

## GOTHERINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MINUTES

8th April 2025 at 7:30pm.

**Venue:** Rex Rhodes Building, Gotherington. GL52 9EX.

**Present:** Councillors; Beverly Osborne (Chair), Steve Neighbour, Hannah Fry, Tim Fawke, Andrew Daniel, Anthony Lidington, David Rees.

**Attendees:** Borough Cllr Stanley, Borough Cllr Adcock, Selina Holder (Clerk/RFO) and 6 members of the public

**Public Session** **Resident 1:** Attended a Parish council meeting for Bishops Cleeve to raise his concerns with the cycle path. They advised him that his concerns needed to be raised to Gloucestershire County Council as they own the cycle path. Chair thanked the resident for attending and coming to the Gotherington meeting to update the council on the outcome.

He also questioned then new bus stop road markings on Malleson Road. Chair advised him that the markings had been reinstalled by the Highways department as part of the road being resurfaced and that they had originally been in place before but had worn away.

Borough Cllr Stanley advised that he had an update with the concerns raised by the resident. He explained that the cycle path between Gotherington and Bishops Cleeve is an independent cycle path installed by the local developer Vistry. Although the County Council have the overall responsibility for it. It is not part of the cycle network being installed around Cheltenham

He advised that the Council are aware of the issue with the cycle path and that County Cllr Alex Hegenbarth has had various conversation with Gloucestershire Highways.

Borough Cllr Stanley explained that he was contacted by a parent of a young boy who was seriously injured on the cycle path and had to be air lifted to hospital. Following this he organised a meeting with Vistry and showed them photos of the injuries the young boy sustained.

He explained that Vistry were shocked by the injuries and the cycle path photos and advised him that they agreed it was not good enough and needs to be improved. They also advised him that the ongoing drainage issues were not caused by them installing the cycle path but to do with ditches which are not owned by them, but by local farmers and County Council.

Vistry have started to rectify the issue with the path and send monthly reports to Borough Cllr Stanley. The most recent report advised that a CCTV survey was carried out and that the culvert is intact and has been jetted to clear the mud and silt. Vistry and Gloucestershire County Council are working to get the issues resolved as quickly as possible.

**Resident 2:** Wanted to discuss the trees that are overgrown in Ashmead Drive, Chair advised that she has spoken to the resident and that he has instructed a contractor and as soon as the contractor is able to the work will be carried out.

He also raised with Borough Cllr Stanley the ongoing problem of the lighting on the Cycle path, which is in breach with the Gotherington Parish NDP. Cllr Stanley advised that he is aware of the issue and advised that as it is a cycle path they will require some lighting but that he was under the impression that it was going to be special low lighting as Gotherington is a low light zone. He offered to follow this up with the officers and report back to this council.

The resident also mentioned that the ongoing traffic issues by GE with the temporary traffic light had not been advertised and that he called the emergency number had been informed that no work were currently planned. He did inform them that they were currently in operation.

**2025.03.01**

To receive apologies from absent Councillors. None received.

**2025.03.02**

To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda below.

Cllr Osborne declared an interest and a pecuniary interest to item 4 on the agenda.

**2025.03.03**

To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2025, Council accepted, Chair signed.

Borough Councillor Adcock Reports - I was asked to find out the strength of protection afforded to the land between Gotherington and Bishops Cleeve. This is the initial response noted from my meeting with Lisa Dixon. I am awaiting a further response and hope to have it for your meeting.

Further to my recent email I have spoken to Lisa Dixon at TBC. Further to that I have received a list of questions from Woodmancote that are along similar lines. These have been forwarded to Lisa and I am waiting for her response.

The initial questions asked of me by Woodmancote were about the separation of settlements. When I asked those initial questions and your LAN3 questions Lisa had just got back from a meeting during which this had been discussed. She is also conducting her own research.

So, to date due to the newness of the NPPF revisions interpretation is ongoing. A new settlement hierarchy could spring from this, rather than a refresh. The NPPF talks about the separation between towns and not villages. Woodmancote have asked whether or not Cleeve constitutes a town. I think it possibly could be due to its size but maybe not if you consider services. My take on this is that if we are all villages there may not be much protection of the land in between. As I say that is my interpretation and I could easily be wrong. Lisa believes there will be issues in future. Further, the nature of all of this will be tested at appeal. The aim of planners will be to halt merging of settlements and stop sprawl. She expects there to be challenges by speculative developers. Which could end in appeal. Lack of SYLS is another feature. This I am sure will encourage developers

Lisa didn't give me anything specific about LAN 3 and your covenanted land. I did specifically ask. The answers got blended.

I await Lisa for her answers to my later supplementary questions. A large chunk of this is my interpretation following my initial meeting. Once I have more, I will get back to you.

