

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Councillors Present: Cllrs T Howse (Chair), A Driver (Vice Chair), R Green, B Prior and J McDonagh.

Also present: County Councillor Lynden Stowe, District Councillor Julian Beale & Clerk to the Council, Jenny Walsh. 2 members of the public were present.

Attendees were informed that the meeting was being held using an online virtual platform and would be recorded.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Marley.

2. Declarations of Interest - Members must declare any interest as it arises.

There were no declarations made.

3. Public Participation The meeting was temporarily suspended to hear representations from the public.

Steve Mathers raised three matters: (1) The absence of the gate and post at the Ganborough Rd entrance to The Pieces – a check on ownership would be made by the clerk. (2) Remedial work for Gigaclear on Ganborough Hill – the Chairman would continue to liaise with Gigaclear regarding any work needed, and (3) The status of the GCC 'report-it-online' mobile app - Lynden Stowe agreed to investigate and provide details to the clerk. The alternative GCC online 'report-it' system was noted as working well.

The meeting then resumed.

4. Approval of minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2021 were approved unanimously.

5. Any Matters Arising from the last meeting

There were no matters arising reported.

6. County Councillor's Report

Cllr Stowe reported on the following matters: Lowering cases of Covid cases and continued rollout of the vaccine programme. Cllr Driver added that the testing in schools was going extremely well. The ash die-back work was continuing around the County. Further information on replacement tree-planting was given by Cllr Beale in his report (Item 7). The GCC budget for 2021/22 had been set at an increase of 4.75% mainly due to higher costs for adult social care. Following a question from Cllr Howse, Cllr Stowe confirmed that there were several job opportunities within GCC for suitably qualified and/or those interested in training for positions in social care. Cllr Stowe also agreed to monitor the level of communications with GCC Highways as there had recently been considerable delays in response to emails from the Parish Council. Cllr Stowe then left the meeting.

7. Ward Councillor's Report

Cllr Beale reported on the following matters: The future of funding for CDC owned museums and leisure centres was under review. Licences for green bins had been modestly increased for 2021 due to higher expenses to manage the scheme. A gradual phasing out of cash operated car parking machines at CDC car parks was being made in favour of digital methods of payment which were less costly and caused less risk than cash handling. Elections for the Police and Crime Commissioner and County Councillors would go ahead in May 2021. Villages who wished to carry out their own re-planting schemes in public areas in their Parishes due to tree losses from Ash dieback, could obtain whips (small trees) free of charge from CDC. Officials from CDC and Gloucestershire Police were conducting a feasibility study on the installation of ANPR cameras on

the A424 near Troopers Lodge Garage, following reports of serious speeding in that area. Following a question from Cllr Beale regarding the “Waterstyles Way” development, the Chairman confirmed that he continued to be in close communication with the developer’s former site manager and there had been no further reports or incidents of flooding or foul smells emanating from near to the development. Cllr Beale agreed to look into why the Parish Council’s comments regarding routes for construction traffic relating to a planning application to re-build Quarry House, Ganborough Hill, had not been shown on the CDC planning website, despite there having been detailed correspondence with the Planning Dept. Reimbursement by GCC of the costs incurred by the Parish Council for road repairs was in hand.

8. Correspondence

- i. **Email from a resident regarding iron work structure in a front garden on High Street** -The Chairman reported having received a query from a resident regarding whether an ironwork feature outside a property on High Street was appropriate. Councillors did not feel that the structure constituted a breach of any regulations, but the Clerk would write back to advise the enquirer that they could raise the matter with the District Planning Authority if they needed further information.

9. Finance

i. **Monthly finance reports and approval of payments for February and March 2021**

The monthly financial reports were considered and noted. Payments for February and March were approved unanimously as follows:

- February – Mrs J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
- February- HMRC- PAYE – (Data Protected)
- February – Stockwell-Davies- tree surgery- £360
- February- Hillscapes- grass cutting and maintenance- £415
- February- Righton Walls- road repairs on High Street-£500
- March – Mrs J Walsh- salary and expenses (Data Protected)
- March- HMRC – PAYE- (Data Protected)

ii. **Internal Auditor for 2020/21 financial year**

Following discussion it was unanimously agreed to appoint Mr A Coombes as the Internal Auditor for 2020/21 with a fee not exceeding £100.

iii. **To confirm the grass cutting and maintenance contract for 2021**

The Clerk reported that the Council had agreed in principle in January 2021 as part of the budget planning for 2021/22 to accept a quotation for grass cutting from Hillscapes at a value of £2,711. The Minute reference setting this out separately was duly noted.

