

# GREAT RISSINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes recorded for meeting on

**Tuesday, 3rd September 2019, 19:00 hrs at the Great Rissington Club**

Present: Councillors Richard Cleverly (Chairman), John Durrant (Vice-Chairman), Jane Carter, Jenny Stewart, Natasha Sheasby & clerk Debbie Braiden.

In attendance: District Councillor Andrew MacLean, County Councillor Nigel Moor, Local Government Electors (3)

1. An apology for absence was received from Cllr. Ramsay and the Chairman asked for financial interests to be declared for the meeting. There were no declarations of interest made.
2. The minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman.
3. Matters arising
  - a. The clerk received a completed form of declaration of interest from the Chairman and Cllr. Sheasby agreeing to complete hers by the next day. These will then be posted on the website in accordance with information received from Cotswold District Council.
  - b. Cllr. Carter led the discussions following the training she had received from GAPTC. It was noted that due to the regulations of the DATA protection act (GDPR) it was important and good practice to use generic email addresses used solely for the purpose of Parish Council business and not to use individual personal email addresses. If for any reason a councillor had to demonstrate information held or information sent for PC business, it would be more professional to prove and display to an outside body in an investigation without personal data being disclosed. Cllr. Durrant confirmed that the PC could purchase IMAP emails where all data would be stored on their secure UK based server. The costs were reasonable for set up £60 and £2 per month per account for 250MB storage. Cllr. Carter proposed that the PC should use this option with IMAP and Cllr Durrant confirmed to second the decision. The clerk will instigate as soon as possible.
  - c. The clerk confirmed that all avenues with both BT and SSE were exhausted and concluded they would not accept responsibility for the disconnection of the electric supply to the telephone box, with neither party willing to provide a new supply of power to the kiosk. The contract with BT states that the PC purchased the kiosk, 'in its current state', without an electric supply. Therefore, in order to progress the project as quickly as possible the PC agreed to pay for the power supply to be reconnected via an unmetered supply from the nearest lamp post as directed in the SSE quotation. The cost for the reconnection will be £394.61.

It was also proposed by Cllr. Durrant that the PC should also ensure that the Village Trust has enough money to cover the costs of an electrician to connect the defibrillator to the new power supply. The PC agreed a mandate for £100 to top up any shortfall for the Trust, should this occur. Cllr. Carter wanted confirmation that

once the defibrillator was up and running that the PC would be responsible for the kiosk and defibrillator; Cllr. Durrant agreed the kiosk was an asset and the property of the PC and should be covered by the PC's insurance.

- d. Cllr. Ramsay was not present to confirm details but from emails received it appeared the Lengthmen's programme to do some maintenance jobs around the village was taking longer than anticipated. The Chairman requested confirmation from the County Councillor. Cllr. Moor confirmed that there had been delays during July and August and that there may be changes in the future where the works required may be taken in to the normal maintenance gang programme. However, Cllr. Moor was happy to facilitate a meeting on site with Cllr. Ramsay and the Highways supervisor in order to prioritise some works required in the meantime.

Regarding salt bins, the Councillors agreed that there is already £650 in the budget to replace existing bins and they are happy for Cllr. Ramsay to proceed with prioritising purchase and replacement for some of the bins. With winter approaching this should be carried out as soon as possible.

- e. Cllr. Carter requested an extra item to discuss and asked for an update in respect to the village magazine. The Chairman confirmed that Gemina Plater (present) would be taking over from Philippa. As Gemina was present he opened up discussion to include Gemina. Gemina confirmed she was taking over the village magazine after the November issue. She said, "The magazine will still be printed and that she also had access to the village website". For any magazine enquiries you can contact Gemina direct at [geminaplater@gmail.com](mailto:geminaplater@gmail.com)

#### 4. Accounts and financial matters

- a. The monthly accounts for July and August were prepared by the clerk. They were agreed and signed off by the Chairman.
- b. The clerk enquired as to what donations would be made to local groups in the current fiscal year; Cllr. Durrant confirmed that donations are normally agreed and paid in November when the PC discusses the budget and precept provisions. He confirmed that although an amount was budgeted the PC had not agreed to make donations until finances were proving to cover new expenditure incurred during this year.

Cllr. Carter confirmed she requested that the PC hold a basic discussion regarding next year's precept earlier in this September meeting for the PC to discuss and keep pace with what services are needed and are to be delivered in the new financial year. She wants to ensure the PC is fully covered for next year's expenditure. She reiterated that the PC is now incurring new costs, such as salary and ancillary expenses connected to employment and she would also like for the PC to be able to continue making donations to local groups especially as the magazine is now going to continue.

The clerk confirmed that she has worked 36 hours in the last 7 months over the current 15 hours per month agreed in order to complete required works. A discussion was held and it was agreed that provisions should be made for annual salary increases if implemented by the National Joint Council and for a small increase in hours for the clerk for next year until work levels stabilise.

Councillor Durrant confirmed that the VAT claim amounting to £1001 will cover costs for the power supply for the defibrillator and salary owed to the clerk.

The clerk confirmed that the salary had already gone up 27p per hour this year with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019.

Cllr. Stewart pointed out an error on the Projected Budget sheet where the precept was £500 short – the clerk will amend the figure. She also wanted to clarify if the PC's expenditure was more than the precept. The Clerk will send the amended budget sheet to all councillors to show the current position.

Cllr. Carter requested confirmation that donations to local groups to be on the agenda for next month's meeting. Cllr. Durrant stated that the PC has used a formula in the past to ensure that donations were unbiased by keeping to an amount for each group and made to the same groups. Therefore the decision is already made as to how much and to whom without having to repeat the process annually. The only annual decision is to agree whether to make any donations in that particular financial year in respect to the funds available.

