

## **Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024 at 7.00 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Mulligan– Chair, Cllr Howell, Cllr J Hetterley, Cllr Slater, Cllr D Bendall. Cllr Parsons, Cllr King, Cllr Mills.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** - Mrs S Baker (Clerk),

**VISITORS:** Mr Mills was in attendance to establish if he could be coopted as a parish Councillor.

### **48/24 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME –**

**49/24 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE –** Cllr Hirst - GCC Cllr Hamilton,

### **50/24 CODE OF CONDUCT**

#### 166.1.18 Declaration of Interest in Items on the Agenda

None

#### 166.2.18 Updates to Members Register of Interests

None.

### **51/24 MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12th February 2024**

The minutes of the meeting held 12<sup>th</sup> February were signed as a true record.

### **52/24 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 March 24**

The Clerk reported that Kemp IT had endeavoured to contact Parish Councillors that need their email data backed up. She is still waiting to hear from Cllr Mulligan and Hamilton in order to proceed with moving their email accounts.

### **53/24 To Approve the Co-Option of Mr James Mills as a Parish Councillor**

Mr Mills left the room whilst the Parish Council discussed his request to be co-opted. Cllr Mulligan proposed the co-option of Mr Mills as Parish Councillor. This was seconded by Cllr Bendall. The Parish Council Unanimously agreed to Mr Mills's Co-option.

Cllr Mulligan welcomed Cllr Mills onto the Parish Council.

### **54/24 COMMUNITY ISSUES AND PROJECTS**

#### Community Issues

#### Playing Fields Update

Cllr Hetterley said he had repaired the slats on the playpark fence in preparation for the ROSPA inspection. The top gate needs repair. Mr Mulligan said he will get a quote for a new gate.

The spring installed on the bottom gate is quite fierce. It needs to have a rubber guard.

Cllr Mills asked if the divots could be repaired on the football pitch. Cllr King asked if the goal posts could be moved in order to repair the current pitch. Cllr Mulligan will check to see if the posts are locked.

There is a small tree overhanging the top part that needs to be removed.

#### Memorial Hall

New heating is now installed. Sensors will be installed, and the old heating points will be changes to sockets.

#### BIO-DIVERSITY POLICY

Due to Cllr Kings reported that Pheobe Carter is happy to produce a strategy plan to move the biodiversity policy on. This will incur a small fee. This was agreed.

The Clerk said it was also worth consulting with Glorious Grasslands as they have been supplying free wildflower seeds to Parish Councils and carrying out the required work if the land identified was suitable.

#### DEFIBRILATOR

The Clerk reported that the new defibrillator is registered with the "Circuit". The code is C159X . The old defibrillator needs to be deregistered, then moved to a new location. Cllr Mulligan will ask the electrician for a price to carry out this work.

Cllr Mulligan said he has been approached by someone willing to carry out defib training . Cllr Mulligan will get more information.

#### Annual Parish Meeting

The Clerk confirmed that Tim Gwilliam from GRCC is happy to attend the Annual Parish Meeting to do a presentation on affordable housing. Cllr Bendall said that James Gray MP is also willing to attend to answer questions on parliamentary procedures. It was agreed to invite Mr Gray.

Cllr Hetterley confirmed that the social club was booked for the event.

Cllr Parsons asked why the Memorial Hall wasn't being used.

The Clerk explained that previous APM had very poor attendance and it was the Councils responsibility encourage public attendance. It is a legal requirement to hold the annual parish meeting at a time when the public can attend. Either at a weekend or an evening after 6pm. Historically it has been permitted for the Council to provide refreshments, hence the use of the Social Club Community Café.

#### **55/24 TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS**

Cllr Slater Cllr Slater said he had met with Highways manger, Gill Portlock. The request for a disabled parking space has been confused by the fact that some of the land needed to install the lines is owned by CDC . Cllr Slater is consulting with the Estates Dept to ensure this work is carried out. Cllr Slater also reported that there has been an agreement reached with Highways, that in future any road closure signs will have the name of the closed road on it. This should avoid unnecessary diversions.

The Clerk was asked to report the village entry road signs on Tetbury Hill and the Village Gateway on Hampton Hill which is rotting.

#### **56/24 FINANCE**

- I. Cllr Hetterley presented the Parish Councils end of year financial position. Money not yet spent on projects will be rolled over and put in ring fenced account. £26k has been earmarked for the hall at end of year. Further funds will be added to this during from the 2024/25 precept payment.

This showed the Council finances remain healthy, with an expected £36K going forward.

