

Greatham Parish Council

Informal Meeting of Councillors 9th June 2021

Attendees: Cllr Tim Butler, Cllr Olly Rook, Cllr Mark Rodbert, Cllr Susie Harris, Cllr Andrew Crick, Jane Ives (Clerk)

The Council have adopted a Delegation Scheme which gives the Clerk the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Council once they have given their recommendations.

The following items were discussed and the notes below outline the recommendations that were made and the decisions then made under delegated powers.

Future meetings

Councillors discussed the future of meetings and were unhappy that they are unable to hold remote meetings any longer and would like to meet face to face as soon as everyone feels safe to do so. The Clerk recommended that, in July, the Council meet face to face to make any important decisions and possibly defer some decisions from this evening's agenda until that meeting. Some councillors are concerned about the recent rise in cases and the fact that some of them are not double jabbed so would prefer to wait. A decision will be made nearer the time but an outdoor meeting could be held if that was more acceptable for all.

Discuss options for consideration of planning applications including formation of a planning committee

This was not resolved in May 2021 as not enough members put themselves forward. It was agreed that a planning committee should be formed and this would be put on the agenda for the next formal meeting. Minor applications could be taken to full council if the agenda and timing of the response allowed. Consider amending terms of reference to have 3 members rather than 4.

Decision: Appoint members to a planning committee at a face to face meeting in July 2021 and amend the terms of reference to change the number of members required.

Consider the publication of Freedom of Information requests

This item had been deferred from the May 2021 meeting. The Clerk advised that the current Publication Scheme is out of date and needs to be updated. A new draft had been sent to all councillors along with information relating to disclosure of freedom of information requests. Councillors recommended that a disclosure log containing information that was in the wider public interest should be published. The Clerk advised that questions that were only of interest to the individual asking them should not be published; only those questions that were of wider public interest should be published.

Councillors recommended that a working group is formed consisting of the Clerk, Cllr Crick and Cllr Harris to clarify how the disclosure log will work and to make decisions on future freedom of information responses and whether they should be published.

Decision: Publication Scheme as drafted is adopted. Working group consisting of the Clerk, Cllr Crick & Cllr Harris will form a working group as described above.

Appointment of trustees to Greatham Allotment Charity

Two of the trustee positions had expired and need to be reappointed. The Clerk advised that during the councillor drop in session prior to the meeting a member of the public, who is a trustee, recommended that we reappoint the two trustees to the vacancies.

The Clerk recommended that this item should be deferred to a face to face meeting in July for a final decision in order to be fully transparent.

In the meantime councillors felt that they wanted to see a more diverse group of individuals coming forward to be trustees, perhaps newer residents in the village. This would not rule out individuals who are already trustees, but councillors would like a wider group to select from. Councillors also wanted to understand exactly what the role involves, ie what the key responsibilities are, so that they can make a more informed decision. They asked the Clerk to contact the charity to ask them to advertise the roles and ask for applications. The council would also promote the opportunity via our website, mailing list and Facebook page.

Decision: Clerk to advise Allotment Charity of the above, and defer the decision until July 2021.

Appointment of trustees to Coryton Trust

Cllrs Crick and Cheesman are currently trustees and the Clerk advised that the charity would like them to continue as they have concerns about having too many changes among their trustees.

Decision: Clerk to advise Coryton Trust that Cllrs Crick and Cheesman will continue as trustees.

Consider Terms of Reference for Parish Tree Wardens

This item will be deferred as the Clerk had not been able to provide the documentation prior to the meeting.

Decision: Defer until the July 2021 meeting.

Consider amending Terms of Reference for Traffic & Transport Working Group

Cllr Butler wanted to recommend amending the terms of reference to allow up to 3 members of the public to be appointed by the working group.

Decision: Clerk will amend the Terms of Reference in line with the above.

Consider response to planning application SDNP/21/02415/HOUS: 3 Woolmer Cottages, Petersfield Road, GU33 6AS, Single Storey Rear Extension

Councillors had reviewed the application and made recommendations to the Clerk that they did not object to the plans.

Decision: No objection

Update from Old Church working group including notes from previous meeting, repair/maintenance work, service to be held in July

The Clerk had circulated some information to councillors following a meeting of the working group. The report was noted. Decisions relating to the potential issue with the ruined nave wall would need to be brought to a future meeting. The Clerk urged councillors to adopt a plan for all the work that is required. Cllr Rodbert advised that the working group would like Josh Dale-Harris to work with Cllr Rodbert on the Old Church strategy working group.

Decision: The May 2021 meeting agreed that the Clerk and Cllr Rodbert would work on section 1 of the framework and a working group would be appointed at the next council meeting. We have not yet agreed who will join and nor have we promoted the opportunity. This needs to be done first before the working group can be appointed.

Update on Lone Barn Farm and discuss any further actions

The Clerk and Cllr Rodbert provided updates about the Lone Barn Farm decision. EHDC had responded to our complaint and FOI. The FOI had not currently been answered in full and the Clerk will advise when the information has been sent through. The complaint needs to be responded to and councillors are going to send their thoughts to the Clerk.

Decision: The Clerk will respond to EHDC's complaint response once councillors have sent their recommendations to her.

Discussion regarding proposed new footpath near waterworks

Cllr Rook outlined his thoughts regarding proposing two amendments to bridleway 11 to make it safer for pedestrians and cyclists accessing Liss station and shops whilst avoiding the Ham Barn roundabout.

The Clerk advised the Traffic & Transport Working Group speak to the SDNPA and Hampshire Countryside Services to sound them out with the ideas before consulting any landowners or residents. Proper consultation would need to be carried out before these ideas could be progressed but this would likely be done by Hampshire County Council.

Decision: The Clerk will give details of the various officers at HCC and SDNPA for the Traffic & Transport working group to speak to for advice.

To note payments made and payments due to be made

J Ives salary £809.97 (payment date 26th May)

HMRC £12.86

J Ives repayment of Zoom subscription £110.37

To consider publishing an annual report in place of the annual parish meeting

It was previously agreed that we may publish a report in place of holding an annual parish meeting. We did not hold an annual parish meeting due to Covid-19 restrictions. Cllr Harris will co-ordinate with councillors to get the report drafted and it could be circulated as an insert in the Village Magazine.

Decision: Annual Report to be drafted as soon as possible and circulated widely.