

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Cllrs            Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)  
                    Mick Bowles  
                    Chris Cope  
                    Tony Everington  
                    Peter Platten  
                    Jan Smith

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Roger Jackson (Notts CC and NSDC) and five members of the public including Jen Weaver and David Eberlin.

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> November were agreed as a true record and were signed by Cllr Jeffery.

**4. OPEN SESSION FOR THE PUBLIC**

Prompted by a number of questions from Jen Weaver about the extreme difficulty of getting out of Main Street onto the A6097, discussion was held on the petition to have traffic lights installed at this very busy junction. The meeting was informed that the petition, having been submitted to NCC Full Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, would be presented to, and discussed at, the Traffic & Highways Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> February. It was agreed that TC would write to the Chairman of the Committee detailing the points raised by this meeting. The report is given at the Appendix A to these Minutes.

**5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS**

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

**6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

TC stated that he had received no response to his letter and 'phone calls to the Chief Exec at NSDC. TC suggested writing a formal complaint, but it was agreed that one further attempt would be made to contact Mr Muter. Cllr Bowles asked Cllr Jackson for progress on the Main Street drains. Cllr Jackson said there was none but Severn Trent had been seen up and down Main Street. Cllr Jackson will speak to Matt Duckworth.

Cllr Everington informed the meeting that the new 'Dogs on Leads' signs will be installed in the next few days. Cllr Cope will find out if 'Q' plates and/or tax payment were needed for the ride-on mower NALC may be able to help in this respect. Following an enquiry from a member of the public it was determine that the glass-recycling facility by the Unicorn had been moved temporarily whilst work was carried out on the car park. It will be replaced but the date is, as yet, unknown. Members were informed that NSDC do not consider kerbside collection of glass to be financial viable. This makes NSDC and Rushcliffe 2 of the 11% of the country's council who do not provide this service.

**7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION**

TC notified Members that after several 'phone calls and another email sent to Stuart Garner (CRT) he had received a response. CRT will answer the queries regarding the Ski Club license. Mr Garner is, however, responsible for litter control and he is unable to attend a meeting with GPC. TC was therefore asked to contact Mr Garner's superior to determine who will attend such a meeting.

There is a possibility of GPC purchasing some land on the Riverside – TC was asked to contact the GPC solicitor, Ian Torr and request he speaks with Cllr Platten

Cllr reported on the Riverside Project. A meeting has been arranged with Notts Wildlife Trust. Other items discussed at the Riverside Trust meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> January are given at Appendix B.

## 8. CLERK'S REPORT

TC reiterated that legislation made it essential for the Parish Council to have a web site to make readily accessible to the public a wide range of up-to-date Parish Council information. As previously mentioned a draft web site has been created but TC stated that a deal of work had gone into this first draft and a great deal of work must be done to bring it up to the required quality and content. He requested that remuneration should be considered for work done, work to be done and for the maintenance of the site.

Members and TC discussed the possibility of using the Village web site. This would however lead to web design, communication, maintenance of currency and other difficulties. TC would also have to carry out a great deal of the work anyway and so requested that the Clerk's web site be used. Members agreed to this at a one-off cost of £300, in two stages, for web design, building and implementation and a cost of 2 hours per month at Clerk's rate for maintenance. This will initially be for a 3 month trial.

## 9. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

There was further discussion about the traffic light petition and the Local Minerals Plan (specifically the Shelford West Allocation) – this discussion has been incorporated into the report at Appendix A.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence other than given elsewhere in these Minutes.

## 11. PLANNING

At a previous meeting it was agreed that the Parish Council should consider registering 'Pontefino's' (as was) as a 'Community Asset. However, the meeting was informed that it was too late as the building has now been sold. It was then stated that the building could be registered as a village pub, but this would only apply at the time it was next sold.

### Newark and Sherwood DC applications

- Premise licence variation application - Unicorn, Gunthorpe. GPC is happy with most of this application but object strongly to the playing of music outside the premises at any time.

### Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

- None

## 12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

On 21st April 2016, Her Majesty The Queen celebrates her 90th Birthday, and in celebration of this wonderful milestone, Beacons will be lit that night across the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories, marking this unique moment in history. For the Queen's 'official' birthday in June other celebrations such as street parties are to be planned. It was agreed that, in the absence of volunteers to organise a beacon and the fact that there is no high ground in Gunthorpe, the Parish Council would join the Village Hall Committee to organise festivities in June. Details to be arranged.

## 13. PARISH PLAN

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

## 14. FINANCE

TC presented a budget for the coming financial year. TC stated that the projected balance at the end of this year would be quite considerable and asked if a) Members could foresee any extraordinary expenditure in the coming months and b) could the current balance be fully justified. In response it was agreed that there were a number of areas that may need considerable expenditure. Members accepted the budget – this is presented at Appendix C.

The following payments were made in December when there was no meeting:

| Chq No                               | PSNo |                          | Net Total       | VAT          | TOTAL           |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 212*                                 | 127  | George Walker            | 452.00          | 90.40        | 542.40          |
| 213                                  | 128  | NSDC - Election Recharge | 76.74           |              | 76.74           |
| 214                                  | 129  | Les Smith Engineering    | 176.00          |              | 176.00          |
| 215                                  | 130  | Open Spaces              | 45.00           |              | 45.00           |
| 216                                  | 131  | Gordon Oldham            | 360.34          |              | 360.34          |
| 217                                  | 132  | Post Office (HMRC)       | 78.80           |              | 78.80           |
| <u>Total expenditure for meeting</u> |      |                          | <b>1,188.88</b> | <b>90.40</b> | <b>1,279.28</b> |
| <u>Total expenditure to date</u>     |      |                          | 10,460.70       | 372.52       | 10,833.22       |

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule (January):

| Chq No                               | PSNo |                    | Net Total     | VAT         | TOTAL         |
|--------------------------------------|------|--------------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| 218                                  | 133  | Gordon Oldham      | 400.34        |             | 400.34        |
| 219                                  | 134  | CPRE               | 36.00         |             | 36.00         |
| 220                                  | 135  | NALC Subscription  | 126.51        |             | 126.51        |
| 221                                  | 136  | Post Office (HMRC) | 78.80         |             | 78.80         |
| <u>Total expenditure for meeting</u> |      |                    | <b>641.65</b> | <b>0.00</b> | <b>641.65</b> |
| <u>Total expenditure to date</u>     |      |                    | 11,102.35     | 372.52      | 11,474.87     |

## 15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

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

## 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council will be held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2016 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15pm.

## Appendix A

### ***Petition to Have Traffic Lights Installed at Junction of Main Street and A6097***

#### **1. BACKGROUND**

For many years the residents of Gunthorpe have perceived a large increase in the volume of traffic using the A6097 through and beyond the Village. This has led to drivers having great difficulty in joining the A6097 (this being the only way to leave the Village).

In October and November 2015 a questionnaire / petition was produced and distributed in the Village, the question being 'Would you like to see traffic lights installed at the junction' {of Main Street and A6097}.

The petition was submitted, by Cllr Roger Jackson, to the NCC Full Council Meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> January. The Parish Council were informed that the petition would then be submitted to the Transport & Highways Committee on the 11<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **2. GUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 27TH**

This meeting was attended by five members of the public (in addition to Members) who joined discussion about the petition. The following points were raised and, in the main, agreed:

