

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup> 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Cllrs. Mrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)  
Mrs Jennifer Williamson  
Roy Thornhill (A)  
Mick Bowles (A)  
Peter Platten  
Tony Everington  
Mrs Helen Sutton.

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Notts County Councillor Andy Stewart, and Newark and Sherwood District Councillors Roger Jackson and Keith Sheppard.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mick Bowles and Roy Thornhill

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none.

**3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2009 required some amendment and will be presented to the next meeting for agreement.

**4. HIGHWAY MATTERS**

Members had concerns about the closure of the Shelford Road (Manor Lane). It was felt that there was no warning prior to vehicles reaching the junction and that when drivers realised the road was closed they had to get back into the stream of traffic. However, a more positive side of the closure was noted – it was apparent that southbound cars following the diversion were not holding up traffic by turning, their journey was quicker and the increased distance was only slight! Road Safety on the A6097 was again raised and once again the question was asked ‘How many deaths are there to be, before anything will be done?’ It was suggested that vehicles should be prohibited from turning right onto the Shelford road with the exceptions of buses and access to Shelford.

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

With regard to litter on the riverside, the problem still persists and, if anything is getting worse. The Clerk was asked to write to:

- The ‘Litter Hit Squad’ at NSDC Environment Department
- British Waterways (Nick Pogson)
- Both the Anglers’ Associations – Bingham and Notts

It was also suggested that offenders on Community Service Orders may be able to carry out the clearing of litter. A local magistrate would be consulted.

With regard to the Riverside and The Unicorn a detailed exchange of letters had taken place between GPC, Richard Lawrence (NSDC Solicitor), Peter Wilkinson (Planning at NSDC) and Marstons (owners of the Unicorn). Cllr Platten described a number of inaccuracies in a letter from Mr Wilkinson. It was suggested that an action plan was required that included, as a minimum of:

- Removal of the car park pay machine

- A meeting with Marstons and / or the Unicorn Landlord raising the fact, amongst others, that the car park was not required as there was ample parking elsewhere.
- The confirmation that the onus is on NSDC to protect and preserve common land.

It was also stated that GPC Minutes from 1956 show that there was a breach of planning regulations in 1956. It was proposed to confirm that all available material will be handed to Lynda Ogilvie at Notts ALC to pass to lawyer in London. Cllr Stewart agreed to speak to Steven Eastwood.

The Clerk was asked to write to Richard Lawrence and Marstons regarding this matter.

It was alleged that the car park behind Tom Browns may be in breach of planning and/or flood alleviation regulations in that it not gravelled but solid.

It was noted that the meeting with the Fishermen's' Association was 'very useful'. One of the main issues to come out of the meeting was the erosion of the river bank caused, primarily, by the wash from boats, power craft and, possibly, skiers.

Members attended a meeting to discuss travel on the Newark → Nottingham line. Various useful and positive points were raised. These included trains being rescheduled to link with main-line trains and trains been cancelled. It was, however, recognised that the operators do have some problems.

## **6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jackson reported that there was still no progress at Lowdham Caravans to report. It was noted that there is a 'massive' area of tarmac there – RJ will confirm that planning permission has been obtained.

## **7. CLERK'S REPORT**

The Clerk has spoken with Nick Pogson of British Waterways who addressed various points raised in a letter from GPC. Various communications regarding the proposed Newton Eco Town were passed to Members. TC confirmed that he has a copy of the Register of Electors. Members were shown the site of electric Sub-Station proposed by Keith Thompson of Central Networks – this seemed to differ from the previously agreed site and TC was asked to confirm. Members were informed of a 'Stop Audit' ie a survey of Bus Stops / Shelter(s). The Council have been asked to supply requirements for street lighting (Hazelas and Peck). Members were informed that a recording of the Coroners Inquest into the RTA on A6097 was held by the Clerk. It is a legal requirement that the Parish Council has a 'Publication Scheme' to inform the public what documents are available and how they may be viewed – Gunthorpe is, at present, unable to comply with this and the situation must be rectified as soon as possible. Formal notification of the confirmation of Modification and Diversion Orders for Footpath No 4 has been received.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1 Notts. ALC have arranged a 'County Partnership Training Day for Councillors and Clerks' on 24<sup>th</sup> March – TC will attend.
- 2 A letter from LINK asking if the Council wish to join
- 3 Various items relating to the proposed Newton eco-town
- 4 DirectGov – 'easy' access to Government information
- 5 Newark & Sherwood Development Policies
- 6 'Funding & More'
- 7 Accessibility Beacon
- 8 Calor Village of the Year

## 9. GRAVEL EXTRACTION & FLOODING

A meeting is to be arranged with John Bourke of ARUP who is conducting a pre-feasibility study on flooding issues in Gunthorpe. TC was asked to contact Matthew Norton at N&SD to determine progress on their work in this area.

## 10. FINANCE

The Clerk was asked to write to Bassetlaw Neighbour Watch Scheme to determine 'value for money' for their scheme.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
71	180	Gravity - Maintenance	300.00	45.00	345.00
74	183	Campaign to Protect Rural England	28.00		28.00
75	184	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	306.56		306.56
75	184	TG Systems - Clerk's Expenses	28.00		28.00
76	185	NALC Annual Subscription	122.18		122.18
<b><u>Total expenditure for meeting</u></b>			784.74	45.00	829.74
<b><u>Total expenditure to date</u></b>			<b>13,626.95</b>	<b>1,188.48</b>	<b>14,816.31</b>

## 11. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

## 12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Nothing to report

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will take place on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7:30pm.