To receive reports from parish councillors on external meetings attended:

#### **Cllr Lidington reports:**

Cllr Lidington attended a course online via GAPTC, Introduction to VAT along with Cllr Rees and the clerk. The course highlighted that only the clerk should be the person making payment and reclaiming the expense from the council for the VAT to be reclaimed. It was also noted that with the historic VAT claim that Cllr Lidington found within the minutes should be investigated further.

Chair asked Cllr Lidington to send the information pack from the course to the treasure of the village hall committee and for the clerk to investigate the correct process for who can purchase items that may be required and that the council can reclaim the VAT. The clerk was also asked to investigate the clarification of grants/donations and the reclaiming of VAT

#### **Cllr Osborne reports:**

Chair reports that a resident has approached her about the hiring of table and chairs, the councils current tables are broken, Chair proposed that the council invest in new tables that can be hired out. (Item3 on the agenda)

Chair also confirms that the council have no formal event planned for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE day. This is due to it being mid-week. Some local streets are having small tea party in tcul-de-sacs.

Chair has also been contacted to see if the council would be interested in providing a shelter next to the bus stop so the children can seek shelter in bad weather. Chair passed photos around of different options, noting that the shelter would be based on Shutter Island.

Chair and Cllr Neighbour attended a meeting with a local developer as he had contacted Cllr Osborne to inform the council about his interest in purchasing the parcel of land between Bishops Cleeve and Gotherington, He is considering gifting part of the land to the parish but he would retain the remaining parcel closest to the Meadow. He would not look to develop the land that he retained unless all other lands had been develop.

