

GOTHAM PARISH COUNCIL FEBRUARY MAIN MEETING 2019

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 5th FEBRUARY, 2019 IN THE MEMORIAL HALL WELDON ROOM, COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.

Present: Councillors A. Clayworth, (Chairman), G. May, (Vice-Chairman), B.J. Walker, M. Wilkins, J.M.F. Royce, H. Taylor, P. Bower, M.F. Raven, S. Kent, J. Youatt, C. Dabell, J.P. Anderson, L. McAulay.

In Attendance: County Councillor A. Brown, Borough Councillor R. Walker, one member of the public.

19/21: Apologies: Nil.

19/22: Acceptance of Apologies: N/a.

19/23: Welcome to New Councillor – Declaration of Acceptance of Code of Conduct:

The Chairman extended a welcome to newly elected Councillor, Lewis McAulay.

L. McAulay signed the Acceptance of the Code of Conduct form, witnessed by the Clerk.

19/24: Report by County Councillor A. Brown:

County Councillor A. Brown reported the following items:

Council Tax: NCC Council Tax could rise by 2.95% but still to be ratified by full Council at a meeting on the 14th February, 2019.

Paddy Tipping, Chief Commissioner of Police, to add 4% (£24) for the Police Authority.

Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre: A. Brown meeting with the Commanding Officer for an update on the forthcoming DNRC development at Stanford on Soar.

East Midlands Airport: A. Brown stands on the E.M.A. Funding Committee. £60,000 is available for funding local projects but there is currently a lack of applications. J. Youatt to apply for playground funding. M. Wilkins to give details of the fund on the Village Facebook Page and an article to be sent to G. May for inclusion in the next edition of Gotham News.

Skylink Bus: A. Brown to attend a meeting of Council leaders to continue to pressure for the A453 villages to have access to the Skylink bus for transport to the East Midlands Airport.

Signage Cleaning: M. Wilkins asked if it would be possible for NCC to carry out the cleaning of street signage.

19/25: Report by Borough Councillor R. Walker:

Borough Councillor R. Walker reported the following items:

Fairham Pastures: No movement on this development as the Section 106 agreement still not signed by all the landowners.

RBC Budget: A proposal being put before Council next week for a 3.10% increase in Council Tax on a Band D property.

Rural Exception Site: R. Walker seeking clarification on eligibility criteria re access to a rural exception site house. More understanding required on what a local connection means.

RBL Site: The applicant has been allowed more time to address RBC Officers re the new development on the RBL site. There is a possibility of negotiations with St. Gobain re the land at the back of the site.

Traffic Issues in Gotham: R. Walker has arranged a public meeting to discuss A453 villages traffic issues on the 19th February, 2019. The meeting will take place in the main hall of the Memorial Hall at

7.30 p.m. Representatives from the Police, RBC, NCC, Gotham Primary School and Via will be in attendance. The event will be advertised by posters and on the Village Facebook page.

Sport in the Villages: R. Walker keen to promote more sporting opportunities in the A453 villages. He is meeting with Amy Carter from Active M.O.T. at a meeting on the 26th February, 2019.

Barton Sand and Gravel Pit: A planning application for a sand and gravel pit in Barton is ready to be heard, possibly in April 2019. Officers at the Council have approached the applicant. The Local Minerals Plan is combining with the application for the Barton site. R. Walker to speak against the application.

County Councillor A. Brown left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.

19/26: Declaration of Interest:

M.F. Raven registered an interest in Agenda item Finance: 2) Error in Clerk's salary.

19/27: Minutes of the previous meeting:

Resolved: That the previously circulated Minutes of Parish Council meeting held on the 8th January, 2019, be accepted and signed as a true record of the business transacted.

PROPOSED: G. May SECONDED: S. Kent. Vote: Eleven in favour, two abstentions.

Progress from the Minutes:

Pothole: NCC have confirmed that work to repair the pothole outside the former RBL building will be carried out, as soon as possible.

The Square, decorative pavement: The Clerk had met a representative from Cadent who confirmed it was not responsible for the shoddy pavement repairs. As there is a water inspection cover nearby, the Clerk will ask Severn Trent if they have carried out recent excavation of the pavement.

Railway Walk: M. Guest had carried out pruning and removal of trees at the Kegworth Road end of the Railway Walk.

