



GELDESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council

Minutes

Held in the Village Hall

Wednesday 11th October 2023 7.30PM

Parish Councillors present: Cllr I. Ansell (chairman), Cllr J. Ashfield, Cllr R. Fogerty, Cllr J. Hayward, and Cllr A. Wade.

Also present: Tina Newby and District Councillor Chris Brown.

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. To consider a co-option vacancy, and the signing of the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
- 3. Tim Morton was co-opted on to the Parish Council, unanimously agree.**

Cllr Tim Morton joined the Parish Council table and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

- 4. To receive and accept apologies for absence.**

To record the number of public present: 20 members of the public were recorded. Cllr Cracknell apologies were accepted. County Councillor Stone and District Councillor Bernard also sent their apologies.

- 5. To receive declarations of interest and dispensations.**

- To receive declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary and Other interests for councillors on items on the agenda.

- To receive and consider written requests for dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and those previously granted.

Cllr Ashfield and Cllr Morton declared interest (other, and Pecuniary Interests) for 11b planning application.

- 6. To elect a Vice Chairman:** Cllr Fogerty was proposed to become the vice chairman, unanimously agreed.
- 7. To approve the minutes of the previous meetings: 10th May 2023 and 30th August 2023:** These were agreed together. Proposed as being an accurate record of the meetings, by Cllr Hayward, and seconded by Cllr Wade all in agreement.
- 8. Parish 10, The meeting will be adjourned for public participation (maximum of 10 minutes) for items to be discussed on the agenda only.**
 - Storms drains appear to be blocked.
 - Some of the signs are still facing the wrong way. Kells Way and the sign outside Mandy's Pickles.
 - The footpath sign was pulled up, dragged across the road and left there, then got 'lost'. Action Clerk to report this.
 - This is the season now to plant the trees, hedges and plants for Geldeston Village Park. 3 Rivers Pitch and Paddle, are having some trees delivered in March and GVP are welcome some. The GREEN project asked for some.
 - Stockton mirror will be replaced. Action IA to purchase and install another mirror at the junction of Stockton and Yarmouth Road.
 - Could we have 30mph speed sign when you turn left out of the Locks Lane, as there is not one and those that are turning left, need to be reminded of the speed limit. Action Clerk to request one by the stone pit area.
 - SAM2 will go back to the usual sign in Station Road. The bracket was taken off when the sign got damaged. Action IA to replace the SAM2 bracket.
 - Action IA to install all the new waste, dog and grit bins, and to purchase some grit for the first load. It was noted that all the equipment had been returned.
- 9. Reports from the County Councillor and District Councillors.** District Councillor Brown reported on the following:
 - SNC are still pushing homes for Ukraine.
 - SNC are still in the process of selling the offices in Long Stratton. They have rejected a bid for an Asset of Community Value.

- The village clusters have been delayed. One of the sites proposed has been rejected, they now have to go back to the drawing board and re calculate the houses in the other sites to take in extra the houses.
- There is still £300 - £400 members ward grant money available in the members' ward. There are also some other funding options available, contact him directly.

10. Parish Council concerns to discuss and agree:

- Changing to a gov.uk email or other email suppliers: **Action Clerk** to look into specific Gmail accounts and start from 1st April 2024.
- Councillor training dates: The training dates have been noted.

11. Finance:

- To note the Bank Balances, see below:
- To note the correspondence from Tidings Magazine, requesting donation for this year of £150: Proposed by Cllr Ashfield and seconded by Ansell to pay the £150, as this is within our budget.
- To review and agree payments for the month: Agreement as above to pay £150 to the Tidings.

Statement of Account 30th September 2023

Bank Balance @ 30/9/23	£14,888.50 *	
	£9,367.35 **	
	£24,255.85	
Tidings	TBC	
		<u>£0.00</u>
Lottery fund available	£9,462.42	
GVP Total available	£18,829.77	

12. Planning:

- To discuss planning applications received from SNC:
[2023/2482 | 48 The Street Geldeston | Ground and first floor rear extensions. Installation of 2 No pitched dormer windows to front elevation roof.](#)

There was a discussion on whether the neighbours are overlooked. Bearing in mind that no neighbours had sent any comments in. There was a show of hands 2 raised their hands for an objection and other 4 raised their hands for approval. Therefore, there was a recommendation to approve.

- b. To discuss planning applications received from BA:

BA/2023/0022/TPO Dunburgh Road. There was a long discussion regarding the trees and the lack of information. Some of the public were concerned that the councillors who declared an interest were still in the room. This is because the TPO was considered not to be of pecuniary interest. However, they did not comment on this. It was noted that the TPO is only for 6 months. **Action Cllr Wade** to write a letter to the CEO and ask why the Parish Council is not allowed to see the full consultation and there is no facility to write comments on the planning portal.

[BA/2023/0290/FUL | Install 18 wooden angling platforms for use 39 weeks per year in conjunction with EA closed season | Orchard House Dunburgh Road Geldeston Norfolk NR34 0LL](#)

Cllrs Ashfield and Morton left the room while this was being discussed. There was a lengthy discussion where the Parish Council allowed the public to place their views. There was a discussion regarding the fact that Broads Authority has made a catalogue of errors regarding this application and the retrospective application.