- 1 There is serious concern about this issue. The concerns emanate from:
  - Residents having difficulty going to work, schools, shops etc.
  - Carers attending patients / clients in the Village
  - Businesses whose customers may prefer to visit restaurants and other businesses where they can return home more easily
  - The school which has, over the years, dramatically increased its catchment area, leading to the need for parents to drive their children to school.
- 2 The data on traffic flow and numbers used for discussion in recent times is understood to be out of date. This data indicates that over the past few years there has been little, if any, increase in volume of traffic whereas the latest figures show a definite increase in numbers. These latest figures are to be distributed to Council Members. The meeting was informed that the average speed cameras also have the facility to count traffic, which could lead to even more accurate data being made available.
- 3 A member of the public pointed out that drivers wishing to exit right out of Main Street frequently turn left, head south then do a U-turn in Lowdham's entrance or car park to enable them to exit left to the north-bound side of the A6097.
- 4 Whilst it was expected that the decrease in speed limit on the A6097 from 50mph to 40 mph would ease egress from Main Street it would seem the reverse has happened.
- 5 There is serious concern about the NCC Local Minerals Plan which is close to receiving final approval. This will open the way for planning applications for gravel to be extracted from 'Shelford West' and later from 'Shelford East'. Amongst the many undesirable elements of this proposal is the likelihood of a 20 or 30 tonne truck joining the A6097 just south of Gunthorpe every 5 minutes. The effects of this on traffic could be catastrophic.
- 6 Although not having a direct bearing on this issue, residents are very concerned about the proliferation of roadside sales of vehicles and agricultural equipment (eg grass cutters). Drivers are known to slow down, stop and even pull up on the grass verges and business entrances, frequently displaying no care for the traffic behind. Accidents due to this lack of care have not so far been reported, but are surely inevitable on such a busy road.

In summary, the need for traffic lights at this junction which has existed for a number of years, has now become essential simply to allow parishioners the fundamental right to leave the Village with reasonable ease.

**Appendix B****GUNTHORPE RIVERSIDE TRUST – MONTHLY MEETING****MINUTES 13TH JANUARY 2016**

**Present:** Peter Platten, Ian Simms, Cam Pearson, Colin Weaver

**Apologies:** Cam Pearson

| <b>No</b> | <b>Actions carried forward</b>   | <b>To do</b>   |
|-----------|--|--|
| 1         | IS reported that BH of Ashfield Anglers had produced and distributed the phot-permits to residents who had applied.  | n/a  |
| 2         | CP reported he was waiting to hear on the results of the £12,000 grant application, following consultation with Nigel Bennington (Community Engagement Officer, Notts County Council).   | n/a  |
| 3         | BH is to arrange with Ashfield Anglers the filling of potholes between the bridge and the car park. Only the tyre tracks are to be repaired, no other part of the trackway.<br><br><b>Carried forward</b>  | BH   |
| <b>No</b> | <b>Matters discussed</b>   | <b>To do</b>   |
| 4         | <b>Grant applications / tree purchases</b><br>Applications for 'Trent to Trenches' had been submitted for £300, awaiting response. CP to follow-up<br><br>Re the Community tree planting package available from the Woodland Trust. The 'Large' pack, available for Spring planting, has been requested. This would be towards the planting of mature trees to complete phase 1 of the works.<br><br>£250 grant request to Greenwood towards trees and hedgerow, for delivery spring 2016 has been successful, with paperwork now completed.<br><br>CP to contact Old Hall nursery regarding their quote for large trees (to be planted on the phase 1 area as a memorial). CP to get quotes for 10-12 trees to a budget of £500<br><br>CP to make application for wildflower seed pack via <a href="http://www.growwilduk.com">www.growwilduk.com</a> | CP<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>CP<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>done |
| 5         | <b>Notts Wildlife Trust</b><br>CP to make contact with Notts Wildlife Trust to introduce GRT and learn how we may work together  | CP   |
| 6         | <b>Access by motorcyclists</b><br>PP reported there had been a number of incidents of motorcyclists accessing the land, including breaking through hedgerow into the field. PP will arrange to erect wire fencing to further secure.<br><br>PP also noted a pathway had been created from the Ashfield Anglers track through to the bridleway by breaking through the hedgerow. PP will liaise with BH to remediate this   | PP<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>PP   |

**Next meeting - Weds 10<sup>th</sup> February 2016 7.30pm**