



Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting 10th January 2023 Gillingham Village Hall

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

Also Present: Clerk.

1. Welcome

2. Apologies for absence received, record number of members of the public present.

Apologies were recorded and accepted for Cllr Rymer, District Cllr Knight and County Cllr Stone. There were 7 members of the public attending.

3. Declaration of Interests other than those registered with South Norfolk Council.

No additional interests were declared.

4. To approve the minutes of 6th December 2022. Minutes of the 6th December 2022 meeting were approved as an accurate record of the proceedings. All in agreement.

5. Planning Matters.

Note the leaflet posted in some of the resident's doors, regarding the development at McDonalds. Some of the Councillors were able to comment using the link. It was noted that the timing of the leaflet was interesting.

Mr Bramley reported that the consultation finish date was 23rd December 2022. Due to the postal strikes, some of the leaflets were received with short notice.

6. Parish Ten – Public Forum – Information only.

- A member of the public mentioned again about the line markings on the roundabout. The Clerk responded that she had informed Highways, she was asked to do so again. **Action Clerk** to communicate with Highways again.
- There is a new additional policeman that will patrol the area. **Action Clerk** to welcome PC Alan Upton to the area and invite him to the Parish Council meetings.
- There are still issues with cars being parked along the 'Access Only' road by the Churches. The Local Police are aware of this issue.

7. To receive an update Barclays. These issues are happening all over, but this does not help this Parish Council. We need a Councillor to act on chasing this up for the Parish Council. The Clerk cannot do this, as she is not recorded as being the Clerk, as her mandate has not been completed by Barclays. The exiting Clerk is still getting correspondence for Gillingham Parish Council. The Clerk reported that she has sent a letter to the mandates team expressing her displeasure and concern of not having a public body able to effectively access the bank accounts. This needs to be resolved before the end of the financial year, as this will fail both Internal and External Audits.

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

- Update on the Land Registry. The Clerk has received a communication from the Solicitor, she needs Identification for all the Councillors. Those that do not have access to computers and online, will need to go to the Solicitors in Lowestoft or Norwich. The Solicitors needs additional information in order to get the Deeds from the Barclays Vaults. **Action Clerk** to obtain the Barclays Bank account number

from the exiting Clerk. The Parish Council agreed that they would wait until after the Parish Council elections in May, just in case the Councillors have changed.

The Parish Council were reminded as to why we are undertaking this land registry, for the Allotments and the Playground. It is because we may in the future have issues with the allotment fences that will have been moved over time. The Land Registry will state where they should be and who they belong to.

- Ordering the litter pickers etc.

This order is still ongoing. Clerk to sort some Litter Pickers and send the description to Cllr Black for confirmation before ordering. The next village litter pick will be in April.

There was a comment that McDonalds litter is bad at the moment. Mr Bramley will ask for an additional litter pick to be done as soon as possible.

9. Village Matters – to discuss and agree:

- Discuss and agree issues with the Marsh Lane footpath – ongoing. The person who the Clerk is contacting is on long term sick. Close the agenda item.
- To discuss the issues with a fallen tree on footpath opposite 1 The Boundaries. Mr Bramley has cut the tree up, so that people can now walk past this. He will clear away when the ground is dryer. The footpath has been confirmed to be in Geldeston Parish, and therefore a Geldeston Parish Council issue.
- To receive an update on the installations in the playground. The metal gates and background for the basketball hoop were discussed. The steel has been cut and will be powder coated. The Chairman did not mention the new playground multi-frame installation, so there was no update!
- Quotes obtained for the grass cutting contract for April 2023 – March 2024. The Clerk was able to obtain two quotes. One from Norse for £86.00 per cut. This was considered value for money, if it is hot then the cuts won't be needed. The second quote was from K'Dam Project (who cut last year). The original quote was for £2500, the Chairman managed to get this down to £2000. There was a proposer for the Norse contract, which was objected to by the Chairman. The Chairman explained that going again with K'Dam Project, being local would also be able to help the parish with any additional maintenance that may crop up. The Chairman also explained that he already cuts the Swan Pub and maintains the ditches. K'Dam Project provides more services than just grass cutting. After some confusion, and the confirmation of K'Dam Project was David Reynolds the Parish Council were unanimous in deciding on K'Dam Project, David Reynolds.

10. Parish Council Matters: None

11. To discuss the update on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting: The Clerk reported that she had no response from the residents in Gillingham or Geldeston from the article in the Tidings. There was an agreement to place another article in the next Tidings edition, to see if there would be any response.

12. Correspondence: In the correspondence pack is a summary provided by District Cllr James Knight, regarding the SNC Village Clusters for Gillingham and Geldeston.

13. Finance:

- To approve the budget and precept for 2023-2024. The Clerk reported on the budget and offered four options. Options 1 and 2 were excluded due to the fact that the Parish Council had gone with David Reynolds for Grass Cutting contract. Option 3 contained the Clerks new 9 hours calculated. Option 4 contained the Clerks new 8 hours calculated. The Clerk hours changed had been agreed in the previous meetings as 9 hours per week. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed to go with option 4, total budget of £11,481, increase of 30%. This equates to an increase for Band D and above properties of £9.85 per year, £0.82p per month.
Action Clerk to provide the information on a SNC Precept Form for SNC for approval. Proposed by Cllr Black and seconded by Cllr Webber, all in agreement.

- To approve the payments for this month.

Wages + expenses	Dec-22	£623.67
Donation in lieu of rent - Village Hall		£450.00

£1,073.67

Payments totally £1,073.67, were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded by Cllr Brown. All in agreement

14. Discuss any Councillors issues:

Cllr Black would like a recruitment campaign to recruit new younger Councillors in the May Elections.

Nothing from the other Councillors.

Date of next meeting, 7.30pm 7th February 2023

There being no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:23pm

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