

MAIN MINUTES JANUARY, 2010

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOTHAM PARISH COUNCIL 5TH January, 2010, held in the Memorial Hall Weldon Room, COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: T.Vennett-Smith, (Chairman), G.Trickett, (Vice-Chairman), J.M.F.Royce, B.J.Walker, M.Frankish, S.Hall, J.P.Anderson, P.R.Dines, R.Muir, E.Padden.

In attendance: T.Green (7.55 p.m.) G.Clark, D.Bexon

The Chairman welcomed G.Clark and D.Bexon to the meeting.

The Chairman had received letters of resignation from T.Green due to work commitments in Dubai and P.Dainty due to work commitments. P.Dainty would remain on GPC until the end of March, 2010.

10/1: Apologies, P.Dainty.

10/2: Acceptance of Apologies:

PROPOSED: J.P.Anderson SECONDED: G.Trickett All in favour.

10/3: Declaration of Interest: Nil

The Chairman asked that Agenda item 5 be taken next.

10/4: Casual Vacancy:

The Chairman had received applications to join the Gotham Parish Council from D.Bexon and G.Clark. He welcomed the two applicants to the meeting and thanked them for their letters of application.

PROPOSAL: D.Bexon and G.Clark be accepted as members of Gotham Parish Council.

PROPOSED: J.M.F.Royce SECONDED: P.R.Dines. Vote: All in favour.

10/5: Minutes of the previous meeting:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 1st December, 2009 as circulated, be signed as a true record of the business transacted, with the following amendments: **09/190: Financial Scrutiny Report from Clerk and Chairman of Finance: insert:** 'PROPOSAL: The finance Chairman would sign off GPC bills before payment on a temporary basis. The proposal could be reviewed as and when Council decided. The Clerk would challenge any billing anomaly with the creditor in question.

PROPOSED: J.M.F.Royce SECONDED: G.Trickett Vote: six in favour, two against, one abstention.

T.Green and M.Frankish applauded J.M.F.Royce for his thorough report on the financial error and thought there would be no requirement for further discussion. T.Vennett-Smith was in favour of a tightening of rules on finance. B.J.Walker was in favour of a finance meeting for greater clarification of the exact procedure. P.R.Dines was not in favour of the Finance Chairman being in contact with creditors. She offered her resignation from the Finance Committee.**09/193: Environment Report: alter pump to 'Pump' 09/197: St.Gobain: change 'Hill Rd' to 'The Ridgeway.'** **09/198: Memorial Hall Opening Ceremony: insert** G.Trickett had responded, on the 'Parish Council' Chairman's behalf. Insert 'John' Cottee, insert 'Councillor' P.McGowan.

PROPOSED: M.Frankish SECONDED: J.P.Anderson. Vote: All in favour.

Progress arising from the Minutes:

Cemetery: J.P.Anderson had received advice from Miss Box from Southwell Diocese, that the objection to the PCC faculty for headstone removal had been dismissed. The Cemetery Sub-Committee would therefore proceed along the lines agreed.

10/6: Finance Monthly Payments and Receipts:

Receipts and Payments: RESOLVED: That the receipts, since the last meeting, are noted and the Accounts in Appendix F1 be confirmed and authorised for payment.

PROPOSED: J.M.F.Royce SECONDED: G.Trickett Vote: All in favour.

J.M.F.Royce had received confirmation from the Alliance and Leicester re the investment of £50,000 in a 3% Bond for one year.

J.M.F.Royce read out a letter that had been sent, by the Clerk, to Matthew Archer of P & J Services re an overcharge of £892.01 for the years 08/09 and 09/10. A letter of confirmation of this figure had not yet been received from M.Archer.

J.M.F.Royce proposed a finance sub-committee meeting should be held on the 26th January, 2010 for the purpose of a discussion on the NALC financial regulations, copies of which had been circulated by the Clerk to Councillors.

