

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 Cllr Andy Stewart (Notts County Council).

**1. APOLOGIES**

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

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes from the meeting held on August 22<sup>nd</sup> were not available and will be agreed and signed at the next meeting.

**4. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

The proposal to reduce the speed limit on the A6097 has yet to be discussed and agreed. It was agreed that GPC will 'wait and see'. TC has received a reply from Simon Taylor (NCC Highway Safety) regarding the installation of speed cameras on the A6097, an extract follows:

"Unfortunately it's a bit too early to give any definitive programme for Fixed Speed Cameras on the A6097 between Lowdham and Gunthorpe Bridge.

Speed cameras are on course to be installed during this current financial year on the northern parts of the A6097 between Lowdham and the A614. Once the new 40mph limit is in place to the south of Lowdham, we will give drivers time to adapt before re-assessing the situation through Gunthorpe."

A letter has been received from NCC offering free grit and option to purchase blue grit bins – TC asked to take up offer of free grit and to enquire of yellow bins which are free and are maintained by NCC.

TC

It was reported that the verges along the A6097 were still overgrown and were building up to an excessive height. Cllr Stewart will pursue.

AS

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

The newly resurfaced bridleway between Burton Joyce and Gunthorpe was discussed. This matter has caused great concern primarily on two counts. Firstly that the work was carried out without consultation with local stakeholders and secondly the reported astronomical cost (it is understood that the work was not completed by the original contractors as they ran out of money and that it cost a **further** £80,000). TC is, under the Freedom of Information Act, to find out the full facts. The information sought will include: the consultation process (if any); the tendering process; the full cost of the scheme complete with a breakdown and who agreed the work was to be carried out. It was felt by Members that, in these austere times, the money could be better spent elsewhere.

TC

It was agreed last year that the 'new' polycarbonate bus shelter erected in 2009 would be replaced by a wooden structure, more in keeping with the rural environment. Members were concerned that this had not, as yet, happened. NCC had said that the replacement would take place when a wooden shelter became available. Cllr Stewart will pursue.

AS

Cllr Stewart also agreed to pursue the overgrown vegetation on both sides of the Slope Road – TC has reported this twice – and similar overgrowth on the twitchel.

AS

TC informed the meeting that a ‘condemned’ notice had been placed on the telephone booth and a contact number was given in case of objections to its removal. It was mentioned that in these days of the mobile few people, if any, actually used public ‘phones. It was therefore decided that no objections would be raised.

TC

## 6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION

Communications have now been received from Rachel Willis of Marston’s and Keith Johnson of the Canal & River Trust:

RW I’m afraid at this time we won’t be looking to remove the car parking area adjacent to the ski club. I am still waiting for the ski club to confirm that the overgrown area has been tidied up (which we had agreed they would do) in order to establish exactly what has been dumped there in order to make a plan for removal. I can assure you it will be done as soon as possible. They will also then be tidying up the car park area.

Henry (Plant) informs me that the Canal and River Trust have now accepted that there is no provable agreement and so we are in the process of setting them up on a licence.

KJ Following the meeting we have gone through the files again and note that there has been extensive previous correspondence between our predecessors and the Council. Having read through the file there is very little I can add to the comments made by our Newark Office save as to the visitor mooring jetty. This is our jetty and is located on Brewery land.

Having spoken with the Marston’s Brewery( land owners), neither party can find a current agreement for the visitor moorings.

From the correspondence it appears that the visitor moorings were provided by British Waterways using funding allocated to develop and encourage visitor facilities on the River Trent. (The justification being that this in turn benefits the local economies).It is thought that a previous tenant of the brewery may have instigated the project.

Because of the funding, the procedures would have required that all the necessary consents be obtained before the monies were released.

Marston’s have requested that Canal & River Trust produce and agree a licence to regularise the use of their land to use and maintain the jetty as visitor moorings. This is now in hand.

I would confirm that the Gunthorpe Marine access jetty for commercial moorings is not on Canal & River Trust land so outside of our jurisdiction. I understand that Marston’s will deal with this issue as land owners.

At the meeting the Parish Council raised the matter over the condition of a brick wall which is located on C& RT property. Peter has spoken to the Waterway who are hoping to address the concerns in due course.

Members found both responses to be unsatisfactory and TC was asked to write to both parties expressing this dissatisfaction and to state the issues which the Parish Council felt were resolved but now seem not to be so. Members were pleased to note that Marston’s will not allow plant machinery to be used for the erection of a wind turbine to pass over their land – this is accordance with the wishes of the residents of Gunthorpe.

Members referred to the GEFAG meeting on the 320<sup>th</sup> August which was felt to be very useful. A proposal for ‘Gunthorpe Embankment’ was discussed briefly.

TC informed the meeting that Bill Belshaw, on behalf of the Notts Anglers’ Federation, was ‘of a mind to sell their land’ and that the Federation was obtaining a valuation. TYC was asked to respond.

TC

It was noted that the test mast for the wind turbine has been removed.

