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

**Thursday October 10th 2019 at 8pm.**

**Present**: Chris Jessop, Hilary Dewey, Nick Henry, Liz Collas, Martin Wise

In attendance, Amanda Holland, Lucy Turner.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Nick Elsome, Peter Dragonetti
2. **Public Forum:** Mr and Mrs Johnson, Bridle Road in attendance regarding the proposals to improve/resurface this public right of way no 228/65/10. Mr Johnson reported that he has been approached by Mr Arrowsmith to contribute to the cost of improving the surface, but he is clear that, although he admits the surface needs maintenance, it does not need improving. At a residents meeting 2 months ago the options were discussed, and a vote clearly showed that 20 residents did not want to have the surface improved. He also believed that an OCC Countryside Task Supervisor had visited and was aware of the situation. After discussion, CJ noted the difference in opinions and asked AH to liaise with OALC, OSS, OCC and SODC to clarify the situation. Mr and Mrs Griffiths of Long Toll reported that the 16 parcels of land in Woodcote Woods that have been sold off appeared to be unregulated and are now unsightly. Some were fenced off with barbed wire. This is ancient woodland that contributes to our local status as an AONB. LC reported that all councillors were aware of the situation and were monitoring it closely. After discussion about what exactly is allowed to take place on these plots and how enforcement agencies take any infringements very seriously, it was agreed that all parties would remain vigilant and AH would clarify the regulations regarding barbed wire and wildlife.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting. Thursday September 12th 2019** were signed as correct.
4. **Matters Arising.** Item 5**:** After discussion it was agreed to appoint Arrow Accounting as Internal Auditors 2019/2020. AH reported that Mrs Ann Cordery was no longer able to join the Parish Council, and that the vacancy would be advertised in the next newsletter. Item 6: Hill Bottom Close. After discussion LT agreed to ask residents if anyone was prepared to take to take over the grass cutting/tree maintenance on this private plot of land from Mrs Bridgens. The telephone box at Crays pond has been refurbished and looks great. AH to ask Mrs Rutherford if she could maintain the library.
5. **The Parish Hall :** MW advised that the gutters will need attention soon.
6. **District Councillors Report.** Circulated, praised and noted.
7. **Governance Matters.**

**Finance and Bank Reconciliation;** The bank statement was checked and approved. Balance £29,067.19. Invoices have been received and paid: Clerk Pay £310.60, Going Forward Buses, £100, The Woodcote Volunteers Donation £200.00, The Royal British Legion £40.00.

**Housekeeping:** A paper outlining amendments to financial procedures was circulated, discussed and approved. CJ is preparing precept budget and proposals.

1. **Correspondence and Reports**. AH has been in correspondence with the Woodcote Conservation Group, regarding our ponds. The Old Poultry Farm developments will be discussed at a planning meeting in Didcot on Tuesday 15/10/2019. PD /NH to attend.
2. **Maintenance.**

**Crays Pond :** Councillor Wise has arranged for the approved tree works at Crays pond be carried out the week beginning 11/11/2019.MW agreed to consult with Mr Rod D’Ayala, our pond expert, about the involvement of volunteers and the Woodcote Conservation Group, and to authorise the maintenance work as advised . AH to liaise with WCG. After discussion it was agreed to install four Bat Boxes at Crays Pond, MW

**Tine Pits :** It has been reported that this area has recently been mown, even though it is the councils policy to leave this area untended. AH to follow up with our contractors

**The Parish Hall Car Park:** The quotation from Hazell and Jeffries clarifying surfacing options, concerns about drainage and the circulated sketch of the proposed works was discussed. AH to accept this quotation. AH agreed to submit a formal request to our district councillor for possible help with funding, and to liaise with the Parish Hall.

**Review of Grass Cutting and Tree Maintenance**: MW has been in discussion with highways regarding the extension of our Roadside Nature Reserve provision. There is a problem in that the new areas will be cut once a year, and the cuttings need to be collected by hand as there is not specific machinery to do this. This would entail an operation not unlike our annual litter picking event, with volunteers in Hi Vis Jackets and warning triangles. There was a possibility that schools in the area may be involved. The new grass schedule proposals were then discussed, including the tendering process and a possible increase in budget for this item that would be highlighted in the newsletter. The new specification was agreed, MW/AH to action.

**Play Equipment**: A review of the current situation was discussed, it was decided to carry over to the next meeting.

**Footpaths and Rights of Way:** LC has completed full survey of paths in the area.

1. **Newsletter / Website / Social media :** contributions to the newsletter were made**.**
2. **Planning and Unauthorised Developments**.

[P19/S3047/LB](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S3047/LB) Flint House Reading Road near Goring RG8 0LL To MW

[P19/S2819/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2819/HH) Old Well Cottage Goring Heath Road Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PQ To NH

[P19/S2988/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2988/HH) 1 Garton End Crays Pond RG8 7QH To NH

[P19/S2882/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2882/HH) The Pothole Eastfield Lane Goring Heath RG8 7ST To NH

[P19/S2958/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2958/HH) Keepers Cottage Whitchurch Hill RG8 7NZ To LC

[P19/S2853/HH](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/ccm/support/Main.jsp?MODULE=ApplicationDetails&REF=P19/S2853/HH) Bottom Farmhouse Blackbirds Bottom Goring Heath RG8 7SX PENDING

1. **Status on traffic management initiatives**. AH reported on the recent SODC visit. After discussion it was agreed that a summary of the meeting would be sent to JB.
2. **Community Notice boards and publicity signage at Crays Pond**. Next meeting.
3. **The White Lion at Crays Pond** : ACV Application has been granted.
4. **Any Other Business.** Armistice Service arrangementswere made. CJ formally thanked Mr John Rodgers for his hard work renovating the telephone box at Crays Pond. It looks splendid. CJ to contact Councillor Kevin Bulmer regarding our traffic issues.

The meeting ended at 10.04pm.

Date of the next meeting **Thursday November 14th 2019** at **8pm.**