- c. Cheques signed by Cllrs. Cleverly and Durrant:
  - GAPTC invoice 6284 – Training Cllr. Carter
  - SSE connection costs for telephone kiosk
  - Clerk's salary for July and August 19
  - Clerk's expenses for printing cartridge and mileage (cartridge to be taken from ring fenced computer supplies budget)

Cllr. Carter mentioned that other councils were able to do on line banking without changing to a business account so this is an item to look into and ask during the next training with GAPTC.

- 5. Planning – Councillor MacLean confirmed that the PC would need to make objections in respect to planning law if their appeals are to be effective.
  - a. No comments were received for application 19/02208/FUL, it was noted that some residents had written to CDC - Proposed single storey side extension, first floor extension to south east side, 1.5 storey extension to rear, addition of dormer windows and associated alterations at 8 Orchard Bank
  - b. No comments were received for application 19/02896/TCONR – Works to trees in conservation areas for 20% crown reduction of copper beech at the front of the property. Crown lift of the same tree at The Green

6. Report from District Councillor – Cllr. MacLean stated that not much had happened during the holiday period but he had attended a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny committee; one of the areas raised was regarding fibre connection in the Cotswolds. Cllr. Stewart confirmed that only half of the village was receiving fibre. Cllr. MacLean acquired information from the meeting that as a rouse to get fibre in your area to note that businesses were given priority. Therefore, if businesses were requiring and applying for the fibre connection, it would then be opened up to that area.

The main priority and current concern at CDC was for provision of more car parking in the town which had initiated the Old Memorial hospital to be demolished this month and a consultation for the erection of a multi storey car park.

7. Report from County Councillor – GCC had declared their Emergency Climate Change last May and were now consulting on their strategy with the final day for comments being 23<sup>rd</sup> September; he pointed out that the consultation is available on the GCC website. For quick access, type in to your search engine, Gloucestershire climate change 2019 resident's survey, this will take you directly to the consultation survey. He would encourage everyone to take a look as they would like to gain more knowledge and insight into what people's appetite for change really is. Without your input they will not be able to consider what changes you really want for the future.

Stow on the Wold town is holding an arts week at the end of the month for which Cllr. Moor gave grant aid to assist with the set up for the event. The town currently have over 10 art galleries and they are hoping to put Stow on the Wold on the map through Art involvement.

The missing link for the A417 has taken a step forward and going into the planning stage with a meeting to be held at the Gloucester rugby club during September (final date to be confirmed). It is an open meeting so the public are welcome to attend. It is thought the application will be submitted in the spring 2020 and hopefully works starting on site 2021.

GCC is consulting on the local transport plan review looking beyond 2030 and also as part of the whole Climate Change in general, they are looking at their railway strategy. Special consultants will study the whole railway structure in the county to look for improvements and have schemes identified ready to negotiate with GWR. GWR's franchise has been extended 4 years. The North Cotswolds Task Group is looking at the Worcester to Paddington way route with a view to bringing in an express route to Paddington via the new Worcester Park Way this year.

The County Council have finally reached an agreement with the developer for 26 houses at Sandy Lane, which will access on to Barrington Road, Upper Rissington. There were concerns raised about people coming from the new development to the village facilities; so the developer has agreed to provide a new pedestrian crossing from the development to the Wellington Road including signage. They will also make alterations to the existing pedestrian crossing by the roundabout because the utility cabinet which had been put up under permitted development rights is obscuring the visibility from the crossing northwards. The old crossing will no longer be the principal crossing with the new one to the Wellington Road taking precedence.

Burford town council have been seeking an order for a weight restriction on Burford High Street. Cllr. Carter confirmed the PC had supported this in writing. The County Council are working in tandem with this order by implementing a complimentary order for a weight restriction at Adlestrop Bridge.

8. Any other business

An electorate addressed the County Councillor regarding there being no provision of a disabled access at Kingham rail station. Cllr. Moor confirmed that he thought it was already scheduled in the programme and he would be meeting with GWR next week, so he would put this forward in the agenda. He was also aware he already had representation from cyclists for the same reason.

She also asked about the cutting back of Rectory lane, she had rung the County Council a couple of weeks ago but there was still no action. It was agreed this was part of the Lengthmen's list already discussed; however, the situation remains hazardous for visibility and the damage to cars needed priority. There was representation that some people wanted verges left for ecology reasons however all felt safety was still priority. Another electorate pointed out that having spent a lot of money on the footpath, maintenance should be kept up so that the public could still use the footpath. Councillor Moor confirmed he would discuss with Cllr. Ramsay and the Highways supervisor in their meeting. These discussions will also include the blocked drains on the Lengthmen's list.

After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that safety should be the PC's priority and to put some of the prominent and dangerous hotspots for verge cutting into next month's agenda via the budget and precept. The PC have been waiting a long time for the County to cutback verges but Cllr. Moor confirmed that budgets are tight and he believes as explained above the Lengthmen's list may not exist soon. So the Councillors decided with the support of the electorate present to include this in the next budget. Cllr. Moor confirmed if he can set up the meeting for this month with Cllr. Ramsay and the Highways Supervisor, Cllr. Ramsay can report back next month at our budget meeting.

An electorate also requested if it was possible to give a gift from the village to Philippa as a thank you for all her dedication, hard work and time given to the village magazine and residents. Cllr. Carter proposed a bouquet would be a nice thought and Cllr. Stewart seconded it; the clerk will order a bouquet to be delivered.

9. Date of next meeting ( 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019)

10. The meeting was closed by the Chairman at 19:55.