

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Guilsborough Parish Council held in Guilsborough Village Hall, The Green, Guilsborough, NN6 8PT

Monday, 6 February 2023 at 7.15 pm

Present: Cllr A Hart (Chairman), Cllr D O'Neil, Cllr I Miller, Cllr G Metcalfe, Cllr S Caldwell, Cllr L Phillips, Cllr S Harris, Mrs C Holifield (Parish Clerk), Unitary Cllr C Morton and one member of the public

020.2023 Public Forum

Graham Byars, Treasurer of the GPFA was invited by the Chairman to speak. His comments relating to the meeting held on the Footpath project on the West Haddon Road were as follows:

1. The verge from the Academy to the Playing Field is in a distressed state. In places it has been worn away below the road level because of cars parking on it, collecting school children.
2. Walking on this distressed surface is challenging, and consequently children and adults walk in the road against traffic that is often speeding-the 30mph sign is just prior to the Playing Field entrance.
3. There are Zig Zag yellow lines and Highways signs saying "No parking on the verge" between the Academy and the Playing Field, presumably because someone (Highways?) deemed verge parking to be dangerous. The Police are not willing to enforce the parking signs, even with a Traffic Regulation Order.
4. The GPFA is proposing an improved footway from the Academy to the Playing Field that makes it safe for pedestrians that cannot be worn away even if cars continue to park on it.
5. The GPFA supports a resolution to the West Haddon Road parking issue, and has proposed using the GPFA carpark (with additions), but this has been deemed unfeasible by the Academy for cost, safety and other reasons.

The Chairman thanked Mr Byars and asked if he would like to stay until the matter was discussed under the Highways agenda item but Mr Byars left the meeting at this point

021.2023 Resolution to accept apologies for absence

There were no apologies

022.2023 Resignation of Cllr Katie Fulcher and advertising of casual vacancies

The Clerk stated that she had issued the required notice to the Elections office and it was hoped that the casual Vacancy resulting from Mrs Fulcher's resignation could be advertised from 15 February.

023.2023 Declarations of interest for items on the agenda

None

024.2023 Resolution to consider written requests for dispensations on agenda items

None received

025.2023 Resolution to sign and approve the minutes from the previous meeting held on 9 January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2023 were circulated prior to the meeting. The Chairman asked if there were any amendments required from those Councillors who had been present at the meeting. It was then resolved to approve the minutes which the Chairman of the meeting then signed.

026.2023 Matters arising (for information only)

026.2023/1 Update on support being given to local organisations to provide Warm Spaces

Cllr O'Neil stated that the 'free' coffee mornings organised by MMM Group had been continuing and there had been a couple of extra attendees each week. Clerk to arrange for first payment of £250 from the agreed donation to be credited to the group's bank account.

027.2023 Village and Other Matters

027.2023/1 Consideration and approval of application to Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for grant towards the cost of purchase of a portable speed awareness device

After consideration of the various models available (details provided on a spreadsheet by the Clerk prior to the meeting) it was resolved that as the device may be moved on a frequent basis it would be beneficial to choose the lightest model available with lithium batteries. This was the TWM Mini300 model. It was resolved to apply for a grant of £3,000 towards the cost of such a camera.

027.2023/2 Consideration of any action to be take in respect of celebrations for the Coronation

Cllr Phillips stated that Hugh and Amanda Lowther had kindly agreed to host a Village Picnic in the grounds of their home at Guilsborough Court on Monday, 8 May. It was decided, therefore, to cancel the booking for the Village Hall the day before as it would be duplication of effort. Cllr Phillips stated that there would be no beacon lighting due to the risk of fire at that time of year.

027.2023/3 Consideration of action to be taken in respect of third party damage to outer wall of new Cemetery

Cllr O' Neil stated that following notification of the damage from the Clerk he was now investigating whether the Church had insurance cover. The Clerk stated that no cover was in place for either the wall or the war memorial and that neither had been included in the Council's assets since she commenced her employment. She stated that Tim Foster had provided a quotation to carry out the work at a cost of £2,000 and that she would also contact another stonemason for a quotation. Cllr O'Neil to continue to pursue the matter with the Church and report back.

027.2023/4 Consideration and approval of quotation from Maximow to gang mow the small playing field at a cost of £54.70 per cut for the 2023 season.

It was resolved to accept Maximow's quotation at £54.60 per cut to continue to mow the small playing field for the 2023 season.

