Highway and Transport Committee meeting proposing some changes to the scheme.

20 mph LHI application – Unfortunately Gorefield's application was scored at number 81 out of 88 applications. Unsuccessful applications will be carried over to the next round in 2024. A LHI bin could be made for flashing advisory signs that operate at school arrival and departure times.

High Side weight limit joint LHI – Parson Drove PC have confirmed that they are not prepared to be part of a joint bid.

Fixed Reactive Speed Signs – Existing sign at 1082 has been removed as it is no good for parts. Signs 1293 and 1294 have parts put in one sign but still require another part. They may have a spare part for this and if they get one working it will be go back on pole 1084 at the entry to the village.

Oxfield Drive – Tillia have now enlisted the services of an external consultant to progress the sewer adoption and he has started the Deed of Grant of Easement with Anglian Water and as soon as this is in place an inspection will be booked.

Drainage update Gote Lane – Investigations have been carried out on Cattle Dyke and numerous defects and collapsed pipes have been found. Investigations on High Road are pending and if this is found to be better than Cattle Dyke two new gullies will be installed on Gote Lane and tapped into the system on High Road. It was found that an existing gully on Gote Lane which was connected to a soakaway has been filled with concrete.

(2) **Speed Watch**

A Speed Watch session was recently held at the top of Wolf Lane, this was not really successful as vehicles has to slow down before then to pass parked vehicles. Another spot before the Butchers shop has been found and will be used another time. One all day session will be held in each of the villages during November. Volunteers will take part possibly an hour at a time.

(3) **Play Area Repairs**

Repairs are in hand but have not started yet

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

Councillor Mrs Cutler reported that a full Fenland DC meeting had been held were a motion was agreed to ask the County Council to re-introduce weed spraying along roads and pavements. Fenland DC also voted to reject proposals to introduce anti motorist schemes in the district.

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

As there has been further interest social media to be used to advertise again setting out criteria for eligibility to stand for co-option. It was mentioned that it could be possible to live 3 miles from the Parish and still be eligible.

(6) **Village Voices**

E-mail received from Wisbech St Mary PC suggesting that a working group be set up to investigate options for this going forward. Councillor Thatcher agreed to be the representative for Gorefield PC.

(7) **Social Media**

After a fairly long discussion on this topic it was agreed that Councillors should not comment on items but refer people to the Parish Council. If they comment on any matter concerning the Parish Council they do so as Parish Councillors and not private individuals.

78/23 **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

79/23 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Nothing to be discussed

80/23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Accounts to be paid:

	Cheq No	Nett	VAT	Gross
Tin Fish (web site hosting)	101117	£105.00	£21.00	£126.00
March Stationery (printing speed watch leaflets)				
	101118	£94.91	0.00	£94.91
R Gagen (Clerk's salary 6 months)	101119	£1,893.80	0.00	£1,893.80
HMRC (tax on clerk's salary)	101120	£48.40	0.00	£48.40
R Gagen (clerk's expenses 6 months)	101121	£79.20	0.00	£79.90

Balance of Accounts

Current account	£15,608.85
Business Premium account	£21,416.77
High Interest account	<u>£5,850.36</u>
	£42,875.98

Review of Council spending from April 2023

See attached document – This will go over £20,000 this year as the street light maintenance has risen to £17,155 well above the £7,500 allocated.

Bank Reconciliation

See attached document and bank statement

Changes to Bank Mandate

Documents were given to the Chairman and Councillor Mrs Hempsall for completion.

REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Thatcher mentioned Peter's Cross which was the marker post between the Parishes of Newton in the Isle and Gorefield which used to be situated along Fitton End but now resides in Leverington Church Yard. Councillor Thatcher would like to see a plaque put in the village where this used to be. The Wisbech Society was approached quite awhile ago but were not interested. The Chairman will investigate this,

Councillor Thatcher as allotment warden has noticed that an old shed on the allotments down Cattle Dyke is probably made from asbestos. It was suggested that this is the case with many farm buildings and if left alone are not a problem. It was agreed that this just be noted in the minutes but no action taken at this time.

Councillor Thatcher said he would be getting some more trees from the Woodland Trust for planting at Oxfield Drive. He would like to plant them in his garden for a year to get them to a bigger size before planting. Everyone agreed that this would be a good idea.

Councillor Humphrey has been approached by some contractors in the village who would like to tender for doing the grass cutting. The contractors who we have had this year have not done such a good job as previous years.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 7 pm at Gorefield Church Hall

Signed Date