## 7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

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

## 8. CLERK’S REPORT

This is given at Appendix 1.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

NCC Winter Service  
Email from NCC re speed cameras  
Are wind turbines killing us  
Emergency Planning  
NSDC - Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests  
Seasonal Decorations  
Could you foster a young person?

Crestra  
Citizen of the Year  
Parish Conference  
Council Tax Consultation  
NSDC Allocations & Development Management  
Development Plan Document - Submission for Examination  
and consultation on Strategic Policies and Allocations

## 10. PLANNING

### Newark and Sherwood DC applications

12/01197/FUL - Mason - Proposed residential conversion of existing traditional barn to form 1no dwelling – it was agreed unanimously to oppose this development on the grounds of a) it is within the green belt and b) Lying on the flood plain, as it does, there are concerns about increased flood risk.

### Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

12/01054/ADV - Fullers - Refusal

## 11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

Members agreed unanimously that a wonderful job had been done on the refurbishment of the village hall and that members of the Village Hall Committee were to be commended for all the good work they had done. TC is to write to them with congratulations and thanks.

TC

## 12. FINANCE

It was noted that the new external auditor for Gunthorpe is to be Grant Thornton UK LLP. Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
27	31	Photocopier (Payment to PJ will be void)	249.00	49.80	298.80
28	32	Gordon Oldham - Office	45.00		45.00
28	32	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	628.42		628.42
29	33	Cllr Everington - Bowl/Plinth Refurbishment	120.00		120.00
<b><u>Total expenditure for meeting</u></b>			<b>1,042.42</b>	<b>49.80</b>	<b>1,092.22</b>
<b><u>Total expenditure to date</u></b>			<b>5,591.27</b>	<b>227.80</b>	<b>5,819.07</b>

It was noted that a) VAT for a period of about 18 months was to be reclaimed; b) The Clerk's salary included a substantial tax rebate which would be reclaimed from HMRC and c) The amount of £298.80 for the photocopier has been entered twice and expenditure to date will be reduced appropriately.

## 13. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

## 14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr Jeffery requested, and it was agreed unanimously, that the costs of the Village Hall Cheese and Wine event (£40) would be paid for from the Chair's fund.

TC has produced a draft contract for the oil painting to be displayed in the school – this was approved and Head Teacher and Chairperson will be asked to sign copies.

TC

## 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.

**APPENDIX 1 – CLERK'S REPORT****1. Savings Accounts**

A complete fiasco at Yorkshire Bank – I made telephone appointment, but they didn't call as arranged. Went to Newark and found all details, was told that for signing of mandate, any time would do as long as they had notice – I arranged for Helen, Mick and myself to attend branch and was then was told the lady couldn't make it that week. I was also told interest rate had gone down to 1.0%. I've abandoned this.

Nationwide – they do an 'Instant Access' account currently offering 1.3% - I'm going to branch in Nottingham tomorrow (Tuesday) to get details and application forms. As with Yorkshire Bank, they will need signatories and me to go to branch together.

**2. Telephone Booth**

I checked yesterday and BT have placed a removal order on it – I have details if we wish to object or comment.

**3. LIS – Village Signs**

Jan still awaits photograph of Bridge to incorporate into signs.

**4. Notice Boards**

We now have 3 notice boards – there are two issues:

- 1 where do we keep the keys – there are 6 (2 for each notice board, universal fitting). At present I have 1, Cam has one and Lesley remainder.
- 2 Should there be any restrictions on the public, villagers, using the boards – I went to post the meeting notice last week and all three notice boards were crammed – there was an A3 notice on all three boards! May I suggest that the left side of each board is reserved for GPC notices - agreed?

**5. Environment Agency**

Re Marhill – I've received a letter from EA – unfortunately Lee Rawlinson (Area Manager - East Area - Midlands Region) refutes each point of objection by GPC and states that "the response sent to the planning authority was appropriate".

**6. Building Site – Main Road / Caravans on Trentside**

I've requested an update from Adrian Adams – no response yet.

**7. The Anglers' Land – Riverside**

I'm pleased to say that Bill Belshaw has written to say that our proposal was submitted to their committee and they have decided "THEY ARE OF A MIND TO SELL THE LAND AT GUNTHORPE". They have placed the valuation in the hands of a firm of chartered surveyors who have instructions to come back to Mr Belshaw "soonest".

**8. Riverside**

Marston's – Rachel Willis, Henry's successor has replied – please see Appendix A.

Canal & River Trust – Keith Johnston has responded – please see Appendix B.

**9. Draft Contract for Painting at School**

Please see Appendix C

**10. Finance**

HMRC have rightfully decided that I shouldn't be paying emergency tax on my two main sources of income. They are refunding me a proportion of tax paid. This will be paid by GPC this week and I will, as RFO, claim a refund from them.

The half-year precept has been received. I've claimed c £1253 VAT refund – not yet received, but should be any day, I'll therefore include in accounts tomorrow.

GO 24-SEP-12