



Minutes of the Meeting of Gnosall Parish Council

held on 11th April 2022 at 7.30pm in The Grosvenor Centre

Present: Cllr G Gregory (in the chair), Cllr G Symons, Cllr R Greatrex, Cllr M Booth, Cllr A Mills, Cllr K Ingram, Cllr P Alker, Cllr M Holmes, Cllr Payne, Cllr T Simkin, Cllr Johnstone, J Cooper Clerk

Along with County Councillor M Winnington (for part of the meeting)

Public Open Forum

Two members of the public were present including Lisa Horritt, SPCA Officer who had been invited to observe the meeting as part of a Local Government qualification she is undertaking. The Chair welcomed Lisa to the meeting.

The member of the public present expressed his disappointment to Council about the Canal and River Trust (CART) not carrying out the work promised on Gnosall Tow Path at a meeting some 6 years previous and despite efforts to engage with CART, little progress had been made. Gnosall's Tow Path Restoration group were commended for the work it carries out. The Chair responded that the Parish Council had been trying to arrange a meeting with Cllr Winnington about this and remembered the meeting with CART and the commitment pledged which she agreed had not come to fruition. Other Cllrs agreed with the comments being made and hoped a meeting with Cllr Winnington and CART could be arranged.

22/037 To receive apologies and record absences

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Tomkinson, Cllr Emsley, Cllr Webb and Cllr Powell

22/038 To receive any Declarations of Interest

Cllr Alker declared an interest in discussions about the website. Cllr Simkin declared an interest in any Personnel related discussions as a relative is employed by the Parish Council.

22/039 To receive and confirm the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Council held on 14th March 2022

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

22/040 To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

22/027 Grosvenor Enhancement Project - Council was asked whether the whole project had been postponed indefinitely. Cllr Mills, as Chair of the Grosvenor Centre Enhancement Working Group, reminded Council of decision taken at previous Council meeting when the various options put forward by the working group were voted against apart from one which had been explored and considered not viable. All options had, therefore, been considered and Council had made the decision not to proceed any further.

22/041 To receive the following reports:

a) The Clerk's report

The Clerk reported that there had not been any interest in the vacant Cllr position therefore the vacancy would have to be readvertised. Councillors were also informed of several Freedom of Information requests received regarding precept and council expenditure. The Clerk had responded to some and was working on responses to the most recent ones.

A summary of committee and working group meetings was included in the Clerks report as well as confirmation that a letter had been sent to Her Majesty the Queen to congratulate her on her 70-year reign and a letter had been sent to Michael Gove MP following Council's approval to support the petition to change the law to allow councils to hold remote and hybrid meetings.

Councillors were informed that the recently installed system in the Grosvenor Centre to control the heating in a more efficient way was now working well following a few initial problems. It had been suggested that the same system is installed in the Youth Club building which is currently heated when the library is open. Rent received from Staffordshire County Council is used to pay for utilities however with the expected rising utility costs, closer monitoring would take place and the installation of a system that should work more efficiently was felt a sensible option. It was proposed therefore that this should be actioned and the cost of the component parts would be approximately £100. The proposal was seconded and unanimously agreed. The Clerk to action.

Council Support Officer's Report

Councillors were informed by the CSO that allotment renewals were being managed well and that some people on the waiting list had now been allocated plots. The new online booking system software had arrived and initial training delivered. It is hoped hirers would soon be able to book the Grosvenor Centre using the online system.

Councillors were reminded that the Grosvenor Centre would be closed for 7 days week commencing 18th April for maintenance work to be carried out on the floor.

The CSO was nearing completion of the CILCA qualification currently being undertaken.

Any reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended

Cllr Mills reported on the recent Staffordshire Independent Advisory Group meeting he had attended making reference to changes being implemented to community policing.

Cllr Simkin reported on the most recent meeting of The Memorial Village Hall.

Cllr Booth reported on the most recent Public Rights of Way meeting, notes of the meeting were shared with all councillors.

Cllr Mills reported on the most recent meeting of GLEAN informing Council about a new library management system. In relation to the library, Cllr Greatrex requested Cllr Mills to check information contained within Houghton Village Parish Magazine as there appeared to be conflicting information about the opening times of Gnosall's library.

