

## Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council

**The Minutes of the meeting of the Gawcott with Lenborough Parish Council held on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 8.00 pm by the Zoom video meeting facility.**

**Present:** Parish Councillors: Mrs S Burgess, Mr T Dugher, Mr P Fealey, Mr T Goodman, Mrs S Hetherington, Mr A Ulph and Mr A D White [Chairman].

Buckinghamshire Councillor: Mr P Fealey.

Other attendees: Mrs R Bate, Mrs P Large and Mr R Spedding.

### 1. Chairman's welcome

The Chairman thanked everyone for calling in to the meeting and Councillor Ulph and Mrs E Ulph for organising and administering the Zoom session. At this stage, the attending residents had no issues to raise.

### 2. Report from Buckinghamshire Councillor Fealey

Councillor Fealey reported variously:

- A service station at Finmere is proposed – see planning application: 20/032176/APP.
- BC has begun a metal recycling campaign.
- Various investigations are taking place where properties were flooded before Christmas with the aim to develop a strategy to deal with possible future emergency events.
- BC has received a grant of £105k to provide electric vehicle charging points.
- Further consideration is to be given to the EWR Aylesbury spur from Calvert which was cut from the original scheme for cost reasons.
- BC Planning Officers will be assessing all HS2 above ground buildings except for civil engineering structures.
- Covid-19 vaccinations are progressing well with 101k Buckinghamshire residents vaccinated. The R rate is between 0.6 and 0.9. Lateral flow tests will be available at the Swan Pool in Buckingham via a booking system or walk-up.
- BC is administering business support grants – details on line.
- No news about the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway project which is thought to have been shelved.

### 3. Commencement of formal meeting

### 4. Apologies: None.

### 5. Minutes of the conference call meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021

The Minutes were approved unanimously without amendment.

### 6. No matters arising

### 7. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Fealey made a declaration of interest about the consideration of planning matters and took no part in discussions about specific Parish planning issues.

### 8. Finance

|             |                       |            |
|-------------|-----------------------|------------|
| PC Balances | Deposit A/cc 00165984 | £35,576.22 |
|             | Current A/cc 00152092 | £2,571.33  |
|             | Current A/cc 00672967 | £5,688.48  |

Councillors agreed to the payment of the following invoices: Mrs K Richards: £120 – pavilion cleaning; Martyn Young Electrical: £3639.60 - pavilion electrical works; G Hodges: £100 – replacement Field gatepost; P Ramsden: £218.31 – treasurer's honorarium and expenses; A Buckland: £291.36 – skip for flood-damaged waste; The Clerk: £313.92 – shredding of unwanted archives.

The Chairman confirmed that the agreed precept of £19,000 has been communicated to Buckinghamshire Council.

The Chairman reported a meeting has been arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> February with a prospective clerk.

## 9. Highways and Transport

The Chairman reported a 'repair' of some potholes in New Inn Lane. As before, the holes repaired were haphazardly selected and the repairs very poorly executed. Councillor Fealey confirmed that he has requested the resurfacing of Back Street and New Inn Lane. A resurface in the Rise is expected in 2023. A narrow road sign has been requested for Back Street.

The following HS2-related matters were discussed:

- Vehicle numbers through Gawcott have increased during January due to flooding and access problems for traffic previously coming through Edgcott. Numbers will return to a total maximum of 50 per day very shortly. It is said that all HS2 vehicles have an A4 sized label in the front windscreen confirming their identity.
- A survey on 10<sup>th</sup> February by HS2 noted no HS2 vehicles were using Buckingham Road and no speeding was observed.
- Radcliffe Road traffic management lights. This HS2 traffic management plan is thought to be unworkable. The Chairman will take this up directly with HS2 and a meeting is suggested with the traffic managers on site.
- The PC will be given notice of escorted large loads passing Gawcott, some of which are expected towards the end of the month.

The Chairman was asked to suggest to HS2 that 'No Access for HS2 contractor vehicles' signage should be provided at each end of Buckingham Road. A schedule of all HS2 haulage contractors being used in the area is to be requested along with more visible HS2 identification signage on all vehicles. The reporting of incidents can only be followed up with the use of photos and registration numbers.

Councillor Fealey is awaiting details of the improvements planned to alleviate flooding on the Buckingham Road path and the improvements to the crossing of the A421 for pedestrians.

Some of the repairs to street lights have been carried out but four lights in the Main Street are defective along with the continuing situation along the Buckingham Road footpath.

The Chairman has been asked to follow up with the BC Local Technician the location of the proposed pole for the MVAS adjoining the Main Street sign and the ponds in Preston Road.

A further closure of Lenborough Road at the A413 junction, associated with EWR works, will occur over the next two/three weeks. The Chairman also reported that Anglian Water wish to close Buckingham Road for two weeks in mid-March. Councillor Fealey has requested that BC, which coordinates road closures, ensures that these two closures do not coincide.

## 10. Planning

The Chairman reported the approval of conversion of outbuildings at Hill Farm House Lenborough.

Councillors considered construction details of the alterations at Westcott House Main street [no observations] and the agricultural building at Littleoaks Farm Lenborough. The latter building will be visible from Buckingham Industrial Estate and the footpaths from Lenborough to Buckingham but otherwise there appears to be no issue to be drawn to the attention of planning officers.

