**A meeting of Goring Heath Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 14th March 2019 at 8pm**

**Present**: Councillors: Martin Wise, Fred Rutherford, Liz Collas, Hilary Dewey, Nick Elsome, Chris Jessop. In attendance, Lucy Turner and Amanda Holland.

1. **Apologies for Absence** : Nick Henry, Peter Dragonetti.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting.** Thursday 14th February 2019 were signed as correct.
3. **Matters Arising.** After a discussion regarding matters arising, it was agreed that Crays Pond/Tinepits, Footpaths and Rights of Way, and The White Lion would be added to the next agenda.
4. **Correspondence:** The upcoming elections were discussed, Notices will go up on the 26th March 2019. A complaints escalation letter has been circulated and was noted.
5. **Parish Hall.** No report.
6. **Newsletter/Website.** Updated to include the Spring Show.
7. **Review of Risk Assessment, Asset Register, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations**. The above were circulated prior to the meeting and hard copies were provided. The Risk Assessment was last reviewed in May and it was decided to review again then. The Asset Register was discussed, CJ asked for clarification on how the assets were valued, and if depreciation should be taken into account. CJ questioned if the car park had restrictions, and a discussion followed about the value of this land. Discussion followed regarding how and why all these assets were valued. The value of the bus shelters was raised, and their state of repair. LC offered to inspect them and report back to the next meeting. The standing orders and financial regulations were approved, with an amendment to the FO as stated, 1.14 removal of brackets. After questions from CJ the Asset Register was also approved.
8. **District Councillors report.**  No report.
9. **County Councillors report.** A report was circulated and discussed.
10. **Traffic speed on B4526 Crays Pond and Goring Heath Road, Whitchurch Hill.**

The process to carry out additional measurements and consultation regarding the siting of the new signage was in hand. FR reported that the gutters and road edging in this area have recently been cleaned and looked good.

1. **Grass Cutting and Tree Maintenance**. The Contracted works to Trees in the Parish Hall Car Park and around the Recreation Ground are satisfactory. FR asked about maintenance of Crays Pond. MW reported that Mr John Rodgers has measured the rainfall and pond levels over the last 3 years, which have shown no obvious pattern and a net loss of about 30mm. It was thought that the original pond may well have been dug out for clay, and was first mentioned in a land sale of 1600. MW felt that at some stage in the future it may need dredging, and that the ingress of bulrushes was being monitored. Our Pond Ecologist was positive about the levels of the pond and its maintenance programme, and that we have implemented most of the ecologists recommendations within the last 5 years. FR raised the issue of a loss of facility and circulated photographs of the pond and the bench, which is covered in Lichen. After a discussion about acceptable levels of maintenance for the area, It was agreed that NE would carry out essential maintenance of the bench.
2. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments**. No news on the old Poultry Farm, or the Old Sawmill. MW has approved the various amendments to Flint House listed building applications. The planning officer for Glenavon has written outlining the situation at Glenavon. The application for Yurts at Whitchurch has successfully been objected to.
3. **Finance & Bank Reconciliation.** The bank statement for February / March was checked and approved by CJ.
4. **Recreation Ground and Play Equipment.** The latest estimates for the Cantilever swing were discussed. CJ questioned the amount of space this item would require, and the costs were noted. After discussion, it was decided that parishioners and users of the equipment should be consulted, at the Annual Parish Meeting in the first instance, and again in the next newsletter.
5. **The APM.** Invites to be sent out and wine to be bought. The AGM will be held in May.
6. **The Annual Litter Pick.** To be held on Saturday March 30th 2019, starting at 10am. HD and CJ send apologies. MW, Lucy to be stationed at the Parish Hall, LC and Amanda to start at the Old Post Office, John and others to start at Crays Pond Bus Shelter. PD to supply High Vis Vests, pickers and bags. AH to arrange litter collection. It was noted that Long Toll was particularly bad this year.
7. **AOB.** CJ asked about the White Lion Public House. FR reported that there has been no action, and that he had submitted a paper outlining various options to the Crays Pond Residents Association. FR will be monitoring the posters pinned to the fence at Crays Pond. FR reported cars parking on the grassed area opposite the phone box. LC Reported that she had had a meeting with the Chiltern Society, SODC and OCC representatives about the footpaths in the area, ones at the Old Chapel and at Rodgers Yard in particular. They also discussed the correspondence with the Forestry Commission regarding the 5 Acre Plots and the degradation of paths and tracks in the woods. She also reported that she has responded to a letter from Mr Phil Allen on this issue.

**The meeting closed at 9.55pm.**

**Date of the next meeting**  **Thursday 11th April 2019 at 8pm.**

**Please note we shall be discussing contributions to the newsletter and that the meeting will finish at 8pm for the Annual Parish Meeting to follow.**