



Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting 6th December 2022 Gillingham Village Hall

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

Also Present: Clerk.

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies and number of public attending:** Cllr Black sent her apologies. County Councillor Stone and District Councillor Knight were not present. There were 15 members of the public at the meeting.
3. **Declaration of Interests other than those registered with South Norfolk Council.** No additional interests were declared.
4. **To approve the minutes of 1st November and 8th November 2022:** These were taken on block. Agreed as being an accurate record of both the meetings. Proposed by Cllr Brown and seconded by Cllr Webber. All in agreement.
5. **Planning Matters – record the decisions on the planning applications:**
 - **2022/1897: Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access and scale. Land North of The Street, Gillingham.** The Parish Council would like to note, that they had listened to all the resident's concerns. The Parish Council recommended Objection, because of the lack of sewage infrastructure, flooding issues and the additional traffic along The Street.
 - **2022/1993: Outline application for residential development including access and scale. Land South of The Street, Gillingham.** Again, The Parish Council would like to note, that they had listened to all the resident's concerns. The Parish Council recommended Objection, because of the lack of sewage infrastructure, flooding issues and the additional traffic along The Street.
6. **Parish Ten – Public Forum – Information only:**
 - A member of the public voiced some concern over the path that is proposed at The Street and Kings Dam. It appears that the path will start at a residents' drive and finish at public section. If the work is tarmac, this would involve excavation and ground removal and is concerned that this would be on private land. A Highways representative met the Councillors and Clerk to do a walk around the village, to show him the issues the Parish Council has. The Street, Kings Dam project had already been mentioned before with the previous Clerk. The Highways Rep has already done a quote for the work a few years ago and will review this. This member of the public would like to be involved and get up to date on the path project design.
 - There was an overturned lorry on the A146/A143 roundabout. The markings are dangerous. **Action Clerk** to speak to the highways engineer again, to see if something could be done with the white markings on the roundabout.
 - Another member of the public is concerned about the proposed 44 additional houses behind her house. She has spoken to the head planning officer, Richard Smith and he has stated that the planning is already set to go ahead. Apparently, there is a law that has changed and will stop planning if it changes the rural character of the village!

Action Clerk to communicate with Richard Smith and get his views on this.

7. To receive an update Barclays: - Still ongoing.

8. To discuss the outstanding matters arising from last meeting:

- Update on the Land Registry – The Solicitor has contacted the Clerk asking for more extra information, that she does not have. She will respond and see if it is an issue.

9. Village Matters – to discuss and agree:

- Discuss and agree issues with the Marsh Lane footpath – ongoing. It was noted that some of the gates are closed and therefore the footpath is closed to walkers. **Action Clerk** to contact trails person again. There is one metal gate and no way around it. Two other gates have styles in poor condition. The Parish Council is not sure who is responsible for these gates.
- Update of the Highways representative visit. The Parish Council reported a very positive meeting. Areas looked at were:
 - Flooding from the drain in Loddon Road, by the village hall near the brick bus shelter.
 - Speeding on the Dam, there is very little they can change. Highways would not be able to enforce the restricted speed limit if there was one.
 - The Bollards on the junction of Loddon Road and A146 will be renewed.
 - The Gillingham sign pointing to Loddon Road was knocked down by a lorry reversing. This will be replaced.
 - The new footpath in The Street and Kings Dam was discussed in the Public Forum.
 - Cycle Barriers by The Street, next to the McDonalds Footpath will be looked at. There are new regulations now, and these may be too narrow. If this is so, they will be widened.
 - The junction at the Boundaries towards the Church, the National Speed limit sign will be moved further back. This is so the drivers do not think it is National Speed limit by the Boundaries.
 - New white lines will be re-painted at the junction of Loddon Road and A146, next year.
- To discuss the issues with a fallen tree on footpath opposite 1 The Boundaries – It is unsure who the footpath belongs too. However, Mr Bramley will remove the tree when the weather is a little dryer.
- To report the findings of the survey. The Clerk read out the results: 41 surveys were received. That's 12% return, not too bad at all.

1a	Multi Tower Play equipment for older children, includes slide, tower and platform	51%
1b	Background extension for the basketball hoop, made of metal to stop balls going over the fence into the ditch	41%
1c	Small area of concrete just in front of the basketball hoop	22%
1d	Rope obstacle incorporating the small mounds in the younger part of the Children's play area	34%
1e	Spend some of the money on refurbishment work necessary for the Village Hall	63%
2	Half an allotment plot to be used for a small car park	49%
3	Comments only on 'any other options'	
4	Allotment meeting, anyone interested	10%

The closing date for the surveys was at the end of the Parish Council meeting. The Clerk has received a few more and will update the results. These will be placed on the Parish Council website.

