

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22nd JUNE 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs Lesley Jeffery (A)
 Helen Sutton (Chairperson)
 Mick Bowles
 Chris Cope
 Tony Everington (A)
 Cam Pearson
 Peter Platten

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllrs Lesley Jeffery, Tony Everington and Cllr Andy Stewart (Nottinghamshire County Council).

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. ELECTION OF CO-OPTED MEMBER

Chris Cope of Grange Farm, Gunthorpe gave a brief personal and business résumé and expressed his reasons for, and interest in, becoming a Parish Councillor. He also stated that which he felt he could offer the Parish and the Parish Council. After very brief deliberation, Cllr Cope was welcomed, unanimously, onto the Parish Council.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on May 25th were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson. It was noted that there had been dismay at the extremely long elapse of time for the Village Hall registration to be processed by the Solicitors, Kirkland and Lane. TC stated that Charles Beaumont had 'phoned to say that the relevant documents had been posted, although not yet received.

5. HIGHWAYS & TRAFFIC MATTERS

Members were dismayed that after three years of battling to have the yellow lines corrected and the surface repaired on the access road to Trentside, the end result of recent work was deplorable. Some new tar had been laid, a short stretch of yellow lines had been removed and some yellow lining had been renewed. TC was asked to write to Jo Horton in disgust. Members stated the possibility that the work was yet to be finished but this was felt unlikely.

Members were also unhappy that illegal posters were still being displayed in the village – these included an East Bridgford event and adverts for boat trips, a café and the church. Businesses and organisations should be aware that it is against the law to display these signs without permission.

The Great Nottinghamshire Bike Ride – Members were pleased to note that although there were one or two complaints, inevitable in an event of this size, the Ride was felt to be well organised. Also noted – the 'Outlaw' Triathlon will run in July.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

The proposed wind turbine was discussed. An email has been received from a parishioner posing a number of questions for the developers and the Parish Council. The email expresses concern about the lack of consultation and public awareness. However the following points were made:

- 1 The 'project' is in very early stages. A trial mast has been erected and will be in place for a considerable period. If the results of the trial are unsatisfactory the scheme will not go ahead.
- 2 The developers, 'Partnerships for Renewables', have clearly stated that various studies are to take place including possible effects on wild-life, noise, flicker etc.
- 3 During the above trials and studies and during any subsequent planning application (if submitted), local residents, GPC, and various bodies (including anglers, ramblers bird-watchers and wild-life groups) will be consulted and will have the chance to discuss any issues. The first of a number of regular meetings / exhibitions has already take place the next was to be on June 24th.

Consensus at the meeting, from emails and by word-of mouth, was that there was a lot of opposition to the wind turbine proposal. It was agreed that information would be published on the web site; that the email from Stuart Barnes would be circulated and that a 'referendum' would be devised to circulate in the village. The Parish Council would respond to any future consultation and planning application according to the wishes of the majority of those completing the referendum. TC is to contact Epperstone Parish Council on their opposition to a wind turbine.

The issue will be highlighted at the Greening Campaign meeting on 2nd July and is to be placed on next month's agenda.

It was noted that the siting of the wind turbine may well be linked, physically and economically, to the site of the proposed small hydro scheme and, should the proposed small hydro scheme go ahead, the height of the weir will be increased by about two feet.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

It was noted that no response had been received from Henry Plant of Marston's, regarding the Riverside issues. Cllr Platten will 'phone or even visit Marston's at Wolverhampton to pursue this. Cllr Platten is also to speak with Bill Belshaw of the Anglers' Association to discuss their area of the Riverside.

Councillors had an excellent meeting with the Environment Agency. The EA's latest modelling data seems to be incredibly accurate, showing every house and the depth and speed of flood waters, both historically, confirming accuracy, and possible future scenarios. The EA is keen to work with GPC now and in the future on both flood alleviation and on any planning issues with possible flooding implications. However, with funds being so tight, a cost benefit analysis will be a vital necessity for any flood alleviation schemes.

TC informed the meeting that Newark and Sherwood Planning Department and the Newark Area Internal Drainage Board, although unable to attend meeting are happy to meet with GPC on any current and future projects.

The Business Forum – August 3rd was suggested as next meeting – TC to confirm suitability with Biondi's.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson has asked for an enforcement order to be placed on the new caravan site which was developed without planning permission. The owners or tenants of the land will be required to move the caravans and possibly take steps to reverse the development. A planning application has now been submitted, in retrospect, for this site. The Parish Council will object to this application on the following grounds:

- 1 It is within the Green Belt
- 2 It is in a flood corridor and therefore poses a barrier to the free flow of water
- 3 The hard-standing created on the site hinders or prevents the absorption of water into the ground
- 4 Trentside is a narrow road and it is felt that the possible increase in vehicles and trailers would be unacceptable on this already busy road
- 5 The development contravenes regulations specified in PPS25.

