

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Andy Stewart (Notts. County Council), Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council) and three members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jennifer Williamson, Tony Everington and Helen Sutton.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

Held on July 28<sup>th</sup> were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

*At this point the Chairperson confirmed that the members of the public were present to raise queries on environmental and highways matters and it was agreed that these agenda headings would be considered at these points.*

**4. ENVIRONMENTAL / HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

A member of the public, Mrs Deverill, and two other residents raised a number of queries which are given below together with the Council's responses:

I           What is being done about the continuing dog mess problem? *It seems that the dog bins are being filled with 'ordinary' litter and even emptying the bins twice a week isn't enough to prevent overflow. Attempts have been made to arrange a meeting with supplier to install notices in all relevant areas; a new dog bin was promised for installation 2 or 3 weeks ago; the dog bin at the upstream end of the lock is to be moved as it's hidden by the ice cream van when there; the new bin is to be installed at the downstream end of the lock. Arrangements are being made to meet with local business owners/managers to discuss liaison on this and other matters.*

II          TC was asked to arrange a meeting with Andrew Davies of British Waterways to discuss: *walls; clapper gate, dog bins, the pontoon in front of the 'Lighthouse' (which is illegal) and to ask for various planning permissions.*

III         The condition of the slope road was discussed. The meeting was informed that the cutting back of the hedge was carried out by Cllr Platten and he was advised to submit an invoice to NCC for this work. It was agreed that the road is in an advanced state of deterioration and a collapse on either side is possible, even inevitable. Water flows down the road into a resident's garden and there is even evidence of erosion of the foundations of the road indicating the possibility of a complete collapse on one side or the other.

TC was asked to write to Jo Horton, with copy to Cllr Stewart, requesting a site meeting and a survey by a professional engineer.

The land owned by the fishermen's association(s) was discussed. Members were informed that a sale of the land would be considered at a meeting of the fishermen to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> September.

Notification has been received from Matt Duckworth, the Rights of Way Officer at Notts County Council, saying that Footpath No.4 had now been completed. He also stated that there was a sum of money (£1,600) left over from this work which could be used to repair Footpath No 3 between Main Street and the A6097 – this would involve surfacing work on the footpath and the replacement of the stile at the A6097 with a more accessible pedestrian gate. It was agreed, unanimously, that the Clerk would respond “Yes, please!”.

It was reported that the Biondi sign, finally removed from the village entrance by the bridge after a period of weeks had been erected again. Discussion took place on the legality of signs that were erected temporarily to advertise a particular event. TC will investigate.

Carl Whitley of NCC Highways Department confirmed that dropped kerbs were to be installed in Gunthorpe. The timescale for this work is unknown but will be scheduled within the financial year. The crossing points are to be installed at Peck Lane, Thorpe Lea and David's Lane (all at the junction of Main Street).

Members were informed of that a ‘Roadworks Notice’ had been received relating to the Harley Davidson Bike Ride to take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> September. Officially the ‘Nature of Restriction’ is given as none. There will, however, be about 250 bikes travelling from Lowdham through Gunthorpe on the A6097 and thence on to Newton and Radcliffe. Precise times are not given but the whole event is timetabled to last from 10:30hr to 15:20Hr. In light of the criticisms of the recent Outlaw Triathlon and other events in the area, TC was asked to write to the Chief Executive, Notts County Council expressing the strongest objections to this event for the following reasons:

- 1 It is alleged that the noise of **one** of these bikes can be heard more than a mile away – in the motorcade we are told there are to be about 250.
- 2 The event closely follows the Outlaw Triathlon which caused many companies to lose business, farmers to complain bitterly about lack of notification and other issues, and general dissatisfaction regarding lack of, or untimely, information. Gunthorpe Parish Council was not even informed of this event.
- 3 Gunthorpe is, in view of its position, beset with traffic problems. For many years Gunthorpe Bridge has been a vital river crossing point and therefore a funnel through which A6097 and A46 trunk road traffic and local traffic from many villages and small towns (including Gunthorpe) flows. This situation has worsened since the A46 roadworks commenced last year.
- 4 The traffic volume on the A607 is such that any hold-up (eg hedge-cutting, marathon, bike ride) can, and usually does, cause massive delays. The Harley event is timetabled for 5 hours on a busy summer weekend.
- 5 Many residents queue for long periods simply to get out of the village and yet NCC Highways Department will not install traffic controls on the A6097 (in Gunthorpe).
- 6 The important flood alleviation works at Cottage Pasture Lane have been held up for two years partially because of the need to, temporarily, close the A6097 and yet there seems to be no hesitation in, effectively or actually, closing roads to support events that are of no benefit to the local community.

## **5. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION**

Following on from the project plan for the completion of the bund at Cottage Pasture Lane distributed at last month’s PC meeting, Cllr Bowles informed Members that he has tried, unsuccessfully, to contact the authorities to ascertain when the works would commence.

Members were informed that some residents require flood guards and it was understood that some were still available. TC was asked to determine source.

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

Cllr Stewart informed Members that the County Council was now subject to “severe financial control”.

## 7. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that complaints had been received from members of the public about the posting of Notifications and Minutes by the Clerk. The source of these complaints was, however, unknown and the Chairperson directed that as representations could not be made from both sides the matter would not be discussed.

The publication of Minutes was discussed – it was agreed that a) Minutes will be displayed on the Parish Web Site as soon as they are produced – they would be clearly marked as 'draft'; b) when approved, Minutes will be displayed in the Village Hall – this being the only place where there is sufficient space for them to be protected from the elements.

## 8. PLANNING

### Newark and Sherwood DC applications

10/01027/FUL	Phillip Warrior	Glebe Farm, Peck Lane	Erection of Boat House
10/01102/FUL	Peter Frogson	5 Hazelas Drive	Erection of two storey rear extension
10/00995	Gary Beardsley	Askew Cottage 16 Main Street	Two storey & single storey rear extension

Members agreed no objections to any of the above with the proviso that the Environment Agency had been informed and they had no objections, especially relating to flood alleviation. TC was asked to enquire why comments posted on the NSDC Planning web site were not available for viewing.

### Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

## 9. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

There was nothing to report under this heading.

## 10. FINANCE

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
14	240	RC Services - Grass cutting	270.00	47.25	317.25
14	240	RC Services - Grass cutting	60.00	10.50	70.50
15	241	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	335.94		335.94
15	241	TG Systems - Office / Phone	28.00		28.00
<b>Total expenditure for meeting</b>			<b>693.94</b>	<b>57.75</b>	<b>751.69</b>
<b>Total expenditure to date</b>			<b>4,789.25</b>	<b>178.92</b>	<b>4,968.17</b>

## 11. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

## 12. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

TC was asked to invite Nigel Hamshere of the Greening Campaign to next month's (or October's) meeting.

## 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday September 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15.