



**Meeting of the Parish Council Meeting
Minutes
4th July 2023
held in Gillingham Village Hall**

Councillors Present: Cllrs: K. Aldis, C. Hoare, S. Mallett, J. Ward and B. Warman.

Also Present: Clerk.

1. **Welcome.**
2. **Apologies for absence received, record number of members of the public present.**
Apologies for Cllr Rymer was accepted. County Council Stone and District Councillor Evans apologies were recorded.
3. **Declaration of Pecuniary and Other Interests.** Cllr Warman recorded an interest in Planning application 8c which is an additional planning application for discussion from the agenda.
4. **To approve the minutes of 6th June 2023.** Approved as being an accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded by Cllr Warman all in agreement.
5. **To consider co-option of one vacancy and the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.** There was an agreement to co-opt Julia Johnson, she was not at the meeting. Proposed by Cllr Warman and seconded by Cllr Aldis.
6. **Parish Ten – Public Forum – Information only.**
Standing Orders suspended at 7.40pm
One of the members of the public, spoke and says she feels completely unsupported by the Police. She has requested police presence on numerous occasions. The lady lives in a dead-end road that has a Traffic Regulation Order, but cars are parking there and dumping their rubbish etc. **Action Clerk** to contact James King, request a police presence at the meeting.
Standing Orders resumed at 7.50pm
7. **To discuss the outstanding matters arising from last meeting:**
 - a) Clerk to log a highways fault for the barrier damage on Gillingham Dam. Clerk is still chasing this.
 - b) To receive an update on the Northgate Bus Route. Beccles Town Council has come back to me regarding the above:
We spoke to them about the possibility of redirecting one or two of the buses which run down Northgate each hour via the train station to improve connectivity. These would however then head out along the bypass, missing Gillingham unless a suitable stop could be found along the main road (unlikely).

Although it looked good in theory, especially on the way to Norwich, the return journey had some issues in terms of how buses could efficiently get back to a central town location (Tesco) that I personally hadn't fully thought about!

It would likely also depend on better infrastructure at the train station.

First Buses were not fully against the idea and did say they would go away and research into it further, however they did highlight some very important obstacles. On the whole, from what they said, I'm of the opinion that they don't think they would see much benefit in changing route at this point without further investment from other parties.

- c) To receive an update on the bridge by the Playing field. The communication from Andre Roberts had been distributed before the meeting so that Councillors could read and digest. The Parish Council has confirmed that they agree with the information and now wish to keep the gates 'open' to the children and parents. Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded to Cllr Warman. **Action Clerk** to send report to Glenn Sharman.
- d) To receive an update on the playing field gates:
It is recommended (by Rospa/and the play industry) that there should be two gates available, which you do have if you include the Allotment gate (if unlocked). If i recall the gates are unlocked for access normally and only locked when the Parish Council deemed that they should be locked?

It should be noted that gates are not installed to keep children from running out of the play area (unless near a road), children should always be supervised. A self-closer type gate is usually the norm for a play area. Why were gates with child proof locks installed at this location? (was the elimination of night time use a factor?)

Would it be possible for the maintenance section to be locked in the closed position at all times, with the maintenance operatives given keys?

This would ensure that there is no trip hazard of the metal 'stay' that is exposed, as it would be masked by the closed maintenance gate.

Could the pedestrian section on the gate be left in the open position (tied back) and locked only at a certain times, such as during the night?

It may also eliminate 'partly' the metal 'stay' being a trip hazard, if turf was laid around it, at least from one side.

It also should be possible to place a prominent sign on the gate/fence/entrance stating that 'All children (under 8 years old) should be accompanied by a responsible person' or similar (8 years old is a general recommendation, but the Parish Council may want to look at placing a different age on the sign).

The play area is rather remote and i would think that it is very unlikely that a young child under 8 would venture all the way up the path, past the allotments to play alone.

