

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
GUNTHORPE PARISH**

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY 2013 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

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

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

**1. APOLOGIES**

No apologies were received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

**3. FOREWORD AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Jeffery welcomed everyone to the meeting and individuals around the table introduced themselves. It was noted that Cllr Roger Jackson now has two roles – NSDC representative and (congratulations!) Notts County Councillor, having being recently elected as successor to Cllr Andy Stewart.

Cllr Jeffery gave a brief summary of the successes of the Parish Council in the last year. Last year it was agreed that there should be a defibrillator in the village. An original idea was to house one in a red telephone box as with many other villages. Unfortunately the cost of this has proven prohibitive. Hoveringham has recently acquired a defibrillator and TC was asked to contact Di Trendell for the details of the purchase and where it is kept. It was suggested that the Unicorn may be able to house it.

**4. MINUTES FROM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING MAY 2012**

The Minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairperson. It was noted that Paul Jeffery has set up a link to Facebook. Cllr Tony Everington reported that although everyone has agreed that 'Best Garden' in various categories was a great idea, the Parish Council have yet to find a willing and able organiser.

The decorative Village signs are now ready for installation. There are three signs – the exact locations have yet to be agreed by NCC Highways, but there will one at each end of the Village and one on the green on Main Street, twenty or so metres from its junction with the A6097.

Cllr Jeffery thanked everyone – Councillors from NCC, NSDC and the Parish Council for their help, advice and services throughout the year.

**5. OPEN FORUM WITH PUBLIC**

Parishioners were asked if they had any questions or queries they wished to raise. The following were discussed:

- Update on the land purchase – this is proceeding, but slowly at present. This is because the deeds held by the sellers were a copy and the law demands that land (and property) can only be sold if original documents are available. It was therefore made necessary for the vendors' (Notts Federation of Angling Societies) solicitor to register the land with the Land Registry. This can be very time-consuming as it is vital that a) the land is clearly defined and b) the land does actually belong to the sellers.

- The Village, especially along the Riverside does suffer, greatly at times, from litter. It was felt that firstly there were insufficient litter bins and secondly that local businesses should be held more accountable for its collection and removal as much of it comes from visitors to the pub and restaurants.
- Other issues were discussed including the remnants of bonfires and the overgrown vegetation on Marston's land.
- Discussion reverted to the land purchase – it was asked why the Parish should buy the land just before and beyond the bridge when the land on Trentside would be a better buy and enable this most popular area to be clean and tidy? The land to be purchased would need maintenance. Members responded by saying that firstly the PC had asked Marston's if they would sell their land and they made it quite clear that it was not for sale. It was also stated that a presentation to the Village on the land purchase was held earlier in the year and in a vote all but one were in favour.
- Cllr Jeffery assured the public that all was being done to persuade Marston's to address the issues with the common land, but to date there seems to be little progress. The present representative of Marston's has almost completely reneged on the agreements reached with her successor. Letters to NCC & NSDC have been formulated to remind them of their obligations towards the common land and Marston's are to be reminded yet again of their duty to maintain it.
- Discussion was held, not for the first time, on traffic speeding on Trentside. TC & Cllr Jackson are to pursue the installation of 20mph restriction signs. Residents felt they would like speed bumps, but it was made clear that these were contrary to NCC policy and are no longer used.
- There were complaints about car parking on David's Lane and Pasture View. This issue is currently being pursued with Newark & Sherwood Homes creating more car parking space on Pasture View. N & S Homes attended a Friday coffee morning to discuss their plans.
- The creation of a community shop was discussed. The old post office would be an ideal site – Pontefino's have plans to set up a shop here but cannot give any timescale. In the meantime the building is deteriorating and there is a large hole in the roof. NSDC Planning Enforcement have visited the site on the grounds of health and safety but decided there was no issue there.
- Concerns were expressed about the unoccupied house on Pasture View it has become unsightly with overgrown grass and other issues. Members queried whether it could be a subject for compulsory purchase. TC / RJ to investigate. The same concerns were raised about the half-built house on Main Street which has been an eyesore for more than two years.
- Cllr Jeffery summarised progress with flood alleviation matters. Meetings have been held with Lowdham Leisure World and the Environment Agency concerning the former's plan for a bund to protect both LLW and the Village in general. In the last meeting it was agreed that the primary issue was funding – to receive funding from Government it is vital that some monies should be raised locally (Local Authorities, businesses etc). A concern of the Parish Council is the cost of maintenance which would (with available figures) be in the region of £3,500 pa and, possibly, be payable from the precept. If this were so this would represent 21% of the precept. Cllr Cope gave a summary of the meeting.
- It was noted that after retrospective planning permission for 8 flags / banners at Fullers Motor Homes being refused and a subsequent application for 4 flags being accepted, there are now approx 8 new flags flying.
- The sandbags delivered to the Village Hall carpark will not be collected – the public are welcome to help themselves!

The meeting closed at 8:32 and Cllr Jeffery reminded the public that they were welcome to remain to hear the proceedings of the Annual Parish Council meeting.