

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF
GUNTHORPE PARISH
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23rd MAY 2012 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Roger Jackson and Cllr Tim Wendels (Newark & Sherwood District Council), Cllr Andy Stewart (Nottinghamshire County Council) and 8 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Tony Everington.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

3. INTRODUCTIONS & CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Cllr Jeffery welcomed everyone and thanked all for their attendance. She has various ideas which she hopes will be implemented in the coming year. One project that has special merit is to ensure the availability of one or two defibrillators in the village. A popular place for locating one is inside a red telephone box and, as the village facility is only a 'booth', it was suggested that one should be purchased. One supplier, in Newark, charges £2,000 which was felt to be prohibitive considering they were initially being sold at a fraction of this cost.

Cllr Jeffery is also keen on the production of a brochure for the village – this could be distributed to parishioners and form part of a 'Welcome Pack' for new arrivals to the village.

Cllr Tim Wendells was given a warm welcome. Cllr Wendells said it was good to be here and thanked those present for their support – he was elected to the District Council following the sad passing of Keith Sheppard. Tim is the Chairman of Lowdham Parish Council and so is familiar with our area. Other Councillors introduced themselves.

4. PUBLIC DISCUSSION

Following a query from the public, discussion was held on the proposed community shop. The possibility was again raised of using the old post office which is now an eyesore. Two young girls wish to petition the Parish Council to investigate possible sites. It was suggested that a committee should be convened to make consider proposals and make decisions. Cllr Jeffery mentioned the possibility that as a 'starter', various items could be sold at the Friday morning community gathering. Cllr Stewart told the meeting of two community shops in the District, one of which was successful, the other having closed.

Cllr Jeffery informed the meeting that she has met with representatives of 'GEFAG 2012' and that it was agreed that there would be a co-ordinated effort on flood alleviation. Cllr Jeffery also stated that the proposed bund at Lowdham Leisureworld would most probably have a detrimental affect on the Riverside. Flood modelling by the Environment Agency will confirm whether or not the case and, if it is, all concerned will have to take this into consideration. The main aim of flood alleviation

in the village is, and must always be, to ensure access to the village by, for example, the emergency services. It was emphasised that flooding affects everyone in the village.

Councillors, in conjunction with parishioners, are to work to work on a Community Flood Plan. According to the EA – “Completing a flood plan will help you decide what practical actions to take before and during a flood, which will help reduce the damage flooding could cause”.

It was confirmed that the Parish has a storage unit for emergency equipment – this is situated at the north end of the playing field, behind the Village Hall.

With regard to Health & Safety at the building works on Main Street, the problem has been raised and Cllr Jackson is investigating. A visit to clarify the situation has been, or will soon be, undertaken.

Discussion was held on the various means of publicising the village including a welcome pack, parish plan, brochure/directory and web site. Also mentioned was the importance of ensuring these various media were periodically reviewed and updated.

With regard to best garden in the village, it was agreed that there would need to be various sizes of gardens and that the scheme would need to be well advertised. There was initially concern that a large garden (possibly with a contracted gardener) could be competing with a small pensioner’s garden. With regard to East Midlands in Bloom, it was suggested that Gunthorpe could enter with a core of best-kept gardens.

It was stated that the Jubilee celebrations had been arranged.

Claudia & Ellie, two young parishioners gave a good presentation on the possibility of having a community shop – it was agreed that the brewery owners of Pontefino’s would be asked about the old post office.

TC informed the meeting that the applications to the NCC Local Improvement Scheme (for village signs and a notice board) have been approved and that LIS would be arranging installation in the current financial year.

Overgrown vegetation along the riverside was mentioned and the meeting was informed that the Parish Council was negotiating, with Marston’s Breweries, the owners of much of the land there, to find a way to make the riverside an attractive area for the Village.

Cllr Stewart informed the meeting that NCC had written to the Highways Agency regarding the lack of signage for Gunthorpe (and other villages) on the new A46.

The meeting closed at 8.13pm.