

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 6th September 2022

- Present** Cllrs L Stephenson (Chair), L Llewellyn, N Wickens, R Weston, T Robinson, A Curtis, J Thorne, J Hill & I McCord & resident Ms Small.
- 4935 1. Apologies for Absence:** None.
- 4936 2. COUNCIL MATTERS**
- a) Declaration of Interest:** Cllr Weston declared an interest in Agenda item 7.3a) & Cllr Curtis declared an interest in Agenda items 8.1 f).
- 4937 3. Invitation to Northants CALC Annual Conference 1st October 2022.** Interested Cllrs to contact the Clerk.
- 3.1 Previous Meeting:**
Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 2.8.22 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 4938 4. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Opened 7.19pm. Notes attached. Closed 7.31pm.
- 4939 5. Community Items:** Residents were asked to ensure that their hedges did not encroach on the pavements around the village, as some, whilst being tidy, did protrude, making it difficult to walk past. Additionally, residents with gravel drives were also requested to ensure the gravel was regularly swept back away from the edges of roads and pavements.
- 4940 6. New Projects:** Cllr Wickens had received proposals from one play area company and would give a presentation when he had received others.
- 4941 7. PLANNING MATTERS**
- 7.1 Applications received:**
- a)** WNS/2022/1662/FUL – 5 Vicarage Road. Demolish existing PVCU conservatory & construct 2 storey side extension with a single storey rear projection. Councillors had no objections to this application but requested that any concerns expressed by neighbours be taken into account when the application is determined.
- 7.2 Applications approved:**
- a)** WNS/2022/0773/FUL – 25 Moorend Road. Single part/two storey rear extension. 4 conditions.
b) WNS/2022/1238/FUL – 6 Franklin Court. Single storey rear extension. 4 conditions.
b) WNS/2022/1319/FUL – 12 Hesketh Road. Single storey extension to rear of property comprising of kitchen & breakfast room. 2 conditions.
- 7.3 Other Planning:**
- a)** Potterspury Road Solar Farm – No application had been received but it was understood that a site visit would be arranged shortly.
b) Land East of Northampton Road – Appeal APP/Z2830/W/20/3260590. Councillors expressed disappointment at the result of the appeal, which had been granted. Cllr McCord would look into the apparent lack of legal representation from WNC at the enquiry. Cllr Hill was concerned that this approval would set a precedent and asked whether the site would be policed.
- 4942 8. Finance Matters**
- 8.1 ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**
- a)** Clerk's salary August 22= £351.76 (001529).
b) PAYE Tax = £87.80 (paid by direct debit)
c) BT Broadband = £34.40 (paid by direct debit)
d) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – August 22 = £50.00 (001530).
e) DNH Contracts – dog bins August 22 - £64.56 + £12.91 VAT = £77.47 (001531)
f) Yardley Gobion Village Hall – room hire 2022 - £20.00 (001532)
g) LC Hedging & Grass Maintenance Ltd – mowing contract – £1500.00 + £300.00 = £1,800.00 (001533)
h) Connolly Accountants & Business Advisors Ltd – Payroll processing - £12.75 + £2.55 VAT = £15.30 (paid by direct debit).
i) South Northants Community Responders – new response kit = £2,000.00 (001534)
j) PKF Littlejohn LLP – Limited assurance review of AGAR for y/e 31/3/22 - £200.00 + £40.00 VAT = £240.00 (001535)
k) Chestnut Club – Yardley Gobion – To reimbursement for new commemorative 60th anniversary photograph of members = £195.99 (001536)
Proposed by Cllr McCord and seconded by Cllr Weston. (Cllr Curtis took no part in the authorization of payments.)
- 8.2 PAYMENTS RECEIVED:**
- a)** Field rent = £120.00
- 8.3 OTHER**
- a)** Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £35,407.05 (11.8.22) SW - £2,089.08 (1.7.22).
b) Goat Field lease – Awaiting completion. Cllr Llewellyn proposed the Chair (Cllr Stephenson) be delegated to sign the lease on behalf of the PC, and that the fee of £1,350.00 + VAT be approved. Seconded by Cllr Thorne. All in favour.
c) New website update – The new website was up and running and fully compliant. There were a couple of issues but it was looking good. Out of date information would be cleared and the old site would be closed next year.
d) Annual Governance & Accountability Return y/e 31/3/22. The audited AGAR was presented to the Council and Cllr Stephenson proposed that it be approved and accepted and thanked the Clerk for her attention to detail and diligent financial housekeeping throughout the year. Seconded by Cllr McCord. All in favour. No matters requiring the issue of a separate additional issues arising

report had come to the attention of the external auditors and the certified AGAR and Notice of Conclusion of Audit would be displayed as required on the noticeboard by the old Post Office and on the website. A matter not affecting the opinion of the Auditor was drawn to the attention of the Council concerning the report of the Internal Auditor who noted weaknesses in relation to Internal Control Objective D: the council is carrying more than 12 months of net revenue expenditure, and advising that the council must ensure that this area is addressed in a timely manner.

