**A meeting of Goring Heath Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall**

**Thursday July 11th 2019 at 8pm**

**Present**:   Chairman Chris Jessop, Councillors: Martin Wise, Nick Elsome, Liz Collas, Hilary Dewey Peter Dragonetti, Nick Henry. In attendance, Amanda Holland, Lucy Turner.

**Mrs A Cordery, Margaret Miles, Wendy Blow**.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** None
2. **Minutes of the last meeting. Thursday 13th June 2019** were signed as correct.
3. **Matters Arising.** PD noted that there had been some felling of trees at a sold off parcel of land at Penny Royal. It was agreed that PD would contact the enforcement officers. Concerns about unauthorised logging and settlement have been addressed.
4. **Governance Matters.**

**Finance and Bank Reconciliation**; The bank statement for June /July was checked and approved. Balance £20,507.70. Invoices have been received and paid: Clerk Pay £310.60, Expenses, £84.17, Going Forward Buses, £100, ,The Landscape Group £424.20 ( May) The Goring Press (newsletter printing) £240.00.

**Public Exercise of Rights:** Our legal obligation has been met.

**Requirement for new councillor:** Ann Cordery has expressed an interest in filling the vacancy.

**Correspondence and Reports**. Ann Bridgens re grass cutting, approved. Mr N Rodgers re planning issue, AH pending NFA, Jon Robinson from Abbots Lodge emailed regarding the accident on the B4526 just down from the junction with Long Toll Road on the evening of Friday 21st June. See Item 8 below. Bridle Way resurfacing, SODC have been contacted and are monitoring developments, PD noted that it is a restricted way, only 10ft wide in parts and that there may be a question of obtaining planning for any new junction onto the highway. Margaret Miles has emailed regarding the poster removal at Crays pond. See Item 9 below. Wendy Blow has emailed regarding the shortfalls of the planning process. PD addressed the issue by explaining that the local plans had become less prescriptive over the years, and that the guidelines, although they have been relaxed and are not rules, all permissions still need to be obtained. Our situation as an AONB was discussed, and reassurance was given that all comments and objections were important and were taken into account.

1. **Maintenance**

**The Parish Hall Car Park:** Quotations from Hazell and Jeffries and Butler and Proctor were compared. Discussion followed regarding the desired specification and concerns about drainage. MW agreed to take the matter further by contacting Chris Stanley to clarify surfacing options and concerns about drainage. This would in turn facilitate a revised specification for which final quotations for works could be obtained. The option of installing bays and a central reserve was not approved.

**Review of Grass Cutting and Tree Maintenance**:

AH reported that she has been in discussion with Mark Williams. The grass contract had recently been carried out to specification, with the exception of an area of B1 and the area around the well. However, it was noted that only one cut had been carried out since June, and it was questioned whether the existing contractor was therefore compliant with their contract. PD noted that the work which was done was carried out to a good standard, and MW added that the managed verges with a ‘Cordon Sanitaire’ around them had proved very successful with new growth of chicory and other varieties of wild flower. The designated nature reserve area opposite The Slabs on the hill has been successful too. NE confirmed his view that he agreed with a less manicured look, which was a view taken by a number of other local councils, but it was agreed that the current areas of full cutting should remain. It was agreed that MW would review our specification with a view to looking at the DNR areas and our obligations to review our contracts regularly and ensure they meet our requirements. Alternative contractor bids will be sought for the revised specification, for commencement April 2010.

MW reported on the maintenance of trees at Crays pond. It was noted that quotes have been obtained for £700.00 to fell the willow, and £600.00 to have a high pollard, 15 to 20ft high, that would encourage regrowth and would incur costs to keep it pollarded every 5-10 years. This option would address the issue of pond respiration and ensure that the shrine is not endangered. It was agreed that no bat survey was required. MW also reported that The Copper Beech requires its crown to be lifted to approx. 40ft which would cost an extra £200.00 if included with the willow, £450.00 as a separate job. After discussion it was agreed that the preferred action was to pollard the willow, and to address the Copper Beech as recommended, to be undertaken in the Autumn. It was also agreed to share the proposed action on the Willow in the September issue of the Parish Magazine.