The Clerk sought advice from Council re the non-payment of £500 for the Church roof repair that had been agreed at the last meeting. The money was to be taken from the unallocated capital of £602. J.M.F.Royce had checked the unallocated capital and thought the money had already been allocated. Together, with the overspend on the Gotham News, he was unhappy to allow further expense at this time with three months to go until the end of the financial year. B.J.Walker reminded Council that only £2,844 had been spent out of a budget of £4,000 on the furnishings for the Weldon Room. The remaining money could cover the cost of Church Roof repairs.

PROPOSED: Donation of £500 to St.Lawrence Church for South Aisle roof repairs from unspent money that had resulted from the Weldon Room furnishings fund.

PROPOSAL: J.P.Anderson SECONDED: P.R.Dines. Vote: All in favour.

T.Green arrived at the meeting at 7.55 p.m.

The Chairman welcomed T.Green to the meeting and thanked him for his attendance. He was very sorry that work commitments had forced his resignation from the Parish Council. The Chairman thanked T.Green for his extensive work, including technical letter writing on behalf of the Planning sub Committee and for his input into the Gotham News. He wished him well in his new venture in The Middle East and hoped he would re-join GPC on his return.

10/7: Gotham News:

J.P.Anderson reported Gotham News Christmas edition had been well received. He had not had any personal input into the content and thanked T.Green for his hard work in its production. New advertising rates had been agreed with current advertisers.

PROPOSAL: That Gotham News should become an in-house production so that GPC had full control of content, print, advertising and distribution.

PROPOSED: J.P.Anderson SECONDED: R.Muir Vote: All in favour.

PROPOSAL J.P.Anderson to chair the Gotham News sub committee.

PROPOSED: T.Vennett-Smith SECONDED: J.M.F.Royce Vote: All in favour.

J.P.Anderson invited Councillors to help with the production OF Gotham News and to form a small editorial committee. G.R.Plant had been informed of the Council's suggestion for a move to an 'in-house' production and was in agreement. A sub-committee meeting of the editorial team would need to be held before each edition, probably in the months of March, July, September and November. R.Muir offered her assistance with production, M.Frankish, distribution, E.Padden, to proof read. J.P.Anderson thanked the volunteers and reported Martin Weightman of Naylor Avenue, had offered to join the editorial team as part of his interest as a sports journalist. The Clerk would take over the billing and collection of advertising revenue.

PROPOSAL: A letter of thanks for his work on Gotham News would be sent to G.R.Plant.

PROPOSED: T.Vennett-Smith SECONDED: G.Trickett Vote: All in favour.

J.M.F.Royce reminded Council that the Gotham News was now in arrears of £333 with no funds in budget for the next edition. Outstanding advertising monies amounted to £1,190.

10/8: Chairman's Report: Planning & Development Committee: (Vice-Chairman J.P.Anderson)

The Vice-Chairman reported the following items:

The Planning and Development committee did not meet in December as there were no planning applications for discussion. The Clerk had informed the Traffic Commission of GPC's query re the statement that St.Gobain lorry restrictions having been lifted would not impinge upon the lives of residents of The Ridgeway. The lorries would indeed continue to pass residents' homes and the Clerk had pointed this matter out and was still awaiting comment. Copy of the letter had been sent to County Councillor L.Sykes, RBC, Rt.Hon. K.Clarke and residents of The Ridgeway who had previously attended the Planning meeting, when the application was first discussed.

A letter had been received from George Machin of Savills re a possible need for development of affordable houses within Gotham. The Vice-Chairman had responded and invited a representative from Savills to attend the next Planning Meeting due to be held on the 19th January, 2010 for further discussion.

10/9: Planning Decisions Received: Nil.

09/17 (ref: 09/01812/FUL) Westwood House, 321 Leake Rd – Single storey side/rear extension - GRANTED

10/10: Planning Applications Received:

10/1: (ref: 09/02175/FUL – 4 Hall Drive – Conservatory to side.

The Vice-Chairman reminded Council of a previous application for a conservatory refused due to the impact on the neighbouring house on Tomlinson Avenue. The Clerk would seek an extension for the decision date to accommodate a site meeting, preferably to be held at a weekend.

The Vice-Chairman thanked the retiring Chairman of Planning, T.Green, for his hard work during his membership of the planning sub-committee.

