

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

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27<sup>th</sup> JUNE IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Cllrs  
Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)  
Helen Sutton  
Mick Bowles (A)  
Chris Cope  
Tony Everington  
Cam Pearson (A)  
Peter Platten

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Roger Jackson (Newark & Sherwood District Council), Andrew Mitchell (EA), members of GEFAG 2012 (inc. Mike Greenwood, Roger Crafts, Andy Harrison, and Eric Dawson) and 4 members of the public.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mick Bowles and Cam Pearson; Cllrs Stewart and Laughton (NCC) and Richard Kershaw (EA).

**2. FLOOD ALLEVIATION – DISCUSSION WITH EA & GEFAG 2012**

After brief introductions, Andrew Mitchell (AM) spoke of his role regarding flood resilience with the EA and how the various emergency services, the Environment and other agencies, local bodies (including GPC and GEFAG) and individuals could, and should, work together to lessen the risk of flooding and to act promptly if flooding should occur. Andrew confirmed the need for a Community Emergency Plan for the Parish. This should aim to:

- provide a co-ordinated response from the local community
- identify key contacts and resources within the locality
- identify places of safety for residents should an evacuation be necessary
- identify vulnerable people or groups that may require additional assistance
- identify local hazards within the community
- assist in keeping residents within the parish informed of the situation.

It was confirmed that Cllr Tony Everington leads the 4 flood wardens. AM spoke of the 'Flood Warning Thermometer' - this is a useful tool that gives, in tabular format, the following: a scale of local (Trent) river levels and, if appropriate, the dates in which those levels were reached in the past; the type of warning issued by the EA at that level (eg Yellow, Red, Advice, Warning) and the action, if any, to be taken by the local community.

The improvements in forecasting were also discussed – gauges, with readings available on-line, were already in place at a number of locations and would be installed at Gunthorpe in the near future.

With regard to the Community Plan, there is to be an open meeting in August. The availability of publicity and information was discussed. It was quoted that in the case of a 1-in-a-1000 year flood, 236 properties in Gunthorpe would be affected, but it was agreed that this figure was of little value and was considered alarmist. It was reiterated that access and egress to the Village was of paramount importance. It was agreed that insurance companies are frequently basing premiums on inaccurate or erroneous information.

Cllr Platten asked why NSDC Planning approved applications for properties on the flood plain and asked if Planning consulted the EA. The answer would appear to be 'not always', but that if the EA objected to an application then it would be refused. It was stated that planning authorities in general are to liaise more with parish/town councils and the EA.

Cllr Jeffery asked Roger Crafts if his plan had been mapped by the EA. Yes it has been mapped for the year 2000 event. The results were to be discussed at the EA offices on 11<sup>th</sup> July. The results for the Trentside area would be discussed the following day. It was emphasised that there were to be separate meetings only because of attendance problems.

A group of residents from Trentside, led by Mike Greenwood, has been formed to discuss flood alleviation by the riverside. The group agreed that access by the Slope Road would be beneficial both to Riverside residents and to the Village in general. They are to have an on-site meeting with Richard Kershaw to determine or confirm the benefit(s) of a barrier of some description. Other ways of protecting the slope road were discussed

Cllr Platten spoke of on-going talks with Marston's, the owners of The Unicorn, and the Common Land – it was agreed that the talks could be mutually beneficial.

AM stated that it was important that plans, both generic and specific, need to be written and published as soon as possible, and also need to be reviewed regularly. He will set up a meeting to discuss the way forward.

Andy Harrison felt, and it was agreed, that the role of GEFAG should be that of flood prevention rather than response to emergencies.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A Councillor was recently advised to declare an interest in a matter which, although having a bearing on his home, would also affect a large area of the Village. TC raised this issue with Lynda Ogilvy of NALC. She responded as follows:

“A councillor must declare a prejudicial interest where he or she is likely to either benefit or be disadvantaged by a decision of the council in a way which would not affect other members of the community. To declare and interest in a matter where all members of the community will be affected is not required or sensible.”

