

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th June 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Cllrs           Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)  
                  Helen Sutton (A)  
                  Mick Bowles (A)  
                  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 Notts County Council). Present for the first session were Morgan Wray (Environment Agency) and Andy Harrison and Lynn Palmer (GEFAG).

**1. DISCUSSION WITH EA AND GEFAG**

This was a closed session. Morgan Wray gave a brief summary of the present situation of flood alleviation proposals in Gunthorpe, initiated by Lowdham Leisure World. 'Plan A', it was stated, had a number of issues. The current proposal included realigning the course of Cocker Beck and discussion was held on one or two issues which had to be resolved in this respect. The cost of this scheme is currently estimated at approximately £1M of which the Government will contribute £300k. This obviously creates a massive shortfall. Various means of bridging the gap have been discussed in the past, but a new one suggested at the meeting was 'habitat building' – this involves creating a natural environment that actually encourages wildlife to return to, and develop, in the area. It was agreed that all involved should look for ideas for fundraising.

Mr Wray also stated that an important element of any costing was maintenance. In this case the bund would need to be maintained – this includes mowing and routine inspections of the bund and inspections of, and possible repairs to, the valve at the Cocker Beck / Trent junction.

With the change of administration at Notts County Council there could be a change of policy.

This session concluded with the departure of Messrs Wray and Harrison and Mrs Palmer.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Helen Sutton, Mick Bowles and Tony Everington.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Held on May 22<sup>nd</sup> were agreed as a true record and will be signed by the Chairperson at a later date.

**5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Cllr Jackson informed the meeting that following the PC's request for a 20mph speed limit on Trentside, a traffic count had been arranged.

TC confirmed a Roadworks Bulletin recently issued stating road closures as follows:

*Trent Side Gunthorpe between its junctions with A6097 Gunthorpe Bridge and Main Street and Trent Lane, East Bridgford at its junction with Gunthorpe Bridge*

*From 09.00 hours Monday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2013 to 17.00 hours Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2013.*

Complaints have been received about the ‘creeping’ of grass at the edge of pavement at the north end of Main Street. TC will ask RC Services to meet with Cllr Bowles to discuss this and a new contract for grass cutting / rolling.

Members expressed concerns that the Village signs had still not been installed – TC to pursue.

## 6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

Members were concerned that although the general dog fouling notices had been installed around the village, the ‘dogs on leads’ signs had not. This has led people into believing that they are able to let their dogs loose on the playing field and Riverside. This is not the case and TC is to ask NSDC why the signs have not been installed.

It was reported several months ago that the conifers on Inham Fields Close need attention – this is still the case.

With regard to the Common Land, both the District and County Councils maintain that they can do nothing to force Marston’s to carry out the actions that have been requested by GPC, and in part agreed by Marston’s. It was recommended that we continue our dialogue with Marston’s.

## 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

Cllr Jackson confirmed the traffic count on Trentside. Concern was also expressed about speed on Main Street, made more dangerous by parked cars. It was noted that the wooden replacement bus shelter had still not arrived, Cllr Jackson will pursue.

## 9. CLERK’S REPORT

Please see Appendix. With regard to the complaint about Pontefino’s building works, TC is to reply saying that Adrian Adams has looked at the site and it has now been cleared.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

- |   |                             |
|---|-----------------------------|
| ○ NCC Civic Service                     | ○ Standards Training        |
| ○ Employment Seminar                    | ○ Rushcliffe Local Plan     |
| ○ Electoral Review of Newark & Sherwood | ○ NCC - Waste Core Strategy |

## 11. PLANNING

Please see Appendix, Clerk’s Report, for an update on various planning matters.

### Newark and Sherwood DC applications

None.

### Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

13/00552/FUL - Major Demolition / Building - Approved

13/00532/FUL - 2nd Vehicular Access Little Marlock - Approved

## 12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

The Village Fête is to be held on Saturday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### 13. FINANCE

The internal audit has been completed by Roger Snowdin. The following points were noted:

- ❖ It is a legal requirement that we have an annual review of internal controls including: Employment Contract (essential) and Financial Regulations. It was agreed that a) a Contract of Employment would be produced for next meeting and b) otherwise, the Council's internal controls were considered satisfactory.
- ❖ Roger again noted that no item or service should be purchased without clear authority from GPC and, where practicable, an order, eg photocopier.
- ❖ We should have required tenders for the grass cutting – Mr Snowdin was informed that this is underway.

Grant Thornton, the new external auditors have created a lot of extra work for Roger (and for TC). Members agreed to a nominal increase (£25) in Roger's charge.

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
10	76	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	345.22		345.22
10	76	Gordon Oldham - Expenses	75.00		75.00
11	77	Post Office (HMRC) June	36.60		36.60
12	78	NALC - Local Council Review	16.00		16.00
13	79	Snowdin Acc Serv - Internal Audit	100.00		100.00
<b>Total expenditure for meeting</b>			572.82		572.82
<b>Total expenditure to date</b>			1,783.96	16.00	1,799.96

### 14. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

### 15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

There have been complaints about the following: When Shelford Pony Club gymkhanas are being held, a loudspeaker in a field close to Gunthorpe Bridge can be heard, for long periods, in Gunthorpe. TC was asked to request that the speaker be re-sited to the opposite corner of the field

### 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2013 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.

## Appendix - Clerk's Report - June 2013

### 2. HIGHWAYS

- 2.1. Road closure

### 3. ENVIRONMENT

- 3.1. Dog Notices – these are now in place. Do Members think they are as required? NSDC say – “Eddie thinks that the sign of the Playpark is satisfactory, but if you need extra signs they can be provided at a cost!”
- 3.2. No word on Village Signs
- 3.3. Regarding grass cutting – I have the names of several contractors. As I'm not too clear on what any contract would involve, I've asked Richard Covill to submit a tender outlining what he does at present, together with charges.

