



Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting 4th October 2022 Gillingham Village Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs J. Black, M. Brown, C. Hoare, A. Rymer, B. Warman, J. Ward, and S. Webber

Also Present: Clerk.

1. **Welcome:** Welcome, we have a full attendance of the Council. The Panels have been installed. Hopefully the acoustics will be better and we will now be able to hear people speak clearly.
2. **Apologies for absence received, record number of members of the public present:** Apologies were received for County Councillor Stone, District Councillor Knight. 9 members of the public were present.
3. **Declaration of Interests other than those registered with South Norfolk Council.** Nothing to add.
- ~~4. **Welcome to the new Candidate**~~
5. **Parish Ten - parishioners slot.**
 - Could the Parish Council add something in the Tidings, to encourage the parishioners to keep their hedges and trees maintained and not let them hang over public land and footpaths.
 - Double yellow lines have been put on the McDonalds roundabout. Cars are still being parked on the grass verges there. When driving up to park or leaving, some drivers are almost causing accidents. Could Norfolk County Council place bollards on the verge?
 - The turning to Loddon Road off the A143 needs to be signed posted that there is a right turn there!
Action Clerk to request a meeting with Highways Officer.
 - Roy a gentleman in Gillingham has tidied the area around the memorial and will be cleaning this soon.
6. **To approve the minutes of 6th September 2022: Resolved** to approve the minutes of 6th September as being an accurate record.
7. **To receive an update Barclays:** Julia has received another letter from Barclays, think it is a mandate being returned. The Clerk has noticed that the Parish Council has completed their last cheque book. Banks are now no longer automatically sending new cheque books.
Action Clerk to request a new cheque book.
8. **To discuss the outstanding matters arising from last meeting:**
 - Update on the grass cutting at the church. – Agree the donation to them. **Resolved** to pay £250 towards the costs as last year.
 - Clerk to contact the police over the rubbish and Nitrous Oxide Gas bottles being dumped. Clerk has contacted the local police representative, waiting to hear back from him.
 - Clerk to update on the situation of a dropped kerb: Contacted Highways department, however this is a resident issue and they need to request this.
 - Clerk to update on lowering the speed limit at Gillingham Dam. The Clerk has emailed the Highways Officer, no reply received.
 - To receive an update on the River Wall boat visit: Riparian Rights, mean that Environment Agency does not think it is in their remit. **Action Clerk** to try again in a few months' time.
 - Replacement waste bin in the playground: Mr Bramley has delivered the bin to the

meeting, tonight. The bin needs to be placed in concrete base. The bin is to replace the existing broken bin and not an additional bin.

- Update on the Land Registry: The necessary information has been posted to the solicitor.

9. Village Matters – to discuss and agree.

- Discuss and agree issues with the Marsh Lane footpath – The Clerk has contacted the trails person. **Action Clerk** to chase up and arrange a site visit.
- Update on the Playground equipment: Cllr Warman has booked an independent person to come out and survey the playground. This person was found out to be from Sovereign. 'The Peaches' play equipment comes from Sovereign. A member of the public expressed their concern, that there has been no survey done in the village to see what the children would like adding in the playground. The Parish Council has decided to keep what we have got and add a tree house, and a rope bridge on the two mounds. There is also a project to extend the back of the basketball hoop with a metal background, add concrete on the area in front of the hoop, to ease bounce. The wooden gates will be replaced by metal gates. Quotes are being obtained. No quotes have been obtained for wooden gates. The Clerk noted that Playdale Ltd, who originally installed the basketball hoop, believes grass to be the better solution for bouncing balls.
- A member of the public asked why we are spending so much money on the playground when the village hall is in need of help with funding. The Clerk stated that she had asked the CiL department whether we could spend some of the CiL on the village hall. She is waiting to hear back.
- The Parish Council is thinking about creating a small car park by the allotments and the playground area. There will be a survey sent with the Tidings asking the village residents what they would prefer the CiL money to be spent on? We will collate and report on the findings.

10. Parish Council Matters

- Parish Partnership: This scheme was mentioned again. Now we have two options to request in the Parish Partnership scheme. a) Speed awareness machines to be placed around the areas of the village, to record the speeding. b) Installation of a footpath opposite the hairdressers in The Street around the corner/junction of Kings Dam. There was a show of hands for each scheme. option b) had the most votes. **Action Cllr Warman** to communicate with the residents around that area, to find out who owns this land. However, this still leaves the issue of the speeding along Gillingham Dam! To discuss the report from PKF Littlejohn: The Clerk reported that as the accounts were above £25,000 there was an external audit. The previous years internal audit reports picked up some issues. The Internal Audit Report for 2021/22 picked up the same issues and some more! The External Auditor Report Certificate have explained some issues. The certificate is on the Parish Council website, for viewing. It was noted that the Clerk can rectify most of these issues for this current financial year. Hopefully next years' Internal and External Audit will be a little easier.
- To approve the following dates for next year
No meeting in January 2023
7th February 2023
7th March 2023
4th April 2023
2nd May 2023 (to be confirmed), depending on Parish and Town Councils election date.
2nd May 2023 Annual Parish meeting

6th June 2023
 4th July 2023
 No meeting in August
 5th September 2023
 3rd October 2023
 7th November 2023
 5th December 2023

11. Discuss the starting of the Neighbourhood Plan and the benefits: The Clerk has received some dates of availability from the South Norfolk Neighbourhood Planning representative. Once confirmed with the Village Hall availability, the Clerk will advertise this. The meeting will be open to all residents of Gillingham and Geldeston. The representative, thinks it's a great idea to combine both villages as they are so close.

12. Correspondence – in the distribution pack.

13. Planning Matters

2022/1700 Annexe at 45 The Street: Use of annexe for permanent residential occupation separate from 45 The Street and establishment of access, parking and change of use of land to residential curtilage: **Recommended Approval.**

2022/1845 Construction of two non domestic agricultural buildings. Lodge Farm, Raveningham Road: **Recommend Approval.**

14. Finance

To be approved at

4th October 2022

Wages + expenses (tax code change)	Sep-22	£813.76
Cllr B Warman	Asbestos	£72.00
PKF Littlejohn		£240.00
Norfolk Glass		£637.88
Romanian Church grass cutting		£250.00
		£2,013.64

Statement of account

Bank Balance 6/9/22		£33,082.87
<i>consisting off</i>		
CiL balance	£27,138.62	
Reserves	£5,944.25	
	£33,082.87	

NS&I	£106.53
balance left in Clerks Bank Acc	0.00

£33,189.40

Payments totalling £2013.64 were approved for payment. **Resolved.**

Action Clerk to obtain an update from the maintenance person.

Action Clerk to obtain new quotes for maintenance and grass cutting for 2023/24

15. Any Other Business

Date of next meeting, 1st November 2022, 7.30pm

As there was no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at

9.15pm

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