- II. Approve bills for payment – The list distributed prior to the meeting was agreed.

**57/24 POLICE REPORT** – The Police report showed from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2024 – 7 April 2024 there had been 3 reports of violence, 2 criminal damage and 1 drugs.

#### **58/24 DISTRICT COUNILLORS REPORT –**

Appendix

## 59/24 COUNCTY COUNCILLOR REPORT – Unavailable

### 60 /24 PLANNING AND TREE WORKS

#### New Planning Applications

24/00460/FUL - 44 Sandford Leaze - Conversion of existing garage and insertion of replacement dormer windows to the front and rear - Permitted

24/00336/FUL - Quietways West End - Variation of condition 2 (approved plans) to increase the width of rear first floor gable of planning permission 23/02645/FUL - Erection of a two-storey side extension - Permitted

23/03925/TCONR 10 Sandford Leaze Mature oak tree (quercus robur) to the rear garden - Removal of dead wood to inner canopy and also thinning of 20%. - Permitted

23/03893/CLEUD 48 High Street Certificate of Lawful Use or Development under Section 192 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the confirmation of residential use of No.46 High Street Avening as part of No.48 High Street – Permitted

Cllr Slater reported that he had been informed that the plans to the change of use for the Queen Matilda has been suspended. The owner has been given 12 months to market as a pub.

The Clerk was asked to put this on the agenda for the next meeting.

### 61/24 CORRESPONDENCE

GRCC Rural England Prosperity fund £2,000- £10,000 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 12 July submission deadlines Renewables – The Clerk said that this grant was to fund renewables.

National Grid – Repair required.

NALC Chief Exec Bulletin – Council warning of 14 Bankruptcies in the coming year and 74 with 5 years

Glos Wildlife Trust – creating butterfly corridors to Swift’s Hill and Snows Farm nature reserves – Financial Help?

GCC Council Connected :- Proposed changes to Glos fire and rescue, public drop in adult social care consultation – Proposed changes.

Final recommendations to boundary changes

### 62/24 COUNCILLORS

### 63/24 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.15 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Actions

54/24	De - Register Defib/ get quote for reinstallation	Clerk/ Cllr Mulligan
54/24	Get quote for new gate	Cllr Mulligan
56/24	Make Payments	Clerk
60/24	Planning Response	Clerk
55/24	Report Highways Issues	Clerk

## Appendix 1

**CDC:** There was a rare outbreak of harmony at the March Full Council meeting, with nothing too controversial; Measures were put in place to adopt the government's new policies for empty properties, second and holiday homes. There will be exceptions and safeguards for specific events such as protracted probate cases, but in a nutshell these properties will be liable for a 100% surcharge on council tax payments. GCC and the Police Authority will receive the biggest share of the additional income, but CDC plan to add their portion to the Affordable Housing fund. Another initiative that received unanimous support was the reintroduction of the CDC Unsung Hero award. This is in line with King Charles's aim of encouraging volunteering in our communities. There will be 4 awards per full council meeting, and nominations are welcome from individuals and parishes.

**Overview & Scrutiny:** There was no O&S meeting this month as the reports were not ready.

**Roads** continue to be a big issue in the county and seem to be getting worse. Last summer I reported a stretch of lane from Cherington to the A433 – there were too many issues to report individually, and I insisted that an engineer looked at the whole stretch, and many holes were duly repaired. Having driven the lane again recently and nearly losing another tyre, I went back and counted 64 defects! However, Highways responded 'no fault found'. Needless to say, I will be pursuing this accordingly.

Regarding my own case of vehicle damage, I have now logged a County Court small claim, which GCC intend to defend.

GCC Highways have recently published the list of 150 roads that will be resurfaced in the next budgetary year – sadly there are very few in the south Cotswolds, and zero in the Grumbolds Ash area!

The Cabinet approved increases to car parking charges in the district, and have ended free parking on Sundays on most sites including Church St. in Tetbury.

**River pollution** is a big national topic currently, and I took the opportunity to look at the statistics for our little stream in Avening. We have a small sewage processing unit for the village which uses reed beds to purify the output, but I was staggered to see that there were **118 sewage spill incidents** (these are occurrences when raw sewage is pumped into the stream) in the last year. I have contacted Severn Trent to arrange a site visit for them to explain these terrible statistics and what they are doing to stop them.

**Annual Parish Meetings** are usually held in May – I'll be at most of these for Grumbold's Ash parishes so do pop along and say hello, or ask me a question.