

Minutes of the Council Meeting
Held in the Brearley Room on Monday 11th April 2016 beginning at 7.30pm

Present	Cllr. P Alker (in the Chair)	Cllr. J Cook
	Cllr M Deegan	Cllr. G Gregory
	Cllr G Payne	Cllr. R Greatrex
	Cllr S Powell	Cllr. M Booth
	Cllr S Green	Cllr K Ingram
	Cllr T Simkin	Cllr. K Abbott
	Cllr S Wallis	Cllr. D Webb
	Cllr J Tomkinson	
		Jayne Cooper, Clerk

SBC Cllrs M Smith and K Williamson and SCC Cllr M Winnington
 Along with 8 members of the public including 3 representatives from the Canal and River Trust

16/041	Public Open Forum Mrs J Gardner asked whether the Parish Council knew if the front boundary hedge and large tree on the development site on Knightley Road would be removed (as had happened on another development site on Knightley Road). Cllr Greatrex, as Chair of Planning Committee, said he was not aware that the tree had a Tree Perseveration Order and the width of the road doesn't comply with statutory road measurements and developers had been made aware of this. Mr Jobling asked if the Parish Council had plans to fly the new Staffordshire Flag on Staffordshire Day, Sunday 1 st May. The Clerk said events are being planned for Staffordshire Day, to be held on the Village Green and a new flag would be purchased. Mr Jobling was invited to be part of Staffordshire Day arrangements and obtain the flags for the Parish Council as well as having a stand at the fete.	
16/042	To receive apologies, record absences Apologies received from Cllr C Emsley	
16/043	To record any Declarations of Interest Cllr Alker declared an interest in discussions about the website and library Cllr Deegan declared an interest in discussions about the allotments. Cllr Powell declared an interest in discussions about developing the Grosvenor Centre.	
16/044	To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th March 2016 The minutes of the meeting were proposed, seconded and agreed as a true and accurate record.	

16/045	<p>To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>It was agreed to amend the wording of minute 16/033 regarding External Audit changes to make it clear that Gnosall Parish Council agreed to “opt in” and therefore use the services of Grant Thornton to carry out the External Audit.</p>	Clerk
16/046	<p>To receive a presentation from the Canal and River Trust on planning work in Gnosall</p> <p>Mr Dave Clarke, Best Kept Village Group leader, introduced the Canal and River Trust (C&RT) who had been invited to speak to the Parish Council after discussions with local volunteers about improving conditions of a stretch of the canal tow path from Cowley Tunnel to Bridge 36. The C&RT asked Gnosall Parish Council to adopt a stretch of the canal and then a scheme could be developed to raise the path, create enhanced moorings, make the tow path cleaner as well as other small projects to promote the canal and village. There would be no financial contribution required from the Parish Council as this would be covered by the C&RT as would machinery and other resources. Manpower would be provided by the Best Kept Village team and other local volunteers and subject to the Parish Council agreement to adopt this stretch, work could commence this year and would be ongoing until the autumn of 2017.</p> <p>It was proposed and seconded and unanimously agreed that Gnosall Parish Council would support this scheme. C&RT representatives were thanked for their informative presentation as were the BKV team for their willingness to be volunteer helpers.</p> <p><i>C&RT reps, D Clarke and other members of the public left the meeting.</i></p>	
16/047	<p>To receive the following reports:</p> <p>a) The Clerk’s Report including any correspondence The report included details of all committee and working group meetings held in the past month.</p> <p>Annual Assembly – the Clerk informed Council that Mr Matthew Ellis, Police Crime Commissioner, was not able to attend the Annual Assembly as planned as elections for the role of PCC would be held on 5th May and he may, therefore, not be re-elected. However a Senior Officer, who works for the Police Crime Commissioner would attend and give an overview of the PCC office and roles. Cllrs were informed of the arrangements for the Assembly and agenda items.</p> <p>Correspondence –the list was noted, in particular an application for Pride in Your Patch received from Stafford Borough Council that local Borough Councillor, Ken Williamson confirmed that he would be nominating Gnosall Parish Council. It was also noted that County Cllr</p>	

	<p>Mark Winnington had agreed to award Gnosall Parish Council £300 towards the Queen's Tea Party event and £200 towards a Community Event being arranging in Moreton in September 2016. Cllr Winnington, who was still present at the meeting, was thanked for these financial contributions.</p> <p>Response from Heron Brook Community Leisure regarding the use of the Grosvenor Centre as a site for a Leisure Centre</p> <p>The Clerk read out the responses to each of the questions Gnosall Parish Council has asked following receipt of the initial letter in January 2016 in which HBCL had asked GPC to consider HBCL using the Grosvenor Centre site for a Leisure Centre. The Clerk also reminded Council of a decision made at the March Council meeting to progress with plans to enhance the current Grosvenor Centre and to seek advice from Planning Officers and Conservation Officers.</p> <p>This was discussed in detail and it was agreed no further meetings or discussions would be held as the decision for the Parish Council to continue with its plans had been made and would stand. This was accepted by Cllr Powell in his capacity as HBCL Chairman.</p> <p>The Clerk's report was accepted.</p> <p>(b) Any reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended</p> <p>Cllrs Simkin and Ingram had attended the Memorial Village Hall meeting at which a report on the Village Liaison meeting had been given. The minutes, since received, would be challenged at the next meeting as it was felt they misrepresented the Parish Council's comments.</p> <p>Any reports from Borough and County Councillors</p> <p>Council was informed that Stafford Borough Council had confirmed arrangements for the next stage of the Borough's Local Plan (part 2), Highways were up to date with maintenance work on category 1 potholes and would now focus on other road maintenance issues including repairs needed in Gnosall and Moreton.</p> <p>Cllr Winnington was asked to determine whether essential maintenance required to secure dislodged stones on the bridge by the Navigation Pub was the responsibility of Highways or the Canal and River Trust as this had been reported several times to Highways and no action taken.</p> <p>Cllr Greatrex and Cllr Payne had met with Highways representatives to investigate the overgrown hedges on Newport Road and appropriate action taken by Highways, since then a resident had contacted Cllr Winnington who had also made a site visit and made investigations. The Parish Council would now leave this matter with Highways.</p>	
16/048	To consider Committees/Working Group issues:	

	<p>a) Matters relating to the Planning Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A verbal report following the meeting held on 7th April was received. • Cllr Greatrex informed Council that he had received an email regarding a slurry lagoon in Moreton and a possible breach in procedures. Investigations with the Environment Agency had confirmed that procedures were being followed correctly however Cllr Wallis said some parishioners were still concerned. It was agreed to write to the land owner informing him that this matter has been reported to Council. <p>b) Matters relating to Communications Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A verbal report of the meeting held on 7th April was received. • The Communications Strategy is under review and would be amalgamated with the Community Engagement Strategy needed for Quality Gold status. • In May, 2000 copies of the GMK, the parish newsletter, would be distributed and would include a questionnaire on the Community Led Library and an anti dog fouling flyer. <p>c) Matters relating to the Procedures Review Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A verbal report of the meeting held on 21st March was received. • Committee members had received information about National Association of Local Council's (NALC) revised Financial Regulations that covers new legislation, rules and regulations. A further exercise to review GPC's current Financial Regulations against the NALC's regulations would be carried out. • Policies are under review to comply with Quality Gold status. <p>d) Matters relating to the Library Working Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meetings had been held on 21st March and 11th April. Two separate groups, one made up of those wanting to library volunteers and one for those interested in helping with setting up a library, had been formed. • A committee had been established and would be putting together a draft constitution before bidding, with a detailed Business Plan, for a contract in July 2016 • A questionnaire would be developed to determine the type of library required. • Further investigations into becoming a Community Interest Organisation (CIO) would be carried out and could include the Library project, Youth Club, GFest, Acres projects, Grosvenor Centre refurbishment. <p>It was also agreed that a meeting is arranged with the Chief Executive of Staffordshire County Council regarding the work/projects Gnosall Parish Council is taking on, much of it as a result of Staffordshire County Council cut backs. Cllr Deegan to arrange.</p> <p>e) Matters relating to the Youth Club Committee</p>	<p>Cllr Deegan</p> <p>Cllr Deegan</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Internal changes to the youth club building had been completed by the Council's Handyman and volunteers. • A working party would be cleaning and equipping the building on 13th ready for opening at 7pm that day • Insurance had been agreed with Zurich Municipal at £296 • Up to £300 is available from SCVYS that would be applied for as well as a request to the County Councillors Fund. • Gnosall Parish Council would also be asked to consider making an annual donation when budgets are set later in the year. <p>f) To confirm arrangements for the Queen's Tea Party 11th June and Staffordshire Day 1st May</p> <p>Plans for both events are ongoing. 55 residents over the age of 85 would be invited to the Queen's Tea Party along with one guest each. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Angela Tams had confirmed her attendance. Further meetings to discuss catering requirements would be held. Several village organisations had offered to run a stall at the fete being arranging to commemorate Staffordshire Day. Children from Gnosall St Lawrence Academy would be maypole dancing. The Parish Council would arrange stalls/games that would be paid for from Fun Day funds allocated in the Parish Council's budget.</p>	
16/049	<p>To receive a report on financial receipts for March 2016 and receive accounts for approval for April 2016</p> <p>The accounts were reviewed then proposed, seconded and accepted.</p>	
16/050	<p>To report on any road and footway matters within the Parish</p> <p>The Clerk was asked to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ranton Lane pot hole • Knightley Road deterioration as a result of development at the Bellway site • Blocked drains in Lowfield Lane • Grassy area in the middle of a pavement near the new development site on Lowfield Lane 	Clerk
16/051	<p>To request items for the next agenda</p> <p>Cllrs to inform the Clerk of items at least 10 days before the date of the next meeting which would be the Annual Meeting.</p>	Cllrs
16/052	<p>To confirm the date and time of the next meeting</p> <p>The next meeting would be held on Monday 9th May 2016 at 7.30pm</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm