



Minutes of Gillingham Parish Council Meeting 7th March 2023 Gillingham Village Hall

Councillors Present: Cllrs: J. Black, M. Brown, C. Hoare, A. Rymer, 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 District Cllr Knight. There were 36 members of the public attending. County Councillor Stone was also in attendance.
- 3. Declaration of Pecuniary and other interests:**

No additional interests were declared.
After some discussion of pre-determination and 'closed' minds, and County Councillor Stone validating the declarations of 'other' interest.

 - Only one Councillor declared that they may be of closed mind. Cllr Black declared an 'other' interest in all the planning applications, as she has put comments of objections on all three planning applications.
 - Cllr Webber declared an 'other' interest for agenda item 9, regarding the Village Hall Committee as she is a trustee.
 - There were no other declarations received.
- 4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting:** The minutes of 7th February 2023 were declared as being an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Webber and seconded by Cllr Ward. All that attended were in agreement.
- 5. Parish Ten – Public Forum – Information only.**

County Councillor Stone, provided some background on the County Devolution Deal for Norfolk (*The following has been taken from County Councillor Stones notes*):

 - Target funding and resources to Norfolk's own priorities, with a new investment fund of £20 million per year for 30 years.
 - Unlock housing and employment sites with an injection of £12.9 million capital funding in this spending review period and new powers to drive regeneration, housing, and development priorities.
 - Invest in the skills we know we need, with devolutions of the adult education budget and input into the new Local Skills Improvement Plans.
 - Invest in local transport planning and consolidate transport budgets to direct funding to better meet our local needs and priorities.
 - Strengthen the local business voice to inform local decision making and strategic economic planning through the future integration of New Anglian Local Enterprise Partnership.
 - Have a council leader who is directly elected by the public, with the first election in May 2024.

- Raise our influence regionally and nationally, enabling our voice to be better heard by Government to shape future and funding decisions for the benefit of our County.

Consultation is open till 20th March. There is still time to have your say on a proposed £600 million-plus devolution deal, to give Norfolk more powers and funding to create jobs, improve transport and boost skills.

Members of the public:

- The roadside damage at Gillingham Dam still has not been repaired. The Clerk informed the public and council that she had logged the fault and it was closed. **Action Clerk** to chase this again.
- There is a lot of dog fouling by the church. The Council thought it was a good idea for a dog bin to be put there. Clerk to source the costs etc for next meeting.
- Mopeds appearing and parking by the garages in The Street, next to the footpath to KFC and Starbucks. There are also lots of crowds around this area at 3.30am. The Parish Council advised that it would be good to phone 101 and log a call. This means that the police will be able to catalogue all the issues.

6. To receive an update Barclays.

The letter to the CEO of Barclays appears to have had an effect. It appears that Customer Services phoned Aldeby Parish Council to discuss Gillingham Parish Council.

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

- Ordering the litter pickers etc – Litter Pickers, Bag Openers and Rubbish bags have been purchased and are now at Cllr Black's house.
- To discuss the SNC Big Litter Pick date and agree any action. The Council agreed to have a litter pick on 1st April from 10.30-12.30. **Action Clerk** to provide the posters for advertising this event.
- Clerk to log a highways fault for the barrier damage on Gillingham Dam. As mentioned in public forum, Clerk will chase this up.
- Cllr Warman to speak to Kings Dam Project David Reynolds regarding the spikes in the playground. This has all been done. The ground has had some levelling by the basketball area. The whole area is looking very good.
- To sort out the First Buses timetable that has been vandalised. Ongoing.

8. Planning:

- **SNC planning application 2023/0187, expansion to existing roadside services. Location, Land South and West of Gillingham Services, Norwich Road.**

The plans have been validated; this means that the correct documents have been uploaded.

There is already a problem with light pollution from existing businesses; this will only be made worse. The map shows M&S and a road going behind M&S going nowhere, why is this? (answer) The road has been stopped as it is a farm site. Battery Storage EV charging units, how are these going to be powered? Are you going to use solar or wind? – (answer) the technology is moving so fast, there is at the moment no agreement on how the electric supply will be getting to these units.

The Parish Council needs to put more effort on supporting the residents and their concerns – the peoples voice!

Gillingham will lose its character.

There were strong feelings of objection at the meeting.

The Parish Council's job is to try and put forward the views of the parishioners, but consider the material matters and not personal feelings. The Parish Council should listen to both sides of the argument.

People move to the village because it is a village.

Do the M&S, Greggs want to come? – (answer) Yes, this has been confirmed. Are Starbucks and KFC performing well, the car parks look empty most of the time?

