

**Minutes of the Council Meeting**  
**Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 14 July 2014 beginning at 7.30pm**

Present	Cllr. R Greatrex (in the Chair)	Cllr. S Wallis
	Cllr. G Payne	Cllr. D Watson-Jones
	Cllr. P Alker	Cllr. K Ingram
	Cllr. D Willetts	Cllr. J Cook
	Cllr. J Cook	Cllr M Deegan
	Cllr K Abbott	Miss J Cooper, Clerk
	Cllr M Booth	

Along with Cllr Ken Williamson and Cllr Mike Smith (Stafford Borough Council), Cllr Mark Winnington (Staffordshire county Council) and 3 members of the public

14/091	<p><b>Public Open Forum</b></p> <p>Mrs Sullivan raised concerns about the front hedge of the Bellway site where large sections had been removed out of season. The Chairman responded, he said Bellway Homes had confirmed the hedges had been searched for nesting birds prior to removal. The large gap would be the roadway into the site and the smaller gaps would be driveways.</p> <p>Mrs Gardner expressed her concern about the number of very large lorries travelling along the High Street. It was noted that the Parish Council had requested No HGV signs for the High Street and this would be discussed later in the meeting.</p>	
14/092	<p><b>To receive apologies, record absences</b></p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Tomkinson (holiday), Cllr Simkin (family commitment), Cllr Hughes (unwell), Cllr Cowie.</p>	
14/093	<p><b>To record any declarations of interest</b></p> <p>Cllr Alker declared an interest in agenda item 14/097(c)</p>	
14/094	<p><b>To receive and confirm the minutes of</b></p> <p><b>The last regular meeting of the Council held on 9th June 2014</b>  The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.</p> <p><b>the Annual Assembly held on 25.5.14</b>  This item would be carried over to the next meeting.</p>	
14/095	<p><b>To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b></p> <p><b>Speed Assessment along Wharf Road</b> - There are rules regarding the installation of these signs and Highways had explained to the Clerk how sites are identified and operated. For the Speed Indication Devices (SID's) the site selection criteria is a relatively low threshold especially if the local member (ie Cllr Winnington) supports the request from the Parish. The SID's are installed on a rotation of a number of sites with the sign being in place for two weeks at a time and then removed for 2-3 months as drivers become familiar with the</p>	

	sign and the sign effectiveness diminishes. A site assessment is carried out to establish what the actual speeds are. The Clerk confirmed that Highways would arrange for the trailer mounted SID to be deployed along Wharf Road in the next few weeks.	
14/096	<p><b>To receive the following reports:</b></p> <p><b>a) The Clerk's Report</b></p> <p>The report gave details of the meetings held in the past month, progress with the Neighbourhood Plan and a report on SPCA's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary that the Clerk and Cllr Payne had attended.</p> <p>The report gave a brief update on housing sites. It was proposed, seconded and agreed that Cllr Greatrex and Cllr Ingram be appointed to represent GPC at meetings with Bellway Homes during the construction of the Knightley Road site.</p> <p>The Clerk verbally reported that Richborough Estates had contacted the parish office and requested a meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> July to explain development plans for land in the centre of Audmore Loop. The Chairman and Vice Chairman would be joining the Clerk at this meeting and information would be shared with all councillors.</p> <p>It was also reported that the Chairman of Staffordshire County Council had, along with his wife, visited the Parish of Gnosall and been taken on a tour to see key features of the parish on 10<sup>th</sup> July. This event had been very successful and a complimentary thank you letter had been received saying how much the Chairman had enjoyed his visit to "probably the most beautiful part of the county". Details of this visit would be published in the August edition of GPN.</p> <p>The report gave details of the Section 106 funding meeting held in June where Council had agreed to consider updating the Grosvenor Centre to meet the needs of parishioners based on information arising from the Neighbourhood Plan questionnaires and as a result of the possible loss of facilities (youth club, library etc). It was proposed, seconded and agreed to create a sub group of councillors to explore this idea further including possible funding sources as well as Section 106 funds from development sites. The Clerk would arrange a meeting in the autumn.</p> <p><b>b) Any reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended</b></p> <p><b>i) Stafford and Rural Homes event held on 5.7.14 at Lowfield Lane</b></p> <p>Five councillors had attended the launch of the affordable housing site at Lowfield Lane. The site layout and design of houses had received favourable comments. It was reported that the site had received an award and had been reported on BBC Midlands Today. All properties were now occupied.</p> <p><b>ii) Report from Cllr Hughes following inspection of Parish Council deeds</b></p> <p>In Cllr Hughes absence, this item would be carried forward</p>	<p>Cllrs Greatrex &amp; Ingram</p> <p>Clerk Cllrs Greatrex &amp; Alker</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>iii) Cllr Booth had attended a meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner and produced a written report that would be circulated to all councillors.</p> <p>iv) Cllr Payne in his capacity of School Governor informed Council that developers would be moving onto the school site in December 2014 and in the meantime the planning application would be prepared and submitted. Part of the existing school would be demolished to make way for a 2-storey building on the site of the current pool, youth club and embankment. The school is being built to accommodate more pupils in the future and would be applying for Academy status.</p> <p><b>c) Any reports from Borough and County Councillors</b></p> <p>i) report from Cllr Mark Winnington on the future of Gnosall Youth Club</p> <p>Cllr Winnington explained that the employment of youth club employees was currently under consultation therefore it would not be possible to comment on the youth club for the next 10 days.</p> <p>In relation to the new school build and impact on the swimming pool, matters had moved on quickly. The new school would be built on 90% of the land where the pool is currently therefore the pool is very unlikely to be retained. A meeting had been arranged with the Clerk, Cllr Greatrex, Cllr Alker and Cllr Payne on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July to share further details and discuss options.</p>	
14/097	<p><b>To consider committee/working group issues:</b></p> <p><b>a) Matters relating to the Planning Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The minutes of the meeting were accepted. It was noted that the application for 37 Far Ridding had been withdrawn.</li> <li>Cllrs had been asked by Planning Committee to consider applying to Stafford Borough Council to register the Royal Oak pub (and possibly other village pubs) as a Community Asset. This was discussed and it was proposed, seconded and agreed to obtain further details of the advantages of registering the village pubs as Community Assets before making a decision.</li> <li>An application for the installations of 3 wind turbines on Knightley Hall Farm had been received. Advice from Stafford Borough Council was to submit a response as quickly as possible. It was therefore agreed to hold a public meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm and Council would hold a separate meeting early in September to consider the application. An extension of time had been agreed with SBC to allow GPC to respond no later than 15<sup>th</sup> September 2014.</li> <li>Cllr Greatrex had spoken, on behalf of GPC, at the SBC Planning Committee Meeting objecting to application 13/19275/COU for 30 caravans at Knightley Hall Farm. It was reported that this application had been approved by SBC's Planning Committee with 2 conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Caravans to be used by workers from the Knightley site only</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	

	<p>2) Environment Agency requested sewerage to be passed through a fully tanked system.</p> <p>GPC's Planning Committee to monitor these conditions to ensure they are being adhered to.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllrs had received a copy of the notes of the meeting held with representatives of Bellway Homes on 24<sup>th</sup> June. The main issues raised had been the boundary hedge and its maintenance, start times and delivery times. It was noted that the internal roadways and installation of drains would commence at the beginning of August. Further meetings would be held with Bellway and parishioners during construction.</li> </ul> <p><i>Cllr Watson-Jones left the meeting.</i></p> <p><b>b) Matters relating to the Open Spaces Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes of the meeting regarding the Fun Weekend held on 1.7.14 were accepted.</li> <li>• The Clerk would issue a rota to all councillors to help wherever possible during the planned activities</li> <li>• The Clerk was also asked to contact Gnosall Surgery regarding using the car park for visitors.</li> </ul> <p>Cllrs were informed of essential work that would be carried out in the next few months and funded from the Open Spaces Maintenance budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work to clear the silt trap and clear the vegetation in parts of the brook during September/October as advised and approved by the Environment Agency.</li> <li>• Minor repairs to the lime stone path</li> <li>• Repairs to the allotment road - this would be part funded by GAGA as well as donation from GPN. Funds received from allotment rent will be used as GPC's contribution to help pay for this.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr Deegan also explained that a section of the boardwalk had sunk and the contractor had been out and advised GPC to consider a flotation system to alleviate this ongoing problem. This was accepted and approval was given to spend £1000 to carry out the work.</p> <p>Cllr Willetts asked whether any of the Open Space areas could accommodate spare apple trees. It was agreed that the area at the entrance of the allotments site would be ideal.</p> <p><b>c) Matters relating to the Communications Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summer edition of GMK had been distributed around the village.</li> <li>• The working group had agreed guidelines to help with future editions</li> <li>• A communication strategy would be considered at a future meeting to help with running the website, social media and press releases.</li> <li>• A representative from each of the council's committees would be requested to help with updating the new website and publications.</li> </ul>	
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14/098	<p><b>Matters relating to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group including an update on funding</b></p> <p>Notes of the meeting held on 9.7.14 would be circulated at a later date. Cllr Abbott had analysed the data contained in the 515 returned questionnaires and reported the main outcomes to councillors. The appointed consultant had started to produce a feedback report using this data and this report would be available to parishioners and posted on the website at the end of July. Cllr Abbott was thanked for producing such a detailed report.</p> <p>It was noted that a funding application had been successful and £6990 had been awarded to GPC to help meet the costs of producing the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk was thanked for securing this funding.</p>	
14/099	<p><b>To report on any road and footway matters within the parish</b></p> <p>The Clerk was asked to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loose chickens on Station Road that are not securely retained on adjacent land.</li> <li>• Electric fence between privately owned land on Station Road and the railway line (near to the Toucan crossing)</li> </ul> <p>After discussion, it was agreed that “No HGV” signs should be erected along High Street as the amount of large vehicles had increased often causing congestion. Cllr Winnington, as the local member, had also given his approval. The Clerk would progress this with Staffordshire County Council Highways Department.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
14/100	<p><b>To consider correspondence and other communications, received (list enclosed for parish councillors, available to residents on application to the Clerk)</b></p> <p>The Clerk shared details of various funding sources that she suggested GPC should consider applying for to support parish council projects. This funding included LEADER European funding to support jobs/growth/ prosperity in rural areas and funding from Police and Crime Commissioner to support community safety activities.</p> <p>Cllrs also received copies of the council’s financial receipts for the month of June and payments for approval for the month of July. The accounts were reviewed then proposed, seconded and accepted. Necessary expenditure including salaries for the month of August was also approved.</p>	Cllrs
14/101	<p><b>To request items for the next agenda</b></p> <p>The Clerk was asked to include as an agenda item at the September meeting, Parish Council elections 2015.</p>	Clerk
14/102	<p><b>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</b></p> <p>The next regular meeting of the Council would be held on 8<sup>th</sup> September at 7.30pm with an additional meeting at the beginning of September to review the wind farm planning application.</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.35pm