**Play Equipment**: A review of the current situation was discussed. The parish has been consulted via the newsletters, an exhibition at the Annual Parish Meeting and the Fete and the matter remains undecided. To move the matter forward, NE would look into the grants situation. It was also agreed that the preferred new equipment was a cantilever swing and AH would obtain a photograph for another article in the September newsletter that would also include an update from NE.

**Footpaths and Rights of Way:** Keepers Cottage footpath diversion. LC will suggest that any new fencing could be installed away from the actual path to avoid it feeling enclosed. LC reported that she is still researching the new owners of the plots on Long toll but this had been proving difficult and complicated.

1. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments**.

Mrs Wendy Blow addressed the meeting with her concerns about the planning process and complained that rules were not clear or being enforced. Councillors discussed her concerns and her comments were noted.

[P19/S2142/LB](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2142/LB) and P19/S2141/HH

Charity Farm Cottage Track Running Past Charity Farm Goring Heath RG8 7RR

Single storey extension MW noted concerns re reconfiguration of a listed building LC 9/7

[P19/S2068/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2068/HH)

Brindles Bridle Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PR

Proposed single storey rear extension, flat roof box dormer and detached carport. 1/7 NH

[P19/S2046/SCR](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2046/SCR)

B.P. Technology Centre Bozedown Drive near Whitchurch Hill RG8 7QR

Request for a Screening Opinion: (Demolition of existing buildings (G, K, M, S, N) and construction of a two-storey building providing flexible work space (Building H). Refurbishment and extension of existing laboratories (Building D) and associated landscaping). 25/7

[P19/S1917/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S1917/HH)

Hunters Moon Hill Bottom Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PT LC

Construction of a detached open sided carport Discussion re extension of consultation period for comments.

1. **Status on traffic management initiatives**.

**Crays Pond :** Traffic data collected and is being analysed. New speed limit of 30mph agreed, waiting for implementation. AH to continue to ask for updates/ email/call.

**Long Toll : Following a serious accident on the** B4526 just down from the junction with Long Toll Road, on the evening of Friday 21st June, and a series of incidents there in the past we have had correspondence with a local resident who wishes to look into the possibility of reducing the speed limit there. Residents complain of speeds over 80mph as it is a long straight stretch of road. The Junction and rights of way are not clear and visibility round the bend is poor. After discussion it was agreed to ask for a review of this stretch and involve Thames Valley Police, Nigel Clark, Jon Bennet Antony Kirkwood and Lee Turner.

**Village Gates and Goring Heath Road** : It was agreed to seek prices for a new Speed Activated Warning Sign to be placed on Goring Heath Road, and cost out the price of new gates to the village. AH to draft a letter to all relevant parties (including BP/Castrol as a major employer in the area) listing the new developments, and asking for funding.

**Community Notice boards and publicity signage at Crays Pond**. Mrs Margaret Miles spoke to the meeting to advise that her hardboard backed sign advertising a Ukulele fundraising event for the local church had been removed and she would like it returned. Whilst the Council accepts that flyposting is illegal and some residents find it unattractive, the Council also has the desire to support the publication/promotion of community events. The Chairman agreed to meet relevant local residents to see if a more pragmatic solution could be arrived at.

1. **The White Lion at Crays Pond** : ACV Application: remains on Appeal, awaiting hearing.
2. **Review of Memberships and donations**. To be taken forward.
3. **Seeking community views on priorities for the Parish Council**: to be taken forward.
4. **Any Other Business.**

**The old telephone box at Crays Pond**: It was agreed that the telephone box at Crays Pond should be re-decorated and appropriate shelving erected to support its purpose as a community library. AH would arrange for alternative quotations to be obtained for the work.

The meeting ended at 10.04pm.

Date of the next meeting **Thursday September 12th 2019** at **8pm**