Communications between the Parish Council and Karen White, Head of Legal Services NSDC, concerning 'Planning Saturation' were discussed. Ms White has agreed to meet on site with GPC and Cllr Jackson to discuss the proliferation of licensed premises and other businesses along Trentside. This subject was raised as it was felt that NSDC were aware of the fact that 'Saturation' had been reached some time ago and that NSDC should already be viewing planning application of a business nature with extreme circumspection. A member of the public suggested the following general legislation:

"If there is little likelihood of a successful planning application then enforcement can legitimately take place immediately".

Two general queries were raised – do the residents of caravans and boats pay council tax and are any of the boats on the Trentside moorings resident?

9. CLERK'S REPORT

Items not mentioned elsewhere in the Minutes were as follows:

- 1 Dog Control Orders - The second 'round' of dog control orders to be implemented for those parishes missing out on first round have not yet been actioned as they are with NSDC legal department. There is still therefore time for GPC submit requirements. There will be a charge, mainly for advertising, but this will be minimal considering the number of parishes sharing (11).

A number of orders are already in place (District-wide) including fouling and putting on lead if asked. The orders which may be implemented either parish-wide or for specified areas are:

- Must be kept on lead (dogs not owners)
- Dogs excluded
- Maximum no of dogs in 'group' (current NSDC order is 6, but does not apply in Gunthorpe).

It was emphasised that to implement any of these orders, there must be valid justification. If, for example, dogs were excluded from the Playing Field, this could be justified on the grounds of persistent fouling. There would be no doubt about justification for the exclusion from the Playpark.

It was agreed that TC would request the following Dog Control Orders:

- 1 Dogs excluded from the Playpark
- 2 Dogs to be kept on lead along the Riverside from the Bridge to far end of lock.

Signs would be displayed in the near future, as required.

- 2 TC raised issues with the appointment of a successor to Martin Wilson for web site maintenance on the grounds that a) the appointment had not been ratified by Council and b) the costs last year were very high at £350 taking into consideration the little work that had been done and that no costs had been given, or agreed, by the successor. Council agreed unanimously that Josh Whitmore would be appointed to maintain the web site at a charge to be agreed.
- 3 Della Snelling, NSDC has enquired if GPC was will to make a contribution of £403 towards the CCTV coverage in the village. Due to its limited value, the Council agreed to decline.
- 4 A one-day training course for councillors is to be arranged for Cllrs Pearson and Cope.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Flooding Document from PP	Email to Richard Lawrence / Karen White
Letter to Innes Thomson re 21st June	re Saturation
NALC - 'New Councillor Training'	Karen White re Planning Saturation
CPRE AGM + others	Wind Turbine - Paul Jeffery
Park & Ride	Neighbourhood Priority Survey
SIM Card for CCTV	

11. PLANNINGNewark and Sherwood DC applications

- 11/00816/FUL - Jonathan Simpson - Single storey extension to the rear and first floor extension over garage 10 Bramley Close - no objections
- 11/00790/FUL - Ashmore - Householder application for proposed boundary wall and garage Brookland House 43 Main Street - no objections
- 11/00661/FUL - Gunthorpe Marina - Mr Philip Smith - Change of use of land to hardstanding/storage for boats and caravans The Buffer Depot – objections, see para 8

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Nothing to report other than mentioned elsewhere in these Minutes.

13. FINANCE

TC informed Members that the internal audit had been conducted by Roger Snowdin. Mr Snowdin's report was as follows:

This report is made to the members of the Council following my internal audit conducted on the 19th and 20th May 2011 as set in the audit plan. The Council's records balanced to the bank and receipts and payments were all evidenced by supporting accounting evidence and financial regulations are being adhered to.

Taking the above into consideration, it was agreed by Council that that the necessary financial controls were in place and periodically reviewed. The Annual return was signed and will be submitted to the external auditors.

TC reported that no word had been received from SLCC / NALC regarding PAYE.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
10	326	Parks & Playground Solutions	1,960.00	392.00	2,352.00
11	327	TG Oldham - Clerk's Salary / Expenses	424.92		424.92
Total expenditure for meeting			2384.92	392.00	2776.92
Total expenditure to date			6,516.58	402.00	6,918.58

14. PARISH PLAN

Cllr Platten requested a note to the village – ‘Help needed for work on tidying up the Riverside’.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 27th July 2011 in the Village Hall, commencing 7:15pm.