Action BW to source 'Children to be accompanied by an adult' signs for the playground. Also, to source a sign for 'no glasses beyond this point'.

- e) To receive an update on the outstanding overgrown hedges along the paths. Clerk has mentioned that the letters are ready to be posted.
- f) To receive an update on the 2022 Parish Partnership Kings Dam footpath, the site meeting. Clerk to contact Highway again.
- g) To receive an update on the illegal 'beware of the bull' sign. The sign has been taken down, thank to Cllr Mallett. There was a discussion regarding what type of directional signs should go on the footpath. Beccles has a very nice sign. **Action Clerk** to contact Beccles Town Council and see where they got the sign from? Although it was mentioned by a member of the public that we should not be paying for the signs, the Clerk stated that she is having problems getting in touch with the footpath's person in Norfolk County Council.
- h) To receive an update on the broken bus timetable sign. **Action Clerk** to contact the bus company and ask for an up-to-date timetable.

8. Planning:

- a) BA/2022/0449/FUL Proposed solar array, The Swan Motel, Loddon Road, additional documents. There was some concern regarding the trees that are currently there. **Action Clerk** to ask the owner what he plans to do with them. Proposed to recommend Support.
- b) To receive an update on the outstanding applications, Land North of The Street, Land South of The Street, the business expansion at McDonalds roundabout. Cllr Aldis stated there is still a chance to get your comments in through the planning portal.
- c) BA/2023/0251/FUL Proposed extension to open fronted cattle barn and formalise use of storage building as a farm office. Land Opposite 23 Kings Dam, Marsh Lane. The Council noted that as this was a new planning application we would wait to see if there are any comments. Then use the email circulation to decide on a recommendation. **Action Clerk** to process this through.

9. **Village Matters – to discuss and agree:** Nothing at the time of the meeting.

10. Parish Council Matters:

- a) To receive an update on Additional names for Barclays accounts – ongoing. (SM received, KA outstanding, AR needs a face-to-face meeting with Barclays).
- b) To decide on the date for Councillor training. Councillor training has been booked for 26/9/23 at 6pm, at the village hall.
- c) To decide on the date for the Neighbourhood plan (September). Neighbourhood planning meeting the first one is planned for 10th October at 7pm, at the village hall.

11. **Correspondence:** The Clerk noted that she had received correspondence from the Angling Club regarding Orchard House, Dunburgh. All Councillors have a printed copy.

12. Finance:

- a) To approve the payments for this month.

Summary of payments Gillingham Parish Council

To be approved at	4th July 2023	
Wages + expenses	May	£480.14
	Clerks expenses	£12.50
	mileage	£34.20
		£526.84
		101087
Total Payments		£526.84
		101087

Statement of account

Bank Balance 30/06/23		£9,880.86
<i>consisting off</i>		
CiL balance	£2,325.10	
unpresent cheque - CiL	£2,889.78	
General Reserves	£4,665.98	
	<u>£9,880.86</u>	

NS&I £106.53

£9,987.39

Payments totalling £526.84 were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Hoare and seconded by Cllr Warman. All in agreement.

b) To receive the bank balances and budget so far this year. As noted above.

13. Discuss any Councillors issues:

CH reported that himself and the Clerk were getting scam emails. Therefore, he has requested that all the email address for the councillors be taken of the website. The main contact is the Clerk.

SM, there are issues with The Street, specifically the Hairdressers and the shingle from the driveways is spreading into the road and could cause accidents. Clerk to add a note to the Tidings when the next issue is available.

Date of next meeting, no meeting in August, next meeting 5th September 2023.

No meeting in August
5th September 2023
3rd October 2023
7th November 2023
5th December 2023 (tbc)

There being no more business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm

Clerk's email address: gillinghamclerk@gmail.com
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District Councillor : andrew.evans@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
County Councillor: barry.stone.cllr@norfolk.gov.uk

Signed by Chairman

Dated