### 4. PLANNING

- 4.1. An email has been received via the web site:

**Your Name:** Jane Maloney

**Subject:** Work being carried out at Pontifino's

**Message:** I feel I must raise my concerns regarding the work being carried out at Pontifino's restaurant on Main Street. There has been work carried out on the old Post Office building and the roof of Pontifino's which has meant the pavement has had ladders and at times vehicles blocking the pedestrian walkway. I spoke to the workmen explaining that it was dangerous and the "boss" said yes it was. Surely there should have been some official notice saying there was going to be work being carried out and informing pedestrians to use the other pavement. There have been no warnings regarding the overhead work and feel this is an accident waiting to happen.

- 4.2. Planning Application 13/00532/FUL and 13/00552/FUL, both of which GPC objected to, have been approved.

#### ***Various words from Adrian Adams:***

- 4.3. Holly Farm

The site at Holly Farm, the gates were open and I was able to get in, nobody was there but I was able to see that there is some building work going on there. I am concerned about this one and will look to try and deal with this one as a matter of urgency. If it could just be noted for now that Enforcement are investigating and have been out, that would be greatly appreciated as I need to trace the owner. Later - [Just to let you know that I will be hopefully meeting the owner of the land at Holly Farm this Wednesday to discuss the development there.](#) (This was last week - no follow up yet).

- 4.4. Fullers

With regard to the flags, I did refuse the application for the 8 flags, however, they made an appeal to the Planning inspectorate and they granted permission and so I am afraid that there is nothing that I can do with regard to these, even if the design of the flags have changed sorry.

***planning continued.....***

## 4.5. Caravan Park Riverside

The enforcement notice that we served on the site next to the depot was only there to remove the caravans, the manager at that time, did not consider that the removal of the hard core was such an issue that we could require that it is removed. I know that a few people disagree with this, however, I do think that we will struggle to get the hard core removed in the short term I am afraid to say.

## 4.6. Unfinished house on Main Street

52 Main Street, Gunthorpe, this one again! I took a look and was disappointed to see that no work had taken place and that the site remains unfinished. As discussed before, this one is very difficult as again, without an owner to chase, it is going to be difficult to get any results. I will contact the agent for the site that I had dealings with last year and will see if he can shine any light on the matter.

## 4.7. Pasture View

The untidy land at 34 Pasture View, I visited this property and spoke to a couple of local residents, it appears that the owner of the property lives in the USA and has not been back for around 8 years. The building appears to be holding up well, however, the gardens do look bad. The problem that I have on this one is that without an owner, I am going to struggle to get much done. I will ask my managers to see if they would support formal action in the form of a Section 215 Notice, however, I'm not overly sure that the condition is such that it would warrant the action.

## 4.8. Pontefino's

I noticed the works when I was in the area last Thursday! The painting of the building would not require permission, however, the flags, of which I did not notice may well require consent. I will take a look when next in the area to confirm the facts of the matter.

**5. FINANCE**

## 5.1. Payroll – now resolved.

## 5.2. Roger has not completed the internal audit. He has made several comments:

- ❖ It is a legal requirement that we have an annual review of Internal Controls including: Employment Contract (essential) and Financial Regulations
- ❖ Roger again noted that no item or service should be purchased without clear authority from GPC and, where practicable, an order, eg photocopier.
- ❖ We should have required tenders for the grass cutting – I've told him this is underway (see 3c).

## 5.3. Grant Thornton, the new external auditors have created a lot of extra work for Roger (and for me!). I've agreed, I hope you don't mind, for a nominal increase (£25) in his charge.

**6. VILLAGE WEB SITE**

## 6.1. Getting very out of date

## 6.2. 'District Councillor(S)' – error!

## 6.3. 'County Councillor' – needs updating

## 7. POLICE

- 7.1. Contacted Sherwood Lodge for poster giving details of Neighbourhood Team. Dawn Adams called me and promised to send poster, but not received so far. If not received, the Police Commissioner has asked me to let him know! Beat officers may be found here:

[http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/local/bassetlaw\\_newark\\_sherwood/sherwood/sherwood\\_west/lowdham\\_gunthorpe\\_farnsfield\\_and\\_bilsthorpe/](http://www.nottinghamshire.police.uk/local/bassetlaw_newark_sherwood/sherwood/sherwood_west/lowdham_gunthorpe_farnsfield_and_bilsthorpe/)

### *Beat Officers*

		<p><b>PC Dawn Adams (2480)</b> Phone: 101          Mobile: 07814 679971  <a href="mailto:PC.Dawn.Adams@nottinghamshire.police.uk">Email PC Dawn Adams</a></p>
		<p><b>PCSO Liam Batey (4683)</b> Phone: 101 Ext 807 7471          / 7145          Mobile: 07525 226758  <a href="mailto:PCSO.Liam.Batey@nottinghamshire.police.uk">Email PCSO Liam Batey</a></p>

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