027.2023/5 Allocation of Councillor roles following resignation of Councillor

It was agreed that Cllr Harris would take back the roles of Police Liaison Representative and Internal Finance Checker from Cllr Caldwell and that Cllr Caldwell would now take over Budget/Precept, GPFA Liaison and Staff Committee.

028.2023 Planning

028.2023/1 New applications

None

028.2023/2 Completions

None

029.2023 Finance

029.2023/1 Receipts

The Clerk reported there had been no receipts.

029.2023/2 Payments

It was resolved to approve and sign off the following payments.

Details	Invoice Number	Amount (£) including VAT where applicable	Payment Method
Clerk's February salary	n/a	551.68	Online
HMRC – PAYE on Clerk's salary	n/a	137.80	Online
Clerk's Office expenses	n/a	28.05	Online
Cartridge Save – reimburse Clerk	SC21DV	36.74	Online
NCALC – Training Course fee	2656	36.00	Online
Guilsborough Village Hall – Room Hire (Jan 23)	749	20.00	Online
MMM Group – Donation for Warm Space initiative	n/a	250.00	Online
Broxap – 3 litter bins (redelivered)	301534	1,312.62	Online
HSBC – Bank Charges (January 23)	n/a	5.00	DD
Npower – Street Light Electricity (Dec 22)	5897919	314.60	DD

029.2023/3 Bank reconciliation for period ended 31 January 2023

The Clerk had circulated the bank reconciliation for the period ended 31 January 2023 showing a balance at bank of £33,945.61 which was signed by the Chairman.

30.2023 Playground Report and Update on Fund Raising Group

The Chairman provided copies of his latest reports to the Clerk and stated that the Clatterbridge required a repair. Cllr Miller agreed to assist with this. The Fund Raising Group was still intending to apply for a grant towards the total refurbishment of the playground which could cost in the region of £125,000.

031.2023 Highways

Cllr Phillips stated that she and Cllr Miller had attended the meeting organised by Matthew Clarke to discuss the GPFA's wish to have a footpath between the Academy and the GPFA playing fields. Mr Byars comments made during Public Time were considered.

Highways were not supportive of a footpath as a solution to verge parking and both Highways and the Police suggested it could be detrimental to traffic flow (and so ultimately road safety) should a path be installed as it would lead to single lane traffic flow. The Academy Principal stated that the school has no required use for the GPFA facilities and therefore wouldn't need to support a footpath, also voicing concerns regarding traffic flow

should an installation take place. With a likely solution involving drainage, lighting and pedestrian safety barriers and a possible cost of up to £185,000 to carry out the work together with a required majority cost contribution from the PC, the Council agreed that it would not be in a position to support a project of this scale. Highways stated that there was a current request for a 20-30 metre section of path which was not currently in scope. The PC's position regarding infrastructure improvements is available to view in the Neighbourhood Plan documentation.

With regard to the telephone complaint received from a parishioner about lack of signage in the High Street hindering delivery drivers from finding addresses, it was agreed that signage was in place at both ends of the High Street but that it was possibly being obscured at times by parked vehicles at The Green end.

032.2023 Street Lights

It was reported that street light number 33 on the Cold Ashby Road was not working. Clerk to report to E-on.

033.2023 Parish Assets Inspection Report

Cllr Miller stated he had nothing to report. The Clerk stated that the refurbished litter bins were due to be delivered to Mark Hazle in the next week. Cllr O'Neil stated that the Village Hall were considering replacing the Front Window of the Hall.

034.2023 Village Trees

Cllr Metcalfe stated he had nothing to report but that he would contact Maurice Fitch to see what was happening about the proposed works to the large trees.

035.2023 Footpath Warden Report

Cllr Metcalfe stated that he had nothing to report.

036.2023 Police Liaison Representative's Report

Cllr Caldwell reported that from the data available there had been 7 crimes reported in the Guilsborough area

037.2023 Items for Village Link

The Chairman stated that he would include details of the tea party for the Coronation and the Councillor vacancies in the next issue.

038.2023 Correspondence received

- NCALC Update January/February edition – circulated by email
- Telephone complaint received from Parishioner re lack of signage in High Street – see Highways above
- Hedgehog Highway Project – details circulated by email
- Good Neighbours Scheme – details of funding circulated by email

039.2023 Items for next meeting – Monday, 6 March 2023 at 7.15 pm

- Update on Grant application for Speed Awareness Device
- Councillor vacancies
- Update of bank mandate
- Presentation of budget to 31 January 2023
- Update Fixed Asset schedule
- Internal Finance Checks

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm