

# Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council

## Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2022 at 7.30pm in Christ Church, Gorsley

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### Present:

Councillors: Nigel Warwick (Chairman), David Clough (Vice-Chairman), Nigel Poole, Graham Price, Steve Excell and John Barker

Officers: Arin Spencer (Parish Clerk and RFO)

In attendance: Chris Bligh (DyFRA), Tim Rickard (DyFRA), Kevin Smith (Cheltenham Motor Club)

123. Apologies for absence were received from county representative Cllr Gill Moseley.

124. There were no declarations of interests or requests for dispensations.

125. Minutes

125.1. **Resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1 November 2021 as a correct record.

125.2. **Resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6 December 2021 as a correct record.

126. Clerk's Report and Action Tracker (for information only) – nothing to report

### Biodiversity

127. Members were asked by DyFRA (see separate report) to consider adopting the following statements as Gorsley & Kilcot Parish Council's biodiversity policy for 2022:

- i. **Promote the development** and expansion of wildlife corridors connecting existing high-value nature sites within the Golden Triangle area and across the bordering parishes of Kempley, Dymock, Much Marcle and Linton/Gorsley, along the verges, footpath network and watercourses.
- ii. **Work in partnership** with neighbouring parishes, local public and private organisations and our local farming community to improve local ecosystem services, and to protect, promote and enhance biodiversity within the parish.

Chris Bligh, representing Dymock Forest Rural Action (DyFRA), presented a report in support of the resolution above. Following discussion of the item, Council

**Resolved** unanimously to support the proposal and adopt statements (i) and (ii) above as Council's biodiversity policy for 2022.

### Highways

128. Members received a report from Kevin Smith, event director for the *3 Shires Stages Rally*, on plans for the running of the event on 18 September 2022.

Mr Smith thanked all involved on the route for last year's event and the public support which allowed the event to go ahead.

- Date of 2022 event changed to 18 September from first week of September due to a clash with two other major motorsport events in the area.

- New HQ for the event will be at Pughs Auction Centre in Ledbury.
- Ledbury TC has agreed to a ceremonial start in the town centre on 17 September to allow members of the public to view the cars.
- Intention is to run the same route in the opposite direction. Cllr Price observed that the direction the event ran in last year would be safer and Mr Smith agreed to share this local knowledge with the event organisers.

He concluded by informing members that Cheltenham Motor Club is a non-profit organisation and after last year's event gave away just over £3000 to local charities as well as raising funds for the air ambulance.

#### 129. Traffic safety

Correspondence from a local resident dated 5 November 2021:

*Would be pleased if you would put before the PC the idea of adopting 20mph signs on our lanes. I regularly walk along Kews Lane and Blue Lane and there is an increase in traffic. Most vehicles travel carefully but last week a SUV type car came hurtling around a bend so fast that it couldn't stop and in breaking rocked from side to side so violently that it was frightening. Unfortunately I was on a part of the lane where the vergeside is very narrow and was forced with my dogs into the hedge. Perhaps a 20mph sign at either end might make drivers think about their speed.*

Members made the following points during discussion of this item:

- To put up 20mph signs you need a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) which is prohibitively expensive and the lanes mentioned are not particularly busy.
- 'Shared Space' signs could be an option, the aim being to encourage active travel and raise awareness for the presence of multiple modes of transport on rural routes.  
**Action:** Clerk to ask Highways to confirm the criteria for getting these signs in place. Cllr Warwick to supply wording for signs.
- It is, unfortunately, not possible to do anything legally enforceable without a TRO.

#### 130. Oxenhall Lane Ford footbridge – progress update

Cllr Warwick advised that he had not been able to connect with any Royal Engineers that could help with the footbridge. Cllr Price confirmed there had been no further progress since the £20k quote from Highways. Council now needed to look into how the bridge could be funded.

It was hoped that £10k could be raised which could be matched by Highways through their match funding scheme.

The high cost of the bridge compared to the quote obtained for a wooden footbridge was discussed. It was noted that the proposed bridge would be supported by steel beams rather than timber, 4ft wide with excavated foundations and have a path for 8m along either side of it. This went some way to explaining why it was more expensive than the £1000 quote received for a basic wooden footbridge.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Cllr Moseley to set up a meeting at the ford to discuss funding options and next steps.

#### 131. Weight Limit on the B4222 – progress update

Cllr Warwick reported that he had been in contact with Balfour Beatty (Hereford Highways). Results of the survey on this issue had been sent to Hereford Council for them to consider next steps.

132. B4221 Roadworks feedback – progress update

Cllr Warwick to meet with GCC Highways representatives on 25 January to discuss the way in which the roadworks were conducted in August 2021 and Highways unsatisfactory response to the feedback given by GKPC.

133. To discuss any other highways matters

Flooding at Brassfields had not been reported to Highways. The Clerk apologised for the oversight.

