



Gnosall Parish Council

(Including the wards of Moreton & Knightley).

Minutes of the Meeting of Gnosall Parish Council

held on 14th November 2022 at 7.30pm in the Grosvenor Centre.

Present

Councillor Mills (Chair), Councillor Gregory, Councillor Alker, Councillor Booth, Councillor Greatrex, Councillor Ingram, Councillor Payne, Councillor Simkin, Councillor Holmes, Councillor Emsley, Councillor Symons, Cllr Powell, Cllr Johnstone, Councillor Tomkinson, together with Clerk, Jayne Cooper and CSO Stu Ridgewell

Along with SBC Cllrs M Smith and P Farrington SCC Cllr M Winnington (from 7.40pm)

Public Open Forum - ten minutes maximum

No matters were raised.

22/117 To Receive Apologies and Record Absences

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Buckless and Cllr Webb.

22/118 To Record any Declarations of Interest

Councillor Simkin declared an interest with regard to a family member being a member of staff with responsibility for the Grosvenor Centre. Councillor Alker declared an interest with regard to a family member being responsible for the Council's website. Cllr Emsley declared an interest as a family member is employed by Rosebuds Nursery.

22/119 To receive and confirm the minutes of meetings of council held on 10th October 2022

Subject to a minor change to the list of attendees, the minutes of the meeting were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

22/120 To consider any matters arising of the meeting of Council held on 10th October 2022

There were no matters arising.

22/121 To receive the following reports:

Report from the Clerk

Council received a report which contained updates on meetings held during the previous month. A verbal report was given following the meeting with the Council's solicitors regarding the ongoing legal issues associated with the ownership of the allotment track.

Councillors were informed about a meeting the Clerk, CSO and Vice Chair had attended at Stafford Borough Council regarding the proposed Local Plan, the content of which was the subject of a well attended public consultation held at the Grosvenor Centre on 14th November. Proposals for development within Stafford Borough that includes Gnosall had been shared. This would be discussed further by the Planning Committee. It was proposed and seconded to delegate power to the Planning Committee to formulate a response on the consultation to Stafford Borough Council to meet the deadline of 12th December. Thirteen councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Cllr Greatrex abstained from voting.

Council Support Officer Report

The CSO gave a verbal report on progress with projects.

Reports from Parish Councillors

Council received a written report from the Chair of the Public Rights of Way Group that included a summary of the last meeting held on 29th October and details of plans to clear overgrown vegetation on part of footpaths 33 and 82.

Report from Borough and County Councillors

Borough Councillors reported on a cabinet meeting held recently at which SBC fees and charges had been discussed. Charges would increase by 5% except car parking charges, brown bin fees, taxi licenses and market stall fees. Fines would be imposed on private landlords that do not comply with energy efficiency rules. Cllr Farrington added that local authorities are under significant financial pressure but would keep council tax under 2%.

Cllr Farrington was asked about a controversial planning application that had been approved without notices being sent to neighboring properties or the Parish Council and which it appeared the Case Officer was not aware of the history of this site.

Cllr Farrington confirmed he had been made aware of this and would be making enquiries on the circumstances and if matters had not been dealt with correctly they would be dealt with. He shared the concerns raised. When asked if he was able to withdraw an application he said he would have to seek legal advice. Cllr Smith said he would raise the matter with John Holmes, SBC Development Manager.

SCC Cllr Winnington reported that SCC's finances are also under significant pressure particularly with increasing costs of health & social care and looked after children.

Cllr Winnington was informed of a number of Highway matters including:

Recent flooding under Wilbrington bridge in which vehicles had got stuck. A local resident had requested a depth marker. Cllr Winnington was aware and confirmed he had passed on the request.

Broken grids on the A518 between The Royal Oak and Navigation pubs

Blocked drains at the bottom of the High Street (previously reported)

Drainage pipes from Wharf Road to Acres blocked with silt. Joining pipes through land owned by National Grid and the Parish Council had been cleared.

Cllr Winnington was asked whether proposed work on the A518 would be going ahead. Cllr Winnington was unsure as budget decisions expected on 17th could have an affect on what work would be carried out.

22/122: To receive minutes and reports from committees and working groups

Open Spaces Committee

- Minutes of meetings held on 17th and 24th October were received.
- Clearance of the brook and additional grass maintenance had been completed.
- The Council's solicitors had been requested to register Hen & Chicken Lane with Land Registry.
- Failed streetlights along a section of Brookhouse Road had been reported and were being repaired by Western Power on 14th November
- The proposed budget requests for 2023/24 had been agreed and would be considered by Resources Committee when it next meets.

Grosvenor Committee

- Minutes of the meeting held on 25th October were received.
- Budget proposals were noted.
- An update on the Grosvenor refurbishment was received.
- A request from Rosebuds to retain rent at the current rate would be discussed at Resources Committee in December.

