

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25TH APRIL 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); Richard Kershaw and Andrew Mitchell (Environment Agency) and two members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies, but Cllr Tim Wendels newly elected NSDC member for Lowdham was unable to attend this meeting and will hopefully attend the annual meetings in May.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Jeffery declared an interest in a planning application relating to Inham Fields Close. Cllr Bowles declared an interest in any Gunthorpe Parish matters as he is a resident of the village.

3. ENVIRONMENT AGENCY – DISCUSSION

Richard (RK) and Andrew (AM) were welcomed and introductions made. RK described the roles played by members of the EA – the management of assets and flood management, including emergency planning, being those of most interest to GPC. He described the latter as being a multi-agency responsibility, the ‘agencies’ being the EA; Police, Fire and Ambulance Services; NCC; NSDC and GPC. Cllr Everington expressed his worries about the degree of preparedness of agencies and co-operation between them following the 2000 flooding. However AM stated that vast improvements had been made since then in most aspect of emergency planning. He showed members the emergency planning manual published (for limited circulation) by the EA. It contained various details for Gunthorpe such as care homes, caravan parks etc. The emergency services carry out an exercise in each locality every three years. Discussion was held on the creation of a Community Flood Plan. At this point GEFAG 2012 was also discussed – the meeting was informed that R Fell who created the group and excluded the Parish Council – had now left, and it was felt that GEFAG and GPC could work together. Cllr Jeffery expressed her concern that without co-operation between the two groups, work would be duplicated. Cllr Jackson and the EA agreed with Cllr Bowles saying that at present there was total confusion. GEFAG is to elect a Chair / spokesperson. Cllr Pearson stated, and it was unanimously agreed, that the Parish Council is the official agency in the village in respect of all flood matters. GFAG is unelected, selective in its membership, and lacks the openness and transparency required in these matters.

It was emphasised that GPC members not only have valuable experience and have worked on flood alleviation (for many years in some cases) but that they live in the area. It is understood that GFAG has been liaising with the EA on plans for a LLW bund. Cllr Jeffery will arrange talks with GEFAG 2012.

Mr Kershaw gave a presentation of the new modelling which has been carried out for the Trent between Nottingham and Newark – from the modelling it was felt that an 18.5m bund was just about right. RK also produced a number of plans for various levels of flooding – these were discussed with interest and at length,

RK emphasised that it was now far more difficult to justify expenditure on flood alleviation schemes – the benefits must outweigh the cost, sometimes by a great amount. A project is easier to justify if contributions are made by a number of parties including parish councils.

LJ

With regard to the Lowdham Leisureworld bund Cllr Pearson remarked, and it was agreed, that if it benefitted LLW, good, but more important was that any development should benefit Gunthorpe as a village. Richard stated that more modelling and costing work was needed before a report could be produced.

A member of the public asked for the status of the Cottage Pasture Lane bund. RK stated that it had gone out to tender but unfortunately a very reasonable tender submitted by NCC was initially incomplete and then received too late. The bund will be completed in the Summer. **It was noted with interest and dismay that work had been halted on the bund because of an audit instigated by a Mr Roger Fell, which did not make any material findings.**

TE

Andrew and Cllr Everington are to arrange a meeting of flood wardens.

A 'Flood Emergency Plan' developed by Wallington Village Community Association was given as a very good example of a Community Plan. It is available here: http://www.wvca.co.uk/sites/default/files/Emergency_Flood_Plan_2011.pdf or from the Clerk.

4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Held on 28th March were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairperson. The minutes for the meeting in February were signed by Cllr Sutton as Chairperson of that meeting.

5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS

TC informed Members that the 'Highways Information Pack' (86 pages) had now been printed and would be circulated.

TC

6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

It was noted that meetings were being held for 'Community Volunteers for Emergencies' but unfortunately it takes place on the fourth Wednesday of each month.

The Parish Council is well aware of the prevalence of dog muck in the village generally, but highlighted recently is the state of the playing field where dog owners seem totally oblivious to the harm and inconvenience their negligent and thoughtless action or inaction causes. Letters have been received from a football referee and the secretary of the football club regarding this serious problem. The Council has also received an email from Jeremy Hutchinson, Environmental Health, NSDC, an extract is given here:

All of the DCO (*Dog Control Orders*) applications are with Legal to process. They have to be advertised, which gives 28 days for an representations to be made, taken to Cabinet for approval, then re-advertised before they come into force, which should be by mid-summer all being well.

..... the fouling situation on the David's Lane playing field is bad, so I have asked the Dog warden to keep an eye on it.

The Parish Council have plans for warning notices, once these DCO's are in operation.

7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

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

8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

9. CLERK'S REPORT

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

10. CORRESPONDENCE

Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document

Safety Liaison Group - 23-MAY-12 - clash with Annual Parish Meetings

County Council Civic Service Sunday 26th June at 3pm – Southwell Minster

Harry Johnson Award

11. PLANNING

The meeting was informed that Mr P Smith had withdrawn his appeal against the planning enforcement notice served regarding the caravan site – the land must now revert to its original state and failure for this to happen would be a criminal offence.

The flags outside Fullers have been taken down and then reflown – the proprietors have been advised that a planning application should be made.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

12/00291/FUL - 44 Main Street - Conversion to dwelling – Entrance / Exit to Inham Fields Close not needed.

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

12/00037/FUL - Marehill Service Centre - refused – Green Belt. As some of this work has already been carried out an enforcement notice will be served.

12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

There was nothing to report under this heading.

RJ

13. FINANCE

TC informed the meeting that a payroll system had been set up and that TC was now an employee complying with PAYE regulations. The Co-op bank account balance will shortly be transferred to HSBC and the account closed.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
01	4	TG Oldham - Clerk's Salary	295.77		295.77
01	5	Clerk's Expenses / Print Costs (£45 + £30)	75.00		75.00
02	6	HMRC - Income Tax	73.80		73.80
03	7	Lesley Jeffery - Print	10.00		10.00
Total expenditure for meeting			454.57	0.00	454.57
Total expenditure to date			454.57	0.00	454.57

14. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

The possibility of opening a Community Shop was again discussed – TC was asked to determine the owners of Pontefino's – at the last contact, TC was informed that the proprietors had plans for the old Post Office – TC will check whether this is still the case.

TC

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Annual Parish and Parish Council Meeting will be held on 23rd May 2012 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.