**Present:** Liz Collas (LC) Martin Wise (MW) Peter Burdon (PB) Hilary Dewey (HD) Peter Dragonetti (PD)

**In attendance:** Amanda Holland (AH Clerk )

1. **Apologies for Absence**: Louise Shearer (LS) Michael Holland (MH)
2. **Declarations of Interest.** None
3. **Public Forum.** Mrs Sue Abbott ( see report below) Mr Ian Reynolds.( See report below)
4. **To Approve the Minutes** of the last meeting of the Council on February 9th 2024. Approved.
5. **Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda elsewhere.**.
6. **Correspondence for Information**. Mr M Hill will not be taking up the vacant Councillors role. SODC have proposed to plant a number of non-native trees at Crays Pond. After discussion it was decided that AH would reply and decline the offer. Eric Hartley has written in to highlight the issue of monitoring footpaths and rights of way, LC has been in contact to reassure him that we are doing all we can. Gigaclear have asked for us to liaise with them regarding broadband upgrades. PB to progress. Mr F Rutherford has requested that we continue to post agenda and minutes at Woodcote Notice board for those parishioners who are not online. AH posted both prior to this meeting and papers are available online as usual.
7. **District Councillors Report and County Councillors Report.** DC report received with thanks.
8. **Key areas requiring discussion:**

* Asian Hornets. Mrs Sue Abbott proposed that we take active steps to prevent the spread of this destructive insect. It has yellow ends to its legs and has orange and brown banding. It destroys native bees and is spreading across the country. 10 traps and bait are needed, one per 1KM squared to monitor the situation and hopefully eliminate them before they become established. It was agreed to ask for volunteer monitors in the next newsletter. MW and AH to progress. T
* Speed Watch update. Mr Ian Reynolds provided a comprehensive update and Revue. He agreed to submit a summary of the update for the next Newsletter in April. Cllr Burden volunteered to join the speed watch volunteers to enable the monitoring to continue in Mr Reynolds absence. The installation of visual speed monitoring devices was discussed and noted.
* Annual Parish Meeting. AH to invite everyone to attend. Sue and Ian accepted their invites.
* The Fete 2024. PB circulated a Fete roundup that highlighted stallholders that are/are not attending.
* Crays Pond Project. PB and MW continue to monitor the work, Heritage Tree Services will remove stumps.
* Traffic and Speed update. MH has forwarded emails regarding progress, no verbal report tonight.
* Situations Vacant. It was noted that the Clerk would be stepping down in April and the handover period was discussed.

Mrs Emma Burden has expressed an interest. AH to progress.

**9.**      **Governance matters**

* Finance and Bank Reconciliation. The financial statement and Bank statement were discussed and approved.
* Policies Update. The Emergency plan and the Community Asset Register are in progress.

**10.**  **Goring Heath Maintenance.**

* Grass and Maintenance. Mr Wayne Deakin has accepted the contract for 2024/5. The Recreation ground hedge was discussed and a quote accepted for cutting the top and the recreation ground sides.
* Footpaths and Rights of Way. Footpath 27 has been approved under appeal.
* Playgrounds. Works to the Whitchurch Hill Playground to be completed before the end of March.
* Enforcement.
* Grips Drains and Gullies. Problems with Fix My Street were discussed.

**11.**   **The Newsletter /Website/Social Media.** Deadline for the April Issue was approved.

**12.**     **The Parish Hall**. Roof works ongoing.

**13.**  **Planning and Unauthorised Developments.**

[**P24/S0635/DIS**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P24/S0635/DIS) Technology Centre Bozedown Drive near Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR

Discharge of condition 12 (Surface Water Drainage) on application P22/S3223/FUL No Strong Views

[**P24/S0566/LB**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P24/S0566/LB) Copyhold Farm Copyhold Farm Partners Goring Heath RG8 7RT

To replace the half of the existing roof on an agricultural building that has failed. No Strong views

[**P23/S3820/FUL**](https://data.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P23/S3820/FUL) Land adjacent to Conway Cottage Crays Pond RG8 7QG Proposed dwelling and outbuilding.

Objection HD to progress.

**14.**  **Councillors Reports and Items for future agenda**. HD to step down at the end of the year. Litter Pick Health and safety documents read and signed in preparation for Litter Pick on Saturday 23.03.2024 at 10am.

To confirm the date of the next meeting: Tuesday April 9th 2024 at 7pm

To be followed at 8pm by the Goring Heath Annual General Meeting.

A Holland, Clerk : Goring Heath Parish Council .