${\bf Minutes~of~the~Council~Meeting~} \\ {\bf Held~in~the~Brearley~Room~on~Monday~9^{th}~March~2015~beginning~at~7.30pm}$

Present	Cllr R Greatrex (in the Chair)	Cllr S Green
	Cllr M Hughes	Cllr M Deegan
	Cllr G Payne	Cllr D Watson-Jones
	Cllr K Ingram	Cllr J Tomkinson
	Cllr D Willetts	Cllr T Simkin
	Cllr J Cook	Cllr D Webb
	Cllr K Abbott	Miss J Cooper, Clerk
	Cllr M Booth	•

Borough Cllrs K Williamson and M Smith Staffordshire Newsletter 5 members of the public

15/029	Public Open Forum	
	Mrs Gardner raised concerns about the amount of litter along Knightley Road and also about the ditch/gulley opposite the new housing development on Knightley Road which is full of water and dangerous. The Clerk agreed to report both matters.	Clerk
15/030	To receive apologies, record absences	
	Apologies received from Cllr Alker and Cllr Wallis	
15/031	To record any declarations of interest	
	As an allotment tenant, Cllr Deegan declared an interest in agenda item 15/035(b).	
15/032	To receive and confirm the minutes of the last regular meeting of the Council held on 9 th February 2015	
	The minutes were proposed, seconded and approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.	
15/033	To consider any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda	
	There were no matters arising	
15/034	To receive the following reports:	
	a) The Clerk's Report The Clerk updated Councillors on meetings held in the previous month and action to be taken by each of the committees and working groups.	
	Cllrs also received an Election supplement highlighting the key dates. The deadline for nomination papers is 9 th April at 4pm and it is essential to hand deliver nomination papers not post them.	Cllrs
	The Report also gave details of the next stages of the Neighbourhood Plan since it's submission to Stafford Borough Council. The Clerk reported that the costs of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Parish	

Council was no more than £200, the majority of the costs being met from the grant received. This, compared to other Neighbourhood Plan costs reported (in the region of £20 - £30K) is something that should be shared at the Annual Assembly.

The report gave an update on the planning inquiry (Staffordshire County Council planning appeal relating to 150 houses on land off Stafford Road).

The date of the Annual Assembly had been brought forward to 6^{th} May, the day before the election. The dates of the April and May Council meetings had also changed to 20^{th} April and 18^{th} May. Cllrs to note changes.

Cllrs

The Clerk's report was accepted.

b) Any reports from Parish Councillors on meetings/courses attended including:

Cllr Booth had attended a Better Building Opportunities Workshop on 2nd March. Cllrs received a written report of the meeting. It was noted £25million of funding is available over 5 years some of which could be relevant to Gnosall parish. (Building stronger communities, business support to local community groups, setting up new social enterprises and support for rural and isolated communities). This could be relevant to the various groups in the village working on large projects such as the swimming pool, village hall, Grosvenor centre and should perhaps be explored further. It was suggested that the parish council invites all groups together to discuss this.

Cllrs also received a report from Cllr Booth on the SPCA Executive Committee held on 2nd March. The main points of the meeting to note were that all parish council's should have a safeguarding children policy, especially if the parish council sets up a youth club and a Media Policy regarding the filming of parish council meetings. A draft NALC media policy had been sent to the clerk and Chair of Communications Committee to consider. It was noted that a group of people is moving across the county filming parish meetings and putting derogatory captions on You Tube.

Cllr Payne informed Cllrs that work on the new school will commence on 16th March. School representatives had met with developers (Bellway Homes) regarding the new housing site on the opposite side of Lowfield Lane and would continue to liaise during construction of the two sites. Road widening would commence during the Easter holidays and is hoped safety barriers would be erected at the same time.

Cllr Simkin raised her concerns about the hedge along Lowfield Lane that had been removed, particularly a section of the hedge in front of the affordable homes. Cllr Greatrex had reviewed the planning documentation and confirmed this section of the hedge was included in the new plans for removal to allow the widening of the road.

15/035

To consider committee/working group issues

Matters relating to the Planning Committee

- Minutes of the meeting held on 19th February were accepted.
- The next meeting would be held on 12th March at which street naming of new development sites would be discussed. Cllr Smith agreed to obtain details from Stafford Borough Council on the rules regarding street naming.

Cllr Smith

Planning Inquiry (Staffordshire County Council application 13/19587/OUT)

Cllr Greatrex gave a detailed reported on the current position of the inquiry that had been held from 24-27 February and would resume on 16th March. Cllrs noted that the Secretary of State had notified the inquiry that he would be making the final decision following the advice of the Inspector. It was also noted that on 27th February, details of a challenge to Stafford Borough Council on the 5 year housing supply had been received – the challenge had been dismissed on the basis that Stafford Borough Council did have a 5 year housing supply. Therefore the decision made by the inspector would now be based on planning matters unless the appellant withdraws from the inquiry in which case the decision to refuse the application ill stand.

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes to allow Mrs Gail Gregory, Secretary of GRID to give a report on the inquiry.

Cllrs were informed that GRID had been granted Rule 6 status that allowed GRID to be cross examined and to cross examine others speaking at the inquiry.

Mrs Gregory gave details of who had spoken at the inquiry and congratulated all speakers. In particular it was noted that Melissa K Senior Planning Office at Stafford Borough Council, who was rigorously cross examined by SCC's Barrister and maintained a high standard of professionalism throughout.

GRID would be prepared to give a statement when the inquiry resumes on 16th March.

Mrs Gregory was thanked for her report.

The meeting then resumed.

Matters relating to the Open Spaces Committee

- Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February were accepted
- A recommendation to increase the allotment fees to £21 for a full plot and £13 for a half plot plus water charges for the previous year was approved. Clerk to action

• It was agreed to arrange a skip as soon as possible to help tenants clear their plots which would be paid from allotment income

- From the minutes, Cllr Booth asked what was meant by "unsuitable farming practices upstream". Cllr Deegan explained how the brook on the Acres was filling with silt much quicker than expected and the likely cause is run off from fields further upstream. He said it is hoped to engage with the Environment Agency and Natural England to discuss this.
- It was also noted from the minutes that there had been a

Clerk

Clerk

	suggestion to request the public right of way across the village green to be tarmacced. It was felt maybe that something more natural looking than tarmac would be preferred. The Clerk was already liaising with the Rights of Way Department about this. • It was also noted that the legal issues regarding the land being sold by Staffordshire County Council for a Burial Ground extension is nearing completion.	Clerk
	 Matters relating to Resources Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 5th March at which the accounts up to December 2014 had been reviewed, were accepted. 	
	 Matters relating to the Communications Committee Minutes of meetings held on 9th February and 9th March were accepted The parish council website had been improved further and regular monitoring would continue The next edition of GMK (the parish council newsletter) would be included with copies of GPN (parish magazine) and circulated to almost 1000 houses in the village as well as being sent out electronically. Cllrs received a draft copy of the Communications Strategy and asked to comment on it over the next 2 weeks. It would be recommended for approval at the next Council meeting. This strategy will lead to a number of polices including a Media Policy. Press releases would be more frequent with the next one including details about the Neighbourhood Plan and Acres maintenance Matters relating to the Procedure Review Group Committee Minutes of the meeting held on 25th February were accepted that included confirmation of the rules regarding councillor's expenses. The Committee would be reviewing the complaints procedure and producing a Developer Liaison Policy. Committee membership had been discussed and a summary of the work of each of the parish councils committees would be included in the next edition of GPN. The minutes referred to the increase in parish council work and demand from the parish council by the 	Cllrs
15/036	 community and that councillors therefore should identify the skills and expertise they could offer when joining a committee. Matters relating to the GFest 2015 Working Group Funding applications had been submitted including one for £2369 to Awards for All. The programme is being finalised and advertising would commence soon. Cllr Greatrex confirmed the Knightly flower festival would donation 12% of the proceeds to GFest and asked if 50 plastic chairs could be borrowed. This was approved. 	
	relation to a new Community Centre including a report from memorial Village representatives and to agree the way forward The Clerk, as requested by the Working Group, had written to the Memorial Village Hall asking if the committee would like to join the working group in applying for funding to enhance both the Grosvenor	

	Centre and Memorial Village Hall. A response was requested by 9 th March. Cllrs Simkin and Ingram, the Parish Council's representatives on the Village Hall Committee confirmed this had been discussed at the recent meeting however the Clerk had not received a response. It was therefore proposed that a parish audit is carried out on existing community facilities to determine usage, that this project be referred back to the Grosvenor Centre Committee and a refurbishment of only the Grosvenor Centre is concentrated on. This was seconded and agreed by all.	Grosvenor Centre Cttee
15/037	To consider reinstating a Youth Club or similar facility in Gnosall	
	Council agreed this is a project that should be pursued. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted St John Ambulance premises department and made enquires about using the building in Gnosall. Should a positive reply be received, details should be included in the next parish magazine and parish council newsletter seeking volunteers. It would then be necessary to engage with local children to find out what facilities they would like.	Clerk
15/038	To receive an update on the work of the swimming pool/leisure facility campaign group following the meeting on 19 th February 2015	
	A meeting held on 19 th February had been attended by several parish councillors who had confirmed the parish council's support of a new swimming pool/leisure facility in Gnosall. The Grosvenor Centre would be used by the group at no fee for 3 meetings. The scheme put forward by the swimming pool group was very good however finding suitable land was proving difficult.	
	Again it was suggested that all local groups looking for funding for large village projects should join together and consider a joint funding bid such as that detailed in agenda item 15/034(b).	
15/039	To receive a report on financial receipts for February 2015 and to receive accounts for approval for March 2015	
	The accounts were reviewed and approved for payment	
15/040	To report on any road and footway matters within the parish	
	The Clerk was asked to report:	
	 Knightley Road – many potholes and one particularly dangerous one at Gorse Lane which could be hazardous for cyclists and another one half way along Knightley Road on a bend. Befcote Road to the Millennium Community Centre – many potholes 	Clerk
	 Potholes in Moreton at the County Boundary Silt/loose gravel on pavement on Wharf Road (near junction with 	
	Cowley Lane)	
	 Hedge on the corner of Back Lane requires pruning right back to allow pedestrians to pass by without walking into the road. Ranton Road – edge of road deteriorating Flooded alley ways between Hollies Brook Close, Elton Way and 	

	 Geneshall Way Ditch/gulley opposite Bellway development site on Knightley Road is full of water and dangerous. Befcote Road to Broadhill deep potholes that residents had already reported previously but no work undertaken Speeding along Wharf Road In relation to speeding it was agreed to contact Cllr Winnington to discuss installing average speed cameras in Gnosall. 	
15/041	To consider correspondence and other communications, received (list enclosed for parish councillors, available to residents on application to the Clerk)	
	The Clerk to send the list to Cllrs. It was noted that the majority of the correspondence is now received electronically which the Clerk sends out to cllrs when received.	Clerk
15/042	To request items for the next agenda	
	Communications StrategyYouth Club update	Cllrs
15/043	To confirm the date and time of the next meeting	
	20 th April 2015 at 7.30pm	
	The Clerk left the meeting and the minutes of the next agenda item were taken by the Chairman.	
15/044	Matters relating to the Personnel Committee	
	Cllr Hughes, Vice Chair of the Personnel Committee gave a report following the Personnel Committee meeting held on 2 nd March at which the role of the Clerk and a recent job review had been discussed.	
	Following discussion regarding the role of the Clerk and increased workload a proposal was made to accept the recommendation of the Personnel Committee to increase the Clerk's pay scale from 1 st April 2015.	

The meeting closed at 9.30pm