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

**Present**: Chairman Peter Dragonetti, Councillors Liz Collas, Chris Jessop, Margo Mcgee

Nick Elsome. In attendance, Lucy Turner, and Amanda Holland.

1. **Apologies for Absence :** Martin Wise, Nick Henry, Hilary Dewey
2. **Minutes of the last meeting,** Thursday 12th July 2018 and Thursday August 23rd 2018 were signed as correct.
3. **County Councillors Report**. Mr Rob Simister reported to the council about the Councillors grant scheme. There was £5k to spend, to be divided between Mapledurham, Kidmore End, Goring Heath and Whitchurch On Thames. This was not intended for match funding, and was most likely to be awarded to small projects. The White Lion at Crays Pond was discussed. It was due to be open prior to the 13th September 2018 to serve alcoholic drinks at publicised times. It was noted that there had not been compliance with conditions to date, and Rob requested that he be kept up to date with developments. There followed a discussion between Rob and Peter, regarding the Goring Heath Almshouses and the courtyard surfacing. Peter noted that as the new surface was a change to a listed building without listed building consent, and it does not fall within listed building consent, we should be surprised if a certificate of lawful development was awarded. Rob indicated that the council are waiting on advice and guidance from English Heritage. Peter emphasised that the responsibility in law lay with SODC as the Planning Authority, and not with English Heritage. Peter noted that he felt that they had not been given the correct information, and that he had recently taken legal advice on the matter. Rob noted that SODC has to comply with the 1990 Act and that they were going for a legal review, and both parties agreed to share information and keep up to date with developments. Chris asked for clarification on the situation if the White Lion does not comply and for guidance on how to proceed in these circumstances. CAMRA may be able to advise on the requirements for a pub. It was decided to ask for more detail and to monitor developments. Two local planning developments were discussed, new houses in Hill Bottom were turned down last year as not infill and the situation has not changed, and a response from the planning department is pending regarding the Training Centre at Goring Heath. Rob will keep us informed of developments. Mr Simister left the meeting.
4. **Matters Arising.**  The stile at Crays Pond has been installed and paid for.
5. **Correspondence :** AH requested that members return the signed personal details form as required by the Cooperative Bank. MM stated that she was unwilling to sign this document for personal reasons; the meeting agreed that another bank would require the same information, and after discussion, Peter accepted her resignation from the council.
6. **Parish Hall.** Peter reported on the Parish Hall Autumn Show Saturday 8th September. It was hoped that Nick Brazil has some photos for the newsletter. He also reported that the soffit boards have been repainted, there is a new automated light in the ladies toilet, and that a new dishwasher has been installed.
7. **Newsletter/Website.** The next newsletter deadline is 1/10/2018. Content and prospective adverts were discussed. AH to contact NH regarding spreadsheet. LT has received an article from Private Eye regarding the Almshouses. PD reported that the website has been updated this evening.
8. **Recreation Ground.** Following a second article on the play equipment in the newsletter, there has been a good response and a summary of correspondence was discussed. Many ideas have been put forward, and CJ asked for clarification on how and why we are making this decision. As the green and the equipment were used by everyone of all ages, can we realistically meet the needs? PD noted that it is a safe and popular environment, grants can be found to meet the costs, and proposed that we should consult again on a couple of specific proposals from the correspondence. Each councillor gave their views and it was decided to repair the existing toddler swings, and look into the possibilities of adding some simple outdoor gym equipment and/or some additional items for the 9 to 13 age bracket. To be taken forward.
9. **Traffic speed on B4526 Crays Pond and Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill.** Following the resolution of the last meeting to seek enforcement for the speed limits at Whitchurch Hill, AH reported that Action taken to date includes consultation with Antony Kirkwood : Traffic and Road Safety Team, Lee Turner, Principal Officer of Traffic schemes, and the Police. -Mr Kirkwood indicated that he  would be happy to attend a site meeting to discuss possible speed limit changes, but would only be able to progress these if there was both funding available, and if the proposal was judged to comply with the Department for Transport  guidelines on setting speed limits - see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/63975/circular-01-2013.pdf> . There is no funding available, but other councils have funded their own schemes, based on successful outcomes of the surveys we have just completed. If our data complies with the DfT guidance without the need for supporting measures, we could then proceed to carry out the legal / administrative work to promote the new speed limit order (a £2600 fee applies) and - if approved following the statutory consultation – the signing work required implement the new limit; this depends on the scope of the changes, but as a very indicative figure, the signing costs could well be in the region of £2500 ex VAT. Projects of this type take a minimum of 6 months to progress once a parish council has confirmed it wishes to fund a scheme, and also we need to consult widely on speed limit changes, and so we cannot guarantee a project will be approved - even if funding is available - ahead of completing the consultation. Signage on wheelie bins, erecting signs ourselves, and taking advantage of loaning the hand held speed devices from the police and being trained to use them are also options. South Stoke would be happy to share their practical experience with us. Mr Fred Rutherford (FW) was requested to speak to the meeting. He is new to the area and wrote to us expressing surprise and dismay at the dangerous roads, limited pavements and traffic speeds at Crays Pond. He would like to help us move the issue forward. CJ agreed to work with FW to champion the issue.

