

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25th JANUARY 2012 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 Cllr Andy Stewart (Notts County Council).

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. NOTICE

Members were sad to learn of the death of Keith Sheppard and the death of John Cook. Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to Sheila and Susan and their families.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on December 21st were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson.

5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Members were informed that the pothole on Peck's Lane is very deep and wide, but as it lies in the unadopted section of the road, NCC were unable to repair it. TC was requested to ask the land owners – Ross Mason, Phil Warrior and James Fisher – if one would kindly repair it. TC

TC stated that he had received a 'Highways Information Pack' on CD. As the document is so bulky TC was asked to produce just one hard copy and circulate to Members. TC

It was agreed that traffic in the morning has increased substantially whilst the A46 work has been carried out.

Cllr Stewart agreed to arrange a traffic count at the junction of the slope road and the A6097 – concern has been voiced on the dangers of slope road traffic turning right onto the main road. Some residents feel that it is easier than joining the 6097 at the Main Street junction. AS

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Information sheets defending the wind turbine have been received from Pfr – these will be circulated. It was confirmed that despite previous notification a planning application has not been submitted for the wind turbine and will not be submitted until the results of testing have been received and considered.

The community gathering aka coffee morning on Fridays in the Village Hall are proving extremely popular.

There has been no progress on the community / convenience store.

With regard to the Business Forum, it was agreed that a report would be drawn up by the Parish Council outlining the ways in which local businesses could help and co-operate with the PC. This would be distributed and the response considered.

An email has been received regarding the painting:

“Just to update you on the painting event. Jo and I agreed on the date; > Saturday 10th March between 9 30 and 12. The idea is to advertise the event and get press involvement. Children will enter paintings of Gunthorpe for a competition. Selected paintings will be exhibited at Biondi on that morning and parents will be invited to attend. The resident artist may do a masterclass for children and parents and will act as judge. There will be refreshments for children and school will put up some sort of promotional stall. It would be helpful if we could speak about it sometime soon, so that we can decide how the Painting can be displayed and promoted and what the Parish Council would like to do.

Cllrs Platten and Pearson will formulate a plan and liaise with the school. After a brief discussion it was agreed that the original painting would be displayed in the school with a print being displayed in the Village Hall.

PP
CP

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

With regard to the bundle of documents to be sent to Marstons Breweries it was agreed that there had been confusion over the various appendices. Cllr Platten offered to ‘re-assemble’ the bundle and edit the contents where necessary.

PP

Discussion took place regarding a series of communications and demands over the past months from a resident of Gunthorpe, Mr R Finney, and a resident of Lowdham, Mr R Fell. The demands were for copies of various Parish Council Minutes from the past 2 years and copies of a bundle of documents submitted to the Environment Agency last year. Initially the Parish Council informed Mr Finney that the minutes were freely available on the Gunthorpe web site. It was also clearly put to Mr Finney that the documents given to the Environment Agency were draft documents accumulated over a period of years and therefore were not intended for public scrutiny until, and this point must be emphasised, the EA and GPC had agreed on the accuracy and relevance of each. However the PC did agree to allow Mr Finney to have supervised sight of the documents and to take copies where he wished. Mr Finney disagreed with this and complained to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) under the Freedom of Information Act. In discussion with the ICO prior to a formal hearing of the complaint, the Parish Council were informed that although the request could, under section 14 of the FOIA, be considered vexatious, the Parish Council should have refused the request immediately under that section. The Parish Council therefore agreed to provide the requested copies. The Parish Council, and therefore taxpayers must unfortunately bear the brunt of the costs in time and materials as the PC is only allowed to charge Mr Finney 10 pence per sheet.

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Stewart (AS) informed Members that NCC were asking £50 for the painting of Gunthorpe recovered from the archives at County Hall. Members agreed that this was a very reasonable cost and that the painting would be purchased on behalf of the village. Cllr Stewart informed the meeting that some confusion had arisen over the cost of, and charges levied, for meals at the newly founded academies. Schools currently charge £2 per meal but this takes into account subsidy from NCC which the academies will not received. They are therefore now charging £3 per meal.

Cllr Stewart pointed out that ‘Gunthorpe’ isn’t signposted on the new A46. AS was asked about the current status of the restoration of the gravel pits – he will investigate.

AS

Cllr Jackson (RJ) informed members that there was no progress at Marhill’s. RJ also informed the meeting that, following reports of night lights visible at Lowdham Leisureworld, there are occasional overnight caravan stops there.

AS stated that the NCC expert on Localism will be able to visit parish councils to talk about Localism.

9. CLERK'S REPORT

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

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Revised Ethical Framework

RCAN - Community Consultation Seminar

11. PLANNING

It was agreed that hard copy of obsolete plans need not be kept as they were always available online and/or at NSDC. TC has written to the Planning Inspectorate regarding the Riverside Caravans planning enforcement appeal. There was some confusion at NSDC regarding planing applications and NSDC Planning Committees. Members were informed of a Neighbourhood Planning Seminar.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

11/01565/FUL - Robert Greggs The Haybarn, 4 Riverlands Close Removal of existing wooden conservatory and replace with larger UPVC conservatory – no objections

11/01827/FUL - Mrs D Sweeney - 2 Trentside – loft conversion / balcony – no objections.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

None

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

On Friday the 4th June an all-day and evening event is to take place to celebrate the Queen's jubilee. TC asked if there had been any progress on the dog control orders – RJ thought not, this he would confirm.

RJ

13. FINANCE

It was agreed that LJ, HS and TC would meet on 31st January or 8th February to discuss TC's contract. Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
33	351	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	369.57		369.57
33	351	Clerk's Expenses Printing Costs	65.00		65.00
33	351	Clerk's Expenses - Arrears	85.00		85.00
34	352	Peter Platten - Print Restoration / Scan etc	110.00		110.00
Total expenditure for meeting			629.57	0.00	629.57
Total expenditure to date			12,010.45	707.34	12,717.79

14. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There was nothing to report under this heading.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd February 2012 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.