



GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Extra Ordinary

Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes

Held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 30th August 2023 7.30PM

Parish Councillors present: Cllr V Thomson, Cllr C Brown, and Cllr B Bernard. (all these were District Councillors acting as Parish Councillors, to re-form Geldeston Parish Council).

All Councillors had signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Councillors prior to the meeting starting.

Also present: Tina Newby.

Before the meeting started, there was an agreement that Cllr Brown would start the meeting.

- 1. To Elect a chairman for the meeting: and the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office for Chairman:** Cllr Brown was elected as Chair. Proposed by Cllr Thomson and seconded by Cllr Bernard. All in agreement.
- 2. To appoint a Locum Clerk:** Tina Newby was appointed Locum Clerk. Unanimous agreement.

The Councillors resolved to change the meeting as follows: Item 3 would co-opt 4 councillors, then go to item 4, then item 5, then back to item 3 to co-opt the two remaining vacancies.

3. To consider Co-options for the six parish councillor vacancies, and the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office: and the signing of the Declaration of Action of Office:

The Parish Council had a list of people interested in becoming a councillor. The Parish Council took these alphabetical.

Vacant position 1, the Parish Council, asked Mr Ansell, for a few words; 'He was on the PC before and would like to come back and get things moving'. RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Ansell.

Vacant position 2, the Parish Council, asked Mr Cracknell, for a few words. 'He has been a chairman in the past and would like to help move the Parish Council forward'. RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Cracknell.

Vacant position 3, the Parish Council, asked Mr Fogerty, for a few words. 'He was elected in May and now would like to finish what he started'. RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Fogerty.

Vacant position 4, the Parish Council, asked Mrs Hayward, for a few words. 'She was afraid that she had felt it appropriate to resign. She is wanting to come back on to the parish council to help the others but will stand down if there is another person interested. There is a need for more female councillors.' RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mrs Hayward.

All the above signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the Council table.

4. To note and agree the resignation of the 3 District Councillors: District Councillor Vic Thomson resigned and left the building. District Councillor Bernard resigned and left the Council table.

5. To elect a Chairman for Geldeston Parish Council. Cllr Ansell was nominated as Chairman. Proposed by Cllr Cracknell and seconded by Cllr Fogerty. All in agreement. District Councillor Brown then resigned and left the Council table.

The Parish Council then continued co-opting the other two vacancies:

Vacant position 5, the Parish Council, asked Mr Ashfield, for a few words. 'He is very happy to come back to the Parish Council and thanked the District Councillors for their help.' RESOLVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Ashfield.

Vacant position 6, the Parish Council, asked Mr Wade, for a few words. 'He has been on the Parish Council previously and was not elected by 2 votes. He would like to get the Parish Council moving forward.' RESLOVED unanimously to co-opt Mr Wade.

Positions 5 and 6 and the Chairman, Declaration of Acceptance of Office were signed.

6. To receive and accept apologies for absence. No apologies.

- To record the number of public present: 30 members of the public.

7. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations.

- To receive declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests for councillors on items on the agenda - None
- To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and those previously granted. None

8. Parish 10, The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum of 10 minutes) for items to be discussed on the agenda only.

- Two members of the public mentioned the issue with the church driveway and what is public and what is private. There was an agreement to write to The Old Rectory and seek clarification. There is also a well-used footpath, **Action Clerk** to see if the footpath is registered and to write to The Old Rectory. The sign at the start of the driveway will need moving back a little.
- West End Road keeps flooding. **Action Clerk** to report this problem with Highways.
- Riverbank footpath.
- White line in Kells Walk/Acre
- Mirror has been broken at the bottom of Stockton Road. This will need to be replaced. The grit bin is needed there too.
- There was a request for another SAM2 machine, full time.
- There was a concern about the dogs running loose on the allotments. Some people do not pick up after their dogs.
- It was noted that the bins, dog bins and grit bin have not been installed. **Action Cllr Ansell** to get these back from the previous Councillor.
- Over hanging hedge at the top of Heath Road to the church, needs to be cut back this would widen the path for wheelchairs.
- The holly hedge in The Street was also mentioned.

9. Reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors:

District Councillors Brown and Bernard reported the following: SNC have now completely moved into the Horizon Building at Broadland Business Park. They are looking to sell the old building in Long Stratton but believe there is an interest in making it a Community Asset. There have been a few changes. The Scrutiny department is now chaired by the opposition. Cllr Brown is now part of the Waveney, Lower Yare and Lothingland IDB. The Government will be changing the ruling regarding Planning. The Parliamentary changes to the boundaries, mean the Geldeston will be part of the Waveney Valley, but still part of South Norfolk and Broadland District Council. This will happen in May 2027.

There is a housing crisis with the likes of Saffron Housing selling off their houses.

10. To note the completion of the External Audit Annual Return. The Clerk reported that all is fine with the External Audit and all the necessary notices were published in the correct timescales.

