Minutes of Goathurst Annual Parish Council Meeting
Monday 13 January 2020 @ 8pm, Goathurst Village Hall
Agenda

Attendees: Isabel Shute, John Capell, Danielle Filer, James Roberts, Cllr Julie Pay (left the meeting at 8.15pm), two members of the public, Sharon Piron (Clerk).

1. Apologies: Richard Kilbey, Cllr Mike Caswell.
2. Declarations of interest on agenda items: None
4. Approval of the Minutes of the meetings of 11 November: John Capell proposed accuracy of the minutes, seconded by Danielle Filer.
5. Matters arising: Any comments on previous actions are included below within specific agenda items. All other actions discharged including action 13, as no response has been received from the Village Hall Committee regarding support for VE Day 2020. Note that action 14.2 (from 11 November meeting) was to add an agenda item to this meeting about funding for church bells. This has not been added to the agenda in view of legislation. Local Government Act 1894 section 8.1 i and k refers, together with NALC legal briefing L01-18. Additionally,
6. Planning applications: No applications received since last meeting.
7. Financial matters:
   7.1 Approval of payments due: Completed – £36 rent for village hall for 2019.
   7.2 Accounting update: current state of accounts reviewed in the form of a comparison between this year’s income and expenditure up to 31/12/19, to that up to 31/12/18. No questions were raised. A budget forecast was also presented and discussed, to help decision making regarding the annual precept.
8. Precept: Following discussion, Isabel proposed an increase of £200 to the annual precept, which was seconded by James. This will result in a precept of £3381 for Goathurst with each Band D household seeing an increase of just under 10% from £33.32 to £36.28 per household.
9. Footpaths: nothing to report other than that they are all very muddy!
10. Roads and flooding: John reported that he had spoken to Tony Fairfax at the Highways Dept following a disappointing lack of response to his emails. Tony advised that the potholes highlighted will be dealt with but he has no responsibility for dealing with verge creep. At the last meeting, Richard highlighted an issue with lorries becoming stuck in verges and agreed to contact the Highways Dept to ask for ‘soft verge’ signs to be provided. ACTION: Richard
11. Village hall – Land Registration: James reported he had contacted four Solicitors for quotes and received responses from three. Quotes start from £600 with flexible increases depending on the information we are able to provide to the Solicitor. James offered to send the scanned documentation to Porter-Dobson solicitors to gain a view of likely overall costs and will present this at the next meeting for Councillors’ consideration. ACTION: James.
12. The ‘Telephone Exchange’: John reported restoration activity will start in the Summer when the weather is more conducive. ACTION: John/James
13. Lych Gate: John advised that specialist restoration of brickwork and lettering is required and that Brenda Smith, Churchwarden, had offered to get a quote. Sharon will contact her for details. ACTION: Sharon
14. Correspondence:
   14.1 Request from Goathurst Parochial Church Council for annual grant of £450 for ground maintenance. Agreement was proposed by John, seconded by Danielle and a cheque was signed.
14.2 Request for grant from Mendip Community Transport. Request was denied, with all in agreement.
14.3. Request to support the ‘Local Electricity Bill’ was declined at this stage, as agreed by all.

15. Other matters to report:
15.1 John will purchase gifts for the volunteer village gardeners as per previous years, to thank them for their work maintaining the village tubs and grass areas. A maximum of £50 total expenditure was agreed. **ACTION: John**
15.2 Sharon advised the free bulbs from SDC had been collected and planted, with some already emerging.
15.3. A vote of thanks was given by a member of the public to Rodney Coates for voluntarily carrying out a litter pick recently. Thanks were also given to Isabel for her daughter Annie’s completion of litter picks in the village. She has now achieved her Silver Award under the Duke of Edinburgh scheme.
15.4 Sharon said that she had written a letter of thanks to Gary Roles and presented a bottle of wine for his speedy repair of the village noticeboard, which he did without being asked.

**The meeting ended at 9.10pm.**

16. **Date of next meeting:** Monday 9 March 2020 @ 8pm at the Village Hall.

Sharon Piron
Clerk to Goathurst Parish Council
The Lodge, Goathurst, Bridgwater TA5 2DF. goathurstparish@gmail.com 01278 662711

**Summary of action points**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Owner</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Contact Highways Dept to ask for ‘soft verge’ signs</td>
<td>Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Send scanned Title Deeds for Village Hall to solicitor to obtain total overall quote for land registration of village hall and report back at next meeting for consideration</td>
<td>James</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Telephone exchange: Restoration work to start Summer 2020. Brief and monitor volunteers; purchase paint. Source internal fittings.</td>
<td>John&lt;br&gt;James</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Contact Brenda Smith about quote for restoration of Lych Gate brickwork and lettering</td>
<td>Sharon</td>
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<tr>
<td>15.1</td>
<td>Purchase and present gifts to volunteer gardeners – maximum of £50 in total to be spent</td>
<td>John</td>
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