

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs. Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
 Jennifer Williamson
 Mick Bowles
 Tony Everington (A)
 Cam Pearson
 Peter Platten
 Helen Sutton

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Andy Stewart (Notts. County Council), Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council), Trish Greggs (Village Hall Committee), Bob Greggs (Web Site Co-ordinator) and Terena Plowright (The Greening Campaign).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Everington.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on August 25th were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

4. THE GREENING CAMPAIGN

Terena Plowright was present to introduce and discuss The Green Campaign. Members and officials were asked by the Chairperson to introduce themselves. Mrs Greggs, as Chair of the Village Hall Committee, has a special interest in the campaign as she described in the following:

“The Village Hall has had an energy audit carried out by Marches Energy Agency under the direction of the Community Facilities Subgroup of the Parish Plan Steering Committee, who were charged with this part of the Parish Plan This audit was funded by way of a grant of £1000 from BRE Community Sustainable Energy Programme. The conclusion of the report was that having reviewed many energy efficiency options the most effective way forward was to install PV Cells and implement a feed-in-tariff to the National Grid. However, the cost of installing PV Cells is prohibitive without a grant. Unfortunately, at this time one cannot apply for a grant and a feed-in-tariff simultaneously.”

Terena’s presentation and the ensuing discussion are given at Appendix A.

Ms Plowright then left the meeting to return to her home in Hampshire.

5. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

It was reported that a meeting was held, on-site, with Carl Whitley regarding various highways issues, primarily the deterioration of the access road from Gunthorpe Bridge to Trentside. Present were Cllrs Andy Stewart, Lesley Jeffery, Peter Platten, Helen Sutton and TC. The issues are as follows:

- 1 The profusion of badly-placed yellow lines on the slope road – a report was first submitted to Highways in June 2008.
- 2 Cracks in road and general road condition
- 3 Deterioration of ‘underpinning’ on both sides
- 4 The road is too narrow – this has led to various problems with vehicles, especially busses, travelling in opposite directions. The Parish Council is in the process of opening the possibility of one-way traffic and a weight limit to public debate in the village. The complete implementation of both these proposals will be a lengthy,

and probably difficult, process, but the Parish Council certainly intend to pursue. However, Mr Whitley has dismissed both these proposals out of hand.

- 5 Vegetation overgrowing road – this Cllr Platten has, with assistance, done
- 6 The school sign in a garden on Main Street to the north of David's Lane is ambiguous and too far from the junction.
- 7 The Parish Council has requested 'Slow' signs and a change in the tar colour where the Trentside road narrows.
- 8 Nottinghamshire County Council agreed in 2008 to provide a replacement bus shelter on Main Street. The type of shelter and its location were agreed. A few months later NCC confirmed that the shelter would be installed, but were unable to give a date.
- 9 Rubbish / litter and vegetation in the ditches alongside the A6097.
- 10 Advertising hoardings have been illegally erected at both ends of the village on more than one occasion and are still there despite several request for their removal.

The written response from Mr Whitley was read aloud and, due to its negative and unsatisfactory nature, it is reproduced in full at Appendix B. Attention was drawn to two specific, related matters – the yellow lines and the proposal for one-way and weight limits on the access road. TC was asked to respond to Mr Whitley quoting Mr Grundy's letter (see below) and to write to Martin Lee at the Health & Safety Executive, Nottingham.

TC has received a letter from Mr Ron Grundy, owner of the Riverdale Park expressing his concern at the state of the road. Mr Grundy concurs with items 2 and 3 above. He states that he considers the roadway to be in quite a dangerous condition; that it is breaking up in parts with tree roots undermining certain areas and that several concrete posts do not appear stable, they are leaning over. He also states that the trees on the embankment are very large, some overgrown and they overhang the properties on site (Riverdale Park). TC was asked to reply to Mr Grundy with a copy of Carl Whitley's email and to publish the latter on the Web Site.