10. Planning/Licencing

i. **Planning/Licensing Applications received-**

20/02160/FUL – Quarry House, Ganborough Road, Longborough – Demolition of existing building, pool house and cottage. Erection of replacement dwelling, outbuildings, landscaping and new driveway. **No objections** to proposed buildings but condition requested for construction method statement to cover site access and delivery/construction traffic routing via A424 only.
20/00690/TCONR –Springside, Banks Fee Lane -various tree work – **No objections.**

ii. **Planning/Licensing Application Decisions:** None recorded.

11. Repairs and maintenance

i. **Plum Tree 2 –Update from Chairman on liaison with the developers**

Cllr Howse reported on his continued regular meetings with the developer’s representative/s and provided a comprehensive update on all the matters they had discussed. The Parish Council would be invited to attend another meeting with the developers, and the residents Management Company once this had been formed. Cllr Green enquired about ownership of the hedge that runs adjacent to Moreton Road and Cllr Howse thought it was the responsibility of GCC Highways. There followed a discussion that resulted in Cllr Howse committing to look again at the planning permissions and

conditions applicable to the development to ascertain the arrangements for the maintenance of the hedge. If appropriate, the ongoing maintenance of the hedge would be added to the Council's Highways list so that it could be tracked via GCC.

12. Highways

i. Highway defects report

Cllr Stowe had referred to an outstanding payment for reimbursement to the Parish Council of costs pertaining to work that had been carried out on High Street and gave an assurance that he would ensure the payment would be processed as soon as possible.

ii. Road safety & Speed Watch scheme

Cllr Driver reported that he had spoken to Paul Nevin, representative from the Longborough Speedwatch group and Steve Mathers had also compiled a summary report to the Clerk, written on behalf of the Speedwatch members, which detailed plans to re-start the scheme in May and a shopping list of stationery and PPE items priced at approximately £90 that they required before they could commence monitoring. New batteries for the speed gun were also needed and Cllr Driver provided various options on the replacements. The Clerk reported that the Council was not obliged to meet all the costs of running Speedwatch as it was a separate entity, but all agreed that the speed gun should be prioritized. There followed a discussion regarding the best way forward to provide maximum support for the Speedwatch team and the Clerk and Cllr Driver agreed to investigate the options and report back. Especially important was the matter of insurance that would need clarification.

13. Review of Parish Plan

The Chairman reported that the working group had held two virtual meetings since the last LPC and that progress was being made. It was agreed that the Working Group would meet again with a view to an updated draft Plan being circulated as soon as possible.

14. Changes to Public Rights of Way Regulations

The Clerk had previously circulated information from GCC regarding changes to the mapping of Rights of Way in 2026. It was agreed that a small group of Councillors would carry out a check of existing footpaths around the village against those shown on the official GCC map so that any routes not shown could be included before the changes to rights of landowners regarding such paths, were implemented in 2026.

15. Arrangements for the Annual Parish (community) Assembly

The Council agreed that if government restrictions permitted, it was still envisaged that the Council would co-ordinate arrangements for a community Assembly in the summer of 2021. Cllr Howse asked for suggestions from Councillors and other residents of what format the meeting should take.

16. Any other business and councillors' requests for items for consideration at future meetings

District Councillor Beale notified the Council of his impending retirement from the District Council following nine years as Ward Member for our area. The Chairman thanked Cllr Beale for his support and guidance and wished him well in his retirement.

- Cllr Howse requested that a proposal received from the Editor of The Link magazine, be included on the agenda for the May (ordinary) Council meeting.
- Cllr Driver requested that an item be included on the next agenda concerning consideration of a new dog waste bin being purchased and positioned near to Longborough cricket club.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Chairman's signature

Date

The next meeting shall be the Annual Meeting of the Council held on **Monday 10th May 2021 at the earlier time of 7.00 pm. The Ordinary meeting of the Council will commence immediately following conclusion of business at the Annual meeting (approximately 7.30pm).**

N.B. There is no public participation session at the Annual Meeting, but will be included as normal, at the Ordinary meeting.

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