

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2013 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. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

Held on 12<sup>th</sup> December and 23<sup>rd</sup> January required further amendments which will be actioned prior to next meeting.

**4. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

Members were notified of the extension of the Lengthsman Scheme. Whilst it has been stated that parish councils no longer need to belong to a 'Cluster' it was made obvious that there must be very good reasons for not doing so. Members are very interested in the scheme and TC was asked to contact neighbouring councils to determine both their interest in the scheme and their Cluster status ie do they belong to a Cluster or would they consider joining one. Members expressed concern at the overgrowth of vegetation at various points in the Village ie the A6097, Main Street and the Slope Road. The overgrowth has become dangerous in that pedestrians need to walk on the road because paths are blocked. Cllr Stewart will follow up.

TC

AS

Members were informed that the lowering of the speed limit on the A6097 from 50mph to 40mph is to be implemented in early April. It was queried as to whether the change had been sufficiently advertised. Cllr Cope reported an accident – a Mini had turned over on A6097 – no details, but thankfully no fatalities.

TC was asked to report dead bollard lights on the A6097. It was also reported that the street lights on Main Street seemed to going off and on, at random, in groups of three or four. TC to investigate.

TC

**5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

It was confirmed that the Dog Control Orders would be effective from early March. Signs have been provisionally ordered for 'Dogs on Leads' (Riverside and Playing Field) and 'Dog Exclusion' (PlayPark). Discussion was held regarding siting of general dog fouling signs. Cllr Jeffery stated that in the recent past there were signs on various lampposts around the Village, but that these have been removed. TC was asked to speak to NSDC and ask if these may be restored. TC reported various conversations with a resident who is extremely unhappy about the 'Dogs on Leads' restriction on the Playing Field. For family reasons this is the only place she can take her dog and has difficulty handling a pushchair and a dog on a lead. Whilst members were sympathetic, it was agreed that the health problems caused by uncaring dog-owners far outweighed the inconvenience caused to this one individual.

TC

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

The on-going discussions, and lack of progress, with Marston's and the Canal & River Trust were discussed. Arising from this, Members of Gunthorpe Parish Council unanimously agreed that:

"It is our (Gunthorpe Parish Council's) responsibility to safeguard the rights of access and use of the Common Land and to hold to account the owners as to their rights and responsibilities."

It was also agreed that the County and District Councils also have responsibilities and obligations toward the Common Land.

TC was asked to contact Ian Torr, GPC solicitor, to get his perspective on the matter. Cllr Sutton asked how legal work on the Common Land should be funded. It was agreed that charges raised by solicitors, and possibly others, would be known, or estimated, in advance and could be considered at that time.

TC has been asked by Ian Torr to confirm GPC's commitment to paying the Notts Federation's legal expenses, currently estimated to be £1,500. Members were completely opposed to this excessive claim. It was therefore agreed that TC would discuss this matter with Mr Torr and to inform him that the Parish Council would expect any costs in excess of £500 to be fully justified. TC

An email has been received from a member of a local anglers' society expressing concern about the works being carried out in and around the gravel pits on the Bulcote/Severn Trent estate. TC is to advise the sender that this is a matter for Bulcote Parish Council. TC

## 7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Cllr Stewart (AS) responded to a number of issues raised earlier in meeting:

- Overgrown vegetation on paths and roads – AS will report to Matt Duckworth.
- Change of speed limit from 50mph → 40mph – AS confirmed that all the usual advertising and notifications had been carried out. TC confirmed that GPC had received notification.
- AS noted the random nature of lights on Main Street being turned off and on.
- With regard to the extension of the 40mph speed limit from Bulcote to Lowdham – AS confirmed that this will not be done at present. It was felt that the proposed reduction on the A6097 had been agreed, budgeted and set for implementation and that the requested extension could seriously jeopardise this implementation.
- It was noted that the Planning Application for Pecks Lane had been approved.
- TC confirmed to the meeting that the name of the firm responsible for building the Bridge (Purdie Lumsden) had **not** been spelt incorrectly – TC has informed Mr Purdie's grand-daughter who thought it was misspelt. AS informed Members that the original plaques had been found – discussion was taking place regarding their return.

## 8. CLERK'S REPORT

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

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

Reply from Marston's	NSDC - Dispensations
Letter from Bill Belshaw	Council backs minister on wind farms
Letter to Bill Belshaw	Email re Gravel Pits
Response from Keith Johnson, CRT	Purdie/y - Gunthorpe Bridge
Letter to Ian Torr re commitment	

**10. PLANNING**

TC has obtained a map of the Village illustrating that the whole parish is Green Belt. It is the Parish Council's opinion that no building should take place on Green Belt land except under documented conditions as laid down in the planning policy.

Newark and Sherwood DC applications

None

Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

12/01620/FUL - Mr & Mrs Mason - Residential conversion of existing traditional Barn to form 1no dwelling (Resubmission) Barns off Peck Lane – Approved.

**11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK**

There was nothing to report under this heading.

**12. FINANCE**

It was noted that Gunthorpe will, from April, need to submit tax matters (payments etc) in real time (RTI – Real Time Information).

Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No		Net Total	VAT	TOTAL
48	55	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary + Expenses	424.52		424.52
49	56	Zurich Insurance	243.80		243.80
50	-	Chair's cheques cancelled	-50.00		-50.00
51	57	CPRE	30.00		30.00
52	58	NALC	126.44		126.44
<b>Total expenditure for meeting</b>			774.76	0.00	774.76
<b>Total expenditure to date</b>			12,911.54	459.73	13,371.27

**13. PARISH PLAN**

There was nothing to report under this heading.

**14. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT**

There was nothing to report under this heading.

**15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.