



The Gorge Parish Council  
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20<sup>th</sup> December 2016

### Draft Minutes – December Full Council Meeting

Minutes of The Gorge Parish Council Full Council Meeting held on Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December 2016 from 7pm at the Parish Council Office, Unit C22 Maws Craft Centre, Jackfield. TF8 7LS.

FC/2016/170 Public Session: No members of the public were present.

FC/2016/171 Attendance and Apologies: Councillors Bennett, Bragg, Healy, Hobson, Llewellyn, Oldershaw and White attended. Apologies were accepted from Councillor Rhoden. Borough Councillors Greenaway, Lowery and Mehta attended.

FC/2016/172 Dispensations: None required.

FC/2016/173 Borough Councillor Greenaway updated TGPC on infrastructure issues in Lightmoor. Borough Councillor Lowery updated TGPC on issues in Ironbridge Gorge, including pay phones at risk. TGPC asked that the consultation process be followed and indicated that TGPC would like the pay phones in Coalport which has 28 calls p/a and Ironbridge which has 570 calls made p/a to be retained and kept live. Cllr Lowery will ask TWC to supply TGPC with last summer's traffic survey data.

FC/2016/174 The Draft Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and the Draft Minutes of the Planning Meeting held on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were approved.

FC/2016/175 Matters Arising: Fly tipping in Lightmoor. Deferred because of Cllr Rhoden's absence.

FC/2016/176 Recruitment of a new Clerk

1. Some discussion was had around the recruitment of a Clerk and how to extending the reach of advertising the position. Cllr Lowery, with a back ground in recruitment, offered some help. It was RESOLVED to extend the deadline to Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of February and inform anyone who had already applied.

FC/2016/177 Environmental and Highway Issues

1. Cllr Healy reported on the meeting with TWC regarding the bedding in Dale End Park. TWC will provide the bedding plants and layout design as in previous years and it is suggested that local volunteers will be approached, encouraged and asked to assist in the preparation of the beds, planting and maintenance under guidance and supervision. TWC will provide a schedule of what works need to be done. The success of this arrangement will be reviewed next year. Sponsorship could be explored to plug the possible financial gap expected to be around £3000 next year.
2. Cllr Healy reported on the possibility of joining the TWC PET Scheme (Parish Environmental Team). TGPC has received the TWS schedule of works as to what is currently done. TGPC can help TWC by highlighting anything that may not be happening. TGPC considered if additional works ought to be undertaken. For example, works above and beyond what is currently done by TWS, like the area around the coke hearth and the ponds in Coalbrookdale, and similarly in Sunnyside Gardens and the Galleon Park Gardens at the other end of The Gorge. Also, pavement sweeping and scraping is not on the current TWS schedule. Volunteers, for example, cannot help in spraying areas and this is where PET could be useful. Discussion was had as to establishing something within PET for a two year period, retaining the current state of The Gorge and bringing forgotten areas up to a better state and then reviewing. There was a good bit of discussion around finances, our budget, our reserves and monies available. It was agreed to defer a decision on PET until more is known after a discussion on the budget in January.
3. TWC are currently compiling a list of sites for investigation for footway maintenance across the Borough. Generally the options available to TWC are either to structurally patch a footpath surface and then seal the surface with a micro surfacing, or in cases where the footpath is in the poorest of conditions, to replace it in its entirety. TWC intend to survey every suggested site to determine the best treatment relevant to that site.

A little discussion was had on the footpaths to suggest for maintenance. It was RESOLVED to suggest Cherry Tree Hill and Jiggers Bank for the moment and consider further adopted paths and roads for submission in January.

FC/2016/178 Consider planning applications:

1. TWC/2016/1082 Site of former 3, 4, 5 & 6 Bath Road, Ironbridge.

Comment

This is an amendment of the application submitted, with substantial errors, a month ago. It would appear premature to build a shed here when no planning application has been submitted nor approved for construction on this site. We understand that some ground works have been undertaken in advance of any such application, but further understand that owners of neighbouring properties believe that these works caused

damage to their properties. We would therefore suggest that before any further activity take place on this site, advice be sought from the geotechnical engineers at TWC in order to ensure works are carried out safely. The shed proposed does not look substantial enough to secure any kind of equipment, and the reclaimed bricks have been loose on site for many years.

2. TWC/2016/1125 51 Wellington Road, Coalbrookdale.

Comment

This fence is rather massive and intimidating along what is otherwise a pretty route. It is too high for soft planting to obscure. A thorny hedge along railings would be a preferable screening/security measure, better suited to the nature of the area while providing the fencing that the applicants desire. Allowing this fence to remain would set a precedent in the WHS whereby anyone desiring privacy or security from footpaths and any other open land could erect 2 metre high wooden fences with the subsequent destruction of views and historic setting of the area. There are more sensitive treatments.

