

MINUTES OF YARDLEY GOBION PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD 5th April 2022

- Present** Cllrs L Llewellyn, N Wickens, J Thorne, J Hill, I McCord & R Weston & residents Mr & Mrs Tunstall, S Hill & Mr & Mrs Chaplin.
- As Vice Chairman Cllr Wickens took the Chair for the meeting in the absence of the Chair.**
- 4885 1. **Apologies for Absence:** A Curtis & L Stephenson.
- 4886 2. **COUNCIL MATTERS**
- a) **Declaration of Interest:** None.
- 4887 3. **Previous Meeting:**
- 3.1 Agreement as a true record: The Minutes of Meeting held 1.3.22 were approved by all Cllrs, and agreed/signed as a correct record.
- 4888 4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION:** Opened 7.17pm. Notes attached. Closed 7.29pm.
- 4889 5. **Community Items:**
- a) Platinum Jubilee Celebrations – no further information. Nothing has been asked of the PC – Cllrs would contribute & assist if requested.
- b) Northants CALC Asset Mapping Project (AMP) update – Cllr Wickens asked that thanks be recorded to Cllr Curtis and the Clerk who had completed Phase 1 of the project.
- c) ‘Village Handyperson’ scheme – It was agreed that jobs would be identified by the PC and the handyperson would be asked to carry out the work at an hourly rate of £9.50. Proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Thorne.
- d) Gigaclear – It was agreed that a public meeting at the end of the project would be a good idea as then residents could find out about connections etc. Cllr McCord advised that unfortunately Gigaclear didn’t need to seek planning permission as it had either obtained wayleaves or it is permitted development to carry out work and erect such cabinets, even in conservation areas.
- e) Land off Woodville Crescent – following the use of the land off Woodville Crescent twice as a compound by contractors without permission, it had been decided that the area be protected by bollards at the Woodville Crescent entrance and signs demonstrating that it is private land. Only one quotation had been received and the Clerk was working to obtain others. Cllr Wickens proposed that Mr Tunstall be provided with a key for the locking bollard. All in favour. Mr & Mrs Tunstall leave 7.59pm.
- f) Dates of future meetings – after discussion the following schedule was agreed –
3rd May 2022 - Annual Village Assembly Followed by Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, then Parish Council meeting
7th June – Parish Council meeting
5th July – Parish Council meeting.
- g) 89 bus service. 2 meetings were planned for 11th & 13th May between affected Councils and WNC & the Britannia Bus proprietor. Cllr Weston agreed to attend the meetings on behalf of the PC. Britannia Bus had advised a revised timetable from 11th April, which would be advertised throughout the village.
- 4890 6. **PLANNING MATTERS** – Cllr McCord took no part in discussions or decisions.
- 6.1 Applications received:
- a) WNS/2022/0388/FUL – 15 High Street. One detached dwelling. After discussion Cllrs agreed to respond as follows "Yardley Gobion Parish Council supports the comments made by neighbours and would respectfully ask that these be taken into account when the application is determined. Councillors were surprised the previous application - WNS/2021/1010/FUL - was approved, and would object to this application similarly as follows: the proposal is for a Back Land/Tandem development, both of which are contrary to WNC development policy. A further dwelling would represent a significant overdevelopment of the site. There would be additional vehicular access and egress movements via a narrow driveway directly onto the High Street, with its numerous parked cars at most times. This proposed house would conflict with the Listed Building and setting and would again be contrary to settled heritage asset claims and conservation policy."
- b) WNS/2022/0506/FUL & WND/2022/0507/LBC – 32 Moorend Road. Internal & external alterations, first floor/part two storey side extension, single storey rear extension (garden room) and conversion of stable building into self-contained ancillary accommodation including increasing ridge height. Cllrs had no objections, but requested that any concerns raised by neighbours be addressed when the application was determined. Mr & Mrs Chaplin leave 8.10pm.
- 6.2 Applications approved: None.
- 6.3 **Other Planning:**
- 4891 7. **Finance Matters**
- 7.1 **ACCOUNTS APPROVED FOR PAYMENT:**
- a) Clerk’s salary Mar 22= £412.80 (001483).
- b) PAYE Tax = £103.20 (paid by direct debit)
- c) BT Broadband = £31.73 (paid by direct debit)
- d) Mrs Schumacher – caretaking of play areas – Mar 22 = £50.00 (001484).
- e) DNH Contracts – dog bins Mar 22 - £80.70 + £16.14 VAT = £96.84 (001485)
- f) Yardley Gobion Village Hall – room hire 2022 - £20.00 (001486)
- g) Ms L Stephenson – refreshments for meeting with Dame Andrea Leadsom - £7.65 (001487)
- h) CPRE annual membership - £36.00 (001488)
- i) Connolly Accountants Ltd – payroll processing fees 21/22 - £51.00 + £10.20 VAT = £61.20 (paid by direct debit)

Proposed by Cllr McCord and seconded by Cllr Thorne.

