**A meeting of Goring Heath Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 13th December 2018 at 8pm.**

**Present**:  Chairman Peter Dragonetti, Councillors:  Martin Wise, Fred Rutherford, Nick Elsome, Nick Henry, Hilary Dewey. In attendance, Lucy Turner, and Amanda Holland.

1. **Apologies for Absence** : Chris Jessop
2. **Minutes of the last meeting.** Thursday 8th November 2018 were signed as correct.
3. **Matters Arising. P18/S0507/LB** Goring Heath Alms Houses.  Replacing hard surface to central courtyard. PD stated that he will register a complaint about the decision not to enforce listed building regulations. HD asked if this was being paid for by the PC and PD confirmed there was no cost involved. **P18/S2555/FUL** Former Goring Heath Poultry Farm 54526 Goring Heath RG8 7RU, Erection of a training building, 5 huts and the renovation of disused fire station, ablutions block and parking : a discussion followed about the amendments and the detail of this proposal, which resulted in a decision to register continued objection on the original grounds of inappropriate development in the AONB. The reduction in height of the main building still resulted in a warehouse industrial building. The White Lion at Crays Pond has had an application for Asset of Community Value (ACV) denied, but as the new Whisky Haveli service has now opened, the PC intends to apply again. The case will continue into the New Year. The commemorative sapling has been collected.
4. **Correspondence** : A checklist from the new Auditing service has been received and will be returned by 31.12.2018. As no estimates have been received to date for work to the Recreation Ground gate, FR recommended a small works contractor. The Contracted works to Trees in the Parish Hall Car Park and around the Recreation Ground are now scheduled for the 14,15,16th January 2018.
5. **Parish Hall.** The gutters and roof have had recent maintenance. MW opened a discussion about the PH car park being used by SSE electrical maintenance workers recently, causing disruption and the toddler group session to be cancelled. It was confirmed that SSE had not asked permission for this, and that PD would discuss the issue with the Parish hall committee, also addressing the issue of appropriate signage and a formal complaint**.**
6. **Newsletter/Website.** AH has updated the website, and it was reported that the newsletter deadline was immediate and content was discussed. The Repair café in Cholsey will be included, and it was hoped that they would attend the Annual General Meeting in April. The firework complaints would be addressed, and an update on the decisions regarding the play equipment would be mentioned.
7. **Recreation Ground**.  A discussion regarding the play equipment and frequency of its use then followed, concluding in the observation that we were back to stage one, with a decision to pursue the issue of new equipment funded by grants in the New Year, with the most favoured option being the addition of a basket swing that could be used by ages 3 to 12 years.
8. **District Councillors report.**  Robert Simister, apologies.
9. **County Councillors report.**Kevin Bulmer, apologies.
10. **Traffic speed on B4526 Crays Pond and Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill.**The Director of Infrastructure, Head of Roads and Road Safety Mr Lee Turner has been contacted and has responded to emails about this issue.  A response was agreed that highlighted our position and commitment to the issue for the coming year. AH to send.
11. **Grass Cutting and Tree Maintenance**. Work to start Mid January 2019.
12. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments**. Small Oaks, and the Crays Pond Studio have been granted. The Boundary Fence at the entrance to Orchard Coombe was discussed. As it was adjacent to the highway and it entails a loss of a rural approach, PD to research and inform members of any issues before we can respond. Beech View, side, rear and upwards extension was discussed. NH to progress and inform of response after discussion with neighbours.
13. **Finance & Bank Reconciliation.** The bank statement for November/December was checked and approved by MW. No invoices have been received.
14. **The Precept.** A paper was circulated discussing the Budget and Precept for 2019/20.

The summary and forecast were discussed. The precept in the current year, 2018/19 was £24,000. Likely expenditure, such as the tree work and Audit commitments were highlighted, and it was noted that grants should cover any expenditure on the play equipment proposals. Following an email from CJ, the cost of pursuing a reduced speed limit at Crays Pond was addressed, and it was noted that an estimated sum of £6k + should be included in the budget for 2020/21. MW noted that the pond at Crays Pond has not replenished itself in recent years and was now at a very low and worrying level. The water table, run off from the road, historic levels of drainage and previous works to the pond were noted, and it was agreed to reassess the situation after the winter rains, and to actively monitor potential costs of repair for inclusion in future budgets. It was noted that the loan to refurbish the Parish Hall has 5 years left before it is paid, and that the Goring Heath Alms Houses may want to financially support the bus service. It was noted that current underspend and a healthy projected balance at the end of next year of around £17k should ensure a reduction in the precept for the proposed period of £1k to £23k. This was proposed by PD and seconded unanimously.

1. **AOB.** FR was thanked for cleaning and maintaining visibility for Traffic Signs at the Crays Pond Junction as per suggestions at the previous meeting. Best wishes for the Christmas Holidays were exchanged.
2. **The meeting closed at 9.30pm.**
3. **Date of the next meeting**  **Thursday 10th January at 8pm.**