3. TWC/2016/1121 57 Belmont Road, Ironbridge.

No Comment

4. TWC/2016/1105 10 Church Hill, Ironbridge.

No Comment

5. TWC/2016/1147 1 Southside, Church Hill, Ironbridge.

Comment

This is a resubmission of TWC/2016/0787 (withdrawn) which TGPC objected to on the grounds that no information on how the stability of the ground was to be preserved was available. Although the correspondence is not available to us it would appear from the application form and a covering letter, that a ground investigation was requested by TWC but has been rejected by the applicant for reasons of cost. We note that meetings with a geotechnical engineer and with a conservation officer, both from TWC, were to have taken place, but have not been arranged. Given the potential consequences of getting the geotechnical assessment wrong we believe that at least the geotechnical meeting should take place. We do not believe that just assuming that they will find sandstone, as stated in the letter from the applicant's surveyor, is sufficient.

FC/2016/179 Consider planning decisions: Noted

FC/2016/180 Financial:

1. It was RESOLVED to grant the Lodge Field Group £500.
2. The invoices to pay list below was noted. It was RESOLVED to approve the payments.

#### Expenditure December 2016

Trans No	Cheque No	Gross	Vat	Net	Invoice date	Invoice details	Cheque Total
94	115	£9,600.00	£1,600.00	£8,000.00	19/10/2016	CMK Electrical Services Xmas Lights	£9,600.00
95	dd	£40.12	£0.00	£40.12	02/12/2016	Plusnet Nov	£40.12
89	dd	£20.83	£0.00	£20.83	31/10/2016	EON Gas bill Oct	£20.83
91	dd	£7.62	£0.00	£7.62	28/11/2016	EON Gas bill Nov	£7.62
96	116	£226.54	£28.59	£197.95	30/11/2016	Lyreco stationary	£226.54
97	117	£330.00	£0.00	£330.00	30/11/2016	A & B Landscaping	£330.00
90	dd	£213.75	£0.00	£213.75	01/11/2016	Rent November	£213.75
93	dd	£213.75	£0.00	£213.75	01/12/2016	Rent December	£213.75
92	dd	£41.80	£0.00	£41.80	02/11/2016	Plusnet Oct	£41.80
98	118	£500.00	£0.00	£500.00	20/12/2016	Lodge field group annual grant	£500.00
99	119	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00	02/11/2016	Shropshire events - Xmas lights event	£100.00
100	120	£2,930.00	£0.00	£2,930.00	11/11/2016	MA Creative SGCT Leaflets PiYHS	£2,930.00
101	121	£700.00	£116.67	£583.33	06/12/2016	Jubilee Fireworks	£700.00
102	122	£29.75	£4.96	£24.79	30/11/2016	TFM Glyphosate A&B Landscaping	£29.75
Total		£14,954.16	£1,750.22	£13,203.94			£14,954.16

#### FC/2016/181 Reports from outside bodies:

1. Cllr Bragg raised the contribution made to the Christmas event by the Ironbridge Business Consortium. TGPC agreed to formally thank the Business Consortium and Alex Nicoll for all their hard work in raising approximately £930.00 for the Ironbridge Xmas Lights Switch-on Event from the raffle held in the Gorge. They would also like to thank all of the businesses who so generously donated prizes for the raffle.

Additionally, the Parish Council would like to thank Paul Pleydell from PleydellSmithyman and Adrian Cousins from Ironbridge Furniture Ltd for their generous donations to the fund. The final total will be reported at the next full Parish Council meeting.

#### FC/2016/182 Review of Policies:

1. It was RESOLVED to approve and adopt the Draft Disciplinary and Grievance Procedure and the Draft Capability Procedure and hard copies were signed and filed.

#### FC/2016/183 Pride in Your High Street:

1. Cllr Healy provided an update. The element of the bid that focused on a dedicated website promoting The Gorge local businesses was considered. The possibility of partnering with IGMT had been explored but the outcome was that this may not be a good fit for the Museum Trust who have a slightly differing offering and focus. The web presence will be discussed again with the IBC and bid partners. The element of the bid regarding the planting for the bank next to

Cleos was progressing well, as was the leaflets programme for which we have now received an invoice from SGCT.

FC/2016/184 Correspondence:

1. All Noted.
2. It was noted that all of the Parish Council's Notice Boards have a pane open to the public and for them to place items of information, and this includes enabling local MPs and Borough Councillors to pin information about their contact details.
3. The FOI request has been dealt with.

FC/2016/185 Items for next agenda and for information:

1. Taking Item 177/2 forward, Cllr Bragg will assist in providing a working draft budget so that the items within the proposed budget for 17/18 can be discussed in January with all councillors participating.

FC/2016/186 Dates of next meetings:

1. Planning Meeting 7pm Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2017 at the Parish Council Offices Maws Craft Centre
2. Full Council Meeting 6pm Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 at the Parish Council Offices Maws Craft Centre

Meeting closed: 20:55