The Parish Council would like to note that we are only considering the application in front of them at the time.

In summary, there was an overall concern for the environment and habitat. The size of the application even though the new application had reduced the platforms from 25 to 18, were still considered too large a scale of project.

RESOLVED: The Parish Council recommended Objection on the basis of the above. Unanimously agreed.

The meeting was temporary adjourned whilst the Clerk went to collect the two councillors.

- c. To discuss any additional planning applications, received before the meeting. None
- d. To receive an update on the Village Clusters. Received by the District Councillor earlier in the meeting.

13. To receive an up on the Geldeston Village Park, what is needed and agree any action:

Emma reported:

LR and LK had stepped down, over the issue of the Parish Council at the time. It was assumed that JC would not have any involvement in the project either. Both Jodi and Emma were happy to continue with the project and are eager to get this completed as soon as possible. Cllrs Ashfield and Wade have volunteered again to help them. This will be a working party.

All the pathways have been laid for the sensory garden. The hedge will need to be planted this season. Rosemary is still happy to advise but does not want to do the work. There was a project budget for the garden as £10,000-£12,000. If there are unforeseen issues then the Lottery may be able to help us out and apply for additional funds.

It was noted that the lottery money could not been used for maintenance, this will have to be considered at the time of the budget. Consider a local garden for garden maintenance.

14. To receive an update on the Grass Cutting Contract and agree any action:

There was a problem with the grass cutting at the beginning of cutting season. This had been rectified and they now strim over the areas. Norse will be told not to discuss anything to anyone other than Cllr Wade and the Clerk.

The meeting was extending into over 2 hours as determined by Standing Orders paragraph 1w. The Chairman thought it appropriate to continue the meeting, until it was finished. Trying to catch up on the 'lost/missed' meetings in the past.

15. To discuss the situation regarding a Tree Warden from the Tree Council and agree any action.

Tree Warden's are voluntary posts. They are not experienced or qualified. They should be wearing PPE and have a tree database of the trees under the parish council's concern. Tree surveys should be done annually. The village is looking unkept and untidy. **Action Clerk and Cllr Wade** to design a job specification, roles and responsibilities. The Clerk stated that there are tree warden Lantra courses available for the suitable candidate.

16. To discuss and agree any village issues:

- a. Kells Way Footpath. The Parish Council has considered filling in the holes, as the area in question appears to be 'no mans land'. The flooding is becoming a serious issue. There was a discussion as the whether the footpath needs to be dropped at all. The property company raised the height, when they did the development of Kells Way. Perhaps a gully to soak the rain away. James Bromley has offered to help. **Action Cllr Wade** to liaise with Mr Bromley.
- b. Passing places on Stockton Road, the write lines have been reported to highways. The highways passing places are tarmac the unadopted ones are made of gravel and have potholes. There is a request for the adopted ones to have passing places signs installed. **Action Clerk** to request these signs.
- c. River footpath, two breaks in the wall, causing problems with walkers – There is one in the Dowson's property this will be worked on. The other one is on Mr Ashford's land. **Action Cllr Ashfield** to contact Mr Ashford.
- d. Road marking at junction to Stockton Road, this has been logged.
- e. River Footpath cut as far as the boathouse. This has been cut.
- f. Repairing and replacing the river wall barriers in Station Road.

The company that completed this will come back and replace the area they have missed.
- g. To receive an update on the outstanding highways issues – summary of outstanding and completed job was provided to the Councillors.

- h. Correspondence regarding moles. There was a discussion about this and there is nothing the Parish Council can do.
- i. The need for additional allotment plots. Two allotment plots are being neglected. There is a need for one shared plot. There was a concern from the Poors Trust that we have too many plots and this was 'not for profit'. There was an explanation that we do not gain from the rent. We pay for the water to the allotments.

It was noted that the Poors Trust are in need of people to be on the trust committee. Cllrs Ashfield and Fogerty volunteered to be on the committee. This is excellent, as we will have a root for communication.

17. Updates from Village Committees and Groups:

- a. The GREEN Project

The missing dog bowls has been resolved.
Could GREEN Project have some money for manure at the next meeting.
Sunflower seeds have been sown. We have Scarlet Clover there this year.
Need volunteers.
Lovely peaceful area good for mental health.

- b. Village Hall Management Trustees – No update.

- c. The Locks Inn Management Committee

Sewage connection has been completed.
Solar Panels will be fitted on the roof 13/14 November 2023.
They will start to work on the track.
They will be using the field for major events.
Improve the car park and main car park.
There are now a full range of events booked.

18. To discuss any issues from the Councillors, for information only.

- JH mentioned the issue with the Swans, there is only 3 signets left. It was mentioned that there was a seal sighted in the river.
- Verge clearing in Dunburgh Road, should be cut back 1 meter wide strip.
- It was noted that the village is looking a mess.
- General information the business expansion at the Gillingham roundabout needs comments, please don't ignore.

19. Date of next parish meeting: 8th November 7.30pm

There was no more business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 10pm

Signed by Chairman:

Dated: