

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs. Lesley Jeffery (A)
 Jennifer Williamson (Chairperson)
 Mick Bowles (A)
 Tony Everington
 Cam Pearson (A)
 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 Lesley Jeffery, Mick Bowles, Cam Pearson and Andy Stewart.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on September 22nd were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

4. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

Members were very unhappy with a letter received from Jo Horton (District Manager, NCC Highways) in response to the letter sent to Carl Whitley on Highways issues. It was noted that the 'white line team' was in the village recently, but the yellow lines were untouched. Ms Horton responded to one or two minor issues as well as the following major issues:

- 1 The perennial yellow line problem – Highways have agreed to resurface (and therefore apply yellow lines correctly), however once more they will not, or cannot, give a date except 'next year' (assumed to be calendar year, but may be financial year!) - 'as soon as the weather allows us next year'. All concerned will be reminded that this problem was first reported in June 2008, nearly 2½ year ago!
- 2 The embankment – despite all appearances to the contrary Ms Horton states that there are no structural issues. GPC will try to obtain an independent third-party assessment
- 3 The position of the school sign on south-bound Main Street – despite being so far from David's Lane as to be meaningless, the 'recommendation is that the sign is in the correct place'
- 4 GPC intent to canvass opinion on two proposals for the access road – making it one-way and imposing a weight limit – and, if there were no serious and justified objections, requesting of NCC Highways the implementation of these proposals. When this was put to Carl Whitley he stated "I cannot accede to this request". TC responded to this saying "We certainly do not appreciate this issue to be dismissed out-of-hand at such an early stage!" It was noted that Ms Horton did not respond to this.

TC was asked to write to Jo Horton, with copies to Andy Stewart and Patrick Mercer MP and for the web site stating the Council's complete dissatisfaction with Ms Horton's response and that, should there be any accidents on the access road, then GPC would publicly and vociferously hold Ms Horton's group responsible. TC was also asked to copy the traffic census, carried out in August, to Jo Horton.

TC was also asked to reply to Ron Grundy's letter received last month. A reply has been received from the Health and Safety Executive saying that regrettably they are unable to assist in this matter as they have no jurisdiction in road traffic and pedestrian safety matters on public roads and pavements. They do however make suggestions that will be followed up.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

There was great concern that two serious complaints (one subsequent to this meeting) have been received from resident land-owners, Messrs Clay and Scurlock on Orchard Close regarding the work proposed to Footpath No 3, which runs through private land belonging to at least two residents. The complaints are two-fold – firstly that, despite assurances from Matt Duckworth, the Rights of Way Officer for this area, that the land-owners would be consulted before any action was taken, no such consultation took place and secondly, to compound the issue, the land-owners were sent letters demanding they, the land-owners, clear any vegetation or debris from the path!

As Mr Duckworth was on leave, it was agreed to defer any action until his return on 1st November. The Parish Council have agreed full co-operation with residents on this matter.

Cllrs Jeffery, Williamson and Platten met with Seán McGinley of British Waterways. The meeting was felt to be very productive. Mr McGinley assured Members that he knew nothing about the series of correspondence between Nick Pogson and GPC – TC will copy these to Mr McGinley together with a copy of the Parish Plan. It was noted that British Waterways' network is to be transferred from the public sector into 'civil society' as a new 'national trust' for the waterways. The meaning of 'civil society' is that it will essentially become a charitable organisation. It is unknown at present what the financial effects will be.

British Waterways, in conjunction with 'Partnerships For Renewals', propose to consider the viability and local feeling on the building of a wind turbine close to the Trent, north of the lock. A public meeting has been arranged for 19th November from 12 to 7pm. Leaflets will be delivered to every household in the village.

The next meeting with British Waterways has been arranged for 25th November at 4.30pm.

The Parish Council has, for some considerable time, been addressing the issue of dog mess in the Village. Two meetings in the past two months have been arranged with individual representatives of Sid Paver, the NSDC 'preferred supplier' of dog bins and notices. In each case Councillors have been at the Village Hall awaiting his or her arrival and, without forewarning, they have simply not turned up! The firm in question has also been extremely slow in installing bins in the past – a bin ordered in May has only recently been installed. This is most annoying and it will be determined if any other supplier is able to install both dog bins and notices.

It has been made clear that residents worry about reporting dog-owners not behaving responsibly, on the grounds of creating ill-feeling with friends and neighbours. However the public should be aware that any such incidents may be reported anonymously to 'Crimestoppers' (Tel: 0800 555 111) and will be treated in strict confidence.

Parishioners may also note that for non-emergency calls, the police may be contacted on 0300 300 99 99.

