

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY APRIL 22nd 2009 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs. Mrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)
Mrs Jennifer Williamson
Roy Thornhill (A)
Mick Bowles
Peter Platten
Tony Everington (A)
Mrs Helen Sutton.

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Notts County Councillor Andy Stewart, and Newark and Sherwood District Councillor Roger Jackson.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Tony Everington and Roy Thornhill

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th March were agreed to be a true record. The Clerk is in the process of reprinting and numbering past minutes and it was agreed that the Chairperson would sign those processed (up to January 2009) and await completion of the remainder and sign at the next meeting. It was noted that the Government has asked all local authorities to consider the lowering of speed limits of 'A' roads and to increase the enforcement of all speed limits.

4. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAY MATTERS

Members discussed the ARUP report – it was noted that there is subsidence at Main Street near to the junction with the A6097. It was also noted that report was not received in time to consider and return comments. It was agreed that a meeting with the Environment Agency would be arranged and that ARUP be requested to attend.

At this point the Clerk was asked to circulate a copy of all letters in the 'Black Box' – Members would then be able to take copies. TC agreed but expressed reservations.

Discussion was held regarding road safety and both the fatal accident last year and the accident that occurred at Easter resulting in serious injury to a motor cyclist. It was noted that £200,000 had been allocated for a cycle track and yet the situation on Gunthorpe's roads (major problems with Gunthorpe Bridge for example) did not seem to warrant reasonable expenditure. Disappointment was expressed at Cllr Smedley's response to Cllr Stewart bearing in mind a recent Government request to local authorities to consider reviewing speed limits on 'A' roads and stricter enforcement of these, and existing, speed limits. It was agreed that a letter would be written to Cllr Smedley reiterating the issues and Government's apparent unwillingness or inability to address them fully. Cllr Smedley is to be asked "will it take another death before anything is done?" Regarding the RH turn to Shelford at the bridge, there are so many issues, buses, emergency vehicles. Cllr Stewart stated that there were no proposals for a speed reduction on Gunthorpe Bridge. It was noted that proposals from Government seem to come well ahead of practicality.

It was noted that following the recent RTA although the paramedics arrived within a few minutes, there was a long delay before the police arrived, having had to drive from Ollerton.

It seems that South Notts police from Bingham are unable to cross Gunthorpe Bridge as their jurisdiction is south of the river and the police may have to travel from as far as Ollerton.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

TC reported that NCC will consider extra street lighting on Hobson's Acre. With regard to Hazelas Close, being a private road, the estimated cost of approximately £7,500 for four lights would have to be raised privately. TC was asked to write to residents clarify the situation and seeking views and comments.

Following the presentation given on hydro power at the Weir, TC was asked to invite the Small Hydro Company to the Annual Parish Meeting. There was debate amongst Members as to whether Gunthorpe and/or the Parish Council had any say in this development. Also asked was 'what does the Parish get in return'?

Cllr Platten is to draft a 'wish list' for British Waterways in regard to the Riverside. The Council have been informed of the plan to investigate the feasibility of Severn Trent building a wind farm at Stoke Bardolph. Prior to submission of a planning application for the erection of a 70 metre wind vane (to determine wind speed at different levels) Severn Trent have discussed their plans with some local parishes. Members expressed their wish to be kept informed. TC will contact Severn Trent. It seems that Severn Trent have not, as yet, submitted a planning application.

Regarding the Housing Needs Survey, Members agreed that the results were ridiculous and, in 8 out of 9 cases, showed not a genuine need, but a desire. One example given of this was a middle-aged couple approaching retirement who would like to stay in Gunthorpe but downsize from a 4-bed house to a 2-bed bungalow. Is this a **need** for 'affordable housing'? Midlands Rural Housing are to be invited to the June GPC meeting to discuss survey.

Cllr Bowles, following a meeting with Central Networks, informed Council that there seemed to be just one place for the re-siting of the sub-station. Information would be published in the Newsletter and views and opinions requested.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson has 'called in' Lowdham Caravans and their Planning Application will now go to the Planning Committee at NSDC.

It was felt that the car park behind Tom Browns, belonging to the Anchor being hard standing is contrary to planning regulations.

Cllr Stewart is to pursue Steven Wood regarding the Common Land. A charge may be incurred.

7. CLERK'S REPORT

Members were informed of the Clerk's new pay scale, partially backdated to April 2008. TC confirmed Dan Bebbington to be new Police Beat Manager. Dan may be contacted on 07890 856446 / 01623 420999 Ext 3370. The two poles recently removed from Trent Lane have now been replaced with signs (on both sides of road) 'Gunthorpe (Riverside)'.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received as follows

Richard Lawrence regarding Common Land	Email from Chair - Lesley re Parking (Tom Browns / Anchor)
Victim Support	midlands rural housing - HN Survey
Cllr Smedley to Andy S re RTA	Equality and Human Rights
Parish / District Community Safety Liaison Group	NHS - Public Board Meeting - 21st May
Broxtowe BC - Left Bank	CPRE - AGM 2008 - May 11 th

9. FINANCE

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
77	188	NSDC - Contribution to CCTV	500.00	75.00	575.00
78	189	NSDC - Dog Bin Contract	298.50	44.78	343.28
79	190	TG Systems - Clerk's Salary	323.10		323.10
79	190	Clerk's Salary Arrears	157.60		157.60
79	190	Clerk's Office Expenses	28.00		28.00
80	191	NRCC - Parish Plan Printing	600.00		600.00
<u>Total expenditure for meeting</u>			1907.20	119.78	2026.98
<u>Total expenditure to date</u>			1,907.20	119.78	2,026.98

10. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

None

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

09/00103/FUL - Graham Marshall - 8 Trentside - Refused

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Members were informed that a single quote for fencing (which the Council has agreed, in principle to fund) was for £2,000. The Village Hall Committee are now seeking other quotes and Cllr Jeffery will investigate other possible funding / grant.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish and Parish Council Meetings will take place on Wed. 27th May.