

Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting

5th April 2022

Councillors Present: Cllrs M. Brown, C. Hoare, B. Warman, and S. Webber

Apologies: Cllr Foreman and County Councillor Stone.

Also Present: Clerk.

The Chairman was absent from the meeting, there is no Vice Chairman. Cllr Warman kindly volunteered to chair the meeting.

1. Parish Ten - parishioners slot. 9 members of the public attended.

A Parishioner mentioned the state of the entrance to the footpath that goes along to McDonalds, KFC and Starbucks. The concrete blocks are there to stop the cars, motorbikes etc from taking a short cut. The Parishioner mentioned about the litter bins and the rats. Mr G Bramley discussed this with him.

There was a report of dogs on the playground. Cllr Warman to sort out a sign for the Pub entrance to the playground.

The litter pick has been arranged for 7th May, Clerk to arrange a leaflet. It was noted that McDonalds undertake litter picks in a 3 mile radius which involves Geldeston and Aldeby. With the Food and Energy rises, these are causing a impact on people. There is a request for people to donate new Slow Cookers to the foodbanks. Please donate these to Jean Black and she will distribute them to the foodbanks in eye. Mr Bramley confirmed that he would buy 4. The slow cookers, cost about £16 from Morrisons.

2. Apologies Received: Cllr Massingham, Cllr Ward, District Cllr Knight and County Cllr Stone.

3. Declarations of interest: None were declared, other than those registered with the South Norfolk Council.

4. Minutes of Last Meeting - Minutes for the 1st March and 15th March were approved by the parish council as being an accurate record, and signed by the acting Chairman.

5. Village Matters

School Signs – There is a need for more flashing signs to slow the traffic down. A couple of more school signs would be useful too.

Playground Inspection – await Safety inspection. This has been booked for 22nd April 2022. Clerk has confirmed her attendance to this.

Playground At our last Parish Meeting it was decided o employ a new contractor for the children’s playground. They have now cleared all the rubbish and cut the grass. They have also agreed to improve the grass surface and to clean and maintain the equipment on a regular basis.

The Parish Council intend to replant north/east side of the playground with trees and shrubs to improve aesthetics of the whole area and to include a new bench. So in the future the playground will be safe for the children to play, and also a quiet place to site when children are at school. The Parish Council would like to call this “The Jubilee Playground”.

The Parish Council will be contacting local village businesses to see if they wish to donate funds for this project for our village. If any member of the village wish to contribute, to making this a Jewel in Gillingham, please contact the Clerk.

The Parish Council has already received an offer for the new jubilee playground sign to be made and placed at the Driveway to the playground for the local village.

Action Clerk to obtain prices for the benches.

Gillingham Beach, Problems with waste and disposal of the waste. **Action Clerk** to discuss these issues with EA and BA.

River Wall This is classed as the single biggest threat to human. **Action Clerk** to investigate the failures in the river wall, speak to EA and BA.

The Boundary Footpath Ongoing issue. **Action Clerk** to try and speak to someone regarding why the ditch has been filled in, causing the rain water not to be drained away and therefore causing surface flooding.

6. Correspondence – in councillors distribution pack

Clerk discussed the Marsh Lane footpath correspondence. The Clerk has agreed to meet with the gentleman and requested Cllr Warman to attend.

7. Planning Matters – 2022/0295 KFC and Starbucks Norwich Road, 32 illuminated and 17 non-illuminated advertisement. The Parish Council would like to recommend Approval, providing the advertisements are within the law.

8. Finance

The Parish Council has decided to try and set up a new banking system, and try Lloyds Bank.

10. Any Other Business

The format for the APM was discussed.

To discuss starting a Neighbourhood Plan for Gillingham: There was an agreement that this could be a good idea. Put on the agenda for next meeting.

Items for next agenda Drainage on the Boundaries.

Date of Next Meeting: Annual Parish Meeting to be held at 7pm, and the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held straight after.

Meeting closed 8.00pm

Mr G Bramley showed the Councillors and the public some ideas of the future of Gillingham development.

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