

GAYTON PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT GAYTON JUBILEE VILLAGE HALL
ON MONDAY 15th February 2017**

Present: Mr R King, Mr B Anota, Mr P Savage, Mr S Verber, Lady Romney, Mr A Dewing, Mr S Taylor, Mr P Gidney, Mr J Currey, Mr P Grant, Mr A Beales and Cnty. Cllr. Coke.

1. Apologies for absence.

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest – The Councillors will declare any personal or prejudicial interest in any item on the agenda.

Mr Gidney declared a pecuniary interest in item 11. Mr Verber queried whether he had an interest in item 12 and the Jubilee Hall Committee's request to use the playing field for a Fayre and it was confirmed that he did not.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th January 2017 for approval.

Mr Beales proposed that the minutes be agreed and accepted as a true record. This was seconded by Mr Verber and agreed by all.

4. Report from County Councillor and Borough Councillor.

Cllr. Coke advised that in regard to the proposed new school building, the holding objections stated by the Environmental Agency had largely been resolved and NCC plans to submit a new planning application at end March/early April. There will be a further chance for residents and the Parish Council to comment before the final determination possibly in June or July 2017.

Cllr. Coke went on to say that NCC had agreed an increase of 4.8% in Council tax. 3% of this increase will be used to prop up Children's and Adult services and the remainder will go to general funds. Cnty Cllr Beales advised that BCKLWN had agreed an increase in Council Tax which equates to an increase of £4.00 a year for Band D properties. Mr Beales noted that the Borough precept was at the same level as the Constabulary's precept was 20 years ago but is now half of the current Constabulary's precept which shows the efficiencies that the Borough Council has implemented to keep costs down.

5. 10 Minutes Open Forum for Parishioners.

A resident reported that instances of dog fouling seemed to be increasing, particularly on the footpath near Springvale. This is of especial concern due to the use of the footpath by children in the area. A parishioner volunteered to spray dog waste which has not been cleared away by the owner with pink non-hazardous spray to highlight dog fouling as it was noted that this had an effect in reducing dog fouling in other Parishes. The Parishioner was thanked for volunteering his help.

The Cllrs were also advised that the hedge surrounding the old shop property was encroaching over the footpath making it difficult for pedestrians to walk easily along that section. Mr Beales advised that he would speak with Andy Wallace of NCC Highways about the issue and Mr Dewing advised that he would try to speak with the owner of the property.

6. Churchyard maintenance – the Council will consider a presentation from the PCC and agree its contribution to churchyard maintenance in the 2017/18 financial year.

Reverend Jane Holmes addressed the Council and explained that the Church's finances had not changed significantly since the last financial year and that the Church still relied heavily on volunteers to manage some aspects of its ongoing maintenance. There was some concern raised by Councillors that there was little evidence of direct fundraising by the PCC. Rev Jane explained that the PCC Committee is very small but that there are plans for significant fundraising events in the coming year. She also confirmed that she and the PCC were generally happy with the quality of the strimming work carried out by the chosen contractor. Mr Beales proposed that the Council provide the same level of contribution to the Church's maintenance costs in the coming financial year as was given in the current year, i.e. that the Parish Council will cover the cost of the strimming contract at £480 + VAT and provide an additional £200 towards the general maintenance costs. Lady Romney seconded this. There were 7 votes in favour, 3 votes against and one abstention. The motion was passed.

7. Neighbourhood Plan – the Council will consider a presentation by Alex Fradley from the Borough Council on the creation and production of a Parish Plan and decide whether to create one for Gayton.

Alex Fradley addressed the Council and provided handouts detailing the process of how Parish Councils can create their own Neighbourhood Plan. Alex explained that a Neighbourhood Plan, once approved, becomes a material consideration when a decision is being made on whether to grant planning permission or not to an application. He noted that other Parishes had used their Neighbourhood Plans to tackle issues specific to their area. For instance, St Ives have used their Plan to prevent any new homes being built and used as second homes, only. Alex noted that a Neighbourhood Plan can only deal with planning related issues and could not be used to tackle speed limit and parking issues, for instance. The Government is encouraging local Councils to create their own plans and a Plan which is in the creation stages will now bear some weight when planning applications are being determined, even before it is approved. It was noted that if there is an area which is determined not to have a 5 year land supply, a Neighbourhood Plan, along with the Borough's Local Plan, would be replaced by National Planning Policy until a 5 year land supply is achieved again, as has recently occurred.

Alex explained that a Steering Group made up of non Parish Councillors could work on the creation of the Plan but that the Parish Council would be responsible for its formal submission and adoption. It was noted that there are grants available to help Parish Councils cover the costs of the plan (these include paying for an independent review, any professional advice and printing costs). It was noted that the Parish Council would receive 25% of any CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) applied to new developments in Gayton rather than 15% if the Parish Council does not have a Neighbourhood Plan in place.

Alex and his Associate were thanked for their time. The Council considered the information available. The Councillors debated whether there is a specific planning issue that the Parish could use a Neighbourhood Plan to tackle and concluded that the main benefit to the Parish to create a Neighbourhood Plan is the additional money the Parish Council would receive from the CIL monies. It was agreed to find out if there are any restrictions on when and how CIL money received by Parish Councils can be spent. It was noted that the creation of a Plan on the basis that the Council would receive more funding would also mean that the Parish Council may be in a position to encourage more development to achieve the funding.

It was agreed that this item would be considered again at the next meeting to allow Councillors to consider all of the facts and implications in order to make an informed decision on whether a plan should be created at the next meeting.

8. New Playing Field Equipment – the Council will hear an update on progress of the project from the Working Party and agree its next actions.

Mr Currey explained that the Working Party had met twice and agreed the wording on a consultation document (very much in line with that used for the skatepark project) and had agreed how this will be delivered to the Community for comment. Mr Currey explained that the Working Party, other than the Parish Councillors involved, is made up of mothers with small children who are very motivated to see the project concluded successfully and as quickly as possible. The consultation documents are planned to be placed in the local shops and businesses and parishioners can also provide their comments via a survey monkey link online, post, email or telephone. The Clerk and Mr Currey showed the planned documents to the Council and it was formally agreed that the consultation could begin.

9. Streetlights – the Council will consider a suggestion received from a resident in relation to the conversion of streetlights to LED’s and agree any action required.

The Chairman explained that a resident had contacted the Council and noted that another Parish Council had decided to replace the bulbs in their streetlights with LED bulbs rather than replacing the entire light fitting which was at a much cheaper cost per streetlight. The Clerk contacted the Council’s streetlight maintenance firm to ask for clarification on whether replacing the bulbs only would be a viable option. The maintenance firm confirmed that the bulbs would not work very well in the existing old light fittings and that the Council would not save on energy usage as it would with a completely new LED streetlight. It was agreed by the Council that fully replacing the streetlights is the best option to take.

10. Misuse of dog waste bin in Winch Road – the Council will consider this issue and the action it can take.

The Clerk reported that the Borough Council had explained that someone has bulk dumped dog waste beside (and not inside) the dog waste bin on Winch Road. It was collected in the last collection run but would not be in the future. As the dog waste bin belongs to the Parish Council it is the Parish Council’s responsibility to deal with this issue. Mr Anota reported that the person who has dumped dog waste in this manner in the past is known to the Council and has been asked not to do it again, however, it seems that they have. The Council agreed to write to the resident suspected of dumping the waste to point out the cost and inconvenience this causes to the Parish.

11. Planning

- a) *Applications to consider*
Ground floor extension, green roof with dormer over, construction of three bay garage and change to rook of North East corner of cottage for a bathroom at West Hall Cottage, Vicarage Lane, Gayton

Mr Gidney left the meeting at this point.

The Council considered the application and agreed that there were no objections.

- b) *Decisions received from BCKLWN / NCC*
 No decisions had been received.

- c) *Any applications received after 8th February 2017*
 None

12. Gayton Playing Fields – the Council will discuss

- **any playing field issues**

There were no general playing field issues.

- **Consider a quotation for repairs to the skatepark to stop water lying on the surface**
The Clerk reported that she had been given the name of a local firm by the Borough Council and that they will be visiting the site to investigate the problem with the skatepark, take measurements and then provide a solution and quotation for repair. It is expected that this will be available at the next meeting.
- **Consider a request from the Jubilee Hall Committee to use the Playing Field for a Summer Fayre**
Mr Dewing proposed that the request be granted with the proviso that a dog show cannot take place without assurances that the field will be left in the state it was found at the beginning of the show. Mr Beales seconded this and all agreed.
- **Consider a request from a parishioner to raise the swing seats on Gayton playing field.**
The Clerk reported that she is awaiting a quotation from Wicksteed.
- **Consider a quotation for the repair of the rotten timber on the Activity trail at Gayton Thorpe playing field.**
The Council considered a quotation of £187.05 + VAT to repair the rotten timber. It was noted that this cost would not be covered by the warranty on the equipment as the Council could not produce evidence that weekly visual inspections of the equipment had been undertaken. A general discussion on whether weekly inspections were in fact necessary then took place with Councillors raising concerns about whether this could be realistically undertaken at such regular intervals by Councillors. It was also agreed to reconfirm that this is also a requirement of the Council's insurance policy. Mr Beales proposed that the quotation be accepted and Mr Dewing seconded this. All agreed.

13. Highways – the Council will discuss any Highway issues and any Speedwatch issue and consider a response confirming the amount of cuts to the verges that the Borough Council makes each year and whether the Parish Council should consider taking this maintenance on in the future.

There were no Highway or speedwatch issues to discuss.

The Clerk reported that the Borough had confirmed that Gayton will receive 12 cuts to the verges that the Borough is responsible for throughout the year. It was agreed that the Council need not consider taking the work on itself whilst this level of cuts in is place.

14. Correspondence received since last meeting (see attached schedule)

There was no correspondence to consider.

15. Finance – the current financial standing of the Parish Council will be reported and the following payments will be presented for payment: -

Mrs K Senter	1 month's clerks salary & expenses - August	BACS	£	455.52
TT Jones Electrical	Streetlight maintenance	101594	£	134.24
HMRC	PAYE	101595	£	9.60
Gayton Jubilee Hall	Hire of hall	101596	£	21.00
KJN Landscapes	Litter picking and bus shelter cleaning	101597	£	630.00
KVT BusinessCare Ltd	Half phone bill, stamps etc	101598	£	41.54
TOTAL			£	1,291.90

Mr Beales proposed that the Council make the payments listed above and Mr Savage seconded this. All agreed.

16. Items for Report or Future Agenda.

It was agreed to discuss the following items at the next meeting:

Neighbourhood Plan

Community defibrillator

CPRE – campaign to halt rural development

Gayton Thorpe phone box and whether the adoption of the box has been approved

17. Date of next meeting is planned to be 13th March 2017.

Signed by Chairman..... 13th March 2017