



## **GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the Parish Council**

### **Minutes**

**Held in the Village Hall  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 7.30PM**

**Parish Councillors present:** Cllr P. Cracknell (PC), Cllr R. Fogerty (RF) (Chair), Cllr S. Salt (SS), Cllr I. Ansell (IA) and Cllr A. Wade (AW) (Vice Chair). Cllr Barrows joined after item 5.

**Also present:** Tina Newby and Tina Bunn

#### **1. Welcome**

#### **2. Chairman's Welcome**

- a. The Chair advised that this was Tina Newby's last meeting as Parish Clerk, he thanked her for all her hard work and help and advice to the Parish Council and hoped that she would continue to keep in touch. She was given a bouquet as an expression of thanks.

The Chair also welcomed Tina Bunn who they hoped to appoint as the new Parish Clerk.

- b. To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received for Cllr Ashfield.

- c. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations: No declarations were declared.

- d. To record the number of members of the public present. 7 members of the public were present and two District Council members Cllr Brown (left at 21.05 after item 9d) and Cllr Bernard.

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> September were approved as being an accurate record. (Prop: AW; Sec: PC) **Agreed**. Cllr Ansell abstained as he was not at the last meeting.

### 4. Matters arising from last meeting and outstanding actions, discuss and agree:

- a. Environment Agency issues: Cllr Cracknell has been advised that the Environment Agency wish to commence work on the river bank to removing spoil from Dunborough to the Three Rivers. This should commence in 2025 and is hoped to help with flooding issues.

He also advised that all the relevant information in respect of contact details for the Environment Agency in respect of flood issues have been updated on the notice board.

In respect of Geldeston Dyke the Environment Agency have advised that any issues should be referred to Highways or the landowner.

- b. Update on the Rangers visit: Correspondence has been received from the Ranger in respect of the requested works submitted. The following works have been programmed but dates are not yet known:

- Siding out the carriageway and footway on Yarmouth Rd between Heath Rd and the Church
- Cutting back overgrowth from around Highways signage on Yarmouth Rd to ensure it is visible to Highway users
- Repairs to passing places and potholes on Stockton Rd
- Pothole repairs on Heath Rd
- Sweeping silt and stone from the carriageway at the junction of Heath Rd and The Street.

Other defects had also been reported but the Ranger did not feel that these required any action at this time. **Action** Clerk to cross reference reported defects to note those outstanding.

- c. Update on the footpaths: The path between Gillingham and Yarmouth Road is now passable. If there are any other issues the Chair asked that these be referred to him.

## 5. To discuss the co-option for the vacancy of Cllr Morton.

Simon Barrows advised the Parish Council that he was interested in the vacancy. He introduced himself and explained his reasons for his interest and how he felt he could provide a service.

**RESOLVED:** to co-opt Simon Barrows as a Parish Councillor (Prop AW, Sec IA) all agreed.

The Declaration of Interest was signed at the meeting.

Cllr Barrows then joined the meeting.

## 6. Chairperson's report

Nothing to report.

## 7. New issues

Suspend Standing Orders for Reports from the County Councillors and District Councillors.

### a. District Councillor Updates

Cllr Brown advised that South Norfolk District Council have put in place a new enforcement oversight board made up of Planning Committee members, to support this a planning officer has been appointed and specific enforcement KPI's will be measured.

He also reported that the Council is endeavouring to provide additional temporary accommodation, there have been three funding bids to support purchasing properties to fulfil this need, some have already been purchased and further are pending.

The Greater Norwich Local Plan has been agreed however it is expected that the new government will have expectation in respect of significant increases in housing numbers, details are awaited.

Changes to the recycling processes are pending for 2026.

The usual budget setting consultation process has commenced.

Cllr Bernard updated on the process in place in relation to the Solar Farm application (East Pye), the application is sent directly to the Minister and is not part of the usual planning process.

### b. **Parish 10** - The meeting will be adjourned for public participation, 3 minutes per member for items to be discussed on the agenda only.

- The Old Rectory Driveway

The PC were asked their opinion about the driveway being classified as a permissive footpath, as proposed by the landowner. The Chair advised that the landowner was within his rights to make such an application and it was not a Public Right of Way, as the definitive map of such rights does not include it. There is a right of way to the church, along the driveway, which is included in the covenants of the sale of the Rectory, by the Church. It was raised again, that the PC had given a small amount of funding for the resurfacing of the driveway, some years ago, which was acknowledged but that this was at the request of the PCC and although the payment was made directly to the landowner, it should have been made to the PCC, who would have passed it on. This cannot be amended.

- The car which appears abandoned at Stone Pit – see minute item 9f.

Resume Standing Orders.

## 8. Finance

### Geldeston Parish Council

#### Statement of Account @ 13/11/24

##### b/f from 31/03/2024

GPC Community Account	£8,089.04	*
Village Park	£9,325.67	**
	<u>£17,414.71</u>	

Running total £17,414.71

#### Statement of Account 13th November 2024

##### Bank Balance @ 13/11/24

Barclays	Community Acc	£1,418.22	*
Barclays	Reserves GVP	£9,395.56	**
Unity		£14,913.09	*
Unity	NHP	£9,850.00	
		<b>£35,576.87</b>	

Payments between meetings:	REF	Payment
Wages (Sept) + exp	TN	362.07
Bank charges	DD	18
Debit Interest	DD	0.11
Laptop and accessories	BACS	225.45
Wages (Oct) + Exp	TN	368.44
Bank charges	DD	5.4
Debit Interest	DD	0.11
Microsoft licence	TN	59.99
		<b>1039.57</b>

<b>Payments to be approved</b>	<b>REF</b>	<b>Payment</b>
Final Salary TN		
First Salary TB		

#### **RESERVES**

CIL	281.17
NHP	9850
Geldeston Village Park	£9,395.56
expenditure to year end	£7,000.00
general reserves	£9,050.14
	<b>£35,576.87</b>

- a. To approve the back dated salary for the Clerk as the pay review has been approved.

