

Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting December 2021

Parish Ten - parishioners slot. Four members of the public attended. It was asked if any of the CIL money the council have received could be given to the village hall. The reply was that at the moment the parish council are considering a few options on how the money could be spent. When this has been decided, if the village hall have a specific project, it may be possible. The Waterloo representative confirmed they now had enough money for the defibrillator. Efforts to report the light near the Loddon Road bus stop being out have resulted in the phone not being answered – clerk to try to resolve.

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

The parish council have attended a site visit with Mr Bramley regarding the flooding at The Boundaries last winter. Mr Bramley pointed out that his ditch was not linked to any other ditches and once full had nowhere to go.

Having looked at the drains in the road there is standing water in them which the clerk said she would report to the appropriate council department for clearing and ask that all the drain away points in the village be cleared.

It was also found that there appeared to be a filled in ditch across the road along the side of the footpath.

Gillingham Dam still needs cutting

The trees on the playground are scheduled for trimming on 13th December

Wall of the River Waveney - An enquiry from an individual to the Environment Agency regarding the state of the river wall, resulted in the reply:

“This it is hoped this will be dealt with when the Environment Agency rebuilds the river walls. They are talking about raising the height of them by about one and a half feet. (The height they have dropped) This is supposed to of been carried out this year but it looks unlikely now, we hope it will be happening soon in the new year”.

The Parish Council agreed to still send a letter to the Environment Agency voicing their concerns about the state of the wall.

Wainford Sluice – The Environment Agency are proposing to withdraw maintenance and possibly change ownership of the sluice. This could result in the sluice not being operated in everyone’s best interests. Response by Gillingham resident made. (Notice on Gillingham website under Flooding).

Correspondence

Termination of Playground Maintenance contract – the current contractor informed the parish council they would no longer be offering the service in 2022. The clerk is obtaining quotes from 3 companies with a view to engaging a new contractor. (Interested parties can contact the clerk for details).

Planning Matters - none.

Finance

Budget proposal/Precept request – the budget proposal had previously been circulated to the councillors and the clerk explained the figures. The precept was increased last year to assist with reserves, but the amount of money planned to be reserved towards possible future elections had been affected by the unexpected issue of maintaining the trees on the playground. The council

agreed to increase the precept to £8700.00 from the current £8500.00.

Increase to Tidings donation – the village magazine has undergone a review of its finances and has asked the parish council to increase their 'donation' by £70.00. This will bring the cost in line with their charges to other customers. The parish council agreed the increase.

Expenses from Gregorian allotment fund £6.50 – The clerk advised that the gift would be £15 per person this year which meant using £5.00 from the banked money plus £1.50 for Christmas cards.

Any Other Business

Mrs Thrower submitted her resignation to the chairperson.

Octogenarians gift list, funded from the Gregorian Allotment rents, now finalised. The Waterloo representative kindly agreed to deliver to the Waterloo recipients.

Interviews for the post of clerk are hopefully to take place in December. Three councillors agreed to take on the job of the interview. Clerk to liaise with applicant.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 2nd February, 2022, starting at 7.30pm. Everybody welcome.

Please note there is not a meeting in January.

Clerk's email address: Gillinghampc@btinternet.com

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

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<https://tidings-norfolk.org>