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**MINUTES OF MEETING OF GRESHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**Held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present: Cllr. S. Smith (Chairman), Cllr. S. Ilsley (Vice Chairman), Cllr. C. Arnold, Cllr. D. Jacobs, Cllr. G. Wright

Attendance: Mrs. S. Hayden (Clerk)

 One members of the public

1. To consider and accept apologies

 Apologies were accepted from Cllr. A. Sanders (family matters). County Councillors Eric Vardy had send apologies with his report.

2. To co-opt parish councillor followed by signing of Acceptance of Office

 A member of the public who wished to stand for co-option had sent apologies, so this item was held over until the next meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest and any dispensations of disclosable pecuniary interests

 None

4. Public questions, comments or representations

 None

5. Minutes of Parish Council Meeting 12th January 2022 (*Approval)*

 The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. Matters Arising from those Minutes

 None

7. Any Reports from County or District Councillor

 County Councillor Vardy’s written report had been circulated prior to the meeting and is annexed to these minutes.

8. Planning

8.1 To discuss and make observations on any applications received after the date of this Agenda

 None

8.2 Follow Up on application:

 *PA/21/0292 Telecommunications development comprising installation of a 25m high lattice tower with 3 antennae on a 6m x 6m concrete slab with ancillary development within 1.8m high fenced compound – Sewage Works, Chequers Road, Gresham –* A formal updated reply from NNDC to the complaint sent by the Parish Council had not been received.

9. Finance and Regulatory

9.1 To appoint parish councillor to check bank reconciliations

 This was deferred to the next meeting

9.2 To approve List of Payments

 The Clerk asked that the Parish Council pay for a new battery for her laptop (approx. £20), used for parish council work. Agreed. List of Payments amended and approved, then signed by the Chairman and Clerk

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9.3 To receive Budget, Balance Sheet and report re Bank Reconciliation

 The Budget and Balance Sheet were received with no comments. The Clerk reported that a bank reconciliation had been prepared and had balanced.

9.4 To agree donations

 Cllrs. Arnold and Smith declared an interest at this point and did not vote on the matter. The Clerk reminded the parish councillors that NALC advised that in their opinion parish councils did not have the power to donate to Churches although they did have the power to pay for repairs to a War Memorial. The parish council felt that the Churches in Gresham contributed a lot to the village and they wished to continue donating to them. It was understood that the Village Hall Association currently holds a healthy bank balance.

 Resolved to donate £75 to Gresham Methodist Chapel, £75 to the Parochial Church Council, the cost of cleaning the War Memorial (approximately £100 last year), £75 to the Friends of All Saints.

10. Village Park

10.1 Update on work to Pavilion and agree any further costs

 Cllr. Ilsley had sanded the new rails on the veranda to a smoother finish. The new benches were in place. Cllr. Wright had organised and paid for the hedge to be cut. Cllr. Ilsley reported that the shed doors were rotting and up to £200 was approved for new doors to be purchased. Clerk to order the bolt for the bridge, obtain a price for registration of title of the Park and ask for the grass to be cut prior to the Jubilee. Cllr. Arnold to obtain an up to date price for mole control.

10.2 To discuss and agree the future use of the Park

 A representative of the Ladies Group asked to speak on this subject. She requested that consideration be given for trees be planted on the Park and gave the Parish Council contact details for the environmental and conservation expert at NNDC who could advise on the matter. There would be a tree giveaway in November. She also suggested a wildflower area. The Chairman thanked her for her contribution.

 The Village Sign was discussed at this point – Cllr. Ilsley to check with the landowner that he was happy for the surrounds to be trimmed.

 The Clerk reported that a resident had suggested an outdoor table tennis table be installed at the Park. Discussion followed on the use of the Park, including use of the Pavilion, community orchard, fencing of the play area, car parking, wild flower area, trees, allotment plots, siting of future play equipment. Agreed the Chairman would draft a letter to be circulated in the village, with space for answers for ideas.

10.3 Update on another other Park matters

 An updated notification with apology had been received from NNDC that the Parish Council was not eligible for the Hospitality Grant applied for.

11. To approve style and costs of Noticeboard for Lower Gresham

 Cllr. Arnold had done considerable research on the prices of noticeboards and obtained the best price for both aluminium and wooden types. Consideration was given to wood or aluminium noticeboards and the relative costs. Proposed and resolved to purchase black aluminium noticeboard with white lettering at a cost up to £900 plus VAT, to include new posts from The Noticeboard Company. Part cost to be taken from budget and part from capital.

12. Update on highways matters following meeting with Highways Engineer and County Councillor

 The Chairman and Cllr. Ilsley had met with the Highways Engineer and County Cllr. Vardy. They had started at the Loke where white line painting had been agreed. At Painter’s Corner, a scheme for road widening had been discussed that would be researched by Highways. Bank erosion outside the Church was checked and it had been agreed that bollards would be sited near the bench at the entrance to the Church and the corner. Painting of the “slow” signs had been requested, together with an “H” sign on the dropdown kerb outside School House. At Lower

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 Gresham the flood points had been discussed, with both residents joining in the discussion. It was agreed a gulley was needed.

 It was reported that the direction sign at Lower Gresham had been knocked down by a lorry moving a Portacabin. The incident had been reported by residents to Police and Highways, both having incident numbers. It would take approximately six weeks to repair.

13. To deal with correspondence

 A letter from a resident of Castle Close had been received about coach parking in the Close. The Clerk had offered advice and the resident has pursued the matter.

 In connection with a follow up to the visit by NNDC outlining exception housing, the District Council would pursue this and come back to the Parish Council. The Parish Council had not been in support due to lack of infrastructure in the village.

13. Matters for Information Only or Next Agenda.

 The current use of Clover Field was discussed.

*There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.50pm and the approved cheque was signed.*

*The next meeting will be on Wednesday 11th May 2022*