

The Gorge Parish Council
Unit C22
Maws Craft Centre
Jackfield
Telford TF8 7LS
Tel/Fax: 01952 883192
Email: clerk@thegorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk
www.thegorgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting of The Gorge Parish Council held on Tuesday 21st February 2017 in The Gorge Parish Council Office

FC/2017/019 Public Session; no members of the public attended

FC/2017/020 Apologies and Attendance.: Cllrs Bennett, Healy, Rhoden, White, Hobson and Oldershaw attended. Apologies from Cllr Bragg

FC/ 2017/021 Dispensations :none required

FC/2017/022 Borough Councillors: Councillors Jayne Greenaway, Nicola Lowery, and Rajash Mehta presented their apologies

FC/2017/023 : Minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 17th January 2017 and Planning meeting 7th February 2017 were approved and signed Thanks were extended to Cllr Jake Bennett for taking Minutes during vacancy in the Clerk's post

FC/2017/024 Matters Arising

Dale End play area see saw to be repaired when new budget available , although other equipment is being worked on this week . Ongoing

FC/2017/025 Environmental and highways issues.

- a. PET Report :Cllr Healy met Keith Slater and received assurance that work would be done and he has an operative in mind – to be engaged subject to TGPC approval . Costs of apprentice factored into project costs , although starting date for apprentice likely to be May , at the earliest .Draft Agreement to be circulated by Cllr Healy and approved in March committee meeting
- b. A-board complaints (see report) . Highways dept have been informed of the sign for “The Swan” (which seems to have been moved to the other side of the road ! Some complaints have been raised about the signs nearer to the bridge , but seem to be “legal”

FC/2017/026 Planning

- a. New Applications: See report .

TWC/2017/0074 – Cherry Tree Hill

There are potential concerns over the position of these houses at the rear of the site, very close to the slope down to the railway line, particularly due to the amount of excavation required for the basement swimming pool of plot 1. The creation of the existing car park may have involved some cut and fill which would mean the houses would be built on made up ground. Three major fault lines run through the valley

including the Lightmoor fault. These run roughly SW to NE, i.e. north of the railway line and so transect the area of consideration. The proposed basement will be over these fault lines. There should be a more focused geological survey of this site. There was no mention in any of the surveys of the impact of the construction of another new house on Cherry Tree Hill where the road had to be narrowed due to the potential for subsidence of the road.

Strict conditions should be in place over the use of machinery and access into the site with regard to the High Pressure Gas Main across the front of the site.

Whilst the D&A statement notes that existing properties all have their own vehicle access and the proposal for an additional entrance replicates that, the creation of an additional vehicle entrance, together with the entrance to Moss House puts three vehicle entrances close together. Does this meet highways safety regulations?

It is unclear from the application what the boundary treatment will be along the public right of way on the edge of the site. There. The site plan shows the application boundary in line with gas main. As there is already a high fence and hedge on one side of the path, a high fence along this line would make the path very narrow. Should the application be approved, the full legal width of the right of way should be protected. Materials are not specified on the application. If this application is approved, materials should be in keeping with the traditional vernacular of this part of Coalbrookdale. If the application is approved, this should be subject to conditions as set out in the stability, heritage and ecological reports.

TWC/2017/0113 – Fairfield House

Erection of first floor extension; fairly modern house. No comment.

TWC/2017/0084 - Wards Tynning Tree work; Cllr Hobson to inspect. Subject to that, no comment

TWC/2017/0073 – Upper House, Buildwas road. Tree work; No comment

b. Decisions. list of decisions. Set out in report have been noted and require no further action

FC 2017/027 Financial:

Grant requests:

- a. For Ironbridge Meadows and Pastures (received and circulated by email) approved and cheque raised for £500.00
- b. The application from Severn Arts was discussed in some detail and the Chair had requested a “constitution”, which on receipt appeared to be more of a “business plan”. At the moment, this was seen more as a consortium of artists. TGPC would certainly like to encourage the development of workshops etc but at this stage it was felt that they did not meet our criteria. It was agreed : we go back to Severn Arts and ask them to look at their structure (eg designated Bank account etc) then resubmit the application
- c. The applications from Age UK Shropshire and Entourage Street Dance crew were declined as being outside TGPC criteria

d. Invoices to pay: Those items on the approval set out in the Report were agreed Cheques circulated and signed.

e. Consider having a petty cash float: See report. Cllr Oldershaw mentioned the need for a small office float , especially where large mail items were being sent . This was AGREED and a cheque written for £20; Clerk to cash at Post Office

f. Purchase of new laptop (see Report) . Cllr Oldershaw mentioned that the current laptop was “slow” and some thought was needed about an early replacement . It was RESOLVED to purchase a new laptop together with two hard drives . Cllr Bennett offered to assist her in the purchase which was authorised up to £1000.00; Cllr Oldershaw to be reimbursed immediately, if she paid using her credit card . Cllr Bennett will do some initial investigations

FC/2017/ 028 Casual Vacancy:

- a. Following on from the resignation of Cllr Llewelyn , earlier this year , it was agreed to begin the process for filling the Jackfield and Coalport ward vacancy. The Clerk will contact the Returning Officer’s office at TWC
- b. Following on from that there will be a review of the co-option policy at the next meeting. Also attendance at , at least one Full Council meeting prior to co-option, would be expected.

FC2017/029 Annual Parish Meeting:

The preferred date would be the first (or second) week in May at Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Community Centre “CICC” (subject to availability) . Clerk to make enquiries. As to speakers , a presentation from the Traffic Team , might seem “attractive” to residents .

FC/2017/030 Reports from outside bodies The Gorge Parish Council is represented on or meetings attended by councillors:

- a. Meeting re the power station – It was noted that a report has already been sent to Councillors from Cllr Oldershaw
- b. Christmas lights meeting: Cllrs Healy reported that a good group of local businesses had been formed to take matters forward . A meeting is due at the end of February.

FC/2017/031 Review of Policies.

- a. A Risk Assessment has been circulated with annotations . Agreed: this will be dated as TGPC current edition , but subject to ongoing review .
- b. The sickness absence policy was circulated and presented by Cllr Healy. Cllr Bennett has made comments that it may be inappropriate on occasions to expect a call every other day. The self certification period is still 7 days . Cllr Healy has amended notification periods and will amend draft. Final version to be signed off at next meeting .

FC/2017/032 Update on Pride in your High Street.

Cllr Healy reported that there had been a good meeting with TWC and the project is now going ahead . She will send off claim for printing cost of brochures and we are awaiting details of the new interactive signs.

FC/2017/033 Correspondence:

- a. A report has been received from Woodside allotments (Cllr Bennett called there this week)

b. TGPC have received a demand from HMRC re “unpaid” PAYE amounting to £446.52. This related to period in vacancy of Clerk for months of November and December 2016. After difficulties with password , TGPC have today been able to file an electronic notification that there were no employees for the period 6.11.2016 – 5.02.2017 and have requested that the “demand” be cancelled .

FC/2107/034 Items for next agenda and for information:

Cllr White is concerned about the lighting in Lightmoor and will contact Cllr J Greenaway and report back

Cllr Bennett also mentioned continued problems with fly tipping

Cllr Hobson has heard from residents concerned about speed of traffic in Coalport and also current site of Brewery Cottage ; one resident may want to speak at next meeting

Meeting finished at 8.20pm

Date of next meeting: Planning 7th March 2017 and Full Council 21st March 2017.