7.2 PAYMENTS RECEIVED:

- a) HMRC VAT refund = £2,534.32

7.3 OTHER

- a) Bank balances as at last statements – Lloyds - £35,102.02(15.3.22) SW - £2,088.47 (1.1.22).
b) Goat Field lease – The draft lease had been sent to the proposed tenant for him to consider.
c) New website update – Work in progress. Data had been transferred to the new site, and the staging site was available at yardleygobionpc.teectest.co.uk. The domain name registration is in hand and Cllr Wickens & the Clerk have admin control of the site. Organisations within the village have been asked to advise if there is inaccurate information on the current site so it can be amended on the new site.
d) Quotations for PC insurance policy – Zurich had offered the following rates for the PC insurance: 5-years of £546.89 (long term agreement), 3-years of £568.74 (long term agreement) & 1-year standard premium of £590.61. Cllr McCord proposed the PC accept the 5 year figure. Seconded by Cllr Weston. All in favour.
e) Request from Yardley Gobion Recreation Centre to consider a grant towards the funding of a new kitchen – The Clerk was asked to invite the Recreation Centre to apply for a grant under the 22/23 scheme.

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8. Councillor Reports:

- a) Street Lighting – the Clerk was waiting for a quotation to replace the pole bracket outside 6 Moorend Road with a short pole bracket rotated to be at 90 degrees to the kerb and placed at a height to avoid any large vehicles.
b) Village Trees – After a great deal of discussion it was agreed that regrettably it was too late in the season to plant trees and Cllr McCord proposed that the purchasing of replacement trees be re-considered in November. Seconded by Cllr Thorne. All in favour.
c) Allotments – No report.
d) Village Hall – The AGM would be held in May and the Committee was looking for more officers, and a new Chair. Possible damage to the structure had been noted and this required urgent attention. Bookings were looking up, but electricity and gas prices were rising. Quotations were being sought for refurbishing the kitchen and toilets.
e) Recreation Centre – Cllr Weston reported that the Recreation Centre AGM had still not taken place.
f) Playing fields – there was an issue with the rubbish bins in School Lane play area and Cllrs Weston & Thorne would check to see if anything could be done to solve the problems reported. Yardley Youth planned to apply for funding from the Football Foundation for improving the football pitches at the School Lane field, and asked for the support of the PC, as owners of the site, and also for grant assistance during 2024 - 2027. The grant would be split as follows – 1st year FF = £5,500, Club £0, 2nd year FF = £5,500, Club = £0, 3rd year FF = £3,667, Club = £1,883, 4th year FF = £3,667, Club = £1,883, 5th year FF = £1,883, Club = £3,667, 6th year FF = £1,883, Club = £3,667. After discussion Cllrs agreed that this would make significant improvements to the playing surfaces, and Cllr McCord proposed that the PC support an application to the Football Foundation and that the PC would contribute some funding during 2024 – 2027, and adjust the budget accordingly if necessary. Seconded by Cllr Llewellyn. All in favour.
g) Highways – Cllr McCord had reported the chevron sign that was out of place on a corner in Moorend Road, and he would chase this again.
h) Mowing – 2 cuts had been carried out by the new contractor with no issues reported. He had asked if the access to School Lane play area could be enlarged to enable him to take a larger mower into the site and provide a better cut. Cllrs would look at the play area to see if they felt the current cut was adequate.

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9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) **3rd May 2022, ANNUAL VILLAGE ASSEMBLY 7.15pm in the Village Hall
Followed by ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL &
PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

Meeting closed 9.02pm.

PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Mr Tunstall had been concerned to read about the PC's proposal to protect the land off Woodville Crescent and read out a letter mentioning access across such land requesting that his family continue with the provision of occasional access to the rear of their property.

Mr Hill advised that Yardley Youth Football Club wished to apply for funding from the Football Foundation to improve the pitches, and asked for support from the PC.

Ward Cllr Pritchard advised he had had meetings with the operator of the 89 bus service. He also mentioned the upcoming appeal concerning the traveller's site. As a result of serious accidents

along the A5 and A421 he had requested a road safety investigation take place. Unfortunately, there had been problems with the SNC planning site, which were being corrected.

As Ward Councillor, Cllr McCord reported as follows:

One Year On

The first day of April saw WNC celebrate its first year of operation. Whilst personally it was not the year I had thought it may be, the first year has been unexceptional. The process of integrating all the elements of the previous councils will continue for some time and we cannot expect this to happen overnight otherwise there is a risk to service continuity. The council financially has had as good a start as could be expected. The budget was balanced and the one set for this new financial year is more accurate and more based in the reality than the myriad of assumptions the first one had to be built on. The financial performance should be stronger going forward.

Green Waste Charges

The charging for green waste is now effective – any resident who wants to continue to have their green waste bin emptied will need to pay £42 for a sticker for the year. The council can be contacted on <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/xfp/form/382> or call 0300 126 7000 for those without internet access

Energy Rebate

The government has announced that it plans to give all those in properties council tax Band A to D only £150 rebate to help with the spiralling costs of fuel. In addition to the above rebates, there will be a discretionary scheme, through which the Council will assist vulnerable residents who live in properties in Council Tax bands E to H.

Gigaclear Permitted Development

We have all had complaints and comments about the siting of green Gigaclear boxes, especially those in conservation areas. Ken has taken this up and there is not a lot we can do as they do have quite extensive permitted development rights to site their kit where they want, even in conservation areas. We have asked that there is some sensitivity to the siting of this but it seems difficult to get Gigaclear to engage. Once these boxes are in place it is very clear that Gigaclear will not move them willingly.

Bus Route 89

I have been working with many of you to get this a better service on the 89 Bus Route. It seems now that the issues are being resolved and I am hopeful we will get an improved service in the very near future. As Parishes I think we need to try to help publicise this service and do what we can improve its uptake.

Community Engagement

WNC is planning to have monthly electronic newsletter and a twice yearly printed one starting in the autumn.