

## **A meeting of Goring Heath Parish Council was held in the Parish Hall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 8.00pm.**

Present: Chairman Peter Dragonetti, Councillors, Nick Elsome, Nick Henry, Tim King, and Martin Wise. Also present, District Councillors Ann Ducker and Pearl Slatter, Caroline Hadley Parish Clerk, J Hatt and one member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Richard Greenford, Marjo McGee and Dave Sexon
2. **Minutes of the last meeting** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2012 were signed as correct.
3. **Matters arising.** It is clear from the Highways website that obstacles are not allowed on the verges outside people's houses. There had been a reply from Malcolm Kew, HSSE Manager at BP Technology Centre to confirm that BP are willing to contribute the sum of £4,500.00 towards the supply and installation of a Vehicle Activated Sign subject to certain conditions that were set out in the letter which the meeting accepted. The invitation to the adjoining parish council had been sent out. The date of the Quiz Night had been changed to March 18<sup>th</sup>. A start has been made on laying the hedge on the recreation ground.
4. **Parish Hall.** Martin had cleared out the gutters and the flat roof.
5. **Newsletter/Website** –All articles for the newsletter needed to be submitted by the weekend. The problem with the website is not straight forward but Colin Cooper will look into it.
6. **Recreation Ground.** The tree work has been done. Nick Elsome will remove the net. The clerk to order the two toddler swing seats
7. **District Councillors Report** Ann Ducker spoke to the meeting and said that both she and Pearl were saddened that the parish council had taken the step of going for a judicial review. She asked what legal advice the parish council had taken before deciding on this as there was nothing reported in the minutes. The reason Peter had not had a reply from Mr Buckle to his letter was that it went to the planning department but was not forwarded to Mr Buckle who did not receive it. A judge has yet to decide if there is a case to answer. SODC are asking the court to refuse this. Both Ann and Pearl were very concerned about the possible cost to the parish council and SODC which would be borne by council tax payers. They would have liked to be consulted over the problem before it reached this stage. A meeting could have been arranged with the planning officers and if the parish council were still not happy the Ombudsman route would have been cheaper. It would be normal for a council to take legal advice before asking for a judicial review. Although the letter from the SODC solicitors had been circulated to members of the parish council it should have also been mentioned in matters arising. It should be mentioned in the parish magazine and brought up at the Open Meeting so that it would then have been highlighted to the District Councillors.

Ann also reported that SODC has been shortlisted as one of 6 of the best performing councils in the country. The council tax is going to be reduced by 2.5%. The Core Strategy has been delayed again and the information is on the website. There is concern that if there is no plan in place developers may have a field day

8. **County Councillors Report** None.
9. **Planning and unauthorised developments**  
P11/E2228 The Oratory Preparatory School Great Oaks Goring Heath RG8 7SF New residential unit. Should be refused. The application form is incorrect the site can be seen from the public footpath . There will be an impact on the landscape and there is already sufficient onsite accommodation

P11/E2227 The Oratory Preparatory School Great Oaks Goring Heath RG8 7SF New early years department. No strong views but a comment to be added concerning the loss of car parking space and impact of increased traffic. Nick will speak to the planning officer.

P11/E2091 Cedar Cottage Lady Grove Goring Heath RG8 7RT Proposed replacement dwelling and detached garage at Copyhold Farm together with removal of Crendon building. Should be approved ( 3 in favour of Should be approved 2 in favour of No strong Views)

P11/E1980 Bozedown Windmill Bozedown Drive Whitchurch Hill RG8 7PE Build a single tennis court and surround with fencing. No Strong Views

10. **Finance** There was £11,976.08 in the bank on the 3 February. Untaxed interest of £1.96 and £1.58 had been earned The following cheques were signed and authorised

<b>301200</b>	CPRE Subscription	£29.00
<b>301201</b>	H M Revenue & customs	£72.60
<b>301202</b>	Clerks Salary January	£257.40
<b>301203</b>	Heritage Tree Services	£1,620.00
		<b>£1,979.00</b>

11. **Crays Pond/Tinepits.** Nothing reported.

12. **Working Parties** Sunday 19th February continuation of work on hedge on recreation ground

13. **Transfer of Parish Council** records from Parish Hall to County Archive. The meeting agreed to authorise the History society to go ahead with this

14. **Correspondence.** A letter had been received from Sharpe Pritchard Solicitors the London Agents for the Solicitor to SODC enclosing a copy of an Acknowledgement of Service for which they had lodged with the Administrative Court. This had been circulated to all members of the parish council. The meeting discussed what Ann Ducker had said and considered the parish council position in the light of this. The first stage has been passed in that the documentation is correct. At this stage we are awaiting a decision from the judge. At this point the parish council is not liable for the current costs. The judicial review should be put on the agenda for the March meeting and a decision can be made when the judge has reviewed the case. The Representative Group of the Residents of Orchard Coombe had written to enquire how the council supports the maintenance of grassed areas in the parish. The meeting agreed that considering the area of grass that has to be cut in the parish £50 is a generous amount to give to the residents of Orchard Coombe towards grass cutting. Henely CAB and written to thank the parish council for its donation. The ONCF had a environmental group conference on 24<sup>th</sup> March

15. **Any other business.** Jon Hatt said that they were hoping to have an evening social for the parish on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and light a beacon s part of the Queens Jubilee celebration details had yet to be finalised but when they were they could go in the May edition of the newsletter. The beacon had been registered on the diamond jubilee website and the lighting time was expected to be between 10 and 10.30pm Martin had been to the Commons and the Law seminar on 18 January The salt bins had been used during the recent snowy weather. The date of the Litter Blitz was set for Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> March.

16. Date of the next meeting which will be **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm** in the Parish Hall

17. **The meeting finished at 10.35pm**