- Noise assessment not correctly done on the planning application.
- Roundabout in flood zone 3
- There are lots of problems with the application.

There was a show of hand for objections – this ended being the majority. No one at the meeting mentioned supporting this application. Comments deadline is 24th March 2023

Parish Council voted Objection unanimously.

- Any updates on previous planning applications and the **Village Cluster – 8th Extended Date**. The Parish Council did not discuss this, therefore it will difficult to make judgement.
- **BA/2023/0031/FUL 25 x tidal platforms. Location Orchard House, Dunburgh Road.** Due to the location of this planning application, the Clerk made a request to the planning authority for Gillingham to be included.
Location - go down Dunburgh Steps and turn left 1.2 miles towards Beccles.
Strong views of objections with the people in the meeting.
There is now a planning enforcement officer for the lake and its development, as there appears to be no previous planning permission for this.
The area is very secluded and there will be a disproportionate concentration of activity.
20 of the 25 tidal platforms will involve cutting down habitat, trees and hedges, where there is plenty of wildlife.
20 – 30 vehicles for one fishing match, concern over the traffic through Dunburgh Road and Kings Dam, normally the quiet roads in Gillingham and Geldeston.
Flooding issues will get worse with the clearing of hedges and trees as this will increase the tidal flow.
Beautiful walking area.
General feeling was Objection, no one commented on supporting this application.
Parish Council voted Objection unanimously.
this application has since been withdrawn.
- Footpath is also being used for cyclists. **Action Clerk** to ask SNC for 'no cycle signs.

9. Village Matters – to discuss and agree:

- To arrange a date for a litter pick – as discussed 1st April 2023.
- To discuss the complaint received about dogs running loose in the playground. New 'No Dog' signs should be put on the gates.
- To receive an update on The Peaches installation date. The installation date is set for 28th March and will take 2 days.
- To agree the quotes for the village hall and approve the CiL payments for the quotes. The Clerk explained the quotes that were obtained and confirmed that they were from 'preferred suppliers' as the village hall has used them in the past. Andrew Wright total amount £4,847.15, repair roofing, repair leak in the kitchen, sort out blocked drain, supply heater under counter, install electric induction hob, repair floor, replace 3 heaters in school play area, install PIR sensors in hall and toilets.
Nationwide Security £925.44+VAT for the simple access system and overhead door closer. This would enable the village hall to be locked and easily be unlocked when necessary.
Both quotes were proposed by Cllr Rymer and seconded by Cllr Black, all agreed with one abstention.

10. Parish Council Matters:

- Review the Internal Control Statement for year ending March 2023, ongoing.

11. To discuss the update on the Neighbourhood Plan meeting. We still do not have many people interested. Ongoing, take up in June after the elections in May 2023.

12. Correspondence:

County Councillor Stone's newsletter - this will be distributed to the Councillors.

Cllr Warman had received yet another letter concerning the parking issues in Marsh Lane. There are spike chain, rubble, ex-military equipment, which limits the width of the lane and there are issues with the waste removal lorries. After some discussion, it was agreed that this is not the Parish Council's business. If they want to complain then they should contact the civil enforcement department at SNC.

13. Finance:

- To approve the payments for this month.

**Summary of payments
Gillingham Parish Council**

To be approved at		7th March 2023
Wages + expenses	Feb-23	£370.47
	Screwfix	£142.40
	Amazon	£54.30
	Clerks expenses	£22.50
	mileage	£33.75
	stationery	£13.40
		£636.82
South Norfolk Council	Dog Bins	£663.60
Total Payments		£1,300.42
 Statement of account		
Bank Balance 28/2/23		£18,867.94
<i>consisting off</i>		
CiL balance	£19,794.41	
Reserves	-£926.47	
	£18,867.94	
NS&I	£106.53	
	£18,974.47	
VAT to be reclaimed	1768.01	

Payments totalling £1,300.42 were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Rymer and

Seconded by Cllr Hoare. All in agreement.

- To approve the bank reconciliations for the year (3 x Qtr reconciliations). These have been approved.
- There was also another agreement for the Clerk Anniversary pay increase. To be increased by .27p per hour on the next NJC scale 19. Proposed by Cllr Rymer and seconded by Cllr Warman. All in agreement. This will be from 1st March 2023.

Discuss any Councillors issues:

One Cllr stated that a resident asked her to mention that in The Street, someone was trying to steal her CAT under her car.

Date of next meeting, 7.30pm 4th April 2023

There being no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:09pm

*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
County Councillor: barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk*