

Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting February 2022

Parish Ten - parishioners slot. 5 members of the public attended. David Reynolds (grounds manager for The Swan Pub) attended and confirmed that the trees on the play park have now been attended to. The parish chairman thanked him for his efforts arranging this. David said he was here to represent the views of himself and the Swan when he said that the play park was in a sorry state which needed some time and effort spending on it. He currently ran a student project business from his site on Kings Dam and would be prepared to take on the park as part of his practical course work. The chairman agreed that it needed someone to take on the responsibility of managing it and it becoming a more enjoyable area. Mr Massingham added that the parish council was currently asking for tenders to cut the grass and invited David to put in a tender including what he had in mind for the play park. Clerk to liaise.

A member of the public asked if there would be any money available from the parish council toward the Jubilee celebrations at the village hall. After discussion it was agreed to ask the chairperson of the village hall to give some idea of what was being planned. The clerk agreed to see if there were any grants available. Suggestion made to liaise with the school to see what they had planned.

Dist Cllr James Knight confirmed that Strategic Flood Assessments have been carried out at sites around Gillingham with a view to the decision on the next housing development planning proposals. Officers are currently considering the additional sites, which were put forward in the last round of consultation, along with the various submissions made by organisations and individuals.

They will be making a recommendation to Council in April, with a view to submitting a final version of the allocation document to the Planning Inspector in June. That will be the next opportunity for residents and the parish to make comments on the proposals

County Cllr Barry Stone reported that it is now coming up to budget time. There is a need for another 12 primary schools around the county to create more places, with one new Secondary School being build. Further spaces would be created by expanding existing schools.

It was expected that there would be a 1.99% increase in the budget plus another 1% for adult care equaling 2.99%. 70% of the council budget is spent on social care.

Details can be found on the Norfolk County Council website.

Present: Parish Cllrs Mr Massingham, Mr Hoare, Mrs Ward. Dist Cllr James Knight & County Cllr Barry Stone.

Apologies – Mrs Foreman, Mrs Brown and Mr Warman.

Minutes of Last Meeting - Minutes approved by the parish council and signed by the Chairman.

Declaration of Interests – none.

Village Matters

School Signs – consultation with St Michael's School give a preferred type of flashing speed sign – ongoing.

Skate Board Park - the parish clerk said she had received a phone call from a young person who would like to see a skate board park on the playground. Having looked into the suggestion it was found that a decent size skate park costs about £150,000. The cost calculated at £400m². During discussion it was observed that skate parks are usually situated away from housing due to noise issues and that the current playground would

probably not be big enough. This idea could be considered at a later date if a suitable site could be found.

Playground Inspection – The council agreed to ask David Bracey to perform this year's inspection.

Gillingham junction – following concerns raised regarding the junction with the A146, the parish clerk has written to the Highways department requesting that they look at the signage for turning into Gillingham from the main road. There are no reflective signs indicating the turn off or where the verge is. The bollards in the centre do not appear to light up or are broken.

Waterloo have now received their defibrillator and it will be operational by the end of the week.

Cllr Hoare said that the school sign near the new houses was too low, and too far away from the school turn off. Clerk to ask for it to be raised and moved.

Clerk to request twisted sign at the Old Yarmouth Road junction be repaired.

Large hole by the side of road near the Old Yarmouth Road wood yard needs filling.

Clerk to again ask when the Marsh Lane footpath will be officially decided.

Correspondence

General correspondence circulated.

Planning Matters

Decision Notification BA/2021/0481/FUL Open fronted cattle barn on Kings Dam – approved.

The council had responded to this application that neighbouring premises comments should be taken into consideration but approved in principle.

Finance

Insurance claim - £173.68 – from claim for replacement bus shelter glass

Audit 2021/2022 – approval of auditor Catherine Moore - £85.00

Part payment (with The Swan) of invoice for tree services F Allen - £890.00

The clerk said that she had mandates for new signees of Barclays Bank and NS&I Mr Massingham would remain, Mr Hoare and Mr Warman to become the additional signees.

Any Other Business

In conclusion the chairman thanked Mrs Punt for her services as parish clerk for the past 14 years and thanked her for her support. The new clerk will be starting 1st March.

Date of Next Meeting.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Tuesday 1st March, 2022, 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

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<https://tidings-norfolk.org>