

**GOXHILL PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH held on**  
**THURSDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2023, 19.00 at GOXHILL PARISH ROOMS**

Councillors: M Gathercole (chairman), F Dunkley, J Lawtey, G. Kirwan, V Gorbutt

Also, in attendance: V Haines (Proper Officer and RFO)

Members of public: 1

2203/1 **Apologies – Received by Cllr Stancer and Cllr Jones**

2203/2 **Minutes of the previous ‘Annual meeting of the Parish’ - Noted**

2203/3 **Chairman’s Report – Received**

2203/4 **Public Session**

- ❖ A member of the public was present to obtain an understanding of the Parish Council and support provided from the Ward Councillors

**Meeting close: 19:23**

DRAFT

## Chairman's Report

Ladies and Gentlemen thank you for attendance at tonight's Annual meeting of the Parish of Goxhill.

We are in Year 4 of the four year cycle of terms of office and some of you have given notice that you do not intend on standing for the up and coming elections in May 2023.

Those who have given notice are Cllr Marion Stancer (3 years in office), Cllr Charlie Leaning (23 years in office) and Cllr Roy Atkin (15 years in office). I know all three councillors have given a lot of time to Goxhill Parish Council and have assisted the smooth running of the council to the benefit of the electorate and you should be proud of your achievements. I thank you personally for your service to the village of Goxhill.

It has been pleasing to note that the majority of councillors have attended monthly meetings of the council or have given their non-attendance to the Proper Officer beforehand and are therefore well versed to know the happenings of the council.

Our Responsible Financial Officer Ms Vicky Haines has given the council an up to date financial report each month of our income and expenditure and where the council stands in its legal position as audited by both our internal and external auditor. The council is therefore in a sound financial position. Our auditor does remark at how Ms Haines functionality of the finance matters is a credit to the council.

To manage the council in an efficient manner we have split the council into committees of the council namely.

- ❖ Playing Fields and Millennium Green
- ❖ Parish Rooms
- ❖ Cemetery
- ❖ Public Rights of Way & Verges
- ❖ Allotments

I try to ensure these committees meet at least every three months depending on agenda items and this allows our main monthly Parish Council Meeting to be streamlined, however the full council do receive and note the minutes of these committee meetings, ensuring the full council is always informed of all matters appertaining to each respective committee.

The committees allow councillors with specific knowledge based matters and interests to impart this to the committee, It allows councillors to research matters and see tender documents etc so they can give an informed opinion for the respective committee. I am a firm believer in the committee structure and it does work to the advantage of Goxhill Parish Council and the village as a whole.

All committee and full council meetings are minuted and are published on all 3 noticeboards and the councils website, this includes all other notices that may be of interest to the parishioners of Goxhill.

Goxhill for its size has more public footpaths per square mile than any other North Lincolnshire village and we try to ensure all of the footpaths are in a good state of repair and are cut in season allowing ramblers and the general public a free right of way. This does come at a cost, however North Lincolnshire Council do contribute some of the costs to assist with the basic cutting requirements, however Goxhill Parish Council do allocate additional funds towards the footpath cutting to ensure, as requested by parishioners they are all kept to the highest standard above North Lincolnshire Council's recommendations.

Our library run by volunteers strives and has a well stocked supply of public reading material. I am informed the Library in Goxhill can by pre notice obtain any book stocked by North Lincolnshire Council library service.

The parish rooms were made available to all parishioners as a warm space during the colder months.

We have many open spaces but sadly as is the norm throughout society we have our fair share of vandalism. This does come with a cost factor which we have to pay for and it eats into our reserves. These costs increase year on year so this is clearly where some of your money goes.

Our allotment site is presently full with no available plots, however we do operate a waiting list system so keen vegetable growers can put their names down.

Our council consisting of 11 councillors cannot function without our Proper Officer and Responsible Financial Officer and who is not just our minute taker but also researches subject matter, runs the council single handed, arranges burials, manages the allotments, checks on planning matters and ensures the lay members of the council, the councillors are equipped with paperwork appertaining to the council and advises its members on legal restraints etc. It is a full time role but we only employ the Proper Officer on a part time basis the rest of time is given free to the council.

Again, thank you Vicky.

One noticeable event this year was the Queens Jubilee and the council had already decided to support the event and set up a small working party namely myself and Cllr Lawtey, this was increased by Cllr Jones very early on however the council had also decided not to run the event themselves and the working party was joined by approx. twelve other interested parties.

Having set up the initial meeting I withdrew from the working party leaving it to Cllr Lawtey and Cllr Jones. The event went extremely well and all attendees had a wonderful day.

Thank you Cllr Lawtey, Cllr Jones and all those involved.

Another event sadly was the Queens death which came so short after her Jubilee. The passing of Queen Elizabeth II was announced on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 which took place during a committee meeting of the council, during this meeting all present participated in a 1 minutes silence to mark the Queens passing; I know she is sorely missed.

Prince Charles has now become King Charles III and his coronation will take place in May of this year and the council is supporting this occasion.

On this note it now concludes my report and I would like to thank you for listening

Kindest Regards

Cllr Gathercole