- e) Option to opt out of the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments central external auditor appointment arrangements. As the process to procure external audit costs thousands of pounds, and Northants CALC recommends staying opted in to the arrangement, Cllr Stephenson proposed that YGPC remains opted in to the central procurement arrangement. Seconded by Cllr Llewellyn. All in favour.
- f) Revised Clerk's Job Evaluation. The Clerk left the meeting while Cllrs discussed the revised Job Evaluation sheet issued by NALC. The Chair advised that there has been a long ongoing review and re-evaluation of the role of Clerk to Parish Councils undertaken by NALC and the Clerk's Association on a national level. We have now been advised of the outcome. The Chair and Clerk have worked through the job evaluation list and identified those responsibilities pertaining to her role undertaken on behalf of YGPC which has produced a "Spinal Point" of 26. Points were awarded for job functions, job profile items and length of experience to give a total, which then gave an hourly rate of £16.10 for the role of Clerk and RFO. It was noted that this is not a salary increase but a job re-evaluation. The new monthly rate of pay will be £628.05 - an increase from £439.56. The Chair proposed and Cllr Curtis seconded that the new rate of pay is implemented with immediate effect. Cllr Wickens proposed and Cllr Weston seconded that the increase should be backdated to April 2022. All in favour.
- g) Bank reconciliation 1/4/22 – 30/6/22. This had been checked by Cllr Weston. Noted and approved.

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9. Councillor Reports:

- a) Street Lighting – A query had been raised concerning replacement lamps for the lighting columns in Eastfield Crescent & Malborough Way. The Clerk had been advised in 2021 that the lamps had been ordered, and had had no success in finding out why they had not been fitted. Cllr Weston would take the matter forward.
- b) Village Trees – Cllr Wickens proposed that reserves be earmarked to plant 7 Crataegus trees - Paul's Scarlet - at the entrance to the village in the sum of £977.90 + VAT. Seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All in favour.
- c) Allotments – The roadside hedge required work and the Clerk had obtained a quote in the sum of £300.00 + VAT from the village mowing contractor. This was approved. An email had been received asking for a further water tank at the allotments, an estimate of the cost of materials had been provided and the Clerk was asked to request if they had any suggestions as to who could carry out the work.
- d) Village Hall – Cllr Curtis reported that the structural survey recently carried out had found there was significant damage to the Hall. The Committee were trying to find a company to carry out the work, which would prove quite costly.
- e) Recreation Centre – Cllr Weston advised that there had been some problems with vandalism, and glass on the playing field. The Café had closed quite suddenly.
- f) Playing fields – Cllr Curtis had stressed the importance of compliance with the findings of the ROSPA reports and the Clerk had contacted 7 play companies for quotes for dealing with issues raised by the inspection. 4 had declined to quote, 1 felt the report was fine and no work was required, 1 was willing to come out for £75.00 + VAT (which would be deducted from the cost of any work carried out over £500.00), and Reids Playground Maintenance Ltd of Kettering quoted £750.00 + VAT. After discussion it was agreed that Reids be asked to requote for replacing the bearings in the Cone Climber, and repair the gate, the 2-seat rocker and the 2 bay 2 cradle seat swing. Cllr Weston had repaired the cradle seat and Reids would be asked to check this repair. Mrs Schumacher's report indicated that the nice weather and school holidays had generated a lot of rubbish – some of which was clearly from the Recreation Centre. The goal posts at the Coffee Pot field were in a dangerous condition as they moved when touched. Cllr Weston would ask Mr Geoff Dickens for his assistance in making them safe.
- g) Highways – Cllr McCord mentioned a smell of gas along the Potterspurpy Road and asked that this be reported. Cllr Curtis noted that the Hesketh Road sign at the junction with Hortonsfield Road was difficult to see. The Clerk had already reported the broken Hortonsfield Road sign, and would also report the Hesketh Road one. Cllr McCord suggested a litter pick along Moorend Road and the Potterspurpy Road and would look at suitable dates. PL51 outside Moorgate Farm was almost obscured by foliage, which required cutting back.
- h) Mowing – Cllr Thorne advised that the last cuts were due in October, and he had not received any comments.

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10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) **4th October 2022 7.15pm in the Village Hall**

Meeting closed 9.12pm.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

As Ward Councillor, Cllr McCord mentioned some of the conditions applicable to the Traveller's site. He also advised that the planning application for Furtho Pit had been submitted to WNC. Between 300-500 houses were also planned in Deanshanger and all proposed development would have a cumulative effect on the A5 roundabout.