Events Committee

- Plans for the Christmas lights switch on were progressing well. Some councillors felt having a separate Christmas working group would be preferable to discussing Christmas at an Events Committee.
- GFest 23 dates had been agreed.
- Distribution of GFest21 funds had been agreed.
- The next meeting would be held on 22nd November to which all councillors were invited.

Resources Committee

- Minutes of the meeting held on 13th October were received.
- Finances as at the end of September had been reviewed along with comments raised by the external auditor.
- Resources Committee would meet in December to agree a budget and the precept for 2023/24.

Procedures Review Committee

- Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November were received.
- Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Terms of Reference, some policies and legal topic notes were discussed and action agreed.
- Health & Safety Committee and Events Committee Terms of Reference to be carried forward to the December Council meeting.
- Council unanimously approved the Risk Assessment Policy.

22/123 To consider a parish wide questionnaire regarding mobile phone coverage

As discussed at a previous council meeting, there is significant dissatisfaction with the quality of mobile phone coverage in the parish particularly felt by those who now work in full or in part from home. The Community Facebook page had evidence of residents contacting their providers and being told that the signal coverage is good when their experience is that it is not.

Providers had been contacted by the Parish Council a very time-consuming and ultimately fruitless exercise. Specialist advice regarding trees at Chippy Jumps had been sought and the contractors felt the trees were not causing an issue and had suggested the signal situation is monitored when all the leaves had fallen as that may help to confirm whether or not it is a tree issue. Contact had been made with the Rural Network Initiative but it is not applicable in Gnosall at present.

Carrying out a parish wide survey is the remaining option. Council reviewed a draft survey that, subject to approval, would be made available for all parishioners to enable the Parish Council to collect data to feed back to providers. The survey was approved and would be available on the council's website and hard copies made available in the village. Analysis would be carried out in the New Year with findings reported back to providers.

22/124 To consider a request to recruit two trustees on to Gnosall Voluntary Car Share Scheme

The Clerk was asked to obtain further information, particularly the frequency of meetings, before discussing the request for additional trustees.

22/125 To receive a report on financial receipts for October and approve payments for November 2022

Receipts for the month of October were noted. It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to approve payments as presented by the Clerk. Cllr Greatrex abstained from voting.

22/126 To report Highway matters

Discussed in part under item 22/121(d). The Clerk was asked to report

- Blocked pipe on S-bend on Knightley Road.
- Pothole on Fountain Fold that had been marked but is dangerous as vehicles are crossing to the other side of the road to avoid it.
- As previously reported, two large splits in the road on Lowfield Lane and on the roundabout at the bottom of Brookhouse Road
- Deep ditch along a stretch of the B5405 in which another vehicle had recently overturned.

22/127 To request items for the next agenda

Councillors to inform the Clerk at least 10 days before the date of the next meeting. Items already agreed:

- Car Share Scheme
- Terms of Reference for Events Committee and Health & Safety Committee
- Crime, vandalism and theft

22/128 To confirm the date and time of the next meeting

12th December 2022 at 7.30pm

To exclude members of the press and public whilst confidential information is discussed

The CSO left the meeting.

22/129 Matters relating to the Personnel Committee

Council approved recommendations from Personnel Committee to increase the hours of work from 15 to 20 for the CSO and the recommended increase in pay.

Council approved the recommendation from Personnel Committee to use the services of Mr R Arrowsmith as a self-employed Handyperson subject to Mr Arrowsmith obtaining the necessary insurance.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Gnosall Parish Council PAYMENTS LIST

Voucher Code	Date	Minute	Bank	Cheque No	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
201	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Stationery	ESPO	S	66.00	13.20	79.20
211	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Cllr expenses	Wickes	E	14.40		14.40
202	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Grass cutting	JWH Ground	E	80.00		80.00
208	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Water - allotments	Waterplus	E	233.44		233.44
204	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Open spaces maintenance	Broxap	S	20.00	4.00	24.00
209	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Open spaces maintenance	N D Talbot	S	575.00	115.00	690.00
215	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Christmas expenses	Newport Engravers	S	56.00	11.20	67.20
212	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Grass cutting	JWH Ground	E	1,556.00		1,556.00
213	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Grass cutting	JWH Ground	E	110.00		110.00
203	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Grass cutting	JWH Ground	E	1,404.00		1,404.00
207	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	First aid kits for Grosvenor	ESPO	S	37.00	7.40	44.40
205	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Grosvenor maintenance	Parsons Plumbing &	S	65.00	13.00	78.00
210	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Open spaces maintenance	Greg Hill	S	1,750.00	350.00	2,100.00
214	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	youth club internal	Alan Moore Plumbing	E	198.00		198.00
218	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	salaries/NI&PAYE/Pension	GPC	E	8,470.45		8,470.45
206	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Urinal replacement	Daniel Mattocks Building	S	1,000.00	200.00	1,200.00
216	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Batteries for Christmas	C V Components	S	480.00	96.00	576.00
217	14/11/2022		Co-operative	BACS	Christmas expenses	Wiring Products Ltd	S	83.25	16.65	99.90
Total								16,198.54	826.45	17,024.99