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## **PAUNTLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024  
7.30pm in Pauntley Village Hall, Brand Green.**

**Present:** Cllr P Eastabrook (in the Chair); C Philipps; N Fowke; C Chapman-Hughes;  
M Hampton; J Thomas

**In attendance:** Clerk - Rachel Freestone  
County Councillor - Gill Moseley  
District Councillor - Philip Burford

**Public: 6**

**1. To receive and accept apologies for absence:**

Apologies had been received and accepted from Cllr Mark Hargreaves. District Councillor Clayton Williams was absent with no apologies.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation from Councillors on agenda items:**

There were none.

**3. Open Session:**

Members agreed to open to the public first.

c. To receive representations from the Public:

A member of the public queried what is happening at the Herridges site. Cllr Thomas replied that there had been visitors to the site on the 12<sup>th</sup> April with work on the building taking place. He added that a planning application is currently being considered by FoDDC planning for an agricultural barn and that a letter of objection had been sent by the parish council. No new documents for the application have been submitted to the portal as yet.

A member of the public requested an update on the footpath as its condition had worsened. There are two disused kissing gates owned by GCC discarded in a field. Cllr Eastabrook explained that Suzanne Hopes, Public Rights of Way at GCC has retired and her successor has been left details of the problem. It is not clear at GCC who owns the land and they are investigating. A member of the public added that access to the footpath is currently via the main gate, the handle is too heavy so request the re-installation of a kissing gate. There is currently a lot of mud on the highway.

19.36 member of the public arrived.

a. To receive a report from District Councillors Philip Burford:

He reported that he had been out of action for 6 weeks and thanked everyone for their good wishes.

Ketford Firs Log Cabin Planning Application was refused, he had written comments which were read out at the Planning Committee. The Chair thanked him for his input. Members were informed that there is currently no further information on the planning application at Herridges Orchard. He had visited both the Ketford and Herridges sites with the Chief Exec of FoDDC.

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He confirmed that the Glynchbrook consultation is nothing to do with the FoDDC, it is speculative from Black Box Planning. Members were informed that both Redmarley and Staunton Parish Councils have contacted neighbouring parish councils to advise that as not an official consultation no comments will be made by them. District Councillor Burford added that this is a sensible approach so that potentially comments can't be misconstrued. County Councillor Gill Moseley added that many people are under the impression that it is more official than is.

He added that the FoDDC had looked some time ago at a Garden Village but the housing need has now reduced and a single settlement is felt to not be the way forward.

The draft Local Plan Consultation paper will go to council in May.

There have been no extra building site allocations for Lydney beyond the current plan and Cinderford sites are not coming forward. (Sites are allocated then rely on private ownership to come forward to allow development). There are various areas in FoDDC that developers will develop and one is Newent.

- b. To receive a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor for Newent Gill Moseley: The proposed new FoDDC Local Plan will run to 2041. A single settlement has not been ruled out in the future but is not part of FoDDC policy currently. She added that she is not against single settlements as the infrastructure can be created to support, however the site has to be right.

She hopes to attend the Annual Parish Meeting and report on the budget in more detail.

Any issues with highways, pavements, drains etc are all now reported via FixMyStreet.

There is no emergency contact number now but the system should pick up from wording used whether it is an emergency situation. County Councillor Moseley requested that she be copied in with any footpath query emails as may be able to help with the kissing gates. Members were informed that there has been an incident in Gloucestershire Childrens Services which is likely to reach the news.

She added that Countywide, the next elections are for the Police and Crime Commissioner in May, this is an important role and need to be able to work with who is elected. A member asked if the candidates attend PC meetings. She responded that they do not, however they may attend a group of parishes getting together but it is a busy role. It is difficult to get a police officer to attend an APM, more likely to send the crime statistics.

Members were informed that the current Conservative council in GCC are not in favour of speed limit changes as very expensive to action. England, Scotland and Wales have approved the Stockholm Declaration but the English government have not invested in it and left for individual County Councils to fund. '20 is Plenty' is a national campaign, Cllr Eastabrook confirmed that the parish council are in dialogue with them.

#### 4. Minutes:

- a. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2024. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The Chair duly signed them.
- b. Members considered the minutes of the Parish Council Extra Meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the minutes as a true record of the meeting. The Chair duly signed them.

#### 5. Biodiversity:

- a. To consider any matters arising from the Biodiversity Action Plan:

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The Chair confirmed that the hedgerow at the Village Hall will be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting to gauge public opinion.

