

Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council – November 2021

Parish Ten - parishioners slot. 8 members of the public attended.

Following the last meeting, at the request of the Housing Group, the clerk prepared a letter to be given to the residents of The Street asking their opinion on the possibility of a car park being provided. Unsurprisingly, as anticipated, 18 of the letters returned were opposed to any car park away from their house. Cllr Massingham said that this issue had been going on for years and will undoubtedly do so in the future. He also said that it is only the people who don't live in the Street who complain about the parked cars.

Cllr Thrower said that she also felt the letter had annoyed some people.

If the land behind McDonald's was taken up for building the suggestion of a new road would need to be discussed with the landowner.

Mr George Bramley arrived and apologised for his late arrival.

Mr Fletcher brought him up to date on the car park idea and the objections to the further development on The Street. He went on to ask if the school could be given land for an extension or better access to the school which would help alleviate the bottle neck which currently occurred because of the narrow access. He also asked if the McDonald's field would be put forward as an option which could include a new road. He showed Mr Bramley how much of the area is in a flood plain which he considered will only be made worse by housing.

Mr Bramley said until the consultation has been completed, although they could be discussed, no decisions could be made. There is only so much he can do until the consultation is decided. When the Planning Department point out the issues then they can be addressed. Mr Bramley also confirmed that his team have already reached out to the Council in an effort to try and resolve the residents' concerns at this early stage. In the terms of the school, it is at capacity, as with most schools in the county, but it is a matter for the county council to provide capacity. He agreed that a new road could be a huge improvement for the village in the long term, however, it would be expensive and the current proposed development would not come close to supporting it. He didn't speculate what form of development would be appropriate, but a mix of residential and commercial might work. It would take positive action from the village to get any sort of new road included in any future development.

He confirmed that both sites have had flood reports done and these would be addressed with better design than houses originally built in Gillingham, which could help with present flooding. Mr Bramley stressed that the biggest threat to Gillingham as a whole is the state of repair of the river wall.

In regard to the flooding at the Boundaries. Mr Bramley pointed out that this was unrelated to either the current housing development or either of the proposed sites. It is a historical ditch along the edge of The Boundaries which has been filled/silted up and hence the water cannot reach the ditch beyond which is on land owned by the Council.

Mr Bramley confirmed that once the Council have decided on their allocations in The Village Cluster Scheme then we can see what can be done collaboratively in future local plans – he is happy to hear our concerns, but to have better village amenities the parish council and residents need to put forward achievable ideas. One lady wanted a field for a better playground near the village hall which would expand its amenities rather than it being tucked away around by the allotments. Focus needs to be on what we can do going forward for the village regardless of what happens with the current proposed housing.

On another subject, Mr Bramley confirmed that the site on the Old Yarmouth Road had now mostly been cleared and would probably be used again for something appropriate to its class of use.

Mr Bramley pointed out that it is important to note that the Parish Council receives significant funds from CIL payments that come from having development and this gives an opportunity for the Parish Council to invest in various projects in the village.

Mr Bramley also confirmed that there will shortly be some new litter bins on the new footpath and cycle way and more extensive litter picking of the local area under the new service charge arrangement of the extended Gillingham Services. He suggested that it must be a positive step that it is now possible to buy a newspaper in the village for the first time in many years.

Cllr Massingham and Mr Fletcher thanked Mr Bramley for attending.

Apologies – Cllrs James Knight & Barry Stone

Minutes of Last Meeting - Approved by the parish council and signed by the Chair person.

Declaration of Interests - none

Village Matters

Speed signs for the school – now sufficient CIL money has been received, the council are in a position to proceed with these. The clerk asked the councillor's to think about what sort of signs were required. Anybody who has a view of these can contact one of the councillor's or the clerk

Dog bin at the corner of The Street - Mr Bramley confirmed that one of his contractors removed the bin as it was blocking an established right of way that was needed for access. He had personally dug and repositioned the bin in a more appropriate place nearby.

The verges on the Old Yarmouth Road have been trimmed back and Gillingham Dam appears to have had some attention but the rest has been left – clerk to action further cutting.

Grit bin – a new bin is being ordered and will be placed on Kings Dam near the derestriction sign going towards Dunburgh.

The drains at the bus stop continue to be an issue – clerk to address.

Correspondence

Bonfires – complaint received about bonfires on the allotments. After consulting with Cllr Ward it is not necessarily the case this is from the allotments – clerk to investigate further.

District Cllr James Knight asked that a reminder be given that he has a ward member's grant, and this has not been used at all this year. He has up to £1,000 available across his 7 parishes, so community groups needing assistance, or other parish items which can't be funded from the precept can be considered.

The representative from Waterloo had asked for a donation to a Defibrillator that they wished to put in place. They are a small isolated, older community and feel it could be of benefit, the nearest being in Gillingham. They have a location, raised half the cost and are aware of the necessary actions to keep it running. They have one or 2 other financial avenues to explore but the council unanimously agreed to pay for the shortfall from the CIL money currently available.

Planning Matters

Broads Authority – Bridge House Application Number: BA/2021/0411/TCAA

Site Location: Bridge House, Gillingham Dam, Gillingham, NR34 0PA

Proposal: T1: Silver Birch - crown reduction of approximately 2 meters. T2: Silver Birch -

Remove. T3: Acacia - re-balance crown. T4: Acacia - crown re-balance. T5: Willow - re-pollard.

T6: Liquid Amber - crown reduction of 3 meters. – no objections from the parish council.

Finance

The clerk advised that the budget proposal would be delivered to the councillor's for them to have a chance to examine it and make a decision regarding the parish precept at the December meeting. The precept request needs to be in place early January. SNC – CIL money received £18,446.55

Any Other Business

Cllr Massingham asked about the Remembrance Service on 14th. The clerk replied the wreath was organized and the service would proceed as normal at 3.00pm sharp at the War Memorial on Church Road.

The clerk had previously circulated her job description to the councillor's for any amendments. This would be advertised with Nalc as well as locally. If this failed to attract suitable candidates advertising in the press would take place.

Octogenarian's gift list - now being finalised, additions accepted up to end November.

On Saturday 16th October a small group of volunteers met to take part in the twice yearly litter pick in Gillingham. The team recovered a large amount of rubbish, including...

4 large bags from the A146 (bypass), mostly drink and food containers, many from Costa coffee and MacDonald's.

4 bags from Gillingham Dam, again food and drink containers from MacDonalds and Costa.

3 bags from the footpath between Kings Dam and the Boundaries and around the field, this was black plastic and polystyrene, a legacy from the strawberry fields that were there previously and one that continues to be a problem as buried rubbish comes to the surface and is blown around.

The good news was that around the churches was mostly clear of rubbish.

Thanks to Alice, the youngest volunteer, age 8, Lizzie who is a determined collector of rubbish on her daily dog walk, Judy, John, Tracy, Bill, Clare, Jane. Margaret and Gerald (who missed the photo shoot as they were still out collecting and had to resort to fetching a wheelbarrow from home to carry the full bags). Picture should be featured in the December copy of Tidings.

Thank you to all who took part and a message to anyone who feels the urge to collect litter, you never know, you may be lucky and find something valuable, like one of the team who found a £5 note. This will be used to supply coffee and cake to the next litter picking event.

There being nothing further the chairman closed the meeting

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 1st December, starting at 7.30pm in the village hall.

Clerk's email address: Gillinghampc@btinternet.com
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