19/28: Finance:

a) Acceptance of Receipts and Payments:

PROPOSED: A. Clayworth SECONDED: J.M.F. Royce. Vote: All in favour.

b). Error in Clerk's Salary:

This item had been discussed with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in camera on the 8th January, 2019. M. Raven described the sequence of events resulting in the Clerk receiving a small shortfall in payment from 2017 onwards due to a misleading pay scale received from the National Joint Councils which disagreed with the NALC pay scale.

It was Agreed, that in future the Clerk should continue to be paid via the NALC Salary scheme following previous years' criteria and the payment shortfall should be made up.

19/29: Memorial Hall Report:

G. May reported, there had not been a meeting of the Trustees of the Memorial Hall during January.

A. Clayworth reported, he had ceased to represent GPC as a Trustee due to an inability to attend the meetings, due to another regular engagement.

New Playground Funding Update: J. Youatt had brought playground displays, provided by three Contractors, for the Council to view. Three quotations for playground installation had been received but one contractor had failed to include VAT figures in its quotation.

Playground Funds in place - £61,528.

Applications for Funding submitted, as follows:
RBC - £15,000, NCC - £25,000, Sport England - £25,000.

A member of the public left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.

J. Youatt to attend a meeting with playground Contractors to discuss VAT payments which could amount to £12,500. Work on playground installation should commence by October, 2019 to safeguard grants which could be lost due to timing constraints.

J. Youatt asked if GPC would underwrite any shortfall in new Playground funding up to £15,000.
PROPOSAL: That GPC agree to support the installation of a new playground, if necessary, up to a maximum of £15,000.

PROPOSED: M.F. Raven SECONDED: G. May. Vote: Eleven in favour, two abstentions.

Council thanked the Playground Funding Committee for their continued hard work on fundraising.

19/30: Report by Chairman of Planning and Development Committee:

S. Kent reported, a planning meeting took place on the 22nd January, 2019.

RBC have changed planning application information access to an online platform. GPC have registered With RBC for online access.

RBC Local Plan Part 2: J.P. Anderson reported, RBC are awaiting the Inspector's report. GPC have no input to the report but will be part of the consideration process.

GPC are still awaiting the Inspector's report. An informal feedback should be forthcoming.

Neighbourhood Plan: Twenty one to Gotham Neighbourhood Plan which are available to read. RBC have submitted a tender for the Examiner's job and need two more applicants. The Examination will be held in March, 2019 and will last for one week. RBC have five weeks to consider the Examiner's report and GPC will also have input into the report.

The next Neighbourhood Plan committee meeting will be held on the 25th February, 2019 at 7.00 p.m. in the Weldon Room. Unfortunately, D. Neal has resigned from the Neighbourhood Plan Committee which has resulted in a vacancy. J.P. Anderson invited L. McAuley to stand on this Committee. L. McAuley accepted the position.

The Neighbourhood Plan budget cycle is due to end on the 31st March, 2019 and will be repaid and re-applied for, as per grant terms.

- "**I ♥ Gotham**" – J. P. Anderson reported, a Committee meeting had been held to discuss encouraging village groups, plus sports clubs, join together. (copy in Gotham News).

19/32: Planning Decisions Received: Nil.

19/33: Planning Applications Received:

19/2 (ref: 18/02922/FUL – 319 Leake Road – Erection of double garage.

PROPOSAL: NO OBJECTION. – Comment: Disappointed that our previous concerns regarding precedents being established for all properties on Leake Road are now coming to fruition. (see planning application 17/00196/FUL – 329 Leake Rd.)

PROPOSED: J.P. Anderson SECONDED: S. Kent. Vote: nine in favour, three against, one abstention.
PROPOSAL: Suspension of Standing Orders to allow Borough Councillor R. Walker to speak.
PROPOSED: M. Wilkins SECONDED: J.P. Anderson. Vote: All in favour.

R. Walker suggested, GPC seek up to date planning advice from RBC to assist with the criteria re permitted building and reasons to object to a planning application. E.g. Is a building line still preserved? The Clerk to seek this advice.

PROPOSAL: Re-instatement of Standing Orders.
PROPOSED: M. Wilkins SECONDED: J.P. Anderson. Vote: All in favour.

19/3 (ref: 19/00056/FUL) – 5 Curzon St. Single storey front and side extension to garage and hallway.
Clerk to seek an extension on the consultation date as this application is not on the Agenda for discussion.