## 6. Village Hall:

- a. To consider a Village Hall Working Group:  
Cllr Eastabrook reported that a Village Hall Working Group of two councillors and two non-councillors with a small working budget between meetings had been considered by the Finance Working Group. One non-councillor has dropped out with a replacement needed. It was noted that as Sole Trustees the Parish Council have to authorise payments and any decisions have to be made in public at a properly convened meeting. The alternative options become very complicated. **It was RESOLVED:** to keep as is.
- b. Members noted the Petanque Court construction following the Build Back Better Grant and it was agreed that the pétanque court looks great. Thanks were given to GCC and County Councillor Gill Moseley. Members also thanked Cllr Mark Hargreaves for all his help with the application and arranging the work. It is a Parish Council asset but the intention is for it to be part of the Village Hall, available for hire and to use for events. The hope is to have a Ceremony to open, if the weather is good following the APM may be able to have a game. Three sets of boules have been donated.

## 7. Finance:

- a. Members noted the Bank Reconciliation and Bank Balances to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2024.
- b. Members noted the End of Year Budget versus Actuals Report. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to adjust to record salary, PAYE and pension in one line.
- c. Members reviewed the Asset Register: Compton Green is believed to be Common Land but is not on the asset register. The Petanque Court needs to be added. **It was RESOLVED:** the Clerk to clarify and also add the Petanque Court.
- d. Members considered the GAPTC Subscription for 2024-25. **It was RESOLVED:** to subscribe for 2024-25.
- e. **It was RESOLVED:** to approve the following invoices for payment:
  - TP Jones and Co Payroll Services £105.60 Net
  - GAPTC Annual Subscription £83.30The Clerk confirmed that the invoice for TP Jones is for services in 2023-24.
- f. **It was RESOLVED:** to ratify the following payments made between meetings:
  - Clerk Salary February/March 2024 As per contract
  - Nest pension contribution £43.84
  - PAYE Feb 2024 £120.00
  - Peter Hollins Building and Landscaping Petanque £3400 net
- g. **Members noted income received:**
  - Build Back Better Grant £3400

## 8. Planning

- a. Members received an update on the Ketford Cabin application. DF16254 P1021/23/FUL  
Members noted the comments made in Agenda item 3a and the decision made at the Planning Committee.

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- b. To comment on Planning Applications for Determination by Forest of Dean District Council:  
There were none.
- c. Members Noted the following Planning Responses Submitted between Meetings Under Devolved Powers:
  - P1414/23/FUL Barn at Paunt House Farm, Castle Tump, Conversion of Barn. SUPPORT
- d. Members Noted the Planning Decisions made by Forest of Dean District Council:
  - P1437/23/FUL The Reddings, Welsh House Lane. CONSENT.
  - P1021/23/FUL Land Parcel at Ketford. Short term holiday cabin REFUSED.

A member queried the response received by FoDDC planning department and Nigel Brinn regarding the cabin at Compton Green. **It was RESOLVED:** the response was unsatisfactory and inadequate. The Clerk to contact Nigel Brinn.

#### **9. Highways and Footpaths:**

- a. To note the response from Suzanne Hope at GCC with regards to the Footpath condition enquiry.  
See Agenda item 3c.
- b. To consider a Footpaths Officer for the Parish and agree actions.  
**It was RESOLVED:** to defer to the next meeting.

#### **10. Training:**

- a. To receive an update on training undertaken and consider any training needs:  
The Clerk confirmed that GAPTC training dates had been circulated with members. There are dates provided for planning and new Councillor training. **It was RESOLVED:** to defer to allow councillors to consult diaries.  
A member of the public requested defibrillator training. **It was RESOLVED:** to add to the Village Hall next meeting agenda.
- b. Members noted that the Clerk passed the CiLCA qualification on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

#### **11. Correspondence:**

Glynchbrook, see Agenda item 3a. The Clerk presented the Kings portrait which will be put up in the Village Hall.

#### **12. Meeting Schedule:**

Members considered the meeting schedule for 2024-25: **It was RESOLVED:** pending confirmation from the Village Hall to hold full ordinary meetings on the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 14<sup>th</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> December and 10<sup>th</sup> February.

- 13. Next Meeting:** Members noted the next meeting as the Annual Parish Meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup> April at 6.30pm and the Parish Council Annual Meeting on TUESDAY 7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.

8.54pm the public left the meeting.

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**14. Confidential Item:**

- a. Members considered the Clerks Appraisal and the satisfactory completion of the probation period. **It was RESOLVED:** to increase the Salary by one point to SCP16 back dated to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 as per the contract of employment.

Chair.....

Date.....

Signature

**The meeting closed at 9.05pm**