| Minute reference | Description                                                                                                                          | Latest update                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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| 2025.03.01       | Shutter Island – Council and GET team to discuss option for shutter island                                                           | <p>The GET team advised the council that they would not be able to help with the Shutter Island project due to the cost and planning requirements.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Jacob Cotterill Gloucestershire highway to see would be involved.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2025.03.02       | Hire of marquee – Council to agree on the terms for hire of the marquee<br>Request for a resident to hire marquee                    | <p>The original Gazebo was gifted to the council 20 years ago. The council have had a request to see if it can be hired to a local resident. The council agreed that written liability needs to be given when hiring the gazebo.</p> <p>The council agree that a village resident can use the gazebo at no charge.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2025.03.03       | Table and chairs – Council to agree the amount of table and chair that are needed to be purchased and approve an amount.             | <p>The existing table and chairs are in poor condition and require replacing.</p> <p>The council agree that the tables can be replaced like for like.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2025.03.04       | Freeman field access                                                                                                                 | <p>Due to Cllr Osborne declaring an interest and a pecuniary interest in this item she stepped down as chair and recused herself from the room. Cllr Neighbour took over as chair for the agenda item.</p> <p>The Council discussed the pros and cons to allowing everyone on the boundary to have access should they wish. The council agree that they would formulate a document stating the requirements, should a resident wish to install access.</p> <p>Cllr Lidington proposed, Cllr Ress Objected, the remaining councillors agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Osborne returned to the meeting and resumed her role as chair.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2025.03.05       | War Memorial – CCTV to be installed at the Old Chapel.                                                                               | <p>Chair advises that due to an incident she had to go to the tennis court to check the current CCTV – it was discovered that the system is not working and has not been for a long time.</p> <p>With the current annual cost of of a maintenance contract for both the RRB building and the tennis court set at £500, the current supplier would add an additional £250 on to the package to supply the CCTV at the Old Chapel. The council agreed that this is a large annual cost, Cllr Neighbour has found a CCTV package for a one-off payment of £500. A local resident who helped installed the WI-FI into the RRB will investigate the option of extending the WI-FI down to the tennis court and then the council could look at the option of installing a package at a one-off cost. ONGOING</p> |
| 2025.03.06       | The play area and fitness equipment - H&S checks                                                                                     | Cllr Daniel to take on the monthly check for the H&S of the equipment and report to the council each month.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2025.03.07       | Cricket scoreboard                                                                                                                   | Quote was approved in last meeting and deposit has been paid, Clerk to report updates from the cricket club once board has been received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2025.03.08       | New gate at The Grange                                                                                                               | A new metal gate has been installed behind The Grange. Residents have raised concerns about the suitability of the metal gate as it is very noisy. Cllr. Neighbour has spoken to Hilary Grace to see if it can be swapped for a wooden gate and have a sound stopped added to reduce the noise of the gate.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2025.03.09       | Appoint and approve internal Auditor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update if required and adopt standing orders.</li> </ul> | Clerk and Chair to work on the action raised at the last internal audit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update if required and adopt financial regulations.</li> <li>• To add to May agenda a list of direct debit payments that can be approved for the year.</li> <li>• Risk Management policy to be adopted and added to the website.</li> <li>• Register for risk assessments- Play area, fire report and assets checked.</li> <li>• Advise more signatures to be added as only 2.</li> <li>• Add accessibility statement to website.</li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2025.03.10 | Scribe                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Clerk reported that Scribe is in the process of being set up and reports will be available soon.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2025.03.11 | <p>Meadow Footpaths: Updates on maintenance for:</p> <p>Alongside The Holt. AGO20<br/>Opposite the Village Hall. AGO18<br/>Behind Lawrance's Meadow. AGO44</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Chair has spoken to Hayfields - they have advised that they would not be interested in being involved.</p> <p>Chair proposed that the council and the village maintenance person have a walk around and to create a plan of action for the footpaths.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2025.03.12 | Clearance of saplings and ivy on Ashmead Drive                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>Cllr Res reports that the clearance is in progress, he has spoken to the resident, she is happy with the work being carried out. Cllr Rees will speak to the other resident when they are back from holiday.</p> <p>Clerk to write to 11B Ashmead Drive to advise them of the overgrown hedge. Cllr Adcock could help source new hedging in the autumn</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2025.03.13 | New options for fixing the price for the gas and electricity for the RRB:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Clerk notes that Octopus have been selected as the new provider - Clerk to chase transfer date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2025.03.14 | VAT                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Clerk confirms the last VAT payment was 2023, Clerk to submit S126 within the next few months once the queries raised around reclaiming VAT on CIL have been resolved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2025.03.15 | The cycle path lights have been turned on Clerk to report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Report received from Vistry – No report received.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2025.03.16 | 2025 pipeline projects                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | <p>The council have decided to merge the loft installation and the changing room project together and in turn the project being a complete RRB refurbishment.</p> <p>The changing rooms project was originally brought to the council pre-Covid19, the grant that was available to refurbish was for adult changing rooms. The council only have children teams playing. Due to safeguarding protocol within the club's children do not need access to changing rooms.</p> <p>Council agreed to have a public meeting and see what the views of the resident are.<br/>Clerk to investigate if the council need to be carrying out annual legionaries testing.</p> <p><b>C) Replacement Gazebo - Cllr. Lidington and Cllr. Rees to report.</b><br/>Chair, Cllr Lidington, Cllr Rees and Cllr Neighbour met with Greenfields to discuss the surface around the exercise equipment next to the gazebo. The council are querying the square footage around the pull up bars on the quote received. Chair proposed that the resurfacing should go ahead alongside the work to replace the gazebo, subject to the costing for the pull up bars section being confirmed Council unanimously agree. Chair to send clerk a copy of the quote.</p> |
| 2025.03.17 | The freeman field drainage                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2025.03.18 | The Community asset register renewal for The Shutters Inn                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Deferred to May.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2025.03.19 | Speed watch project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Clerk to see if the council can loan a handheld speed gun from another council.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2025.03.20 | <p>Finance working group: Cllr. Fawke to report.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New savings account</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Cllr Fawke confirmed that the working party met and proposed that the following policy be adopted: (Document circulated to the council by the clerk)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|            | •New bank account                    | <p>Investment Policy. ADOPTED</p> <p>Finance Working Group Terms of Reference. ADOPTED</p> <p>Cllr Fawke explained that the working party are looking to open three other saving accounts to help the council gain the most interest possible on the CIL fund received.</p> <p>Cllr Fawke to work with the clerk with setting up Scribe and carrying out the quarterly check required by the ARGAR.</p> <p>Finally, Cllr Fawke noted that the working party also agreed that an additional signatory on the council bank would be beneficial.</p> <p>Clerk and Cllr Fawke to meet and set up the accounts, also add Cllr Fawke as a signatory.</p> |
| 2025.03.21 | Street sign cleaning project         | Cllr. Rees to speak to the scouts and see if they would like to help with the cleaning of the signs and will report back to the council in May                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2025.03.22 | Persimmon Homes                      | Closed                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 2025.03.23 | Vistry Planning Application          | Deferred to May, no updated report received yet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2025.03.01 | Tennis Court project                 | Deferred to May.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2025.03.01 | Mobile network within the village    | Cllr. Daniel to circulate report to council and will discuss in the May meeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 2025.03.01 | Village hall carpark – Final invoice | Deferred to May, Neil was not in attendance                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2025.03.01 | Moat Farm ball netting               | Closed.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2025.03.01 | Resident working party               | Clerk to send invites to the working parties and local clubs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

**Payment Schedule for March 2025.**

- A- Clerk - £349.27 – **Approved**
- B- Cleaner – 18 HOURS CLEANING £15 £270.00 SUPPLIES (FLOOR BRUSH) £10.00- **Approved**
- C- TBC Annual bin fee £116 – Clerk notes this has been paid. - **Approved**

**Planning received** - None

**Planning Decision Received** - 24/00952/TPO - The Holt 18 Cleeve rd: Consent

**Items for inclusion on next agenda.** - None

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025. Annual AGM meeting at 6:30 followed by the monthly meeting at 7pm**  
**Meeting closed 9:45pm**