

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd APRIL 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
 Helen Sutton (A)
 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) and Mr Thomas Littlefair (member of the public).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Sutton and, for a late arrival, Cllr Jackson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on 26th March 2014 were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson.

4. OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC

Mr Littlefair asked Members for progress on the speed indicator - there is currently a traffic counter in operation and when the results are known, NCC Highways will liaise with the Parish Council regarding siting.

5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Discussion ensued on the problem of car parking in the Village. It was suggested that there are not enough spaces available. However, it was also argued that visitors to the businesses were not always using the pub and restaurant car parks. There have been a number of complaints about drivers parking along Main Street, David's Lane and elsewhere on the roads. Residents' parking and more yellow lines were discussed but it was agreed that there is no simple answer. The matter would later be referred to Cllr Jackson.

Also concerned with parking, a series of email correspondence between Cllr Jeffery and NSDC was discussed. It was brought to the meetings attention that the Licences for both the Bridge and Bayleaf and the Lighthouse depended on customers being able to park vehicles in the CRT car park adjacent to Biondi's. This has, however being made impossible at times due to the fitting of a barrier, closed in the evening, and the installation of a ticket machine. Now however both of these have been vandalised and made unusable.

NSDC also clarified that the licence for the Lighthouse is conditional upon it being a 'proprietary club' – dependent on members paying the sum of £5 to charity. Members were sceptical about this rule being adhered to, especially as it would be difficult for the owners to apply the rule to visitors being served drinks in the outside 'café' area. Members were reminded that at the on-site meeting with Andrew Muter and Karen White in 2010 two specific points were raised and agreed with NSDC – firstly that the Village had reached business licence saturation point and, secondly, that the Parish Council were not being consulted on the issuing of licences. It would seem that the latest developments fly in the face of these two points.

It was stated that there has been another accident on the Bridge – a north bound vehicle waiting to turn right into the village was shunted from behind. Discussion ensued on effect of the 40mph speed limit on the Village. It would seem that residents at the North end of Lowdham Road are very happy. The ability to join the road has increased significantly with the slower speed. However drivers exiting Main Street or the Slope Road are finding it more and more difficult. Three factors were mentioned – the lowering of speed has led to more ‘bunching’ of traffic; there seems to be a general increase of traffic since the improvement to the A46 and South-bound traffic turning right onto Manor Road was causing queues at the South end of the Bridge. A solution to the latter issue was suggested, not for the first time – to ban right-turning traffic (with possible exception of busses). It was, however, thought that NCC would not agree to this.

TC informed the meeting that he was pursuing the possibility of a bus stop at or near Cottage Pasture Lane. It would seem that only the No 47 bus, operator unknown, passes this spot and TC has written to Paul Wilson at NCC to pursue this.

A very detailed email and letter have been received from a Mr R Fell, a Lowdham resident making complaint about the staging of various triathlons and fun rides between May and September this year. TC was asked to write to Mr Fell to say that his comments had been noted.

TC

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Cllr Platten has been speaking to Bob at the Internal Drainage Board with regard to clarification of the routing and ownership of the drains. TC informed Members that he had a contact for the purchase of the map or maps seen by Councillors on a visit by a Severn Trent Water representative. TC was asked to order the relevant map(s) for the Parish.

TC

Cllr Bowles informed the meeting that a valve used to limit backflow from the Trent to a main drain had deliberately been closed leading to the possibility of overflow of the drain.

Discussion was held on the work being carried out at Lowdham’s. It was thought that a bund was being built but it was confirmed that the bund is actually being lowered. Requests have been made for a variation in the heights of areas within the complex. Initial requests had been refused on the grounds that they would lead to an increase in the average overall height. The work currently being undertaken will leave the average height unchanged.

TC informed Members that Richard Covill would be tidying up the riverside area “after Easter”, it may be done by now. TC was asked to request of Richard that he removes the grass after regular grass-cutting.

TC

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

There was a general discussion about the North end of Main Street, the possibility of installing planters there and the newly purchased riverside land. There is a growing concern about Japanese knotweed – this is an invasive plant that looks like bamboo although not related. It can grow to 4 or 5 metres and spreads very quickly. Cllr Platten is to seek advice on its control.

Cllr Pearson is to update presentation material on the Riverside Land for the Annual Parish Meeting. It is proposed that a committee should be formed and likely candidates to lead the ‘Gunthorpe Riverside Project’ would be canvassed beforehand with a call for volunteers being made at the meeting. It was agreed that parishioners may well want answers to two issues – the status of Trent Lane and fishing rights - TC is to consult Ian Torr on these matters. Flyers will be produced to publicise main topic(s).

TC

TC was also asked to contact NALC on the legalities of ownership of the land including protection, obligations, liabilities etc.

A litter pick is to take place on 26th April at 10am – TC is to ask the organiser if equipment is required.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

TC requested that due to the sterling work solicitor Ian Torr has done for the Riverside Project, together with his financial contribution, a token gift should be purchased to show the Parish's appreciation. This was agreed.

TC informed the meeting that he was in contact with the secretary (Martin) of 'Community Heart Beat' organisation regarding a defibrillator. He has sent some very useful information and has offered to meet with TC / Cllr Jeffery – this will be arranged. TC asked whether Martin could attend this meeting or the APM. Unfortunately he was, or will be, busy those two evenings. He will try to arrange for a colleague to attend the APM.

9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson confirmed that there was no chance of a reversion to the 50mph limit as requested by some. Regarding parking in the Village, Cllr Jackson agreed that it was a difficult problem. The only answer may be to create 'Residents Only' parking areas. He suggested the PC should write to Jo Horton at NCC Highways.

TC

Despite the planning application for Marhill Garage being put on hold and the objections from Cllr Jackson, Adrian Adams and GPC the application was still approved. TC to write to NSDC planning for a possible explanation.

The current status of the proposed caravan park at Holly Farm is unknown, but the Parish Council and others have raised objections.

Despite objections from the Parish Council, grass cutters / mowers and vehicles are still being left 'for sale' on the A6097 roadside.

Cllr Jackson has attended a meeting with LLW and GEFAG. The possibility of a joint venture with Caythorpe and Lowdham was discussed. It was noted that GPC are not being notified of meetings with LLW / GEFAG.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Outlaw Triathlon

R Fell's email

NCC Posters

Playground Inspection Training

Boundary Commission

11. PLANNING

An exchange of emails between Graham Marshall and Adrian Adams, NSDC, regarding planning enforcement at The Buffer Depot was noted. Although the case has taken so long and a court appearance is 'imminent', no date has been given.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

None

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

There was nothing to report under this heading.

13. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

14. FINANCE

TC informed Members that the annual audits were in progress. TC stated that, as with last year, Grant Thornton were asking for a lot more information than their predecessors. It was requested, and agreed, that Roger Snowdin be recompensed for this by increasing his fee from £75 to £100. Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

Chq No	PSNo		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
112	46	RC Services	384.00	76.80	460.80
113	47	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	308.66		308.66
113	47	Gordon Oldham - Expenses / Costs	65.00		65.00
114	48	HMRC	77.00		77.00
<u>Total expenditure for meeting</u>			834.66	76.80	911.46
<u>Total expenditure to date</u>			834.66	76.80	911.46

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There was nothing to report under this heading.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual PC Meeting will be held on the 28th May 2014 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.