The Chairman confirmed that observations about the proposal by the Ministry of Justice to extend Grendon Prison have been submitted.

The Enforcement Officer is looking into the residential use of a narrow boat at George's Farm Hillesden Road and of the occupation of the farmhouse which has an agricultural occupation tie. The activities of Repro Plastics in Radclive Road involving highway loading/unloading, are also under consideration. Councillor Fealey is to enquire about the progress of these investigations.

Works of repair have commenced at Manor Farm Hillesden Road.

There is no activity to report on the Travellers' Field at Radclive Road.

## **11. Environment**

Councillor Fealey reported on progress since the pre-Christmas flood. The Strategic Flood Group have met and the s19 investigations are continuing. Anglian Water have carried out some CCTV surveys, finding some damage to the culvert. Mr Stebbing noted that a brick had been swept down the culvert and into the ditch at Preston Road. A combined sewer along Back Street and New Inn Lane is to be jetted by Anglian water as it has some obstructions but is flowing. This will be cleared to the pumping station. Road gulley clearing and jetting is listed for attention but no dates have been communicated.

Councillor Goodman reported that works are required at Hodding Wood once the site accessway becomes passable with drier weather. It was also reported that there are works outstanding to thin the trees in the Wood as recommended by the Forestry Commission advisor.

There will be no BKV entry this year, even if the competition takes place, and a grand scheme is planned for 2022 which may include a BKV entry but will focus on the Platinum Jubilee.

Councillor Ulph will provide details of the Jubilee Tree Canopy following publication in May.

Some residents have volunteered to litter pick and the Chairman will acquire a supply of picking sticks. Consideration needs to be given to the disposal of the waste collected – a Passport system at the Household Waste site is required. A 'Litter Day' will be considered for the spring.

## **12. Leisure**

The Field pitches and All Weather Pitch remain closed.

The electrical works at the pavilion are complete and a Certificate issued for the installation.

The Chairman reported that works to create the Netball practice area at the Field will be delayed until after Easter at least.

The Chairman will order the Eric Osborn memorial seat for delivery and fixing in early spring. The inscribed wording is to be rechecked.

A working group will meet to consider the possibilities for a Platinum Jubilee Project. Councillor Hetherington suggested the purchase of Hodding Wood as a Jubilee Project.

## **13. Community**

The Community Group will meet in due course to consider whether a Village Fete in June is possible. A village garden competition in July/August has been suggested and will be considered, perhaps coinciding with a scarecrow event.

The Village Hall remains closed. Further grants have been received, without an application being made. The validity of these payments is being checked.

Councillor Ulph outlined consideration being given by the Solar Farm to the mechanism by which grants are distributed. Councillor Fealey suggested a regular yearly donation to the PC.

Website upgrading works have been completed. Councillor Ulph was thanked for his continued work to ensure the website is kept up to date.

Councillor Fealey alerted Members to the need for manual assistance at Roundwood School to deal with, for example, snow clearance.

The Chairman drew the attention of Members to a nil entry for Gawcott with Lenborough Parish in the 'Discovering Buckinghamshire's Parishes' publication.

The Chairman noted that Gigaclear is installing fibre broadband in Hillesden.

#### **14. Administration**

The Chairman noted that Census day is 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The process will be principally on-line.

The Chairman alerted Members to the fact that the regulation allowing virtual meetings expires in May 2021. Thereafter, the PC should physically meet. This will need to be investigated with the Village Hall Committee. It is also noted that elections are still scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The Chairman confirmed that a highly critical TfB survey return has been made based on the very poor service received by the Parish.

The Chairman asked Members to note the addition to Standing Orders on the matter of communications:

Parish Council statements will be communicated by the Clerk or via the website by the Webmaster. The Clerk may give consent for Councillors to issue material on behalf of the Parish Council but the content should be cleared beforehand.

Personal comments made by Councillors on any local issues should be prefixed by a note stating that the comments do not represent the Parish Council's position or opinion. These practices minimise misunderstandings by residents.

#### **15. Emergency Business: None.**

#### **16. Any Other Business**

- The Chairman reported that Wicksteed have again been supplied with further detail of the repairs required to the play area equipment.
- The poor state of the roadway at the junction of Main Street and Buckingham Road was mentioned by Councillor Ulph. Councillor Fealey requested photographs of highway defects so that these can be accurately reported to TfB. Councillor Goodman reported substantial cracking of surfaces in Hillesden Road as well as kerb defects.
- Problems with dog fouling continue along verges and by the illegal running of dogs on the Playing Field. This will be mentioned on the website and in the next Newsletter.
- Councillor Hetherington agreed to alert Councillors to Facebook posts which mention the PC. Councillor Hetherington will also look into the availability of grants for improvements at the Playing Field and pavilion. *NOTE: Subsequently, Councillor Hetherington indicated that she would not take up the role of Facebook overseer or investigate grant availability given the proximity of the local elections.*
- The appeal for the donation of laptops has not met with an encouraging response. The Clerk presently has two laptops to be delivered to the school.

**17. The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held on the Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 commencing at 8.00 pm** using Zoom conferencing facilities. Full details will be confirmed with the Agenda for that meeting.

**18. Closure of Meeting.** The business meeting concluded at 9.38 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

**Alan D White**

**15.02.2021.**