**Action:** Clerk to report issue to Highways ASAP.

### Public Rights of Way

134. Members considered the proposed letter regarding the reinstatement of historic footpaths in Kilcot Wood. **Action:** Clerk to send draft letter along with a ‘marked up’ footpaths map.

### Planning

135. To comment on new planning applications:

Land off Sterrys Lane

Before Christmas a full planning application was submitted to Herefordshire Council for all works, and separately an application was submitted to FoDDC for the access. At the 11<sup>th</sup> hour the Herefordshire application was withdrawn and FoDDC rejected the access application because the applicant had simply submitted the Herefordshire paperwork.

Cllrs Warwick and Price conducted a community speedwatch outside the telephone exchange directly opposite The Lodge where the proposed new access would be. If the application is resubmitted the evidence is in place to support an objection on safety grounds.

136. Noted the following planning decisions made since the last meeting:

[Ford Farm Bungalow, Ford Lane, Kilcot, GL18 1NW \(P0676/21/FUL\)](#)

Erection of a single storey extension with balcony terrace over and installation of solar pv panels.

Decision: Granted Permission

[Land to the North of Oak Crest, Stoney Road, Kilcot, GL18 1PB \(P2087/20/AG\)](#)

Prior notification for the erection of a replacement agricultural storage building.

Decision: Approved

[Baldwins Farm, Mill Lane, Kilcot, GL18 1NU \(P0535/21/FUL\)](#)

Erection of a two storey side extension.

Decision: Granted Permission

[Pump House, Conigree Road, Newent, GL18 1NF \(P0984/21/AG\)](#)

Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural shed.

Decision: Approved

137. To discuss ongoing planning enforcement matters in the parish

Land on B4221 – unauthorised removal of hedgerow

Clerk had raised to fact that the hedgerow reinstatement notice was never issued with Alastair Chapman but had received no reply.

Marshall’s Meadow

Applicant appears to be waiting on outcome of a planning application. However, the application includes hard standings that were meant to be removed as conditions of the enforcement notice.

## Box Bush Barns

No further progress/update.

### **Grounds Maintenance**

#### 138. Kilcot Green

It had been agreed in December that Brian Duffield should do the clearing work required on Kilcot Green. Unfortunately, following some heavy rainfall the wood had gone from summer conditions to a swamp. **Action:** Clerk to give Brian the go ahead.

### **Grant Funding**

#### 139. To note details of the Covid Recovery Fund – GCC Councillor Scheme and consider suitable projects for which this funding could be applied.

**Action:** Clerk to apply for funding for a footbridge over the Oxenhall Lane Ford on the grounds of promoting healthier lifestyles by making it safer for pedestrians and cyclists to navigate the ford.

### **Precept 2022/23**

#### 140. **Resolved** to set the precept for the 2022/23 financial year at £5950, a nominal increase of £142 for the year reflecting an annual increase of £1.08 per tax band D property.

### **Financial Matters**

#### 141. Received the following financial reports as at 30/11/2021

- Bank Reconciliation
- Summary of Receipts and Payments
- List of payments to date

#### 142. **Resolved** to approve the following list of cheque payments:

| DATE       | DESCRIPTION      | CHQ NO | POWER | BUDGET      | AMOUNT  |
|------------|------------------|--------|-------|-------------|---------|
| 10/01/2022 | Clerk's Expenses | 400003 |       | Staff Costs | £ 82.35 |

#### 143. **Resolved** to approve the following list of payments made by direct debit or standing order since the November meeting:

| DATE       | DESCRIPTION     | POWER          | BUDGET       | AMOUNT   |
|------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------|
| 05/11/2021 | Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | Website & IT | £ 7.20   |
| 25/11/2021 | Clerk's Salary  | LGA 1972 s.112 | Staff Costs  | £ 213.00 |
| 05/12/2021 | Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | Website & IT | £ 7.20   |
| 25/12/2021 | Clerk's Salary  | LGA 1972 s.142 | Staff Costs  | £ 213.00 |

### **Website**

#### 144. The Clerk advised council that the website had been updated in line with WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility guidelines and was now sufficiently compliant.

Members were advised that the email mailbox was approaching the 2GB storage limit.

**Action:** Clerk to look at alternative email hosting options.

### **Staff Matters**

#### 145. Members noted the resignation of the Clerk effective 28 February 2022 due to an offer of full-time employment. Recruitment arrangements were ratified including advertising of the vacancy in the Chimes and Windcross magazines.

146. **Resolved** to appoint Cllr Warwick and Cllr Clough to an interview panel, together with the outgoing Clerk, with interviews to be conducted during the week commencing 21 February 2022.

**General**

147. Items for the March meeting agenda / Councillor submissions

The Clerk was asked to move the GRCC presentation on updating of the Parish Plan to the March meeting.

148. Date and time of next meeting

**Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 7:30pm  
Upper Room, Christ Church Gorsley**

With no further business the meeting was closed at 20:51.

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Signed (Chairman)

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Date: