

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
GUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL**

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16th DECEMBER 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs. Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
 Jennifer Williamson
 Mick Bowles
 Tony Everington
 Peter Platten
 Helen Sutton
 Roy Thornhill (A)

Also present was the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Andy Stewart (Notts. County Council) and Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Roy Thornhill.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on November 25th – one minor amendment was noted – this will be actioned and the Minutes signed by the Chairperson.

4. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

Regarding the temporary interactive speed sign installed on Main Street and earlier reservations about its location - it was agreed that the sign was located in the best place. Cllr Stewart informed Members that this type of sign costs approximately £3,000 to purchase and install but that NCC would, on Cllr Stewart's advice, contribute £500. The Council expressed interest in this, as the sign can be moved to various locations in the village. Members were informed that there is a possibility that the national 60mph speed restriction could be reduced to 50mph. Concern was once more expressed about the junction of A6097 and Main Street – TC was asked to write again to Jo Horton on the possibility of traffic lights there. Cllr Stewart agreed to request a traffic count.

Cllr Stewart told Members of a letter he had received regarding woodland works (the felling of trees / bushes) to the south of Gunthorpe Bridge. TC stated that he had not received a copy. The work led to long traffic queues on the A6097, but were unavoidable. Members asked why similar work has not been carried out north of the Bridge. Cllr Bowles expressed concern about the gullies alongside the A6097. In parts, there are not only blockages, but vegetation growing. The refurbishment of the A612 lay-by is now completed and an 'opening ceremony' was attended by TC on behalf of Gunthorpe PC.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Following a lengthy email from a Mr Roger Fell regarding "STRATEGIC FLOOD DEFENCES GUNTHORPE AREA", addressed to Cllr Stewart and copied to Cllr Jackson and others, discussion was held on various related matters including inaccuracies and the use of an inappropriate model. This item will be discussed further at a later Council Meeting.

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Cllrs Platten and Sutton attended a meeting with the Development Manager Marston's Breweries to discuss matters relating to the Riverside. Following this, a letter is to be drafted to Marston's regarding various issues discussed and / or raised at that meeting.

With regard to the de-silting of the Dover Beck, Cllr Bowles has drafted a letter to the Environment Agency. Following a conversation with Morgan Wray of the Environment Agency TC is to arrange a meeting with Nick Burke, Mr Wray's successor, to follow up issues discussed at the meeting of March 24th last year.

Mr Craft, the owner of Lowdham Leisure World has submitted plans to raise one area of the site and lower another, utilising the two existing bunds and re-instating the dyke. Members agreed that the Council has insufficient knowledge and experience to make any recommendations or comments at present. It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged with interested parties to determine the full details. It was, however, agreed that under no circumstances should material be 'imported' to the site. Cllr Jackson agreed to distribute plans to Members when available.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

It was noted that the number of cars at Marhill Garage continues to increase. Cllr Jackson will pursue.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

It was agreed to accept new Standing Orders from which Paragraph 16 has been deleted as being 'gobbledegook'!

The External Auditor's report for financial year ending March 2009 was accepted. TC apologised with regard to the only comment in that the 'Closure Notice' had not been publicly displayed for the 2007/2008 accounts.

Members welcomed the interim Internal Audit Report from Roger Snowdin which made a number of valid points which, when addressed, should ensure the veracity and acceptance of the accounts at year-end.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received:

- Letter from Michael Greenwood to be answered by TC
- Invitation regarding completion of A612 Lay-By refurbishment
- NSDC Budget Questionnaire.

10. PLANNING

It was agreed that there was no infringement of planning regulations by tents erected temporarily at and by Tom Browns and a new small fence behind.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

09/01717/FUL - Cam Pearson - supported

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

There were no matters to consider under this heading.

12. FINANCE

Members agreed the budget for the Financial Year 2010 / 2011. It was also agreed that the Parish Precept would remain at £16,150. Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
106	217	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	335.94		335.94
106	217	Office Expenses	28.00		28.00
106	217	Printing Costs (110 @ 30p)	33.00		33.00
<u>Total expenditure for meeting</u>			396.94		396.94
<u>Total expenditure to date</u>			16,132.02	360.98	16,493.00

13. PARISH PLAN

The Clerk was unable to find any reference in the minutes of 2006/7 to an agreed grant to the Parish Plan – Cllr Jeffery agreed to pursue this matter.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There were no matters to consider under this heading.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27th January 2010 in the Village Hall, starting at 7:15.