

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th FEBRUARY 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs. Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
 Jennifer Williamson
 Mick Bowles
 Tony Everington
 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) and Mr Cam Pearson.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received, in advance, for the late arrival of Cllrs Stewart and Jackson who were attending another meeting.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. ELECTION BY CO-OPTION OF COUNCIL MEMBER

Cam Pearson, who had previously expressed his interest in the current vacancy of Member of Gunthorpe Parish Council, gave a brief résumé in support of his application. Mr Pearson, who is employed at Boots, has been a resident of Gunthorpe for 10 years. He is also a member of Southwell Rugby Club. Mr Pearson has been active in village life, being on the Parish Plan Committee and taking a major role in the development of the Parish Web Site. He has practical experience of planning matters. Cllr Platten proposed that Cam Pearson be elected Member of Gunthorpe Parish Council. Cllr Jeffery seconded the proposal and Members gave unanimous agreement.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on January 27th – one minor amendment was noted – this will be actioned.

5. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

It was noted that the potholes reported at last month's meeting were very quickly repaired – TC stated the reason was that a new type of tar was used which could be laid even in freezing conditions. More detail was given on the A6097 road slippage. The slippage is on the north-bound side, two or three hundred yards before Cottage Pasture Lane. TC to report. The continuing deterioration of the slope road was discussed. There has, as yet, been no communication from NCC regarding the engineer's report – TC to pursue. It was agreed that busses turning into, and out of, the slope road, especially at the same time, cause inconvenience and possibly danger. TC to speak with bus companies and RoSPA.

In a written response to the meeting of GPC and Jo Horton, NCC, Ms Horton states that installing mini-roundabouts or traffic signals at other junctions in the County has led to an increase in accidents. Members argued that if this is correct firstly why are these traffic controls installed anywhere and secondly why are they not being removed?

Speeding, including interactive speed signs, was discussed. Cllr Stewart reported on a meeting with Chief Inspector Andrew Charlton. The latter confirmed that the speed-gun vans were 'on the road' as often as possible but were severely constrained by lack of staff with a high turn-over in this area. Cllr Stewart also reported on the cost of a high quality speed sign being £8,000 of which he would contribute £1,000 from his budget.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

The diversion of Footpath No 4 was confirmed, but it was noted that a bridge is still to be built before the path is usable.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Members were informed that no response had been received from Marston's. It was agreed to discuss at next meeting. Cllr Bowles informed the meeting that completion of the bund infrastructure at Cottage Pastures had been delayed until April or May. Members were also informed, informally, that funds for this work, and work at Burton Joyce, have been 'redirected' to other project(s). No detail is available, but attempts will be made to determine the facts.

A pamphlet produced by the Environment indicated that the dredging of drains was of no help in flood alleviation – this will be pursued.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson notified Members of various meetings:

Safer Neighbourhood	16 th March
Safer Neighbourhood Conference	24 th March
Undefended Villages (with Mathew Norton)	13 th April.

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the pontoon near the Toll House belongs to British Waterways and is their responsibility and not that of NSDC.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

TC reported on an exchange of communications regarding the cutting of the boundary hedge and the playing field. The owner of the land on the other side of the hedge from the playing field has stated her complete and utter opposition to the cutting of the hedge. After consultation with NALC, TC has written to the land-owner on behalf of GPC informing her that the Council, or their agents, had every right and obligation to cut the hedge up to the boundary. No reply has, as yet, been received from the land-owner. The Village Hall Committee is to organise the cutting of the hedge along with a general 'tidy-up' of the area.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- Letter from '247Secure' re CCTV – Members agreed there was no need for this service
- Mike Maher re Common Land – TC was unable at this time to determine to what Mr Maher was referring – will pursue
- NSDC Standards Committee meeting – GPC have no representative on this committee
- Robin Hood Month – May 2010
- Emergency Planning Events – Cllr Everington will attend
- NALC - Anti Social Behaviour

11. PLANNING

TC informed Members that having spoken to NSDC Planning Enforcement, they have requested a planning application for extensive work being carried out at the Bridge and Bayleaf Restaurant (formerly the Toll House).

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

10/00154/FUL - British Waterways - Septic Tank – not discussed.

Toll House - Licensing application, agreed that this would only be considered when planning application, as above, has been received.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Cllr Jeffery is in ongoing discussion with solicitors to register the Village Hall and Playing Field. The solicitors did request documentary evidence of the constitution of Gunthorpe Parish Council and of its Members. They are to be made aware that a Parish Council does not have a constitution and are to be asked what other 'evidence' may suffice.

The Football Club as requested a donation of £700 for various measures to smarten-up the pavilion and surrounding area. Cllr Jeffery will speak to the club management for more detail and obtain clarification on the income, expenditure, constitution etc of the club.

13. FINANCE

Cllr Pearson comment on the large bank balance and suggested it may be prudent to invest a portion into a savings account. TC to pursue.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
109	220	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	335.94		335.94
109	220	Office Expenses	28.00		28.00
110	221	CPRE	29.00		29.00
		<u>Total expenditure for meeting</u>	392.94	0.00	392.94
		<u>Total expenditure to date</u>	16,938.90	368.48	17,307.38

14. PARISH PLAN

It was noted that, for various reasons, the Parish Plan meeting did not take place in January.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There were no matters to consider under this heading.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 24th March 2010 in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15.