

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18TH DECEMBER 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
 Helen Sutton
 Mick Bowles
 Chris Cope
 Tony Everington
 Cam Pearson
 Peter Platten

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council Notts County Council AND Dr Andy Harrison (GEFAG).

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. DISCUSSION ON LOWDHAM'S FLOOD ALLEVIATION PROPOSAL

Dr Harrison (AH) brought Members up to date – the previous proposal, discussed last year, was confirmed to be feasible although the cost benefit ratio was rather difficult to determine. In the meantime, however, costs have risen and funding sources have become more limited in numbers and value ensuring the cost / benefit ratio to be untenable. Members were informed that Severn Trent have not submitted a new plan and therefore the restoration work should be started, although no timescale was available. It was stated that Notts County Council can, if necessary, impose a Modification Order.

Discussion was held on the new plan for Lowdham Leisure World and its benefits, or otherwise, for the Village. A basic principle behind the planning is that, where possible, existing materials will be used - this may reduce the costs substantially. Other areas of concern with regard to flooding were discussed including the Cocker Beck and the area around Thorpe Lea.

TC was asked to write to Mike Hankin at NCC supporting the analysis of, and investigation into, this proposal and a request made that should Members acquire any information pertinent to Lowdham's proposal this should be passed to Dr Harrison. It was stated that Mike Hankin, Andy Harrison, Roger Crafts and Andy Wallace were to meet on January 7th to discuss the proposal.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes for the meeting held on 27th November required amendment and will be represented at January's meeting.

5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

There was nothing to report under this heading.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

With reference to the establishment of a contract for grass cutting in the Village, only one quote has been received, this being from the present contractor, RC Services. Two contractors, from whom quotes have been requested, feel unable to carry out the work required. It was therefore agreed to award the contract to Richard Covill, RC Services.

A similar situation exists with the erection of a knee-high fence on boundary of the playing field and car park, this also being from RC Services. However, Cllr Jeffery has passed this to the Village Hall Committee to ensure that specification is in order and that the VHC do want the work to be carried out.

Discussion was held on the large trees between Pasture View and the School. Members were informed that the School was unwilling to cover the cost of trimming the trees.

Cllr Bowles discussed with Richard Covill the problem of the roadside hedge at the North end of the Village. It was agreed that a solution could be found.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Members have been informed of the death Bill Belshaw, a major Trustee of the Notts & District Federation of Angling Societies. Mr Belshaw's signature, and agreement, were a requirement for the transfer of the Federation's land to Gunthorpe. There will now be a delay whilst a new Trustee and signatory is appointed.

TC was requested to retry contacting Adam Bouchard with reference to a survey of the main drain under Main Street.

GO

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

There was nothing to report under this heading.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than described elsewhere in these minutes.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no urgent correspondence to be considered.

11. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

- None

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

- 13/01301/FUL - Lilac Bungalow - Approved

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Members were informed that following the accident, in which a member of the public fell over in the car park last year, a large claim was made on Zurich Insurance. Paul Jeffery, as legal representative and trustee of the Village Hall Committee, has been served notice by the claimant because Zurich has refused to make payment.

RJ

13. FINANCE

Mr Roger Snowdin submitted his internal audit report to the Council. In the report he made the following points:

- GPC have not carried out the required annual review of internal controls.
- A Contract of Employment has not been provided for the Clerk.

It was agreed that both these items would be considered at next month's meeting.

It was agreed by Members that there would be no increase in the base Precept – it would be kept at £16,150 plus the NSDC contribution of £870 (25% decrease from last year) against the reduction of the Council Tax Benefit Support Grant.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

Chq No	PSNo		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
98	32	Post Office (HMRC)	37.60		37.60
99	33	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	348.06		348.06
99	33	Gordon Oldham - Expenses / Costs	60.00		60.00
		Total expenditure for meeting	445.66	0.00	445.66
		Total expenditure to date	9,261.08	182.00	9,443.08

14. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There was nothing to report under this heading.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on January 22nd 2014 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.