

Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting October 2021

Parish Ten - parishioners slot. 11 members of the public attended the October meeting. Mr Fletcher, representing the Housing Development Group, reported on the most recent communications he had received from District Cllr James Knight (Mr Knight's response can be found on the parish council website). The Housing Group had looked at Mr Knight's response in detail but felt that some of the ideas would be cost prohibitive. Arising from this, and while awaiting the outcome of the Housing Development Consultation, it was suggested that one issue that could be positively addressed is parking for The Street. A meeting with the landowner to discuss this would need to be arranged. It was felt this was something the District Cllr should be involved with – Clerk to contact him.

The parish councillor's were asked if they were fully committed to the Housing Group and it was confirmed unanimously that they were. Following the suggestion of a sub-group to discuss the parking issue 2 councillor's agreed to join the group and report back to the parish council.

It was agreed that a letter would be sent to affected residents on The Street to canvas their views on the parking situation.

On another note, concerns were voiced regarding the new path from McDonald's. Motor cycles appeared to be using it and questions regarding whether they should be were asked. Clerk to look at planning application and action as necessary.

Apologies – District Cllr Knight & County Cllr Barry Stone

Minutes of Last Meeting – Cllr Warman commented there were still items from last month that needed addressing, the clerk responded that they would be dealt with under this month's Agenda Items. Minutes approved by the parish council and signed by the Chair person.

Declaration of Interests – none.

Village Matters

Insurance claim – in the final stages and should be completed this month

Playground trees – 3 quotes have been received. There appears to be a difference of opinion by the contractors regarding the felling of an Ash Tree. Cllr Hoare offered to get another opinion and check on the necessity for this. It has kindly been agreed by the owner of The Swan that he will pay for half the cost of the work.

Clerk to look at the dog bin on the corner of The Street, possible repairs required.

Gillingham Dam overgrowth was reported at the same time at the Old Yarmouth Road verges which were cut, but no action on the Dam yet taken. Clerk to pursue.

The wasp nest on the playground has been dealt with.

Correspondence

A letter from St Michael's School has been received asking for a donation towards a new 'Reflective' area for the use of the children as a quiet area. The clerk advised this would be an acceptable use of the CIL money currently held. The parish council unanimously agreed to the request.

Planning Matters - none

Finance

Tidings donation - £100.00

Clerks Expenses – Pest Control - £40.00; Norwich Glass Co- £328.42 (both items requiring BACS payment)

Clerks Working from home allowance (half year) - £75.00

CIL Money –St Michael’s School - £600.00

Clerks tax to HMRC - £195.60

R Massingham - £500.00 loan repayment

Any Other Business

The clerk advised the councillors that it was time to update the Octogenarian’s Gift List and check with anyone who they thought might be eligible. Anybody who is 80 years old or over is entitled to a share of the fund, please contact the clerk or one of the councillors.

The clerk asked for any suggestions for the disposal of the old computer. There was a suggestion that one of the charity shops in Beccles might take it. Clerk to investigate.

The clerk advised she was retiring and would like to officially tender her resignation from the post of Parish Clerk. She is more than happy to remain in situ until the post could be filled, ensuring a smooth transition. The job description would be circulated to the councillor’s, prior to the next meeting, for their information and agreement, before being formally advertised. Anybody who is interested can get in touch with the clerk and they will be sent details when available.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 3rd November, 2021 at 7.30pm in the village hall (councillors available from 7.15pm).

Clerk’s email address: Gillinghampc@btinternet.com

Gillingham Parish Council website: <http://gillingham-pc.norfolkparishes.gov.uk/>

District Councillor James Knight email: jknight@s-norfolk.gov.uk

County Councillor: barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

<https://tidings-norfolk.org>

Remembrance Sunday this year will be Sunday 14th November, a wreath will be laid at the Memorial by members of the parish council. Everybody welcome to attend. Please check on the notice board at the beginning of November for confirmation of time.