

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
GUNTHORPE PARISH
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th MAY 2010 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cllr Lesley Jeffery, Chairperson Gunthorpe Parish Council.

“Thank you everyone for attending tonight's meeting. The annual meeting is an open meeting called by ourselves for the Villagers to attend and tell us what they want from us. The agenda is then set from this. Unfortunately we have no invited speakers as we have had no response from Andy Gann, Nottinghamshire Police.

I feel tonight's meeting should be about a business plan for Gunthorpe Parish Council, about what we want to achieve and who takes this forward. We have already started this process with an approach from Robert Gregg's who is a parishioner and emailed the Parish Council regarding brightening the village up!

I met with Bob on May the 6th. We walked the village and noted areas for improvement. A copy of this is available for members tonight to discuss at the PC meeting. That was the easy bit - the hard bit is getting it done. It is achievable, but will not be done overnight.

At our previous meeting a group of Villagers attended and a lot of points were raised.

On the 18th May we met with a Highways representative and Andy Stewart to look at the river front, slope road and pavements. Once again we gave our wish list. A report will be made available.

I often think about giving up the Parish Council role as I feel with my full time work commitment and family life I do not have the time. But I am going to stay but I feel we need more help. A key feature would be a regular newsletter produced by someone from the Village and funded by the PC. Thank you to Paul who has done this in the past but has been unable to produce one recently due to pressures. He did do this voluntarily. So I would like to put this proposal forward to the PC.

We still continue in our fight for flood defences, attending meetings with the environment and the undefended village partnership. This also involves reading and commenting on very lengthy reports. Mick still keeps his eye on ditches, drains and dykes. Thank you Mick.

With regards to planning we still meet with opposition when we try and control what is allowed to develop in the Village. One of our problems is that each planning application is considered separately and although we can make comments re traffic etc this is not automatically considered.

We now have 6 licensed premises of which 5 are restaurants. Whilst we are not against businesses, especially in the present job climate, we are aware of the impact these developments have on the residents of Gunthorpe - traffic issues, litter and noise are huge concerns.

To move forward we need to meet with businesses annually to look at these issues collectively.

We have a beautiful village hall and playing fields, Play Park, Skate Park and, recently, the new sports pavilion. This is all down to hard work done by the Village hall committee the football club and the Villagers. The Parish council have continued to support the Village hall with Grants to pay for costs incurred by the latter. I think you will all agree a good partnership.

As a Parish council we need to communicate more and be proactive. We need to tighten up on letters and meetings. I probably sound unappreciative of the work done I am not. I have spent a bit of time recently looking at what other Parish Councils do and I think we can make things better.

I would like to thank the County Councillor Andy and the District Councillor Roger Jackson for their support. Also to the clerk and Parish councillors. Sadly Roy Thornhill stepped down from the PC but we co-opted a new member Cam Pearson. Cam had a lot to do previously with the website before handing this over to Bob Greggs.

We still have the Village plan in place although a meeting still needs to take place to review this as to how far we have got. One of the matters coming up is the application from the small Hydro Company and their plans for the weir it would be good if as a Parish Council we could commit to this financially to benefit the Village with a return.

Thank you once again to all. We are all very busy people and contribute immensely to the Village but I suggest by using the PC as a voice and the Parish Plan we get a few more helpers onboard.

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Thank you.

2. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

In the discussion that followed various issues were raised, the majority of which are covered in various ongoing reports and/or plans.

- Residents of The Avenue are concerned that, being almost hidden, motorists on the A6097 are unaware of the road – there is no sign to indicate hidden entrance / exit and furthermore a mirror which was a great help to motorists exiting The Avenue has been removed. The two issues lead to problems for residents, visitors and, especially, the emergency services. It was noted that the road is not adopted.
- Some members of the public are unhappy with street lighting in the village. Some lights are badly positioned, the light from some is diminished by foliage and there is no lighting at all in one or two places, the corner of Davids Lane / Newark & Sherwood Homes being a prime example.
- The access / slope road from Gunthorpe Bridge was highlighted as being too narrow and in a poor state of maintenance. Vehicles (including busses) frequently have to back up to allow oncoming vehicles through or to exit onto the A6097. Although the main bus service(s) run by Trent Barton reportedly travel in only one direction there have been reported cases of busses in both directions. It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss the issue with Trent Barton and other bus operators.
- Litter along the A6097 and dog mess at various places in the village, especially along the riverside.
- Amongst other issues discussed were the school sign pointing into a resident's garden; drain covers in the fishermen's area having been stolen, again, and grass being killed off by over-zealous weed control.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would speak with local businesses, especially along Trentside to determine their willingness to assist in measures to get and keep the village an attractive place for both residents and visitors. It was felt any dialogue would mutually beneficial!

The meeting closed.