

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

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17th DECEMBER 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL

Cllrs Lesley Jeffery (Chairman)
 Peter Platten
 Mick Bowles
 Chris Cope (taking minutes)
 Tony Everington
 Tom Littlefair

Also present was Councillor Jackson (NS&DC and NCC) and Mrs Jackson.

1. APOLOGIES:

Gordon Oldham (TC) was unable to attend.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

None declared.

3. MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on November 26th were agreed as a true record and were signed by the Chairman.

4. TRAFFIC & HIGHWAYS:

A resident has mentioned that Main Street has been patched up several times and wondered if it could all be resurfaced. TC had written to Jo Horton at N&SDC regarding this.

The poor state of the bus turning area was discussed and again we await Jo Horton's response following TC's letter to her.

The area beside Brookland Close which residents would like to be turned into a car park was discussed. Newark and Sherwood Homes say that the area has been adopted. GPC still feel that this conversion with dropped kerbs is a possibility and again we will await Jo Horton's response.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS:

MB is pursuing the drainage issue that is causing water to flood Main Street. RJ suggests TC chases up the progress with Matt Duckworth. MB reports that there appear to be no problems with the drain across Green's field as there has been a camera up both ends. It was felt that the drain on the opposite side of the Culvert may be blocked and maybe TC should chase up Highways regarding this.

6. THE RIVERSIDE PROJECT, GRAVEL EXTRACTION & FLOOD ALLEVIATION:

GPC all agree that there has been excellent progress at the Riverside and thanked all the hard work of the volunteers.

Finances were discussed as money has already been spent and more is now required for finishing the project. There have been costs so far of £600 for JCB hire and £2040 for the path.

PP has been in contact with Nick Wort (?) from NCC who will help with a native tree planting scheme and has links to eco people who can help with a survey. He also advised that a planting scheme for this type of stretch would have recommended the removal of the damaged chestnut tree which had already been taken down.

PP and the team plan to fence off the natural banks and replace as necessary. The fence will cost approximately £1000 for 120m. They also intend to plant 100m of hawthorn hedge. The plans that he brought were reviewed and discussed positively.

LJ proposed to pay the costs so far and £1000 up front for the fence. All agreed.

RJ kindly offered some further funding for this project following his funding last year. This is appreciated.

Gunthorpe Primary School and Gunthorpe Church have indicated that they would like to become involved with these plans for planting where possible. Cam Pearson has been facilitating this.

The dumped gravel from bridge works were discussed. PP proposed that maybe N&SDC could help but RJ felt this unlikely as it would be contractor work. PP will seek help from Marston's.

Shelford Gravel extraction plans were discussed. The consultation ended on the 10th December. The good attendance at Gunthorpe Village Hall for the meeting was noted. Around 3000 objections were sent overall. The outcome should be known around mid 2015. RJ noted that if it is included in the mineral plan then this certainly does not mean it will go ahead as there are multiple problems with this site.

There will be a meeting between GFAG, the EA and some GPC members on 19/12/2014 at 1.30pm at Lowdhams LeisureWorld to discuss the new funding for a potential flood bund to protect Gunthorpe.

7. REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS:

Discussions with RJ included elsewhere in minutes.

8. CLERK'S REPORT:

Report discussed elsewhere in minutes under appropriate headings.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

10. PLANNING:

There were no formal applications or decisions from N&SDC.

The possible sale of Pontefino's, the car park and field were discussed. There had been concern raised from some Parishioner's who has heard the field would be sold for social housing.

The Ex-Total Garage site was discussed. TC reported that there has been no application to turn the area into car sales court and so TC has written to N&SDC to ask them to look into it.

The Marhill Service Station application was discussed. EA have defended their decision to not object as they say businesses can expand by 250 square metres without the EA intervening. GPC were concerned that this permission had been given (possibly without due thought) when a previous application had been turned down. This site is in an area that is the main flood corridor when the Trent spills its banks towards Gunthorpe and the A6097 and has previously been described as over saturated.

11. VILLAGE HALL, PLAYFIELD AND PLAYPARK:

It was noted that the Pavilion needs a major upgrade and there are ideas afoot that the extension of the Village Hall could possibly have changing rooms incorporated.

12. FINANCE:

It was proposed and agreed to increase the Parish Precept by 1.9% overall, in line with inflation.

TC has found an audit seminar at Thurgarton Village Hall. Following some of our difficulties with audits recently it was agreed that this could be useful and suggest TC attend if he is interested.

13. PARISH PLAN:

There was nothing to report under this heading.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on January 28th 2015 in the Village Hall commencing 7.15pm.