Reports from Borough and County Councillors

There were no borough or council Cllrs present.

22/027 To consider committee issues:

Matters relating to the Open Spaces Committee

A verbal report was received of a meeting held on 21st March. As reported previously, allotment renewals are underway, an inspection of the allotments had been carried out and a meeting with Gnosall Allotment and Garden Association would be arranged. Information on necessary tree maintenance would be sent to contractors wishing to tender for the work. Minor maintenance work had been identified at Brookhouse Road play area and would be dealt with.

Matters relating to the Health and Safety Working Group

Notes of the first meeting of this working group, held on 29th March, were accepted and Terms of Reference had been approved. A schedule of when Risk Assessment should be carried out would be created and inspections would be prioritised. Health and Safety would be included as a standing agenda item for all committee meetings.

Matters relating to the Events Working Group

Notes were not available as the meeting had been cancelled however it was reported by the Clerk that Jubilee mugs had arrived, a notice board is yet to be sourced and invitations had been posted for the Over 84's afternoon tea.

Matters relating to the Sensory Garden Working Group

Notes of the meeting held on 29th March were accepted. Plans are progressing well and a scale drawing of the proposed garden would be created and costs for the construction of the garden would be sourced. There would be a jubilee theme in one of the raised flower beds to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

22/043 To consider Terms of Reference for the Best Kept Village Group and Gnosall Towpath Restoration Group.

Amended Terms of Reference for both groups were received and approved.

22/044 To consider plans for the Annual Assembly to be held on 26th May 2022

It was agreed to invite Gnosall First Responders to deliver defibrillator training at the Assembly. As it had only been 8 months since the last Assembly, Community Awards would not be presented. The Annual report for the financial year ending 31st March 2022 would be presented.

22/045 To receive a report on financial receipts for March and receive accounts for approval for April 2022

The accounts as presented were approved for payment, copy attached. Approval was given to pay salaries for the month of April as well as the outstanding invoice for work carried out on the roof of the Grosvenor Centre. The Clerk to action.

Staffordshire County Council, Cllr Winnington arrived

22/046 To report any highway issues The Clerk was asked to report:

Blocked drains at the bottom of the High Street and around The Horseshoe.

A split in the road on Lowfield Lane near to the junction with Stafford Road.

It was reported that the bridge over Doley Brook appeared to be dropping on one side. The opposite side had been repaired successfully.

Council was in receipt of a copy of petition from some Outwoods residents that had been sent to Highways. Cllr Winnington confirmed he had seen the petition and is aware that a Highways Inspector would be inspecting the areas detailed within it. He advised the Cllr Mills as Moreton ward Cllr, to respond to the sender in that that the Highways Officer and Mark Keeling, Strategic Community Infrastructure Manager, had been informed of the issues. Cllr Winnington was asked to ensure the Clerk is copied in any communication regarding the petition.

Cllr Winnington added that he had accompanied a Highways Officer on a visit that included Broadhill, Wilbrington and other rural areas in the parish.

There was a difference of opinion regarding the work carried out on Knightley Road with Cllr Winnington reporting good progress made however, Knightley ward Councillor, Cllr Greatrex said the work carried out is not what was agreed and consequently the road still floods. He recalled that 4 gullies were to be added whereas only two had. He expressed his disappointment.

22/047 To request items for the next agenda

Cllrs to inform the Clerk at least 10 days before the next meeting.

22/048 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

9th May 2022 at 7.30pm

GPC Expenses April 2022				
		Net	VAT	Total
SLCC	Membership 2022/23	270.00	0	270.00
Scribe	Booking system	228.00	45.60	273.60
Millennium Community Centre	Advertising 2022/23	15.00	0	15.00
Chubb	Fire safety equipment service	181.44	0	181.44
SPCA & NALC	2022/23 Subscription	589.44	0	589.44
SCRIBE	Accounting system	468.00	93.60	561.60
Staff	Salaries inc pension, NI & PAYE	6099.01	0	6099.01
S Emery	Replacement of flat roof	28,860.00	5772.00	34632.00
JWH	Grass cutting and ground maintenance	742.00	0	742.00
BKV Expenses				
HUWS Gray	BKV materials	25.58	5.12	30.70
TFM	BKV materials	28.65	5.73	34.38

