

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOREFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY 7TH NOVEMBER 2023

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

Councillors Mrs D Cutler and S King

One member of the public

Apologies: Councillor G Booth

82/23 Public Participation

None

83/23 Minutes of meeting held on 3rd October 2023 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

84/23 One item for discussion at the end of the meeting

85/23 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.

86/23 MATTERS ARISING ON THE AGENDA

(1) Highway Matters

Change of local highway officer contact details were sent in e-mail from Councillor King.

Councillor Humphrey reported to Councillor King that for sale notices were situated on highway verge and not on the property in question and were obstructing vision of motorist. Highways officer has contacted the estate agent and they have promised to move the signs.

Footpath weeds – unfortunately at the County Council meeting on 17th October the Conservative motion for weed killing to begin again immediately was defeated. An amended motion was adopted that requires the Transport Committee to assess the impact of the policy.

Oxfield Drive – no further progress regarding the adoption still waiting for Public Open Space transfer and sewer adoption

Gote Lane drainage – no further update

(2) **Report from Bellamy Bridge Meeting**

Chairman and Councillor Thatcher attended the meeting and the following suggestions were made:

Reduced speed limit for all or some of the junction arms

Advisory speed limit signs for all or some of the junction arms

Clearer priority with improved give way or stop signs on some or all of the junction arms

Stop sign just on Seadyke, Murrow

Rumble strips/speed bumps/raised markings on some or all of the junction arms

Road narrowing and chicanes

Improved lighting

Chevron signs on all or some of the junction arms

Group Manager, Design and Delivery for Place and Sustainability at Cambs CC to also provide how the scheme scored under the previous TIP and the changes to scoring under new TIP

Could the Bellamy Bridge Action Group (formed from the 4 Parish Councils) be allowed a one off extra LHI Bid.

(3) **Local Highways Improvement 2022/23 and 2023/24**

Details for the 2022/23 have been received. This is for yellow line marking for the junction of Oxfield Drive with High Road. Everyone agreed that this was acceptable. Councillor King will confirm this with the Highways officer.

Suggestions for a 2023/24 were made. Once more High Side was discussed for a reduced speed limit or weight restriction. High Side has been submitted for a retread scheme. Chairman asked if Councillor King could find out if this was going to happen and which would be the best option to help stop the road being damaged again.

It was also suggested that a flashing speed sign could be purchased as the three of the ones in the village are not working and cannot be repaired.

(4) **Speed Watch**

Councillor Mrs Cutler reported that results of speed checks made in Guyhirn show that the 2 prime times are 8 to 9 am and 3 to 4 pm. These sessions show a 7 % vehicles speeding whilst sessions other times show 16-19% vehicles speeding.

An all day event will be held in Gorefield on 22nd November

(5) **Play Area Repairs**

Repairs have now been carried out

(6) **Quote for Village grass cutting**

Quote received from a local contractor which at present is considerably higher than the contract currently being used. Will consider this again when next years quote comes in.

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

Nothing further to report

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

A lady who attended this meeting is very interested in joining the Parish Council. She was given all the information to take away and complete. Everyone welcomed Emma Bramley as a new member of the Council.

A previous candidate has also asked to be reconsidered. It was unanimously agreed that at this time nothing had changed so her offer to be declined.

(9) **Village Voices**

Councillor Thatcher has attended a meeting to discuss the re-instating of Village Voices. It was agreed that it must be led by the 3 Parish Councils. Advertising would carry on the same and any shortfall would have to be financed jointly by the Parish Councils. Finding someone to edit the magazine is still on going.

87/23 **CORRESPONDENCE**

National Lottery awards – Funding is available for small scale local projects up to £20k. Projects must do at least one of the following:

Bring people together to build strong relationships in and across the communities

Improve the places and spaces that matter to communities

Help more people to reach their potential

Support people, communities and organisations facing more demands and challenges because of the cost of living crisis

88/23 **PLANNING MATTERS**

Planning application received:

F/YR23/0876/F – erect a first floor rear extension at Little Acre Farm
Fendyke Lane - no objections

Planning Application approved:

F/YR23/0618/F – Erect a 2 storey 1 bed annexe and change of use of land to domestic curtilage, including removal of an existing portacabin and removal of an existing access – land south of Swann Lodge Hassockhill Drove

89/23 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

Accounts to be paid:

	Cheq No	Nett	VAT	Gross
Fenland Leisure (repairs to play equipment)				
	101122	£1,061.74	£212.35	£1,274.09
PKF (External audit)	101123	£315.00	£63.00	£378.00
Fenland DC (allotment rent)	101124	£50.00	0.00	£50.00
Royal British Legion (wreaths)	101125	£50.00	0.00	£50.00

Balance of Accounts

Current account	£13,928.76
Business Premium account	£21,416.77
High Interest account	<u>£5,850.36</u>
	£41,195.89

Changes to Bank Mandate

Verification is required by Chairman and Councillor Mrs Hempsall

External Auditor's Report and Certificate 2022/23

One point noted was that an adequate explanation of the variance between the prior and current year value in Box 6 of section 2. Clerk had tried very hard to answer this was unsuccessful as the only difference was a large amount of VAT which was refunded following the purchase of the new play equipment but this was not acceptable.

90/23 **Item from No 4 is Private and Confidential and will be discussed at the end of the meeting**

91/23 **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

30moh sign missing from entrance to village to be reported.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 5th December 2023 at 7 pm at Gorefield Church Hall

Signed Date