

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
GUNTHORPE PARISH
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th MAY 2015 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), and 5 members of the public

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Cllr Leslie Jeffery welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chris Cope, Jan Smith, Tom Littlefair and Roger Jackson.

3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – CLLR LESLEY JEFFERY

Thank you for all the Councillors who have supported me this last year and to Gordon as my clerk. Thank you once again to Roger Jackson as County Councillor. Roger takes away many of our concerns and always knows who is the best person to contact. I know sometimes he may disagree with some of our suggestions but he is very diplomatic and will try and steer us in the right direction.

We continue to have a strong link with the Village Hall and Tom and I are the Parish Council representatives. We attend the meetings and support their fundraising events when we can. So keep your eyes open for future events to be held there or sign up to their Village e-mail newsletter produced by Paul Jeffery. Thank you to Paul also for posting our events on his e newsletter such as tonight's meeting.

We still have the Village website where Parish Council Minutes are posted - this remains up and running and I thank Cam and Martin for their hard work. This seems to be the way of the world now as a media link as well as facebook and twitter. What next a virtual Parish Council meeting no this would not be as much fun.

We still continue to have our concerns re the access and egress to the Village but traffic figures show that there has not been a great deal of increase in the traffic flow as we suspected when the duelling of the A46 took place. We do agree however that the 40 mile an hour speed limit does affect the junction but sadly nothing can be done or so we are told.

As a Parish Council we continue to report concerns about litter, dog fouling (this costs the PC 1300 pounds a year for bins)

As a Parish Council we want the community to know that the fight for flood protection still goes on. This is thanks to the regular meetings that are held between GEFAG (Gunthorpe and Environment Flood Action Group) who are a community group and who meet regularly with the Environment Agency, Nottinghamshire County Council, the Internal Drainage Board, Seven Trent, and, as a Parish Council, we have members that attend. I know there are members of GEFAG present here tonight and I am sure if there are any questions they would be willing to answer them at the end.

During the past year they have developed a viable Flood alleviation scheme. This scheme would significantly reduce the risk of flooding to local housing and businesses. However such a scheme costs money. 1.2 million to be exact. Local businesses have already agreed to contribute to such a scheme and the Parish Council have agreed to fund the ongoing maintenance. Also The County Council have committed £220,000 from Central funds. Other funding avenues have been explored.

Work has also happened on the culverts and drains - this all contributes to understanding and determining water flow, or not, as the case may be. Our Parish Councillor Mick Bowles is involved in this and contributes with others, using his local knowledge.

How high is the flood risk? Well, if you look at the environment figures say, over 80 properties in Gunthorpe are at risk of flooding as well as businesses. Work that happens upstream at Attenborough or at Nottingham under the City Flood Alleviation scheme has already increased our future risk. So this Committee is very valuable they are our voice and act as a conduit amongst the authorities. We as a Parish Council thank you for your hard work this will benefit us all. I have only touched on the work that has been carried out or discussed but I am sure as I said before if anyone wants to ask questions at the end or after the meeting Andy Harrison will put them in the right direction.

Planning

A lot of concerns were raised re the added development to business at the A6097 Junction with Main Street. I attended a recent planning meeting and while we as a Parish Council are not against businesses developing, we are however concerned when any extensions or developments take up our flood corridor. The planning authority however do not see this as on paper the Environment Agency always say in their two lines that they have no concerns.

At the moment there is a lot of speculation re building on Green belt and Brownfield sites and I know a lot of people are concerned what is happening at the Pontefino Restaurant site but until we receive any plans or change of use we cannot act. At the moment we know nothing except that the building is up for lease

We continue to give an Annual Grant to the Village Hall to help with bills and the maintenance. The Village Hall Committee continues to raise money with fundraising. The Friday morning club held at the Village Hall is well attended where you can get amazing bacon or sausage butties and endless tea and coffee oh and cake!

Although the Village Hall playing field is used once again by local football clubs I really do wish we could get Cricket back in Gunthorpe. Or use the field for other events it really is a beautiful asset to have as a community.

Parish Plan

The work on the Land we purchased goes on and what amazing work well done to all who have given up their valuable time and energy to help secure and make this Land a joy to visit. The work still goes on so I will ask Peter to say a few words.

We as a Parish Council thank everyone for their support but if anyone has any ideas or skills that we can use come forward. You are invited to listen to our meetings held every fourth Wednesday in the Village hall at 7.15 and there is always a session for the public to speak.

Thank you.

4. REPORT FROM RIVERSIDE TRUST

Cllr Peter Platten brought the meeting up to date on the Riverside Trust. Some of the main points were:

- ❖ A great deal of work has been done including the clearance of much of the land, planting of trees, the realignment of the path and fencing. A total of 620 hours has been expended.
- ❖ Security remains a serious problem
- ❖ The working group is short of labour with most of the work being carried out by just a few people.
- ❖ As well as planning and manual work much has been done to raise and secure funds.
- ❖ It seems that more and more people are using the area.

Cam Pearson gave a brief presentation – Cam mentioned the ongoing involvement with various authorities (eg NCC, the Parish Council, The Wildlife Trust and others). The involvement with the Anglers is specially useful and mutually beneficial.

Andy Harrison, of GEFAG, emphasised the useful link between the two groups (GEFAG and the Riverside Trust) and the dangers of motor- and push-bikes.

5. OPEN FORUM WITH PUBLIC

Parishioners were asked if they had any questions or queries they wished to raise. The following issue was discussed:

There are serious concerns about parking in Pasture View. These arise from a van parked near the corner and cars parked from school parents and, possibly, staff.

The meeting closed at 7:55 and Cllr Jeffery reminded the public that they were welcome to remain to hear the proceedings of the Annual Parish Council meeting.