The back dated salary amount is £97.65.

**Agreed** (Prop PC, Sec SS).

- b. To approve invoices for payment  
There were no invoices for payment.
- c. To report on bank accounts and balances.  
See statement of accounts.
- d. To report on the finances and reserves.  
See statement of accounts.
- e. To discuss the draft budget for 25/26

The draft budget was reviewed and it was noted that the current precept is not sufficient to cover the budget requirements even if there was a 10% increase. This is before any additional costs anticipated such as tree works have been included. There is an options to balance the budget from reserves but this will not resolve the shortfall in the long term. Councillors expressed their concerns on having to increase the precept by as much as 10% bearing in mind cost of living issues currently being experienced.

#### **9. To discuss and agree village matters:**

- a. To receive an update on tree issues in the village.

Cllr Cracknell updated on the tests undertaken in respect of the Scots Pine and the remedial work required.

The invoice for the tree survey is £1152.00 which was noted and Agreed for payment.

A quotation has been received from them to undertake the remedial work which would include submitting any planning requirements and removal of the wood.

**Action:** details of the quotation to be circulated for review and a decision then to be taken in respect of further quotations to be requested. All to feedback to Cllr Cracknell.

- b. To discuss and agree the way forward for village entrance signs

Three locations for village gateway signs have been reviewed by Highways and he had reported that there is no suitable location for signs to be anywhere on both sides of the road. There is an option for one to be placed at The Street with a potential cost of £6230.

Following the earlier discussion in respect of the budget and precept (for both installation and future upkeep) and that there was limited evidence that these signs impact vehicular traffic the Chair asked the Parish Council to consider whether they would wish to consider having Gateway signs installed.

**RESOLVED:** Against.

- c. To discuss the suggestion for a bus box at the Village Hall

The proposal is to have a bus box, at the bus stop at the Village Hall (similar to the bus box in Gillingham). The chair noted that the last communication he has seen was from Robert Pratt of NCC. He indicated that it is possible to install a bus box, but this would require parking restrictions, tactile slabs and a raised kerb OR entail moving the bus stop to the west, presumably with the same requirements for parking etc, he assumed that this would be opposite the Wherry. It should be noted that this is a Conservation Area, but it is not known if that has a bearing on any planning application.

If any work were to be done on a bus stop, opposite the Village Hall, the current bus stop at the bus shelter would have to be moved, as the current arrangements are not fit for purpose if there are to be any changes. It is difficult to know where that bus stop could be moved to.

This was discussed and it was decided to put it to a resolution. The resolution being, would the Parish Council like to install a bus box and/or alter the bus stop arrangements on the north side of The Street, at the Village Hall.

Prop SS, Sec SB

**RESOLVED:** Unanimously Against

- d. To discuss the potential transfer of responsibility of the SAM2 to the residents of the village

We have received a request that the SAM2 be passed on to the Speedwatch team. Our insurers have indicated that to be covered on our insurance, the machine needs to be under the control and supervision of people who have been trained. This might involve a cost. One option would be to give the machine to the Speedwatch group, subject to finding out if there any grant implications. Ian advised that the funding had been in conjunction with Ellingham and there had been a memorandum of understanding.

This was discussed and Cllr Ansell stated that he was happy to continue to operate the SAM2.

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Ansell to continue as before and this would not be transferred.

It was noted that there is data available from the SAM2 which will be made available to the Parish Council as it shows items such as traffic density and patterns.

- e. To discuss grass cutting and hedges.

The quotation from ESS had been agreed and that the meeting ratified that decision.

- f. Car at Stone Pit.

There is a new issue and there appears to be an abandoned car on The Stone Pit which requires further investigations.

- g. To receive an update on the Old Rectory Driveway

See item 7b Parish 10.

## **10. Parish Council items, to discuss and agree,**

- a. To discuss Risk Management and agree any action.

Cllr Wade offered to undertake the risk management role on behalf of the Parish Council.

**Agreed**

## **11. Updates from village committees & groups**

- a. Village Hall Management Trustees. Update was noted.

## **12. Planning applications and other planning matters**

- a. South Norfolk District Council Planning applications.  
To note the planning application received [2022/1993 Land South of The Street, Gillingham](#)

A significant number of objections have been received in respect of this applications.

- b. Village Clusters – it is likely that these will be increased by 30%, details awaited.
- c. To discuss any SNC additional planning applications, received before the meeting. - None
- d. Broads Authority Planning Applications. - None
- e. To discuss any additional planning applications for BA, received before the meeting. None
- f. To receive an update on the Neighbourhood Plan. No update
- g. To receive updates on any enforcement issues. None

### **13. Councillor's issues for information.**

A request has been received from a resident suggesting that a pavement be installed from the Clumps to be boundaries at Gilingam. The Chair has had a discussion with a landowner in respect of this but reported that implementation is unlikely due to several factors including hedgerows and ditches making it very difficult, let alone any significant cost implications. This is to be carried forward to the next meeting for further investigation.

### **14. Correspondence for information.**

Date of next parish meeting: 8 January 2025, 7.30pm

Meeting closed at 21.45

### **15. Admission to meetings:**

**ADMISSION TO MEETINGS - PURSUANT TO SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 IT IS PROPOSED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED, THE PUBLIC AND PRESS LEAVE THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE REMAINING MATTERS.**

### **16. To discuss the leaving and appointment of the Clerks.**

**Agreed to the appointment of Tina Bunn and that there should be a two week handover period with Tina Newby.**