



Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH Meeting held at Edward Feild on Tuesday 17th May 2022 at 7pm

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

Meeting commenced 19.30

Councillors Present – Cllr Clive Stayt (Chairman), Cllr Carol Matheson, Cllr Suzanne Wilson-Higgins (Vice Chair), Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr Merlin Smith, Cllr Ian Middleton (Parish, District and County Council), Cllr Fiona Mawson (District Council)

Also in Attendance – Clerk to the Council (K East), **Members of public** – 7 members of the public
To receive apologies for absence

No Declarations of interest.

22/1 Introduction of councillors

The Chairman (Cllr Stayt) opened the meeting and Councillors introduced themselves.

21/2 To confirm the minutes of the Gosford and Water Eaton Parish Council (GWEPC) ANNUAL PARISH meeting held on 4th May 2021. It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes were agreed as a true record. (Proposed Clive Walsh and Jackie Anstice – members of the public).

22/3 Matters Arising from the ANNUAL PARISH minutes of 4th May 2021

(22/3) Next time we do a leaflet it was agreed we will add a note to put a reminder that minutes can be found on the website.

(22/3) Member of public noted that it's a mess in the field next to Hebborns. Flood plain is being blocked. Cars and caravans parked in the fields. The clerk will take this back Cherwell District Council and the environmental agency. It should be noted this is in Kidlington Parish.

22/4 Accounts for the year end March 2022

(22/4) Copy of accounts was circulated online and was summarised by the chairman during the meeting – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the published accounts to 31 March 2022. Proposed: Mary Newland, Seconded: Jackie Anstice (members of public). The official audit approval will and Annual accounting documents will be approved in the June 2022 full council meeting.

The clerk clarified that the Stratfield Brake sinking fund in the accounts is to cover maintenance for the building / major repair work. We continue to pay a 10% contribution as a parish.

22/5 Parish Report

The Chairman advised that the parish are looking at 20mph speed limits throughout the parish on residential roads. This will also continue in to the villages surrounding.

Clive Walsh (member of the public) asked if it had been considered to have speed bumps instead as 20mph will unlikely to be monitored by police. Councillors respond that the theory for 20mph is that it will generally lower speed and it may take a while. Members of the public did respond that the noise of speed bumps may not be advantageous and they may actually cause further potholes. There was general support for 20mph. Parents and workers from local businesses speed routinely down Cromwell Way.



The Gosford link road will remain at the current speed limit but will be reconsidered when the housing comes.

Mr Makepeace reported that Oxford Road parking issues caused by TVP Headquarters has reduced throughout Covid as many workers are not working in the offices.

The issue of potholes was raised by members of the public. The Chairman confirmed that this was a Highways issues and we continue to report these. Cllr Middleton confirmed the pothole budge in Oxfordshire is approx. £40 million and the government provides £10 Million – there is a big shortfall. It was reported that Cromwell Way is an issue for potholes along with Bicester Road. Cllr Middleton acknowledged that pathways are also an issue.

Poplar trees on the Bicester Road are under OCC control. The Parish Council are getting the tree officer to assess the trees following the storms. The land where the poplar trees are belongs to Highways / Oxfordshire County Council. OCC keeps the path clear. Member of the public also have concerns with the maple trees along that road (between Poplar and gardens). The clerk will ask if Cherwell if Iain Oseenten can do a tree survey quickly.

Boundary merger – there has been suggestion of boundary merger between Kidlington / Gosford & Water Eaton – As we currently understand it CDC has recommended that it does not happen. It will be potentially reconsidered when the new housing comes.

The Chairman acknowledged that 3 benches have been replaced in the Parish. The war memorial plaque has been reinstated on the bench at Water Eaton Lane.

Jubilee planting – the parish council will plant the planters alongside the shops at Fairfax. The Parish will purchase 75 trees for gardens, which can be given to the residents. Bunkers Hill Nurseries will be providing the trees. To commemorate the jubilee every student in Edward Feild School and Gosford Hill School a commemorative jubilee coin.

22/6 Police Report

No report provided by the police.

22/7 Planning

The housing within the parish is on-going. We continue to have good interaction with the developers. These houses will be built and we are trying to get the best for the parish. There are many stakeholders involved.

Clive Walsh (members of public) noted Sainsbury's new access is in to the car park is appalling. Cllr Middleton has said that County Council have raised it with Sainsbury's.

There is a possibility that a football stadium for Oxford United may be put on Stratfield Brake site. The Parish Council has made an objection based on the current information we have for this but talks are progressing. The primary concerns are surrounding green belt. We understand residents have mixed views. The Parish needs to relinquish leases for this to proceed forward along with Kidlington PC and Cherwell DC. Oxford United are being evicted in 2026 and this is the reason they are looking for new sites. The Parish Council is discussing with stakeholders and finding more information about it.

Members of the public suggested new sites – we are not in a position to suggest new sites. Many sites have already been rejected.



All members of public at the Annual Parish Meeting are against the stadium. It was noted that the environment is more important than the stadium.

The member of public asked if Pear tree car park was being closed and / if Parkway was being double layered. The Chairman confirmed this is not being discussed at the moment.

Cllr Ian Middleton said the District / County would have to carry out a robust consultation regarding the stadium. One of the members of public stated a consultation / poll now is not a good idea because there is not enough detail.

The key is the fact we hold leases – there are more control points than with housing. The Parish Council is also working with Kidlington with decision making as we both hold leases.

22/8 Highways

The four parishes locally get together regularly to discuss the potential Sandy Lane crossing closure – Network Rail are still in favour of closing it.

Councillors also attend Traffic Advisory meetings regularly.

20 mph scheme is being looked at in the parish – see above.

Cllr Ian Middleton mentioned there is a cycle plan in the local plan including a cycle path on the Edward Feild side of the Bicester Road. The Parish Council will continue to push this.

22/9 Resolutions / Questions

Parents parking on Cromwell Way – in the afternoon parents sit with engines running. The clerk will send a note to the school, as this is an environmental issue and against the Highway code. Cllr Middleton will also need to take this to County.

Cemetery – A member of public has advised that the tap will be turned off in the summer. A request was for big bins of water to be put by the tap. The clerk will take this back to the maintenance team and ask if this can be done as soon as possible.

Question came forward regarding Gosford Hill and whether funding can go in to the school from the housing. The Parish Council would like more money to go in to the existing school.

21/10 Any Other Business

None

Meeting ends 8.40pm