

GOXHILL PARISH COUNCIL
**MINUTES of an ORDINARY MEETING HELD at GOXHILL PARISH ROOMS
On THURSDAY 12th September 2024 at 19.30**

Councillors: J Lawtey (Chairman), M Jones, G Kirwan, S England, D Carnell, V Gorbutt, B Clayton, R Snell, T Snell, K Favell, H Jaques

Also, in attendance:

Members of the public: 5 members of the public

Ward Cllrs: None

Clerk: Hannah Hepworth

Public Participation

There were five members of the public present.

A parishioner mentioned the road conditions at South End. The Consultation Feedback from NLC presentation regarding the road stated that the road was classified as safe; NLC have declined to give the information which supports this. The resident believe NLC have lied about this to the PC and village and wants to know what GPC are going to do about this. The Chair requested written evidence of this and a copy of the information was given to the Clerk so that this can be raised with NLC.

A parishioner mentioned that back in February it was established that draft minutes would be published on the noticeboard by the Friday of the week following the Parish Council Meeting and on Facebook. August's minutes have taken four weeks and were perceived by the resident as an insult to the public being incomplete with three mentions to the Chair to put in his comments. Having been present at council meetings for some years and recently listening to the discussions over finances the resident started to investigate the Parish Council Website and found there were several omissions, not just on finance but on Minutes and Agendas which have not been updated for some months, the last financial report was February 2024 and the last budget check was 2nd quarter budget October 2023. Since this is public money the parishioner felt it is essential to update the public on what is being spent and on what; there have been numerous discussions on private spending having to be reimbursed which in some cases has resulted in a loss of VAT returns to the public. The Clerk confirmed that this had been addressed earlier in the week and should be resolved early next week.

2409/1 **Apologies**
i) Apologies were received from Ward Cllr Hannigan, Ward Cllr Clark and Ward Cllr Wells

2409/2 **Declarations of interests / dispensations**
a. Declarations of Interests, in respect to agenda items to be made and recorded in the minutes even if an interest has been declared on the register.
COUNCILLORS MUST DECLARE ANY AMENDMENT TO PECUNIARY INTERESTS WITHIN 28 DAYS
None
b. For the Council to note any dispensations presented to the clerk prior to the meeting and their resolution.
None

2409/3 **Minute approval**
Proposed: Cllr Lawtey, Seconded: Cllr Clayton
Resolved: The minutes from the ordinary meeting of the council that took place on 1st August 2024 at 7.30pm were received and approved as a true and correct record with the removal of item 14 – 7 in favour, 3 abstentions

2409/4 **Committee meeting minutes**
(i) The minutes of the Cemetery Committee meeting were noted and the subsequent advice from ERNLLCA and the Legal team received
(ii) The minutes of the PROW Committee meeting were noted and the subsequent advice from ERNLLCA and the Legal team was received

2409/5 **Co-Option**
Proposed: Cllr Lawtey, Seconded: Cllr T Snell
Resolved: Heather Jaques was co-opted on to the Parish Council and the Declaration of Office was signed in the meeting – 9 in favour, 1 abstention

2409/6 **Committee Structures**
Proposed: Lawtey, Seconded: Cllr Clayton
Resolved: The council in principle agree with the idea of three committees and will review in January 2025 having have chance to read draft terms of reference supplied by the Clerk for each of the three suggested committees – 8 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

2409/7 **Report of the Proper Officer**
The report of the Proper Officer was noted

2409/8 **Finance approval**
Proposed: Cllr Lawtey, Seconded: Cllr R Snell
Resolved: To schedule of payments for Sept 2024 were approved:
❖ **Village Lengthsman £570.00**
❖ **Parish Rooms Caretaker £100.00**
❖ **Mark Nettleton (Millennium Green) £600.00**
7 in favour, 4 abstentions

The cashbook summary for August 2024 was received and the Chair confirmed that the cashbook summary month end tallies with the month end bank statement for August 2024