19/34: Report by the Chairman of the Environment Committee: (G. May)

1) Pill Box (Soldiers' Lane) Cuckoo Bush listing: G. May reported, the pill box on Soldiers' Lane and the Cuckoo Bush public house should be listed. J.P. Anderson confirmed, that the Cuckoo Bush already has an 'Asset of Community Value' placed on it by GPC. This means, RBC has to be contacted by a future buyer and GPC have the opportunity of submitting a six month moratorium on the building, preventing undesirable changes. C. Dabell confirmed, the building dates back to 1709 with the public bar seats dating back 200 years. Tudor beams appear along the side passage.

An attempt to dismantle the Pill Box was prevented due to a belief the building was already Grade 2 listed. G. May understands this is not the case and that the Pill Box has never actually been listed.

PROPOSAL: G. May moved, that GPC attempt to list the Cuckoo Bush public house in view of its historic interior structure and the Pill Box, in view of its wartime interest.

SECONDED: M. Wilkins. Vote: All in favour.

M.F. Raven offered to research the listing of a historic building.

2) RBL Union Flag. The Clerk had been contacted by RBL Secretary, M. Green re the purchase of a replacement union flag. It was agreed, the purchase of a new flag should be the financial responsibility of the RBL. Clerk to inform M. Green.

3) Village Litter Pick – 2nd March 2019 at 10.30 a.m. M. Wilkins to post an appeal for litter pickers on the village facebook page. The title to be altered to 'Village Spring Clean'.

4) RBC Tree Planting Scheme – suggestion of 2 crab apple trees on Railway Walk:

PROPOSAL: G. May suggested replacing the trees removed from the Railway Walk, with a two crab apple trees. One gold and one red.

SECONDED: S. Kent. Vote: All in favour.

Clerk to order from RBC.

Streetwise undertake to plant and look after the trees for up to two years.

19/35: Mobile Telephone Use during Council meetings:

The Chairman ordered that mobile telephones should be put on silent or turned off during Council meetings. In future, this item should appear at the top of Council agendas to serve as a reminder. The Clerk will add this item to the Council Code of Conduct.

PROPOSAL: Extension of the meeting to beyond 9.30 p.m. to the end of the Agenda.

PROPOSED: J.P. Anderson. SECONDED: P. Bower. Vote: All in favour.

19/36: Report on RBC Councillor Training Meeting 29/01/2019)

Borough Councillor R. Walker, four Councillors and the Clerk attended the RBC Councillor training meeting together with approximately twelve parishioners. The meeting was led by Alan Graham, RBC Returning Officer. The meeting was informative. Seven parishioners expressed an interest in standing at the May 2019 election.

19/37: Remembrance Day Organisation Report (B.J. Walker)

B.J. Walker had compiled a detailed guide for Remembrance Day Service/Parade organisation. Clerk to keep on file for future reference.

East Leake Parish Council had informed GPC, via email, that it no longer thought it viable to join Gotham in future Remembrance Day activities, due to a growth in numbers attending the East Leake service.

19/38: Policing: (B.J. Walker)

B.J. Walker had circulated the December crime figures.

Crimes included a theft from a motor vehicle parked at the tram stop and a burglary from a house on Leake Road.

19/39: Gotham News and Media:

G. May reported, copy date for the next edition of Gotham News, is the 25th March, 2019. More advertisers sought.

Barton parishioners have asked for 104 copies to deliver to every house.

19/40: Chairman's Report. A. Clayworth reported, he has recently joined the Gotham and District Branch of the RBL and taken on the role of Treasurer.

19/41: Clerk's Report:

The Clerk had informed J. Kirkwood that G. May and the Clerk would attend the RBC Parish Forum to take place on the 12th March, 2019. Other Gotham Parish Councillors were invited to attend.

19/42: Matters to Report:

SLCC Membership: M.F. Raven reported, GPC pays £298 annually to retain membership of NALC. He spoke in favour of cancelling SLCC membership to save an annual subscription of £107 plus an overdue membership charge of £107 arising from 2017. All agreed to cancel GPC SLCC membership.

Easter Egg Hunt: J. Youatt reported, an Easter Egg Hunt to take place on the 6th April, 2019 in aid of Playground funds.

ICC at East Midlands Airport: B.J. Walker reported, another representative is sought to serve on the ICC Committee. B.J. Walker already stands on this Committee.

Brexit preparation at the airport is limited but, if no a 'no deal Brexit' ensues after the 29th March, 2019, flights in out of EMA will be uninterrupted.

Election in May 2019: G. May reminded Councillors that nomination papers need to be completed by all Councillors by the 18th April, 2019. Applications cannot be submitted on-line.

19/43: Items for next Agenda: Playground funding.

19/44: Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 5th March, 2019 in the Weldon Room of the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.