

52 Cross Oak Rd
Berkhamsted,
Herts,
HP4 3HZ

Minutes of Great Gaddesden Parish Council Meeting

held at 8.00pm on Monday, 14th September 2020

Online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84280546777?pwd=T0EyL0swQW02a3AyVFkxZGMrUGduZz09> or

And by phone on: 0203 481 5237 or 0131 460 1196

Present: Councillors L Wilson (Chair), B Cosbie Ross, K Fitzgerald, J Lowrie, T Martin and M Stodell.

In attendance: Cllr T Douris (County Councillor), A Farrow (Parish Clerk), and 1 member of the public

20/085 Apologies for Absence

Dacorum Borough Councillors B Chapman and J Timmis had sent their apologies.

20/086 Interests

- a. There were no declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.
- b. There were no written requests for dispensations for declarable interests.
- c. There were no requests for dispensations.

20/087 Minutes

Resolved: that the meeting held Monday 20th July 2020 circulated to members be signed as a correct record.

20/088 Changes to councillors

Noted:

That Cllr Thompson resigned as a Parish Councillor with effect from 9th September 2020 but will continue to act in an advisory capacity for the Planning Working Party. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Thompson for all his hard work and support over many years and was grateful for his offer to be consulted on planning issues when necessary.

That Cllr Stodell has indicated that he wishes to resign as a Parish Councillor no later than 31st December 2020 but will retain responsibility for the parish defibrillators. The Council expressed its thanks to Cllr Stodell whose departure would be a huge loss and wished him all the very best for his endeavours in the future.

Resolved:

That Cllr Fitzgerald be elected as Vice Chair in place of Cllr Thompson.

That Cllr Lowrie be elected as Vice Chair responsible for planning.

That notices be placed on the parish noticeboard, website and social media advertising an election for two new councillors at the October council meeting.

All agreed unanimously.

20/089 Outstanding Matters (not covered elsewhere)

a. New litter/dog bins

Noted that despite the paucity of litter bins in the Parish, Dacorum Borough Council will not install new ones unless the Parish Council paid for them at £350 ea. plus an additional £40pw service charge. It was agreed that this could not be justified and that the Dacorum Borough Councillors should be asked to confirm the Dacorum BC policy implied by the charges.

20/090 Public Participation

- a.** A complaint had been received that the proposed removal by the church of iron railings from St John's, Great Gaddesden required prior approval and that insufficient notice had been given to allow houses backing onto the churchyard to repair their boundaries. The complaint has been referred to the Churchwarden.
- b.** Concern was expressed that the overgrown vegetation and poor condition of the pavement on Piper's Hill between the Garden Centre and the school was causing congestion in Church Meadow. Cllr Fitzgerald will speak to the Halsey Estate about the vegetation. Cllr Douris will investigate what might be done about the pavement, noting that there is no budget for additional work in 2021.
- c.** Concern was expressed at the state of the hedgerow in Bradden Lane. Cllr Martin will talk to the landowners.

20/091 Correspondence or other communication

a. Essex & Herts Air Ambulance – request for donation

Noted that a donation of £500 had been made in January 2020 and that no further donations would be made this year.

b. Road Victims Trust – request for donation

Agreed that this would be deferred until a Parish Council policy for charitable donations was agreed. Cllrs Wilson and Cosbie Ross to take forward.

c. Covid-19

Noted the update provided by Hertfordshire County Council regarding Covid-19.

d. HGV vehicles through Water End

Noted that Sir Mike Penning had written to a resident following a recent complaint that vehicles are ignoring weight limits on the road and would be arranging a meeting with Herts Highways, the Police and Cllr Douris.

e. Proposals for a Unitary Authority in Hertfordshire

Noted that Hertfordshire County Council had proposed that a Unitary Authority be established in Hertfordshire. As yet it was unclear what impact this might have on Great Gaddesden Parish Council.

20/092 History of Great Gaddesden Parish project

Noted that the project would hold a display of the work undertaken to date in Great Gaddesden Village Hall on the 12th December.

