

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28th APRIL 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mick Bowles, Peter Platten and Jennifer Williamson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on March 24th were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson.

4. OPEN DISCUSSION WITH PUBLIC

A member of the public, Mrs Deverill with support from other dog owners, made clear her dissatisfaction with the measures that have, or have not, been taken to alleviate the problems of dog fouling in the village. It has become apparent that some time ago Newark & Sherwood District Council invited the Parish Council to participate in the implementation of district-wide dog orders. Unfortunately the PC did not respond to this invitation. The meeting was informed by TC that the PC had no record of any such invitation and that any lack of progress on dog orders was not a conscious decision. Mrs Deverill complained of dog fouling in many areas, but principally along Trentside, both before and after the lock. A general discussion about dogs and dog orders followed. Visitors, as well as Members, were informed that dog-owners are subject to various items of legislation, whether or not dog orders are in place:

- 1 It is an offence for dog owners not to clear their dogs' mess from anywhere with 'general' public access
- 2 It is an offence for a dog owner not to keep a dog on a lead if, and only if, instructed to do so by "an authorised officer". In the absence of a specific dog order this is very general ruling and it will only be applied to a situation where a dog is deemed to be out of control. If and when a dog control order is applied to a specific area the "authorised officer" is an employee of the local authority who is authorised in writing for giving such orders.
- 3 The disgusting habit of plastic bags containing dog mess being hung in bushes is illegal under common law. Dog owners are reminded that dog mess is bio-degradable whereas plastic bags generally are not!

The meeting was informed that the Parish Council have, or are in the process of, ordering an additional dog bin and adopting various specific dog orders (and supporting signs) for the PlayPark, the playing field, The Riverside and possibly other areas. Cllr Sutton reminded the meeting that the Parish Council was not a 'policing' authority and therefore could not be expected to enforce any legislation – the onus is on the public to report any infringements.

The following questions were then addressed in a rhetorical manner to Mrs Deverill and the meeting generally:

- 1 Do you know the dog owner(s) responsible, to which the reply was “yes”?
- 2 Have you reported the dog owners to anyone in authority (eg the Parish or District Council), to which the reply was “no”?
- 3 What would you like the Parish Council to do in addition to the measures outlined above? To this there was no response.

Following a reiteration of many of the above points later in the meeting, the Parish Council resolved to address all of the issues raised.

A member of the public, Mr Mike Greenwood, referred to a letter written to the Parish Council many months ago, to which he had not received a reply. TC apologised for not responding and discussion developed regarding what Mr Greenwood considered to be poor communications between the Parish Council and residents of the village. The meeting was reminded that Gunthorpe has both a web site which is kept up to date and, for those without access to the internet, a regular newsletter. Both of these media contain minutes of the Parish Council meetings, although they can be up to a month ‘late’ as the Minutes must be approved, before publication, at the next meeting. The meeting was also informed that Councillors are always happy to discuss village matters personally with any resident. The issues to which Mr Greenwood referred in his letter have been, and remain, high priorities for the Council. It will be seen from the Minutes of the meeting held in October 2009, and referred to subsequently, that a meeting (with a comprehensive agenda) was held with a senior manager from NCC Highways Department. This meeting proved to be very unproductive and the Council has been pursuing issues both individually and collectively. This has finally resulted in another meeting with the NCC Area Manager to be held on the 18th May 2010.

The Clerk was asked to respond immediately to any correspondence received from the public.

5. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

In addition to the above highways issues, TC reported that NCC had been informed, not for the first time, of various problems in the Parish, but had not responded either in word or deed. The issues were:

Subsidence on A6097	School sign N of Davids Lane
Quad Yellow Lines on Slip Road	Unavailability of engineer’s report on Slip Road

Cllr Stewart expressed a mitigating view on behalf of NCC Highways in that the department was understaffed, but he would pursue. Discussion was held regarding traffic in and through the village including the deterioration of the Slip Road and with special regard to the possible Hydro Power plant construction. Cllr Everington suggested the possibility of a weight restriction on the Slip Road. Cllrs Stewart informed Members that setting and implement weight restrictions could be a lengthy process but that he would nevertheless start the process. Discussion was again held regarding the other highways issues. It would seem that NSDC were approving business planning applications for Trentside despite well-founded objections. ‘SLOW’ road markings would be requested for Trentside.

Cllr Stewart stated that the income derived from the speed camera vans went to the Government and was therefore unavailable for maintenance.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Discussion returned to dog litter. It was agreed that Dog Orders and / or associated signs, would be planned as follows:

- 1 PlayPark – No Dogs
- 2 Playing Field – “Please Use the Bins Provided”
- 3 Riverside – Dogs must be on leads
- 4 Signs at each end of Lock and by dog bin
- 5 Another dog litter bin would be ordered for a site to be decided.

After the initial planning application failure for the hydro power plant on grounds on inadequate risk assessment NSDC has delayed decision on a second application pending talks with all concerned including the Environment Agency, Severn Trent and the Parish. With regard to communications with residents it was agreed that NSDC Planning had carried out their legal requirements but no more. The Parish Council is to produce a paper for distribution in the village to keep residents informed and to invite comments. A disparity between flooding models has been brought to notice and the EA would be looking at these during May. It is considered vital that the plant should lessen, and certainly not increase, flood risk. Consideration will be given to the village managing a hydro-power plant installation and thereby gaining long term benefit from it.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Following the meeting of the Undefended Villages, it was agreed that many of the points and issues raised were good, but member parishes were advised to make their own submission. It was agreed that “The Parish Council will send a response to the proposal from the Undefended Villages Meeting”.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson reported that residents of Newark & Sherwood Homes were initially informed that all communal areas were to be kept completely clear of any form of storage – pot plants, wheelchairs and seats for example. However, although Cllr Jeffery had these restrictions confirmed, she was informed that ‘reasonable storage’ (eg mobile chairs, metal chairs and other items of non-flammable fabric would acceptable. Concern emanated from a recent, serious fire where access by the emergency services was severely hampered by obstacles on stairs. There is to be a further fire inspection next week.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than considered elsewhere in this document.

10. PLANNING

There was further discussion regarding the Bridge & Bayleaf Restaurant.

10/00227/FUL – Bob Johal – Bridge & Bayleaf Extension – a meeting was to held on May 4th at Kelham Hall

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

10/00323/FUL - British Waterways Replacement of septic tank – approved

10/00229/FUL – Bob Johal – Signs - approved

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

The land registration 'saga' seems to go and on! The latest requirements from the solicitors are signatures from 4 councillors plus proof of identity including photo (passport or driving licence) and proof of residence (utility bill for example). These must be originals and councillors must attend solicitors or vice versa.

12. FINANCE

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
01	227	NALC LC Review	13.50		13.50
02	228	Zurich Insurance	973.75		973.75
03	229	Dog Bins Contract	564.20	89.67	653.87
04	230	Bass. Neighbourhood Watch	210.00		210.00
05	231	TG Systems - Clerk	363.94		363.94
		Total expenditure for meeting	2125.39	89.67	2215.06
		Total expenditure to date	2,125.39	89.67	2,215.06

13. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There was nothing to report under this heading.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meetings will be the Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will take place on Wednesday May 26th in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15.