Cllr Sutton's daughter conducted a traffic survey on the access road. This will be made presentable and circulated. Members suggested the possibility of accidents on the bridge being caused by traffic entering or leaving the slope road, but the data is not available to confirm this.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

A meeting had been arranged with Sean McGinley of British Waterways, but unfortunately one Member, at short notice, was unable to attend – the meeting is to be re-arranged. TC was also asked to re-arrange a meeting with Sid Paver, the firm supplying dog control notices and to determine the status of the dog bin ordered several months ago.

TC has written to the various businesses to suggest the formation of a 'Business Forum' with the objective of discussing the part they may take in making and maintaining Gunthorpe an attractive place for both residents and visitors. To date only one reply has been received. TC was asked to write to 'Total' to ask if they have any proposals and/or intend to submit any planning application for the Newbridge Garage.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

With regard to the project plan for the completion of the bund at Cottage Pasture Lane, Cllr Bowles informed Members that Innes Thompson, from the Environment Agency had written to Alan Sumbly, NCC Treasurer, asking for confirmation that a fund of £140,000 was still available. Cllr Bowles asked Cllr Stewart if he would ascertain the status of this letter.

Cllr Platten spoke of his meeting with Henry Plant of Marston's Breweries regarding their land on the Riverside. It was confirmed that the Ski Club rent land from Marston's and that Marston's are very upset with the state of this land. Cllrs Platten and Bowles have written a letter to be sent to Marston's.

The Environment Agency have been asked to review flooding levels.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllrs Stewart reminded Members of the letter from NCC Highways stating the latter's intention to appoint liaison officers to visit parishes and discuss problems with PC's and parishioners. This was welcomed and TC was asked to write to Jo Horton requesting that the first visit takes place as soon as possible.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than mentioned elsewhere in these Minutes.

10. PLANNING

A meeting has been arranged with the Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council to discuss the Parish Council's displeasure of the manner in which some planning applications have been handled. This is to take place on October 5th.

Members were informed that NSDC do not have the facility to allow the public, including Parish Councillors, to view comments on planning applications.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

None

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

10/00995/FUL – Beardsley Rear Extension – approved

09/01726/ADV – Lowdham Leisure World Sign - approved

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

TC was asked to contact the solicitors, Kirkland & Lane, requesting a progress report on the registration of the village hall and an estimated date for completion. It is felt that this process has, even so far, taken far too long.

It is hoped and anticipated that there will be an Open Day in October.

It was noted that a great deal of money was expended on the building of the bus turning circle and that a) its surrounds are in a poor state of maintenance and b) it is rarely used – TrentBarton busses insist on continuing up the access road to the bridge as East Bridgford passengers for example would be unhappy at making the northbound trip up Main Street to return to the A6097 then turn South!

12. FINANCE

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

<i>PSNo</i>	<i>Chq No</i>		<i>Net Total</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
16	242	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	335.94		335.94
16	242	TG Systems - Office / Phone	28.00		28.00
16	242	TG Systems - Printing Costs	45.00		45.00
<u>Total expenditure for meeting</u>			408.94	0.00	408.94
<u>Total expenditure to date</u>			5,198.19	178.92	5,377.11

Members noted the printing costs which seem to be very high. TC replied that the cost per page has been maintained for the past five years at 30p but printed output had risen considerably. This cost includes paper, envelopes and a few laminating pouches, but the main expenditure was on printer ink. Cllr Pearson suggested that a laser printer would lower the costs compared with an ink-jet printer – TC to investigate.

13. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Jeffery is to arrange a Parish Plan Committee meeting to discuss the Greening Campaign.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday October 27th in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15.

Appendix A***THE GREENING CAMPAIGN***

An Introduction and Presentation by Terena Plowright

It started when Terena's local community in Hampshire decided to look at energy efficiency to lessen the effects of global warming. Resulting from her involvement Terena realised that everyone in the community saving just a few pennies is far preferable than a limited number saving a lot! The Campaign may be run through several stages, but Phase I is the most important to engage the community!

