

Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on **Thursday 11th May 2023** at the Gawcott Village Hall commencing at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mrs R Bate, Mr R Gibbs, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman], Mrs P Molloy [Parish Clerk designate] and one resident.

- 1) The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting expressing concern that there was only one resident in attendance. Thanks were extended to Mr Goodman for his attendance.

The Chairman explained that this meeting - the Annual Parish Meeting - is a meeting of Councillors and Parish electors, required to be held between 1 March and 1 June, when electors may contribute to the discussion and raise issues at any time during the meeting, at the discretion of the Chairman. It is not a meeting of the Parish Council.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council – to follow - is a business meeting of the Parish Council during which the chairman is elected and councillors appointed to relevant posts for the coming year.

- 2) **Open Forum:** No issues were raised.

- 3) **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies received from Councillors Cornell, Fealey and Stuchbury and Councillor Dugher.

- 4) **The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th May 2022** where approved and signed by the Chairman.

- 5) **Matters arising:** There were no matters arising.

- 6) **Chairman's Report on the business of the Parish Council during 2022-23**

The Chairman circulated a report outlining the business of the Parish Council for 2022-23. A copy of the Report is attached to the Minute Book.

- 7) **Finance and Accounts**

The Chairman reported a total positive balance of £55,922.80.

Councillor Ulph, with advice from the Clerk designate, is in the process of preparing the Annual Return to the auditors. The Chairman noted that an explanation of the high balance will be required prior to the submission of accounts to the auditors. This should detail the reserves within the accounts for upcoming Parish Council financed projects.

8) Report from Buckinghamshire Councillors

In the absence of Buckinghamshire Councillors, the only matter to report is the appointment of Ashon Gilbert as the new Community Liaison Officer for EKFB [HS2]. Ashon replaces Chris James with whom we have been liaising for five years.

9) Village Projects

The Chairman noted a number of projects which have been considered by Councillors:

- Traffic and Speed Management; a revised application will be prepared for a third tranche grant from the HS2 Road Safety Fund.
- Signage to direct the routing of HS2 HGVs.
- VAS strategy for Preston Road and Hillesden Road [in hand].
- Parish Council Facebook presence to be considered with the Clerk designate.
- Caretaker required to manage the Field and All-Weather Pitch.
- Defibrillator required in the centre of the village.
- White-goods replacement at pavilion.
- Replace doors and windows at pavilion [in hand].
- Richard Roper Playing Field – keep fit trail and equipment for adult gym.
- Playing Field signage upgrade.
- ‘Reclaim’ the ownership of Hodding Wood.

10) North Buckinghamshire

The speed and volume of traffic remains a continuing issue for Parish residents.

The state of the roads through and around the Parish is a constant problem which is not being adequately addressed by BC, HS2 or EWR. Residents are being seriously let down by the very poor oversight exercised by Buckinghamshire Council and the irresponsibility of EWR and HS2 traffic managers in organising remedial work.

The Chairman expressed concern about the possible meddling in Whitehall with the decision for the proposed prison extension at Springhill and the delay

in issuing the Inspector's report following the planning appeal heard earlier in the year.

Concern was expressed about the non-appearance of the study on the routing of traffic through and/or around Buckingham – the A421 improvement study. The outcome of the study will have a marked effect on the amount of 'rat running' through the Parish.

11) Other business

Mr Goodman suggested that grants are readily available via the HS2 Community and Environmental Fund. This will be investigated although the red tape surrounding such applications and the oversight and management by Buckinghamshire Council does not bode well for the success of applications.

12) Annual Parish Meeting 2024 - To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7.54 pm.

Signed..... Date.....

Alan D White