1. **Grass Cutting and Tree Maintenance**. AH circulated a Duty of Care Report from Heritage Tree services which had been commissioned to survey the parish trees and outline work required. It was agreed that the schedule was necessary and we should obtain estimates for the work. AH to progress. The Grass Cutting contract was discussed, PD has discussed the contract with Berinsfield Community Business and they have agreed to cut undergrowth from the path from Hill Bottom to The Oratory on the left hand side at least once or twice a year. BCB have also mown back the borders of the recreation ground as requested.
2. **District Councillors Report.** Circulated, read and noted**.**
3. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments**.

**P18/S0507/LB** Goring Heath Almshouses. Replacing hard surface to central courtyard. (Retrospective) Objection on the grounds of damage to curtilage of Grade 1 listed building. PD has taken advice regarding how to progress with our objection, and LC questioned how we were paying for it. PD stated that there would be no cost to the council and that he had asked a QC colleague who specialised in planning matters to advise. Planning decisions were circulated.

**P18/2713/FUL** The Oratory Preparatory School Goring Health RG8 0PJ. Changing Facilities. No strong views.

**[P18/S2845/LB](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/S2845/LB)** Coombe End Farmhouse Goring Heath RG8 7TE Replacement of the lead sheet flat roof finishes, following their theft, with either terne-coated stainless steel or with zinc sheet. No strong views.

[**P18/S2504/FUL**](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P18/S2504/FUL)15 Hockets Close Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PZ . Division of existing residence into 2 separate dwellings. Objection. H11 and H13..

1. **Finance & Bank reconciliation.** The statement, reconciliation and the following payments were authorised and signed by CJ and PD.

**Outgoing Incoming.**

£200.00 GF Buses £236.98 OCC Grass Cutting

£370.00 Clerks Salary

£624.00 Kingsley Smith

£312.00 Kingsley Smith)

£424.80 Grass Cutting

£ 26.20 Dog Bin Emptying SODC

£200.00 Going Forward Buses

£168.00 ROSPA Annual Inspection

£301.96 Clerk PAYE

£ 45.00 Open Spaces Society Subscription

£ 150.00 Centrewire (Stile)

£ 270.00 Goring Press Anne Bridgens £50.00 not cashed

**14. AOB.** AH reported that a complaint about Newhouse Farm and land adjoining had been reported to the Enforcement Officers at SODC. PD would contact Mike about an update to the buses. Woodland up for sale and the possible consequences thereof were discussed. There has been applications for Archery, roads etc and LC is concerned about the public right of ways. A letter has been sent to Woodcote PC to request updates where appropriate. The arrangements for the War Memorial service on 11.11.2018 were discussed. There will be a service in the Church at 9.30am followed by another at the war memorial down the hill, for which a road closure and bugler are required. AH to progress. LC requested that we take up the offer of a Tree sapling and plaque to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of WW1. It was agreed that a planting ceremony followed by refreshments in the Parish Hall could follow on from the services on 11.11.2018, providing the sapling can arrive in time. MM was formally thanked for her dedication and service to GHPC. **The meeting closed at 9.48pm.**

**Date of the next meeting** **Thursday 11th October at 8pm.**