Phase 1 – A very simple challenge card. This allows everyone to take part and engages the community behind the campaign. It is simple which means it is inclusive and successful.

- It gives each household a card with a logo on.
- On the reverse of the card is a list of 8 very simple things for each household to commit to, these are discussed and determined by public meeting (eg insulate loft and/or turn off lights).
- When 5 things have been done, the 'logo card' goes in the front window of the house.
- The cards are counted after the agreed number of weeks
- The results are quantifiable, so the amount of CO₂ jointly saved is celebrated.
- The resulting structure and support allows the community to be in a strong enough position to move to Phase 2.

The campaign was run in Petersfield and was a success with shops, businesses and the community taking part. Once they heard of it, neighbouring Parishes, towns have since taken up the campaign. South Harting has been very successful and others can be viewed on the website. It has now moved into many counties across England as more and more communities take control of their future. Local participating communities include: Kinoulton, West Bridgford, Harby and Radcliffe (about 20 in total).

Appendix B

Given below is a response from Notts. County Council Highways on a meeting with Gunthorpe PC.

“Dear all,

Further to our site meeting on Friday 17th September.

Matters arising were as follows...

1 - 'Double double' yellow lines along the 'slip'.

The Highway Manager, Alan Birt has been out to site and is arranging for a solution. I know that we are currently waiting on an indication from our Operations section for a time-scale. This kind of work is generally weather dependant, so I don't really want to be quoted on a timescale for the works.

2 - Cracks in road/general condition of the road and 'underpinning'.

I have asked that the Highways Inspector carries out an informal visual inspection to monitor the condition of the road. If there is anything that meets intervention criteria, then it will be repaired as any other highway defect would. As pointed out on site, there appear to be no cracks as a result of any kind of subsidence/loss of integrity of the supporting earth. Where the carriageway appears to have 'cracks' in it, these are along previous trenches that have been excavated and reinstated by previous statutory undertakers. These pose no threat to the road.

3 - Deterioration of the supporting embankment.

I have asked that NCC's structures team provide some advice regarding any potential subsidence of the slip road. I am awaiting feedback from them and when I have sufficient information, I will respond to you.

4 - Narrow road (one way and weight limit order).

At present there are no plans to introduce a weight limit in the area. Any new Traffic Regulation Order must be investigated fully and comprehensive site surveys must be carried out. Unfortunately, this takes quite some time to collate the necessary information. Once this data has been collected and investigated, I will contact you with our findings.

A one way order will only serve to increase traffic speeds along the road, which will either lead to faster traffic entering Gunthorpe or faster traffic approaching a busy road. For this reason, I cannot accede to this request.

Due to the nature of the road, it is impossible to widen it without significant expense and land acquisition, which due to emerging budgetary pressures, the County Council is not in a position to do. In highway construction, the load of a vehicle is dispersed across the road, rather than straight down, therefore any road widening would need a wider embankment.

5 - Overhanging vegetation.

The area of embankment up to the new conifer type hedge (at the bottom of the road) is owned by Nottinghamshire County Council. I am currently speaking with the tree maintenance section to find out what they maintain there. I will report my findings as soon as I can. However, I do appreciate the work that has been carried out thus far.

6 - School sign.

I will raise this issue with the Road Safety section and the Highway Improvements section and report back with my findings.

7 - 'SLOW' road markings; and

8 - Change in macadam colour

These works are only carried out as part of a casualty reduction scheme. SLOW markings on the carriageway should only be placed next to existing or planned warning signage (as per the Traffic Signage Regulations and General Directions 2002; the legislation that covers road signage).

9 - Bus shelter

If you could respond to me with the bus shelter concerns, I will pass them to the relevant officer in the Passenger Transport Section.

10 - Roadside ditches

I have passed this on to the highways inspector for the area. He monitors the ditches on a regular basis.

I hope this information is of some use and I apologise for the delay.

Regards,

Carl Whitley”