

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Goodworth Clatford held at 7.30pm in the Village Club

Date of Meeting 17th May 2024

Welcome & Complimentary drink

1.Introduction and Welcome see below for Chairman's report:

The Chairman welcomed all members (40 Parishioners approx.) including councillors. Cllr Struthers introduced himself and welcomed residents of the Parish.

All Parishioners were invited to answer a Village Shop questionnaire and funding of the Post Office was explained.

Chairman's report:

Good evening and welcome to the 2024 Goodworth Clatford Annual Parish Meeting, my name is Roy Struthers and, as the new Chair of the Parish Council, I'll be running the meeting this evening.

I'll start proceedings this evening with a brief review of the Parish Council's year. We'll then cover two important topics relevant to everyone in the village. First the latest revision of the Neighbourhood Plan. Many of you will recall the work we did 5 years ago to compile the neighbourhood plan. We were the first parish in Test Valley to complete the plan and had 88% participation in the referendum to approve the plan - a fantastic indication of how engaged the community was in the process. As Test Valley is now reviewing their local plan covering the period through to 2040, it's appropriate we do the same. Ian Platt will explain how the plan has helped our community over the last 5 years as well as the steps we'll take to produce the updated plan and what we believe can be achieved once it's done.

The second topic is one which is very much front of mind for many in our community right now. Given the record high rainfalls we've had over the last year as well as the ongoing concerns about river and water quality generally, it's appropriate that we bring those issues together under the Flood and River Action Group. Many in the village will realise this is not the first time we've tried to tackle these issues but that makes it even more important that we come together to create a local action plan, incorporating that into the Neighbourhood Plan, as well as working with other groups to make sustainable improvements. Alan Willens will cover the embryonic Flood and River Action Group as well as outlining the steps we can take to support the group.

We'll then have an Open Forum which is your opportunity to have your say about the village and our community as well as ask questions of the Parish Council more generally. Given I've only recently joined I may not be able to answer all of your questions but I'm sure I'll be able to call on my more experienced colleagues to help out.

So, talking of the Parish Council, let me start by updating you on the membership of the council. We have had two outgoing councillors this year and I'd like to thank Louis and Chloe Sellers for their contribution to the council. Henryk Kwiatkowski and I were co-opted onto the council during the year, and we are now back to having 8 councillors and two vacancies as well as the support of our hard-working clerk, Eveline. So as ever, we continue to look for new members to bolster the ranks of the council particularly given the work we have to do around the two main topics we'll cover this evening.

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I'd also like to thank my predecessor Will Walker for his stint as Chairman of the Parish Council over the last 3 years or so. Will is one of those rare people who appear happy as a "doer" and a "planner." Along with Bob Houghton, he was a key driver in the acquisition of The Park for the village and is regularly seen out and about looking after the park and the rest of the village estate, for example laying bark on the footpath in Church Lane. He also brought more structure to the parish council, bringing policies up to date and ensuring the finances of the council were backed up sound, sensible investments which in turn help to keep the precept lower than it otherwise would be. Thankfully Will continues on the council and I'm sure I'll be leaning on him for advice and guidance as I learn the ropes.

Over the last year, your council has been busy tackling a number of topics from the continuous and rigorous review of planning applications through to regular checks on the safety of facilities around the village from the sheepwash to the playing fields. Some specific points I'd like to highlight are:

1. The investment in the replacement of the benches around the village with sustainable, no maintenance alternatives. I'd like to thank a member of the community for their kind donation enabling the bench to be installed at the Riverside Rest.
2. At last year's parish meeting you were very strongly in favour of continuing to support the Post Office and I'm pleased to say that we have continued to provide a grant of £5249 which helps fund the paid staff.
3. While the majority at the 2023 Parish Meeting were not in favour of maintaining the village clock, another donation from a parishioner enabled a service to take place on 6th February 2024. Again, I'd like to record my thanks for the kind donation.
4. Work continued on the village Emergency Resilience Plan with 25 households offering help with accommodation, ladders, and generators in the event of an emergency.
5. Risk assessments are undertaken for all council property on a monthly basis and remedial action taken, as necessary. The village tree wardens survey the trees on the estate and plan any necessary works. The play equipment on the recreation ground is inspected by professionals quarterly and again remedial works are undertaken by the council when recommended which this year included work on the play park Zip Wire which was duly fixed.
6. The Estate Management Group raised £1076 in their Christmas raffle to support environmental activities in the village estate as well as planting 300 trees along the bridleway.
7. Almost all councillors attended training courses run by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils. As well as being useful and informative, the training was a step on the way to achieving the Local Council Award Scheme Foundation Level which unfortunately stalled due to a fall in the number of councillors.
8. Following concerns about the state of the sheepwash, the council decided to trial the removal of the bins in an attempt to encourage people to take their rubbish home. The trial will be monitored closely and the bins are stored at the village club in case they need to be reinstated.
9. Following representations from residents, the council successfully lobbied Hampshire County Council not to reinstate white lines on Barrow Hill following the recent resurfacing work.

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10. Financially, the council maintains a balanced budget with increases in the precept and other charges of 5% in 2024/5. Full details of the budget are available on the council website.

As I said earlier, the council has vacancies for new councillors so if you have an interest, please declare it to the clerk or any of the councillors present. Being a councillor is a good way of supporting your community and involves 6 formal meetings per annum plus time that you have available to support the parish activities. Training will be provided to all new councillors and there is a clear set of Standing Instructions that set out duties and responsibilities. There are a number of portfolios covered by the council including core activities such as planning, finance, flood action groups as well others such as the archives, estate management and communications. Please give it some serious thought and reach out to Eveline or any of the councillors if you'd like to help.

That concludes my review of the council year and introduction to the rest of the evening, I'd be happy to take any questions before moving on to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Goodworth Clatford Neighbourhood Plan – Cllr Platt

(A copy can be found in the Parish Council Policies on the Goodworth Clatford Parish Council Website)

Cllr Platt explained what the current Neighbourhood Development Plan has achieved and how it can be used to control significant developments in the village. Goodworth Clatford was the first Parish to have their plan approved and will now be the first to review the plan.

- The current plan was created in 2019 and has 15 planning policies.
- The NDP is a statutory legal document to help control development within the Parish.
- The NDP is used in conjunction with all planning applications by Goodworth Clatford Parish Council and TVBC.
- Outlines the vision of the village.
- Looking for volunteers to assist with the review.
- Strategic, Natural Environment, Built Environment and Community and Business Policies are currently included in the NDP.
- Further policies to consider are for wind farms.
- 5 occasions the plan has protected the Parish and countryside from development.
- Developers have to abide by plan as it is a statutory document.
- There is currently NO planned development in Goodworth Clatford
- There is no plan to link UCPC and GCPC.
- Every NDP has to consider a housing application of 10-20 houses over 20 years.
- TVBC have been instructed to undertake a housing survey and every household will receive a questionnaire to be completed. This will identify type of housing required.
- Suitable areas for development
- A referendum will then take place early 2025 to define type of housing to be built.
- 7 areas have been identified through SHELAA (Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment.)

The following was expressed:

- Cllr Drew said it was important that everyone completed the survey and considered the needs of young people who may want to continue living in the Parish and also to consider those who need to downsize.
- One Parishioner was concerned with the expansion of the village.

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- One Parishioner was concerned with the infrastructure of the village and suggested the school needed to increase in size.

Flood and River Action Group - Cllr Willens

Cllr Willens reported on the following.

- The flood and river action group is for concerned councillors and villagers to come together to tackle these important issues for the community.
- That it was the 8th wettest winter, and the pump stations can't cope.
Aims and objectives of the group
- No sewage spills or flooding on the highway or in property
- Good communication and co-operation with the technical side of Southern Water Authority.
- Faster response times to problems
- Get SWA to complete infiltration reduction plan, sewer lining, sealing of the south end of the village.
- Work with highways to ensure drains are properly cleared out as most drains are not feeding into pipes but straight into the ground water.
- Ensure drainage ditches are kept clear.
- Get HCC to check water running under Village Club.
- Work with Environment Agency to monitor River Quality and aquatic life.
- Ask Parishioners to observe problems while out walking and advise the group.
- Water testing & observation of river life.
- 5 people in the group at the moment, looking for further volunteers.
- Cllr Drew will share flooding problems with HCC Officer.

Pan Parish Forums

- Two local Pan Parish Forums, one for flood water and one to stop sewage been deposited into the river Anton.

Open Forum

- A parishioner asked about the 20mph scheme. It was explained that the Parish would have to pay for such a scheme to be implemented.
- A Parishioner asked about adopting the practice that several other villages have which is to erect some picket fencing to create an entrance coming into the village with 20mph stickers.
- A parishioner asked if the Village Shop is supported by the funding the Parish Council provides the Post Office. *It was deemed that they are both needed to help the other one exist.*
- Jubilee Sign – It was asked if this could be straightened and cleaned. It was suggested a grant could be applied for.
- Can the Parish Council get a reduction in the speed on the A3057. Cllr Drew said it was a Highways responsibility.