

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC) and Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jennifer Williamson and Andy Stewart.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on October 27th were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

4. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

The latest correspondence from Jo Horton, NCC Highways, was discussed. Ms Horton stated that the resurfacing of the slope road together with new yellow lines would take place in the Spring 2011 ie between March and June. The work would be given a high priority within this period. In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the PC's dealings with NCC Highways, it was agreed that recent correspondence between GPC and Highways would be published on the web site. Members were informed that an independent surveyor has recently made an informal inspection the slope road. It was agreed that if the surveyor found there were issues to be addressed he would submit a formal report at a cost of £200.

Members discussed two improvements relating to the bridge from the Parish Plan 'wish list', these being lighting and double white lines. It was agreed that a request for lighting was unrealistic in the current economic climate, but TC was asked to submit a request for double whites and for the removal of weeds, also on the bridge.

Cllr Bowles reported he has been informed by Richard Kershaw of the Environment Agency that works on the Cottage Pasture Lane bund should be restarted in January or February.

TC reported that the bus shelter on Main Street is to be replaced in this financial year. The new shelter will be sited a few yards from the existing one.

A questionnaire is to be posted to households in the village. This will request the views of residents and business on three proposals for the slope road – a weight limit (except buses), a one-way-order and a no right-turn at junction with A6097.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

An on-site meeting has been arranged with residents of Orchard Close, Matt Duckworth (NCC Rights of Way Officer) and Cllr Jeffery regarding the proposed improvements to Footpath No 3 leading from Main Street to the A6097.

With regard to Dog Control Orders, following on from the poor service given by Sid Paver TC is to contact Alan Batty at NSDC.

Local businesses are to be invited to an inaugural meeting of the Business Forum immediately prior to the Parish Council meeting, 7.15pm on 26th January.

It has been brought to Members attention that since the retirement of Roy Thornhill there is no-one carrying out the duties of snow warden. It was agreed that residents and businesses with any problems or queries may feel free to contact any councillor or, if urgent, Newark & Sherwood District Council on 01636 655 000.

British Waterways and 'Partnerships For Renewals' recently held a presentation in the village hall setting out the details and case for a wind turbine close to the Trent, north of the lock. A number of residents attended and, hopefully, any questions and queries were addressed by the team! There were some written comments made and TC is to confirm that the PC will be given copies. The PC were informed that if the scheme goes ahead the Parish will receive £5,000 a year.

Members were informed that local anglers are extremely angry that the Environment Agency has granted an impoundment licence to the Small Hydro Company for the installation of water turbines at the weir. It is claimed that this will drastically curtail the flow of water over the weir, affecting what is described as "one of the best barbel and chub fisheries in the country". This news will be investigated by the Parish Council and Cllr Jackson. It was emphasised that this licence is quite independent of the planning application currently under consideration with Newark & Sherwood District Council. The meeting was also informed that the Small Hydro Company had made a further submission to the Environment Agency to clarify and expand on their assessment of any change to the flood risk. The company had previously stated that their proposal would actually decrease the risk, but the EA felt that their analysis was not sufficiently detailed. It was confirmed that the latest modelling figures are still not available.

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

There was to be a further meeting with British Waterways at which it was hoped some contradictions in statements made by the organisation would be addressed.

An area of land opposite the Lighthouse Café has been converted to hard-standing and there are now a number of caravans parked there. The PC is unaware of any planning application for this. Cllr Jackson is to investigate.

A quotation has been received for a valuation of part of the common land by the riverside. This was agreed to be at totally unacceptable cost.

During the meeting with the Chief Executive and Legal Services Head at NSDC the latter used the term "Saturation Zone". In view of the number of businesses on Trentside, TC was asked to write to Karen White and request further information and a visit from a licensing officer to discuss this matter.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

It was noted that there were more cars parked at Marhill Garage and that some cars had been moved from the back of the site to the side.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

Mr Roger Snowdin has recently carried out a mid-year internal audit. The audit confirmed that the financial regulations adopted in March 2010 are being followed as appropriate and that payments are evidenced by invoices and have Council approval. Mr Snowdin also stated that as the PC's insurance was due for renewal in the new year it would be appropriate time to review the extent and nature of the cover provided. Members agreed that it was also an opportunity to compare the current insurance provider with others. TC is to request details of the company providing insurance for the village hall and to seek advice from an insurance broker.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Census Day - March 27th 2011	Council Tax Freeze
Email / letter – Defra Spending Cuts	'Personalisation' Funding
CPRE - Annual Report	Community Infrastructure Levy
Sue Cook NFF ABI Flooding Conference	

10. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

10/01513/FUL – Partnerships for Renewals – Meteorological Mast - support

10/01528/FUL – Frogson - erection of two storey extension – it was noted that there were minor changes to the application approved in October (see below) – this application was supported, providing there was no infringement on neighbouring property.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

From Oct. - 10/01102/FUL Frogson – Two-Storey Rear Extension - approved

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

TC was reminded to ask Zurich Insurance if the Ransomes mower is insured for any driver with a car-driving license.

12. FINANCE

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
114*	226	Martin Wilson (last year) £40			
12*	238	Martin Wilson (June, £350)			
21*	245	Village Hall	30.00		30.00
22	248	RC Services	275.00	48.13	323.13
23	249	Roger Snowdin - Internal Audit	75.00		75.00
24	249	Clerk's Salary	335.94		335.94
24	249	Office / Phone	28.00		28.00
24	249	Printing Costs	54.00		54.00
Total expenditure for meeting			797.94	48.13	846.07
Total expenditure to date			6,607.07	255.93	6,863.00

Note – the payments to Martin Wilson for web maintenance and hosting costs were approved, paid and accounted for at past PC meeting, but were not minuted.

13. PARISH PLAN

A meeting is to be arranged with the Greening Campaign.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Regarding the village hall registration, it would appear that the Solicitors, after months of prevarication, have “lost the plot”! Cllr Jeffery will pursue.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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