

GLATTON PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON
1st MARCH 2024

Present:

Carl Stretton (CS)

Andrew Peck (AP)

Ross Weatherburn (RW)

Nick Pratt (NP)

The meeting was attended by 6 residents of Glatton

Simon Bywater (County Councillor)

Tim Alban (District Councillor)

1. CS opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance.

2. Apologies

There are apologies from Miles Stephenson.

3. Co-opt New Councillor

Following the resignation of Callum Atkinson the process to notify HDC has been followed. The statutory waiting period has ended without a request for an election. Nick Pratt has been co opted as a councillor and welcomed to the Parish Council. Many thanks go to Callum Atkinson for his work on the Parish Council.

4. Declaration of Interests

There are no interests to declare.

5. Minutes of Meeting held on 24th November 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 24th November 2023 are a true record of proceedings Proposed AP seconded RW. They have been signed as a true record of proceedings.

6. Matters Arising

There are no matters arising that are not already on the agenda.

7. Correspondence

- i) The Council has been contacted by Anna Martin as the new police neighbourhood Sergeant for Huntingdon. RW will make contact regarding the persistent issues around speeding through the village.
- ii) There has been a news release from HDC regarding the Council budget which was approved at a Full Council meeting on 21st February. The Council Tax on a Band D property is set to increase by £5 per year to £160.86 from the new financial year starting on April 1st. This is an increase of less than 10p per week or 3.21%.
- iii) HDC has scheduled the Police and Crime Commissioner election for Thursday 2nd May 2024. Reminder to residents that they will require photo ID to vote at the polling station.

Parish Meeting

For those in attendance to raise matters of concern

Simon Bywater's Report

- i) Cambridgeshire County Council have imposed the maximum increase to the Council Tax of 4.99%.
- ii) The campaign to reverse the weed spraying policy which was not to spray with weed killer has been successful. Weed killer spraying will be re-introduced.
- iii) Children's Services have an Ofsted Inspection this week. There are some concerns as there has been a large turnover of staff at the highest level. 80% of the CCC income is spent on adult and children social services. The lower number of children in care would reduce the costs to CCC.
- iv) Brian Heffernan who is responsible for flood action in Cambridgeshire is very supportive and is looking at a plan of action starting with an investigation of the drains with cameras.

Tim Alban's Report

- i) Tim is pleased to see the reversal of the weed spraying policy. The weeds in the verges had an adverse effect on the efficiency of the road sweepers.
- ii) Tim has arranged a joint Parish Council meeting on 20th March which CS and the Parish Clerk will attend. Police Inspector Colin Norden will be at the meeting and will address issues that many of the Parishes have in common for example speeding, fly tipping. Although there are certainly serious issues through the county that the police are dealing with there are still persistent problems in rural areas that need to be tackled.
- iii) The green bin stickers for those that have paid the charge are starting to be sent out. If you have not opted into the scheme the green bin will not automatically be collected but you can request that it is collected.

Residents:

- i) Call for Sites. When was Glatton Parish Council notified about the call for sites as part of the draft Local Plan. Clerk to check back through emails.
- ii) Brambles on Infield Road – to be addressed later in the meeting.
- iii) Speed calming measures – will be addressed later in the meeting.

iv) The trustees of the Village Hall have now secured planning permission and rebuilding of the village hall. They are now in a position to apply for several grants for funding including National Lottery funding. In order to go forward with grant applications, it would be useful to use some of the data from the surveys carried out as part of the Neighbourhood Plan process. There is no objection from the Parish Council. Please co-ordinate with RW. The village hall received a CIL grant of £50,000 for a new village hall roof. Investigating whether this grant can be transferred to the new rebuild project. Contact Clara Kerr chief planning officer for advice. Any other ideas for fund raising will be welcomed. RW works for a company that do match funding. He will look into this.

Parish Council Meeting reconvened

8. Planning Application Consultation – 1 Sawtry Road

Application to fell two European Ash trees for health and safety reasons. Parish Council recommend approval.

9. LHI Bid

A complex application has been submitted by RW. CS met with Matt Meredith from Cambridge County Council on 20th February to walk around the proposed sites for speeding calming measures by way of physical chicanes. Speed cushions are not feasible because of the lack of street lighting. The LHI grant is a maximum of £25,000 with a proposed contribution of £2,500 from the Parish Council. This will only fund one site which will be Sawtry Road. Matt identified a site much further into the village that would be ideal and would want to push this much nearer to the village boundary. The quote is higher than expected at £33,000. Discuss with Matt what can be achieved within budget. Deadline to move forward with the application is 5th April which gives a little time to liaise on this. Is it possible to apply for CIL funding for speed calming measures?

10. Local Projects – 20MPH Funding

Applications must be submitted by 15th March. Would the application be for all roads in Glatton including the B660? Sawtry Road has narrow footpaths and a school bus stop. The other roads have almost no pavement at all. CS to submit an application.

11. Grass Cutting Contract

Following the tendering process two tenders have been received:

RJC Countryside (current service provider) 2024 - £112 plus VAT, 2025- 120 plus VAT, 2026 - £125 plus VAT. Strimming around gate posts £48.00 plus VAT

Bradgate Ground Services - £105 plus VAT for three years to include strimming around gate posts 4 times per season. Sawtry Parish Council currently use Bradgate.

Unanimous decision based on cost to award the contract to Bradgate. Clerk to notify both parties.

12. Community Governance Review

CS and Neil Varnham met with Lisa Jablonska, the Electoral and Democratic Services Manager at HDC regarding the feasibility of a change to the Parish boundaries. Unanimous decision to proceed with an application which CS will action.

13. Neighbourhood Plan

Meetings have taken place on 26th January and 16th February to ratify each of the six sections of the plan. As soon as this process has been completed, the next stage is the community review.

14. Speed Watch/ VAS Camera Update

The speed watch group status has expired. NP is in the process of setting up a new group. This will require some health and safety training. As soon as the new group is set up volunteers will be required to run the sessions on a rota basis.

15. Flooding Update

The flooding on both Infield Road and High Haden Road has been serious during the past weeks due to above average rain fall and as a consequence saturated ground and water run-off. Cameras have been used to inspect the drains and the results of the survey have not yet been received. The approach to flooding will need to include the whole village and AP will hold a meeting to keep the village updated on actions to be taken. This will include informing house owners about their riparian rights and responsibilities.

16. Finance Report/Budget

The balance in the current account after the payment for the tree surgery is £784.39 and the balance in the Business Reserve account is £10,057.97. The only addition to the budget is £2,500 which is the Parish Council contribution towards the LHI bid.

17. AOB (for information only)

- i) RW will apply for a free portrait to King Charles II to be hung in the village hall.
- ii) Historic England have launched a new blue plaque scheme to honour those who have made a difference to human welfare and happiness. The person will have died at least 10 years ago. RW will contact Terry Brignall to potentially apply for a blue plaque in this category for Beverley Nicholls and "Always".
- iii) A joint Parish meeting will be held on 20th March. CS and clerk to attend.
- iv) A silver birch tree has been planted on the village green in memory of John McLelland senior.
- v) The brambles on Infield Rd which had been overhanging the pathway have been cut back by Highways. A litter pick and further tidy up in that area is proposed.
- vi) Following the enforcement notice on land adjacent to 27 Infield Rd, the caravan has now been removed. Unaware of any application for retrospective planning permission for the container and the road.
- vii) RW has written to Allison Homes concerning a construction traffic management plan for the house development on Sawtry Road but has not received a reply. RW to chase.

18. Date of Next Meeting

10th May 2024

Meeting closed at 8.30pm