20/093 Highways

a. Hertfordshire County Council Speed Management Strategy

Resolved to submit a response to this consultation strongly disagreeing with the proposals on the grounds that it was insufficiently focused on rural issues. Agreed unanimously.

20/094 Planning

a. To note the responses made to planning & licensing applications received after the 20th July 2020 which required a response under the Clerk's delegated powers:

20/02076/FUL The Croft, Dagnall Road, HP1 3BP No objection
Change of use of existing agricultural building to create a self-contained residential dwelling

Noted that the owner of The Croft had offered to explain to Councillors his plans for the site.

20/02103/TCA Oak Cottage, Leighton Buzzard Rd, Water End, HP1 3BH No objection
Fell laylandii and cypress trees

20/02128/FUL Pampard House, Bradden Lane, Gaddesden Row, HP2 6JB Withdraw
Installation of gated access for maintenance purposes

20/02328/FUL Amaravati Buddhist Monastery, St Margaret's, HP1 3BZ No objection
Construction of new nun's accommodation buildings (replacement Mettasom, Lotus House and Women's utility room buildings) and landscaping alterations

b. To consider planning applications received in the 21 days prior to production of the agenda – none

c. To consider planning applications received between the date of the agenda and the Council meeting

Agreed that 20/02694/FHA The Bungalow, Potten End Hill which had been received only hours before the meeting should be considered outside the meeting.

d. Enforcement appeal to Dacorum BC Management Committee - Bishops Tip (4/02109/19/FUL)

Noted that this appeal is scheduled to be heard by the Dacorum BC Development Committee on 15th October. The community will be represented by James Milne and Ailsa Deacon supported by Councillor Lowrie.

e. Enforcement Appeal to Planning Inspectorate – Plot 1 Cupid Green Lane (20/00033/ENFORC)

Noted that the deadline for comments to the Planning Inspectorate quoting reference APP/A1910/C/20/3254307 is 1st October.

f. Reform of the UK planning system

Deferred to the next meeting.

g. Dacorum review of Licensing Policy

Resolved: to submit a no comment response to the Statement of Licensing Policy 2012-2026 issued for consultation by Dacorum BC. Agreed unanimously.

20/095 Open spaces

a. Allotments

Approved expenditure of £250 from the Orchard Reserve to pay for an expert to advise on pruning of the communal orchard.

Approved the removal of four trees at the rear of the orchard to allow the creation of three new plots so long as the other allotment holders did not object.

b. Defibrillators

Approved: a payment of £75 to Claire Humphreys for delivering a refresher course on CPR and the

use of the defibrillators.

Noted that the Council intended to hold more training sessions once the current Covid restrictions allowed.

Noted that Sir Mike Penning has chased the Department of Health and Social Care for a response regarding the VETS scheme.

c. Closure of St John the Baptist old churchyard

Noted that after a meeting on 22nd July, agreement had been reached in principle for Dacorum BC to take responsibility for the old churchyard subject to some remedial work being completed and clarification from Dacorum's lawyers regarding the process.

Agreed that a request from the church for grant funding of £1,070 for repairs to a pathway be deferred until the position regarding ongoing responsibility for the churchyard had been resolved.

d. Purchase of Tommy silhouette

Approved the purchase of an "Unknown Tommy" silhouette for £125 plus shipping for erection on the junction of Piper's Hill with Leighton Buzzard Road.

20/096 Finance and administration

a. Gaddesden Row Methodist Chapel – request for grant

Noted that a grant of £3,500 to the Gaddesden Row Methodist Chapel toward the refurbishment of windows and external decoration costing £4,925 had been agreed in February 2020 but had been deferred pending the outcome of an application by the chapel for a grant from Dacorum BC. That application had been unsuccessful and as a result of the delay the external decorating could now not take place until 2021. The cost of the window replacement is £3,560.

Agreed that the council would provide £2,700 of the agreed grant which together with two contributions from Cllr Douris of £50 in March 2020 and a new grant of £810 would allow the replacement of the windows to proceed.

Agreed that when a new date for the redecorating could be agreed the Council would consider the remainder of the grant.

