

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th DECEMBER 2012 IN THE CHURCH HALL

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC) and Cllr Andy Stewart (Notts County Council).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Cam Pearson and Roger Jackson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on 28th November were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson.

4. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Cllr Stewart reported that the consultation on the proposed lowering of the A6097 speed limit from 50mph to 40mph had now been completed. Lowdham PC has requested of the County Council that the speed limit on the A612 between Bulcote and Lowdham be 40mph from the end of the 30mph limit in Bulcote through to Lowdham. It was noted that Bulcote and Gunthorpe Parish Councils agree with this proposal.

Cllr Stewart also informed that a letter should be received by TC regarding street lights remaining on in flood-risk areas. It was noted that during recent flooding the lights were out on Main Street.

The twichell has now been cleared but the slope road and A6097 have not.

Cllr Sutton asked if the south-bound dual carriageway could be hatched to convert to a single carriageway. Cllr Stewart responded that it would not be done for safety reasons.

Members asked Cllr Stewart if he would pursue imposing a 20mph limit on David's Lane and Trentside. AS

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

TC reported that the Dog Control Orders have been delayed through an admin error at Newark & Sherwood District Council.

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Discussion was held regarding the proposed purchase of land from the Notts Federation of Angling Societies. Please see Appendix A. It was agreed that an offer should be made to the Anglers as soon as possible. TC confirmed that after discussion with NALC, there is a very high probability that the PC can obtain a Government loan at a very low interest rate over a long period (up to 50 years). At this stage it estimated that the cost of the project, including the purchase of the land, various reclamation works and a contingency element would be approximately £55,000. It was agreed, unanimously, that TC should request a loan of £35k with the balance coming from 'fund-raising', grants and the precept. It was agreed that the PC should enlist, at an early stage, the services of a solicitor and a surveyor to value the land. TC was asked to make enquiries of Lynda Ogilvy at NALC who has expertise in this field.

Members confirmed the need for the negotiation of fishing rights. It was agreed that a project manager was needed to co-ordinate the various activities and to liaise with councillors and external agencies.

Regarding the Common Land, letters have been sent to Marston's and CRT reminding them of their commitment to address the issues on the riverside. A very negative response has been received from CRT, nothing from Marston's.

TC was asked to arrange a meeting with Bulcote Parish Council to discuss the new footpath from Burton Joyce to Gunthorpe.

TC

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

8. CLERK'S REPORT

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

9. CORRESPONDENCE

As there was no urgent correspondence, it will be circulated in due course.

10. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

12/01620/FUL Mr & Mrs Mason - Residential conversion of existing traditional barn to form 1no dwelling (Resubmission) Barns off Peck Lane – no objections to conversion, but object to extension because of green belt

12/00994/FUL Appeal – Marhill Service Centre – TC to state same objections as in original application.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

There was nothing to report under this heading.

12. FINANCE

The Budget for 2013-14, given at appendix B, was agreed by Members and the decision to request an unchanged Precept of £16,150 agreed unanimously. Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
38	42	Hire of Church Hall	10.00		10.00
39	43	Roger Snowdin - Internal Audit	75.00		75.00
40	44	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	351.62		351.62
40	44	Printing Costs	27.00		27.00
40	44	Office / 'Phone	45.00		45.00
41	45	HMRC	30.20		30.20
Total expenditure for meeting			538.82		538.82
Total expenditure to date			11,016.08	380.80	11,396.88

13. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There was nothing to report under this heading.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd January in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.

Appendix A

REPORT – PROPOSAL TO PURCHASE LAND FROM THE NOTTINGHAM AND DISTRICT FEDERATION OF ANGLING SOCIETIES

1. INTRODUCTION

The Parish Council has long sought to make the area of land fronting the Riverside, from Gunthorpe Bridge to the lock, attractive for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. To date, efforts have been concentrated mainly on the Trentside area of the riverside owned by Marston's Breweries and the Canal & River Trust ('British Waterways' until 2011), this being 'Common Land'. It is also the area to which people head to visit the pubs, cafés and restaurants and to start walks along the river.

Walking along the footpath from the car park towards the lock is very pleasant, despite much work needing to be done. However, in the opposite direction, towards the Bridge, one can't help noticing the state of the land, which has been allowed to deteriorate to an unacceptable level. The footpath is muddy whenever rain falls, there are tree trunks, overgrown vegetation, rubbish (although the District Council does clear this occasionally) – the whole area looks a mess. The reasons for this situation are varied but centre mainly on the negligence of the land-owners. It would seem that as long as the anglers can reach their stakes there is no need to do anything.

2. THE PROPOSAL

It was felt, and unanimously agreed by the Parish Council, that two options should be presented to the land-owners. They were asked if they would prefer to tidy-up the land or to sell it. They chose the latter, saying they were 'of a mind to sell the land' and they would **urgently** have the land valued. This they did and they asked for 'offers in excess of thirty-five thousand pounds'. We were also at that time, 28th November, asked to respond within two months.

It was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council that they would inform the Federation that, without prejudice, GPC would be most interested in the purchase.

Whilst no firm plans were made at this time, the following points / suggestions were made:

- TC would seek help of a solicitor, possibly through NALC
- TC would look for a surveyor for a valuation of the land and a project manager
- Negotiation of fishing rights would have to be considered
- Initially a car park for 10 – 15 cars and a fence erected alongside path
- Remainder of land would be left for the moment, then plans considered for allotments.

3. SOURCE OF FUNDING

It was agreed that a loan would be sought from the Public Works Loans for the purchase of the land and that a combination of money raised from such as local businesses and residents, supplemented if necessary from the precept, would be used for the necessary reclamation work.

4. INITIAL TIMESCALE

All of this would be set in motion as soon as possible, bearing in mind the imminent holidays.

Appendix B**REPORT – BUDGET PROPOSAL FOR 2013 -2014**

INTRODUCTION

From the 'Budget v Actual' Spreadsheet given on the following pages, it will be seen that in the budget agreed in December 2011 for the financial year 2012-13, the end-of-year balance of £32,335 was forecast – it was, in fact, £31,555. The latest forecast (December 2012) for the end-of-year balance has been revised to £35,162.

Even taking into consideration a major spend on land purchase and reclamation in the current year, it is proposed that the end-of-year budget figures are accepted and that a zero increase in the Precept (ie £16,150) be requested.