Cllr Sutton has made available the latest crime statistics. It was noted that due to the latest economies the stats are no longer broken down into individual villages.

TC has learned from Total (Oil) Property Services that the Newbridge Garage site is in process of being sold. When, and if, the sale goes ahead it is unknown what plans the new owners may have.

It has been observed that building work is being undertaken at Marhill Garage. TC was asked to check with NSDC Planning.

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Although not in attendance, Cllr Bowles has expressed his disappointment that the flood alleviation work had not commenced at Cottage Pasture Lane. Members were informed that plans were still intact, but no-one seems to know when they will be implemented.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson informed Members that the Annual Parish Council meeting will take place in November – he will send a copy of the Agenda.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

In September's meeting it was suggested that in order to decrease printing costs a monochrome laser printer could be purchased. TC has investigated and made the following points:

- The cost of printing raised by the Clerk has remained unchanged at 30p for many years and TC is not seeking to increase this
- Costs include the current high-quality printer owned by TC; Paper, Ink, Envelopes and special stationery (eg card, laminating pouches)
- The printer is actually a '3-in-1' – Printer, Scanner, Copier and all three functions are frequently used for Council business (eg all letters of any importance are scanned and stored on-line)
- A monochrome laser printer would have to be supplemented by a colour printer for occasional Council and the Clerk's personal / business use.
- With the advent of high-density ink cartridges the cost difference of laser verses ink-jet is very small, variable between makes and difficult to ascertain.

It was agreed that the current system would be retained.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Rural Contact Point – Decommissioning | Noted (Web Site) |
| Suicide Awareness Training | Circulation |
| Wind Turbine(s) - Gunthorpe Lock | |
| Severe Winter Weather inc order form for salt, bins etc | Circulation (follow-up received) |
| Walk-In Centre Review | Circulation |
| Council Tax Freeze | Circulation (email as links present) |
| Independent Playground Inspections on behalf of NSDC – report | To Village Hall Committee |
| NALC AGM - 17 November | |
| HM Treasury - Spending Review email | Circulation (email as links present) |
| NHS - Public Board Meeting 25th November | Circulation |
| RCA - Training Needs | Form to be completed and returned |

10. PLANNING

The meeting held with the Chief Executive, Newark & Sherwood District Council took place on October 5th. A brief summary will be produced, but one of the main points made was that the CE welcomes, even encourages, valid complaints and criticism from the public and local authorities on any of the services delivered by NSDC. The reasoning behind this is that issues can only be addressed when they are made known to those responsible.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

10/01204/FUL - Adam Perkins, - Tom Browns Brasserie – there were no objections to this application, but it was pointed out that although it is both on the flood plain and the green belt, if the Environment Agency had no objections. Cllr Jackson will speak to Planning Department about this.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

10/00107/FUL - Phillip Warrior - Boat House - approved

10/01102/FUL Peter Frogson - 5 Hazelas Drive - Erection of two storey extension - approved

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Cllr Jeffery has informed Members that the Village Hall has arranged an open evening on 3rd November with nibbles and wine. The VH Committee have asked if the Parish Council would do a display. This will highlight what the PC does; its Members and current projects / initiatives, the Greening Campaign and Highways issues for example. Cllr Jeffery is prepared to manage this and asked if the Parish Council would make a donation of £30 towards the evening, as it would be of benefit to all – this was agreed unanimously.

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

12. FINANCE

TC is to ask Paul Jeffery, Village Hall Treasurer, a) if the football club(s) are being charged yet and b) what contributions the VH Committee is to request of the Parish Council and when.

The half-year Internal Audit is to take place next week.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

| PSNo | Chq No | | Net Total | VAT | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------|---------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 17 | *243 | Society of Local Council Clerks | 82.00 | | 82.00 |
| 18 | 244 | NSDC - Play Inspection | 30.00 | 5.25 | 35.25 |
| 19 | 245 | TG Systems | 363.94 | | 363.94 |
| 20 | 246 | Clement Keys | 135.00 | 23.63 | 158.63 |
| Total expenditure for meeting | | | 610.94 | 28.88 | 639.82 |
| Total expenditure to date | | | 5,809.13 | 207.80 | 6,016.93 |

NB – the authorised Village Hall donation of £30 will be shown in next month's schedule.

13. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report on this subject.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Members learnt from British Waterways that there is to be a dragon boat race on the Trent by Gunthorpe. No details are available but it is felt that the Parish should be fully informed as there may be some impact on the village with traffic, visitors etc. TC is to investigate.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday November 24th in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15.

A meeting has been provisionally arranged for 15th December 2010.