10/11: Chairman's Report: Environment Committee: (Chairman: M.Frankish)

M.Frankish reported the following matters:

A continued nuisance of dog fouling along Leake Road had been reported. The Clerk had written a short article on the subject for the next edition of Gotham News.

Fly-tipping had been reported on Gypsum Way at the first gateway, adjacent to the school and also at the top of Soldiers Lane. The car tyres on Gypsum Way had recently been removed. The Clerk had reported the matter of fly tipping to Streetwise and had also reported mess left by picnickers on Hill Road. T.Vennett-Smith reminded Council that RBC were not obliged to collect litter and fly tipped articles from private land.

P.Dainty had organised several sessions with the speedwatch camera during the month. A replacement organiser would need to be arranged after March, 2010 when P.Dainty retired. The Clerk would write a letter of thanks to P.Dainty.

The Chairman thought there was no reason to hold another Environment meeting during January and this would accommodate a meeting of the Cemetery sub-Committee.

10/12: Policing Matters/Vandalism:

B.J.Walker had circulated the month's crime figures. On the 18th December, 2009 two males had attempted a burglary using a cat flap as access. There were thirteen reported crimes over the whole district last month. No crime in Gotham during the month of November, 2009.

10/13: Chairman's Report:

T.Vennett-Smith wished Councillors a happy New Year. He had attended a meeting at Notts County Council on the 11th December, 2009 led by Council leader K.Cutts. Cuts in grass cutting throughout the area, due to financial restraints, had been discussed. Mowing duties would hopefully be taken over by individual Parish Councils. A County Councillor would be available to attend Parish Council meetings for a full explanation and assistance in removal of control of mowing from the Council to the Parish Council. Another maintenance duty that might be outsourced was street lighting maintenance.

The Chairman announced the following items:

The annual Chairman's Fuddle' would be held at the Royal British Legion in April, 2010.

The Clerk to invite County Councillor L.Sykes to the Parish Council meeting in February, 2010.

RBC could take a dog walker, who failed to clear up dog mess, to court but the prosecution had to be supported by a witness.

The work of the Parish Council sub-Committees was explained to D.Bexon and G.Clark who were invited to join any of the committee meetings and offer their support on their chosen Committee. The Clerk would give them a copy of the Code of Conduct, a declaration of interest form for completion and return and a copy of 'The Good Councillor Guide'.

10/14: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported removal of the National Grid signpost outside the Cemetery. The National Grid workman had failed to remove the discarded sign which was left on the pavement. J.M.F.Royce offered to remove and dispose of it as soon as possible.

10/15: Matters to Report:

J.P.Anderson reported a gas leak on the corner of Monks Lane and Leake Road on Christmas Day. British Gas repair men had attended.

J.P.Anderson reported the website had been removed from Cuttlefish to Steve Butler who had become the domain name. The content of the website was very little as it now mainly provided links to other relevant website pages which could be managed by the Parish Council. Steve Butler had offered to attend the next Parish Council meeting either in February or March, depending on the visit by County Councillor L.Sykes.

M.Frankish reported an article in Nottingham Evening Post that stated RBC was not against the loss of Green Belt land, South of Clifton. T.Vennett Smith explained that it was expected that the RBC Cabinet would confirm at its January meeting that land South of Clifton would be entered for possible development in their L.D.F. (Local Development Framework) He This would then go out for yet another consultation and further details would be sent to GPC in due course.

B.J.Walker had attended a meeting at East Leake on the 16th December, 2009 re the building of a new Health Centre. Another meeting was scheduled for January, 2010.

It was reported that Shirley Hughes, sister of T.Green, had recently been awarded the O.B.E. for her work as Chief Executive of the Committee for Cerebral Palsy Sport. The Clerk would write a congratulatory letter to Mrs. Hughes.

R.Muir had received more information re the NET 2 extension. The Government were prepared to support the scheme financially.

J.M.F.Royce had received a letter from Notts County Council re salt provision in icy weather. He had still got several twenty kilo bags of salt/grit available for collection for anyone willing to collect it from his home.

10/16: Date and Time of Next Meeting: 2nd February, 2010 to be held in the Weldon Room in The Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.

Meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.