- To discuss and agree the costings for the Playground 'The Peaches' new equipment: The survey results showed over 50%, therefore it was agreed to go ahead and purchase The Peaches from Sovereign Playgrounds. Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded by Cllr Rymer, all in agreement.
- To discuss and agree the replacement of the gates in the Playground. Two gates will be replaced, the small gate by the allotments, the large gate at the main

entrance will be replaced with a ¼ and ¾ style gates. There will be an additional small gate at the bottom of the playground towards The Swan Motel, to stop children running through the opening and falling into the ditch. The quotes were sourced from local companies. Most of these have the same specification. However, one provided information that the gates will be BS EN 1176 standard which is obligatory for playgrounds.

- Quote from D Reynolds, purchase standard gates and fit.
- R-tistic iron craft – did not confirm whether it was BS EN 1176 compliant.
- Mr G Bramley – different specification, with stock type mesh to stop the rabbits. This was not confirmed as being compliant with the BS EN 1176.
- Glen Sharman – confirmed BS EN 1176 compliant.

The proposal was to go with Glen Sharman at £4,000 to supply and fit.

Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded by Cllr Ward, all in agreement.

- To discuss and agree the extension of the basketball hoop. After the survey results we decided to go ahead with this, Two quotes were obtained. R-istic was too expensive (£2,480). The proposal to go with Glen Sharman again (£1,500). With the two jobs, Glen Sharman would reduce his charges to (£5,200 + VAT). Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded by Cllr Ward, all in agreement.
- To discuss and agree the concrete for the basketball hoop, size and costs involved. This project was rejected due to the survey results.
- To discuss the litter pick income £20 given to PC for teas and coffees + £200 (won) and agree what to spend this on. There was an agreement to spend the money on replacement of litter pickers, round rubbish bin holders for the bags and rubbish sacks. There was a general unanimous agreement. **Action Clerk** to order these.
- Quotes obtained for the grass cutting contract for April 2023 – March 2024. Agree the contractor. We have received a couple of quotes; this is still ongoing. Costs to be approved in January 2023 along with the budget.

10. Parish Council Matters:

- Parish Partnership, update on the footpath extension at Kings Dam. The Highways Representative looked at our suggestions when he was down for a site visit. He will provide the revised quotation in time for applying for the Parish Partnership, which closes on 9th December 2022.

11. To discuss the update on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting: The general feeling was the Neighbourhood Planning meeting was a positive meeting, although the planning of the date could have been a few months before! Joining Geldeston and Gillingham villages in the planning was considered a positive move. The Clerk has added an article in the Tidings asking residents views on whether they wish to have a Neighbourhood Plan started.

12. Correspondence – in the distribution pack.

13. Finance:

- **To agree the National Joint Pay Scale salary price increase and back dated pay from 1st April 2022. £192.00 back dated pay. Pay Increase additional £1 per hour.** The back dated pay (£192) and the pay rise was approved. Proposed by Cllr Rymer and seconded by Cllr Webber, all in agreement. Pay rate is now £14.21 at pay scale point 18.
- **To discuss increasing the Clerks contacting hours from 6 to 9 hours a week.** Due to the workload there was a discussion on increasing the Clerks hours from 6 to 9 per week. This was agreed, proposed by Cllr Rymer and seconded by Cllr Webber. **Action Clerk** to add this to the budget. There was no discussion on the start date, the Clerk will assume this will start in the new financial year.
- **Balance and budget will be provided at the meeting.** This was provided at the meeting.
- **To approve payments for this month.** Payments for approval were:

HMRC	£58.60
Clerk wages and expenses for Nov	£422.10

Total	£480.70
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The above payments were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Rymer and seconded by Cllr Hoare all in agreement.

- **To approve any other payments for this month.** None
- **Items to be added to the Budget for 2023/2024:** The Clerk asked the Village Hall Committee on the costs of hiring the hall, £12ph for active bookings, £15ph for Parties. The Clerk will add this into the budget and donate the amount, which will be discussed in the budget meeting.
The Clerk asked what projects, does the Village Hall Committee need help to pay for? At the moment the projects are on Solar Panels, to reduce the heating bill and a smaller tank for the hot water. The Clerk stated that there is about £9,000 under the CiL that will be ring fenced for the Village Hall.

14. Discuss any Councillors issues:

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Mr Bramley for replacing the broken glass panel in the bus shelter with Poly Carbonate. The Parish Council would not have been able to afford to replace this, again this year.

Cllr Webber mentioned the playground inspections and the need for training. **Action Clerk** to organise this.

Date of next meeting, 7.30pm 10th January 2023

There being no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:38pm

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