11. Finance:

- To review and agree payments for the month:

Statement of Account @ 31/5/23

GPC Community Account	£17,984.73	*
Village Park	£4,131.03	**
	£22,115.76	

Receipts received between meetings

GVP Interest	£8.61	
	£8.61	
	£8.61	

Payments between June and August

Anglian Water DD	20.34	
	£20.34	
	£20.34	

Running total £22,104.03

Statement of Account 27th August 2023

Bank Balance @ 27/8/23	£17,964.39	*
	£4,139.64	**
	£22,104.03	

Pay SNC invoices they paid	£240.00	Paid in error, should have been paid by TN
	£550.77	
Wix website paid by Tina	£288.00	
Poors Allotment Trust	£200.00	
PKF Littlejohn	£378.00	
SNC Dog Bins	£594.58	
Noticeboard key cut	£20.50	Receipt to be confirmed
Locum Clerk Wages	£226.52	
	£2,498.37	To be approved

Funds to be trf * to **
 VAT reclaim to GVP 5216.62 **

* = GPC
 ** = GVP

- The Clerk reported that one of the payments paid by SNC was incorrect, this should have been invoiced separately to the Clerk. The Clerk advised the Parish Council, that they should pay this, as there was an invoice for the amount. The Clerk will than pay the Parish Council.
- Payments totally £2,498.37 were approved for payment. Proposed by Cllr Ansell and seconded by Cllr Cracknell.
- To note the Bank Balances - noted
- To discuss and agree new bank signatories and the move to a different bank, if necessary, for example Unity Trust: The Parish Council does not want to be in the same position as a few months ago. The Parish Council has agreed to transfer to Unity Trust Bank. This is one of the bank accounts that are recommended by Parish Councils.

12. Planning:

- a. To discuss planning applications received from SNC: There was an application received the day before 2023/2482, this will be discussed at another meeting, in September.
- b. To discuss planning applications received from BA: No applications received.

13. Discuss the correspondence received and, in this instance, agree any action to be taken:

- **To discuss email received from resident in Kells Acre, regarding the rubbish and fly tipping.** This was discussed; The Car Park is owned by Saffron Housing. Cllr Wade will provide the Clerk with additional information and photos, and she will then contact Housing Association. **Action Clerk** to email Saffron Housing.
- It was also noted that the Cherry tree by the footpath is lifting up the paving slabs.
- To discuss email received from SNC regarding flooding that we have had in the past, and a request for a date to come down for a site visit. This was discussed and thought a good idea. Cllrs Ansell, Ashfield, Cracknell and Fogerty were happy to meet these people. Action Clerk to arrange a visit.

14. To receive an update on the village Speedwatch and agree any action.

The Speedwatch, will be on The Street and Station Road. It was noted that some of the speed signs had been changed around! They now have been put back. The Speed watch will be added to the agenda in the future.

There was an 80% show of hands for 20mph through the village.

15. To receive an update on Geldeston Village Park and the Lottery Grant and agree any action.

The Clerk reported that LR had resigned, due to the fact that she could not get the necessary financial information she wanted from the Monitoring Officer. The Clerk has contacted Joe Crabb from the Lottery and given him an update. Cllr Wade has asked the Councillors to go and have a look at the park and see what they think. It was noted that there are no signs to the park, around the village. **Action Clerk** to try and get an update from the working party.

16. To receive an update on the GREEN Project and the allotments and agree any action: JL and ML have been leaving water bowls out for the dog, but they are being stolen. The Whole area will be cut soon. There was a request for a memorial bench, this will be dealt with by ML. There are some issues with the fruit trees. **Action Cllr Ansell** to contact his mate who grow fruit trees for some guidance. **Action Clerk and Cllr Ansell** to site the allotments.

17. To agree the future dates for the Parish Council meetings and agree the date for the next meeting:

8th November 2023 (booked)

Provisional 2024

10th January

13th March

8th May

10th July

11th September

13th November

Noted and agreed.

18. Date of next parish meeting: 13th September and 8th November 7.30pm

19. Councillor matters arising:

- Laydens Lane, development hut to be converted to residential. There appears to be a buried container. Contact Environmental agency and enforcement.
- Footpath clearing at Geldeston Hall, Footpath contact.
- Banks on single track roads are not cut enough and could be dangerous with obstructions. Heath Riad and Dunburgh.
- Neighbouring council had issues like we have had in the past and they managed to remove the Councillor! Why could the Monitoring Officer not do anything?

20. Admission to meetings:

ADMISSION TO MEETINGS - PURSUANT TO SECTION 1(2) OF THE PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 IT IS PROPOSED THAT, BECAUSE OF THE CONFIDENTIAL NATURE OF THE BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED, THE PUBLIC AND PRESS LEAVE THE MEETING DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE REMAINING MATTERS.

21. To agree Terms of employment for the Locum Clerk.

Confirmed and contract signed.

There was no more business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15pm