

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th JANUARY 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC) and Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council) and Cllr Andy Stewart (Nottinghamshire County Council).

FOREWORD

During the Business Forum, held immediately before the Parish Council meeting, Cllr Bruce Laughton, Notts County Council, who is the NCC representative on the Regional Flood Defence Committee and also the Local Government Association representative for Nottinghamshire on the Flooding Forum, paid a brief visit. Although not strictly during the PC meeting, Parish Councillors were present and it was felt appropriate to minute the visit here. Cllr Laughton informed the meeting that Environment Agency flood schemes would continue but that finance would become more difficult as the budget from DEFRA has been cut by 80%. New schemes will only be part-funded by DEFRA and will be given highest priority if they are, when plans are submitted, already part-funded. Cllr Laughton is putting forward three projects, including one for Gunthorpe, but made it clear that any projects would only go ahead if they have been subject to local consultation, approval and support. As a matter of information the Newark Area Internal Drainage Board is still extant but as part of a greater Flood Resilience Group.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jennifer Williamson.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on December 15th were not available and will be approved and signed at the next Parish Council meeting.

4. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

At the Council's request, TC had written to Patrick Mercer MP expressing concern with the lack of progress on various Highways issues and the responses from NCC Highways Department. A reply has been received from Mr Mercer accompanied by a letter from Chris Charnley confirming NCC's proposals on a number of issues, primarily that the slope road was to be resurfaced in the Spring but that the County Council will not agree to one-way and weight limit orders. Cllr Stewart expressed dismay in that the Parish Council had taken this matter further when it had been made clear that, for sound reasons (mainly costs), the County Council was unable to accede to the PC's requests. Members in turn emphasised their appreciation of the work, help and support received from Cllr Stewart and explained that the decision to write to a 'higher authority' was born out of sheer frustration with highways issues in general and particularly the double-double yellow lines which have been a problem for nearly three years.

A statement has been received from an independent surveyor that there were no major defects on the slope road but he was willing to produce a report to help justify a one-way and/or weight limit for £200. It was agreed that a decision would be postponed for the moment.

Cllr Jeffery will meet with David Watson, NCC Highways, to discuss proposals for the replacement bus shelter on Main Street.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Cllr Jeffery, the residents of Orchard Close and Matt Duckworth (NCC Rights of Way Officer) have had a meeting to discuss the proposed improvements to Footpath No 3 leading from Main Street to the A6097. A letter and plan have been received from Mr Duckworth giving details of the proposal.

A brief discussion was held regarding the application for a new notice board. Two sites were discussed – Pecks Lane/Main Street (as replacement for existing notice board) and by the bus-turning circle on Main Street. This item will be discussed at the February meeting. Cllr Jeffery confirmed she had reported the damage to the telephone kiosk.

With regard to the valuation of the Riverside land belonging to Marstons, it was agreed that this would be postponed until Cllr Platten had spoken again with Marstons. Cllr Platten also agreed to speak with Robert King from whom a quotation for the valuation had been received.

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Roger Crafts of Lowdham Leisureworld (LLW) has made available a detailed proposal entitled 'Gunthorpe Flood Relief Project'. Cllr Jeffery attended a meeting at LLW and was shown the proposal for the scheme. Cllr Jeffery suggested, and it was agreed, that a meeting scheduled at Lowdham on Feb 19th for the residents of Gunthorpe would be moved to Gunthorpe Village Hall. LLW will circulate publicity around the village. Parish Council members had received a copy of the proposal but felt more time was needed to consider the full implications of the scheme. Other schemes were also suggested as was consideration of the impact on Riverside. It was decided that the PC needed to get the views of Innes Thompson (EA) and the Village before making a decision. It was emphasised that this project if commenced is, albeit with EA and NSDC Planning agreement, a private project.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

With regard to the area of land opposite the Lighthouse Café which has been converted to hard-standing with a number of parked caravans, one of the caravans has been removed.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than mentioned elsewhere in these Minutes.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no urgent correspondence – a few items will be placed in circulation folder for February.

10. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

11/00097/FUL - Biondi- Erection of front porch area and rear conservatory & planning for complete kitchen and store areas to the side of Biondi Bistro – no objections.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

10/01513/FUL - Partnerships for Renewal - Erection of a 70 metre high meteorological mast for a period of 36 months - approved

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

TC informed Council that the ride-on mower is not insured with Zurich – TC to arrange. The Chairperson informed Members that the village hall registration is now completed and the relevant documentation should be received soon.

12. FINANCE

Discuss was held on the Precept requirements for 2011 / 2012. The budget and balance sheet for the current financial year, with estimated figures for January – March showed the following:

- 1 The bank balance for the end of March 2010 was overestimated by £2,400, primarily due to an increase in requirements for the Village Hall
- 2 The budget for the Village Hall and playing field were over-estimated by £4,000, partly because the PC paid grass-cutting costs direct to contractor and partly because the budget for Village Hall repairs was not required
- 3 The sum £2,600 has been allocated for solicitors' and valuation fees. This sum is probably an over-estimate.
- 4 There are a few other minor variations from the budget.
- 5 The estimated end-of-year balance is £700 less than budget.

Taking the above into consideration it was agreed that the PC would require 'no change' ie £16,150 to Precept.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

<i>PSNo</i>	<i>Chq No</i>		<i>Net Total</i>	<i>VAT</i>	<i>TOTAL</i>
26	302	Clerk's Salary	335.94		335.94
26	302	Office / Phone	28.00		28.00
26	302	Printing Costs	45.60		45.60
27	303	Sid Paver – Dog Bin **	318.00	55.65	373.65
Total expenditure for meeting			409.54	0.00	409.54
Total expenditure to date			7,422.55	255.93	7,678.48
** Subsequently cancelled due to company name change					

13. PARISH PLAN

Nothing to report.

14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday February 23rd in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15. The next meeting of the Business Forum will be held on May 25th prior to the Annual Parish Council Meeting.