

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd NOVEMBER 2011 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council) and Innes Thomson and Richard Kershaw from the Environment Agency.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Andy Stewart.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Held on October 23rd were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson.

4. DISCUSSION WITH MSSRS THOMSON AND KERSHAW, ENVIRONMENT AGENCY

Cllr Jeffery welcomed Innes Thomson (IT) and Richard Kershaw. Mr Thomson expressed his appreciation of the Parish Council for their efforts in giving due consideration to flood alleviation; for their efforts in addressing the issues and for liaising with the relevant authorities. Reference was made to the bundle of documents passed to the EA and Mr Thomson requested that the PC ensured there was evidence to back any statements made therein.

The responsibilities of the various authorities concerned with flooding were summarised – the EA have responsibility for the Cocker Beck, the Dover Beck and the Trent; Notts. County Council are responsible for roadside drainage; Newark Area Internal Drainage Board (NAIDB) are responsible for the remaining drains and ditches and NSDC are responsible for overall strategy, flood corridors for example.

It was suggested that a local forum be created to which the aforementioned authorities would be invited. Members agreed to this. Cllr Platten asked Mr Thomson if the flood corridors were clearly defined anywhere and if the EA were responsible for protecting them. Mr Thomson said "Yes". Cllr Bruce Laughton, NCC, as a flood alleviation specialist would also be invited.

It was agreed that if any work is to be carried out in the flood corridors or on the flood plain, there must be full consultation and an element of 'give and take'. Cllr Bowles mentioned a blockage in the Old Hall Drain – IT stated that the EA may consider it, but that this was a (proportionally) minor issue. However LJ commented that the whole comprised a number of small elements. IT agreed with this. It was also agreed that all parties must work closely to ensure that flooding was minimised. "Little & Often"!

Mr Thomson reiterated that the new 3D modelling system is excellent and has proved to be extremely accurate. It was emphasised that the A6097 must be kept open at all costs – the road is an important lead to one of the few Trent crossings in the area and the only road giving access to the village. Discussion took place regarding a mine shaft starting at the Thoresby pit – it is understood that a shaft runs under, or near to, Gunthorpe. At present the shaft is being pumped clear of water, but it's unknown whether if, and when, the pit closed the shaft would continue to be cleared and if it was full of water whether it would pose a flood risk.

Mr Thomson confirmed that the EA does keep track of subterranean water levels and it is not felt that there a problem from this source. Cllr Everington emphasised that the Old Hall Drain and other ditches and drains do need regular maintenance including clearing.

Mr Thomson stated that the Government will financially support flood defence projects in liaison with local government and other authorities especially the EA. An example was given of a bund that helped Gunthorpe, but created a potential problem at Shelford, upstream. It was clearly stated that the owner of Lowdham Leisure World had followed due process in plans for flood alleviation at LLW and Gunthorpe but that one or two issues need to be considered.

Richard Kershaw gave members an update on the Cottage Pasture bund. The budget was now allocated. As there were now fewer homes protected that originally envisaged, the benefits had been revised down. However, with the help of the new 3D modelling system the protection had been revised up from 1 in 25 yrs flood to 1 in 100 yrs. The plans were going to EA committee very soon. The project presents very good value for money with 10 properties being protected. No objections had been received from any source.

It was stated that if a home owner had been 'victimised' in regard to insurance because their property was on or close to the border of a flood risk area, then the EA are willing to review the property and produce a letter which may be passed to the insurance company. The National Flood Forum has a list of companies who may offer policies to those in flood risk areas.

Cllr Sutton requested that Modelling System be run for the A6097.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Following a query from Cllr Sutton it was agreed that any councillor could sign petitions as a member of the public. It was reported that a house on Pasture View has been empty for a long time and was showing signs of dereliction. It was agreed that the owner would be found, possibly from the Land Registry.

TC stated that Central Networks had still not confirmed the re-siting of the sub-station at the north end of Main Street. TC to pursue.

TC

A letter has been prepared requesting more information from the solicitor representing a local horse owner. This is to be passed to a third party for consideration.

LJ

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

The exchange of correspondence between the Parish Council and a member of the public regarding flooding issues, raised in last month's meeting, has continued. The gentleman was invited to discuss these issues in a closed session of this Parish Council meeting – this offer was declined.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jackson reported that the recent works carried out at Marhill's had now been submitted to NSDC Planning Enforcement in view of encroachment onto the green belt.

It was stated that school children on bikes had been causing nuisance at the N & S Homes. They had been reported to the police.

Cllr Jackson also reported that NSDC Planning were dealing with the pergola and neon lights at Pontefino's.

It was reported that a caravan had been sited in the field at the north end of Main Street – as it appeared that it is non-residential and temporary it was not subject to planning regulations.

Members enquired whether the subject of planning saturation along the riverside, as previously discussed with Karen White, had progressed. Cllr Jackson stated that as all but one of the developments in this area had been given planning permission nothing could be done at present. Planning saturation could, and should be, considered if and when another planning application is submitted in this area.

It was announced that the planning application for the wind turbine had now been submitted with a height increased from 122m to 126m. TC was asked to inform interested parties (eg walkers, NCC Footpaths Officer, etc)

8. CLERK'S REPORT

There was nothing to report other than described elsewhere in these minutes.

9. PLANNING

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

11/01504/FUL - Gibbs, 5 Peacock Close - extension to front of bungalow – no objections.

11/01507/FUL - Fullers Cars, Vans and Motorhomes - Extension to commercial (showroom, workshop and stores) building – no objections providing green belt and flood plain are considered.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

11/00765/FULM - Roger Crafts - LLW – erection of a caravan and motorhome maintenance facility - approved

10. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

The village hall is now open on Fridays between 8.45 and 1 for social gathering – tea and coffee, newspapers, library etc. There is now a 'phone line installed and 2 or 3 computers and they need broadband.

11. FINANCE

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

| PSNo | Chq No | | Net Total | VAT | TOTAL |
|--------------------------------------|--------|----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| 24 | 341 | Martin Wilson - Website Updates | 35.00 | | 35.00 |
| 25 | 342 | RC Services – Grass Cutting | 114.00 | 22.80 | 136.80 |
| 26 | 343 | Roger Snowdin - Accountancy Work | 30.00 | | 30.00 |
| 27 | 344 | Gordon Oldham - Clerk | 462.61 | | 462.61 |
| 28 | 345 | JH Walter - Land Valuation | 332.69 | 66.54 | 399.23 |
| Total expenditure for meeting | | | 974.30 | 89.34 | 1,063.64 |
| Total expenditure to date | | | 10,670.31 | 676.34 | 11,346.65 |

12. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

13. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Following a conversation with Cathy Gillespie, Team Manager Landscape Reclamation at NCC, Cllr Sutton mentioned some possible sources of funding for the Riverside – these include LIS, WREN and the Trent Vale Landscape Partnership.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21st December 2011 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.