2409/10 **Essential Works identified**
a) The inspection of the cemetery findings were noted.
Proposed: Cllr Lawtey, Seconded: Cllr Clayton
Resolved: Clerk to give 28 days' notice on cemetery noticeboard and in paper and attempts to contact the families directly – unanimous
b) The exploratory bore hole will be done tomorrow – Cllr Gorbutt will email findings to the Clerk
c) The Clerk was instructed to liaise with North Lincs and Rural England on how GPC can deal with badgers in a cemetery and also flooding. Clerk also to liaise with Cllr David Carnell and to get professional advice on drainage and then quotes from recommendations
d) The Clerk will liaise with NLC to see what can be done with the land for both sites being owned by NLC. The Clerk will inform the school on how to apply for Grants through the Parish Council's precept. The Clerk will contact the Headteacher and inform her of what we are doing and why.

2409/11 **Report from Ward Councillors**
No Ward Cllrs present

2409/12 **Planning**
Proposed: Cllr T Snell, Seconded: Cllr Clayton
Resolved: GPC support the planning application PA/2024/953 Bountiful, Thornton Road, Goxhill – Planning permission for change of use of dwelling to Children's Home – unanimous

It was noted there were no applications submitted between the date of the agenda and the meeting.

2409/13 **Community Governance Review**
Proposed: Cllr Lawtey, Seconded: Cllr Kirwan
Resolved: The Governance Scrutiny Panel Review 2024 has recommended a reduction in elected Councillors for Goxhill Parish Council from 11 to 8 in 2027. Goxhill has 1844 registered electors making a ratio of 168 electors per Councillor, a change to 8 Councillors would make the ratio 1 – 231. The Council and 6 residents

responded to NLC's request for comments on Parish Council name and numbers, only one response suggested a reduction in numbers. The Governance Scrutiny Panel state they are disappointed in the response to the review, this may be due to most people believing that "if it isn't broke don't change it". It is difficult to understand what the Panel are looking to achieve by reducing the amount of Councillors across the board in North Lincolnshire. Parish Councillors are unpaid volunteers who do not cost the country, local council or the electorate a penny so reducing numbers will not save money. There are no plans to merge or abolish councils so there will be no saving of Ward Councillors time attending parish meetings. The NALC recommended number of Councillors for a parish of up to 2000 electors is 9, the Ashton University table which is used as Government guidance is 6-12 Councillors for between 501 and 2500 electors. Using this information Goxhill should have a minimum of 9 or possibly 11 Councillors.

In 2015 the existing council was re-elected unopposed, in 2019 twelve parishioners stood for the 11 places and three new Councillors were elected. In 2023 twenty parishioners stood for the 11 places and five new Councillors were elected and at the by-election in June 2024 four names were put forward for a co-option seat. This would seem to indicate that the people of Goxhill are interested in their Parish Council and that there are people ready to come forward for election, by removing 3 seats on the Council the chance of getting elected would be reduced by 25%.

We are have an active community who wish to be Councillors and encourage it by having 11 places on the Parish Council.

6 in favour, 2 against , 3 abstentions

2409/14 **Meeting times**
Proposed: Cllr R Snell, Seconded: Cllr Carnell
Resolved: Parish Council meetings to change from 7.30pm to 7pm – 6 in favour, 3 against, 2 abstentions

2409/15 **General correspondence**

- i) No further correspondence was received
- ii) The Clerk was instructed to write to the school regarding the school's request for a plastic bottle recycling sculpture in the park, explaining the reasons behind the council's decision for not supporting this venture.
- iii) The new bench from previous correspondence was noted and the Clerk was instructed to write a letter of thanks to go to Aileen

2409/16 **Information Board**
Roger Bucknall has been approached by the Clerk for a quote for the information board; this quote needs to go back to the Parish Council for approval before any order can be placed.

2409/17 **Agenda for next and future meetings**
Items for the next or future agenda are to include Carbon Capture Pipeline, noticeboard, South End traffic update from NLC (clerk to write to Lesley Potts to get the October Feedback) Standing Orders amended, delivery bark for zip wire, Keigar Community Land (Clerk to contact Keigar for an update)

2409/18 **Date of next meeting**
10th October at 7pm (subject to any change in circumstances)

Meeting close: 9.36pm