Noted that the expenditure was being undertaken under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 as resolved in February 2020.

b. Financial statement

Noted the financial results as at 14th September 2020 show a projected year-end surplus of £1,600 against a break-even budget as a result of unbudgeted income from a VAT refund offset by slightly higher than anticipated expenditure on allotments.

c. Noted monies received

Interest	June	£0.46
Interest	July	£0.44
HMRC	VAT refund 2016 – 2020	£1,868.16
Interest	August	£0.40
Allotment rental		£6.75

d. Noted invoices paid since the last Council meeting

DCVS	Payroll administration fee for August	£25.20
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DCVS	Clerk's salary for August	£786.90
e. Approved payment of the following invoices		
DCVS	Payroll administration fee for September	£25.20
DCVS	Clerk's salary for September	£786.90
A Farrow	Clerk's expenses	tbc
Colin Carpenter	Pruning of orchard	£250.00
HAPTC	Clerk's attendance on four planning courses (to be shared equally with Nettleden with Potten End PC)	£120.00
Claire Humphreys	Running a defibrillator training course	£75.00

f. Noted the following correction to previous minutes

A single allotment payment of £20.25 was reported in error in both April and May 2020.

g. Noted that the revisions to the bank mandate have been accepted by RBS – signatories are now Louise Wilson, Andy Thompson, K Fitzgerald, M Stodell, J Lowrie and A Farrow (any two to sign).

h. Noted dates of meetings in 2021 (all at 8pm)

Great Gaddesden Village Hall

Monday, 18 January 2021

Monday, 15 February 2021

Monday, 19 April 2021

Monday, 19 July 2021

Monday, 18 October 2021

Monday, 15 November 2021

Gaddesden Row Village Hall

Tuesday, 16 March 2021

Tuesday, 18 May 2021

Tuesday, 22 June 2021

Tuesday, 21 September 2021

20/097 Date of next meeting:

8pm on Monday, 19th October 2020 either virtually (details to be advised) or at Gaddesden Row Village Hall, depending on Government policy regarding public gatherings at that time.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm

Signed

Dated

Financial statement as at 14th September 2020

	September	Actuals to date	Year end projection	Annual budget	Variation - Yearend projection to budget		Actual 2019/20	Variation - Yearend projection to 2019/20 actual		Commentary
Income										
Borough Council general income	-	9,167	9,167	9,167	- 0	0%	9,097	70	1%	
Open spaces income (inc Borough Council grants)	7	5,510	6,510	6,503	7	0%	7,385	-875	-13%	One-off sale of apples plus late allotment rental
Total other income	-	1,887	1,887	-	1,887		433	1,454		VAT reclaimed for 2016-2020
Total regular income	7	16,563	17,563	15,670	1,893	11%	16,915	648	4%	
One-off income	-	1,070	1,070	-	1,070		18,050	- 16,980		Community Infrastructure Levy
Total income	7	17,634	18,634	15,670	2,964		34,965	- 16,331		
Expenditure										
Personnel	787	4,721	9,481	9,500	19	0%	8,608	-873	-9%	Increased hours for clerk
Administration	172	1,190	2,272	2,390	118	5%	4,409	2,137	94%	Reduced over time, costs of clerk recruitment in 2019-20
Finance	172	706	956	920	-36	5%	774	-182	-19%	Includes audit and insurance fees
Highways	-	-	-							
Open spaces maintenance	325	1,447	3,247	2,690	-557	-17%	2,616	-631	-19%	Higher than anticipated allotment maintenance, increased water costs
Total regular expenditure	1,457	8,064	15,956	15,500	-456	-3%	16,407	451	3%	
Net regular income/expenditure	-1,278	8,499	1,607	170	1,437	89%	508	1,099	68%	
One-off expenditure	-	500	10,500	12,000	1,500		6,268	-4,232	-40%	More reserves earmarked to support community initiatives
Total expenditure	1,284	8,564	26,456	27,500	1,044		22,675	-3,781	-14%	
Net total income/expenditure	-1,278	7,999	-7,822	-11,830	1,920		12,290	-20,112	257%	