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### **4. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes for the meeting held on April 25<sup>th</sup> after a minor amendment, and the Minutes for the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson.

### **5. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

There was nothing to report under this heading.

### **6. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS**

There was nothing to report under this heading.

### **7. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION AND FLOOD ALLEVIATION**

An email containing a number of demands has been received from a resident of Lowdham – in view of the erroneous content it was agreed that no action would be taken.

TC was asked to arrange a meeting with Liz Murdoch of The Canal & River Trust (formerly British Waterways) to discuss the issues along the Riverside. Cllr Platten is to produce a letter in response to Henry Plant of Marston's on the same subject.

TC

### **8. REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jackson addressed the contentious issue of building on the flood plain. He reiterated that if the Environment Agency objected to a planning application it would not be given approval.

The demise of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme was discussed. It was felt that frequently the only reason for people joining the scheme was for a possible reduction in insurance premiums. The role of the scheme has, in some respects, been superseded by the Nottinghamshire Police 'Safer Neighbourhoods' scheme.

### **9. CLERK'S REPORT**

TC has spoken to the owners of Pontefino's with regard to using the old post office as a community shop. He was informed that the family have advanced plans to do just that. It will sell everyday items – milk, bread, cooked meats – and include a Deli. Hopefully it will be opening in September or October.

## 10. CORRESPONDENCE

Stuart Favill - Tree Works

Localism Act 2011- Standards and Conduct Arrangements

WREN - Matching Grant

NSDC - Code of Conduct \* 2

Localism - Training Event

Good Neighbour Guide

## 11. PLANNING

Cllr Cope requested, and it was agreed, that the vote registered for planning applications should be recorded in the Minutes.

### Rushcliffe Application

12/01015/FUL – Installation of a wind turbine at East Bridgford – it was agreed unanimously to object to this application on the following grounds: 1) Visual Impact; 2) Noise and 3) Poor Access.

### Newark and Sherwood DC applications

None

### Newark and Sherwood DC decisions

12/00362/FUL - Jane Simpson - 52 Main Street - Approved

12/00608 - Milward 3 Trentside - Approved

12/00683/FUL – Mason - Barns off Peck Lane - Withdrawn

## 12. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD & PLAYPARK

TC reported that the Village Hall Committee's 'WREN Small Grant Application - Gunthorpe Village Hall & Kitchen Refurbishment' had been successful. The Parish Council have agreed to partially match this grant and WREN have requested payment of £935.

## 13. FINANCE

Cllr Jeffery notified Council that a photocopier had been purchased by Paul Jeffery on behalf of the Village Hall Committee – she requested, and it was agreed, that the Parish Council would reimburse the cost (£298.80). Members authorised payment of accounts as per the following schedule:

PSNo	Chq No			
11	15	RCAN Subscription	70.00	70.00
12	16	WREN - Village Hall Matching Grant	935.00	935.00
13	17	Clerk's Expenses - Print/Office/Postage Expenses	105.20	105.20
14	18	Gordon Oldham - Clerk's Salary	295.77	295.77
15	19	HMRC - Income Tax	73.80	73.80
16	20	Paul Jeffery – Photocopier	298.80	298.80
<b>Total expenditure for meeting</b>			<b>1,778.57</b>	<b>1,778.57</b>
<b>Total expenditure to date</b>			<b>3,208.21</b>	<b>53.00</b>
				<b>3261.21</b>

## 14. PARISH PLAN

There was nothing to report under this heading.

## 15. OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT

Cllr Everington reported that a colleague was refurbishing the Garden Competition trophy at a cost of £100. Members agreed that the Council would cover this cost

## 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meetings will be held on July 25<sup>th</sup> and August 22<sup>nd</sup> in the Village Hall commencing 7.15 pm.