# Minutes of the Meeting of Gretton Parish Council held on Monday 11th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Gretton Baptist Church, NN17 3DF

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**Present:** Cllrs Lilley, Blamire, Newby, Thompson, Nicholls, Watt, Trevor Smith and The New Clerk (C Watts).

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| ***23/305 To receive and approve apologies for absence.***  **Cllrs Smith, Husk, Wright and Fox were unable to attend**  **RESOLVED:** Approved - all in favour. |
| ***23/306 To receive declarations of interest under the Council’s Code of Conduct related to business on the agenda***  No declarations made.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. |
| ***23/307 Introduction to the New Clerk***  Chrissie Watts introduced herself to the Cllrs sharing that she does not reside in Gretton but has association with a family who has lived in the village for over 30 years. Chrissie has worked in Finance for many years but has been for the last year working 1 day a week in a role that has come to its natural end. Chrissie is looking forward to the challenge of this new role as Clerk. Although Chrissie is replacing Sara Golding, Sara will be around for sometime to provide Chrissie with all the knowledge she needs to perform her role.  **RESOLVED:** Approved. |
| ***23/308 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on ist August 2023***  Minutes approved without amendment and signed by the chair  **RESOLVED:** Approved. Votes – all in favour. |
| ***23/309 Open Forum***  No members of the public were in attendance to raise anything to discuss during the open Forum.  **RESOLVED:** Noted |
| ***23/310 To Discuss Potential Cycle Path***  Alison Merrick Member of the public came to discuss how the Parish Council could help with a Cycle Path Route from Gretton to Corby. Alison shared that she had posted on Facebook asking if there was interest from Gretton villagers on a cycle path. Over 100 villagers expressed an interest There are no plans for a route on the Corby road with safety being a factor, so alternative routes need to be considered  The routes within Corby including the train station to the Town Centre via Oakley road and Danesholme to the Town Centre were discussed with Kevin Watt sharing that there was funds for these routes. It was stated although no real money available at present if there was a plan/map in place then an approach to NNC could be made from Gretton if the routes were not controversial. Potential route could be one to join up safely with Priors Hall.  A new route has been discussed prior to the meeting between Alison and Cllr Newby.  The Cllrs at this meeting have suggested to Alison to set up a Gretton Facebook page for cyclists and walkers and to discuss with landowners for objections if any if cycle paths could be on their land.  Lottery funding was also suggested but it was discussed that North Northants need to agree and fund this.  It was suggested that there could be a stand set up at the next Road Safety event to share with residents the need for a Cycle/walking route which would help gain momentum.  The Parish Council have agreed they will support this in anyway they can  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/311 To receive a report from Corby Rural Division, North Northamptionshire Council***  ***No report received*** |
| ***23/312 To receive a report from the Police***  This report was received before the meeting  **CRIMES – THREE**  ASSAULT (23000415020): MINOR INJURY – DOMESTIC (SUSPECT KNOWN, NO COMPLAINT, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)  OBSCENE PUBLICATION (23000435376): INDECENT IMAGE SHARING (SUSPECT KNOWN, NO COMPLAINT, ADVICE GIVEN, FILED)  THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (23000447652): CAR STOLEN – RECOVERED (SUSPECT UNKNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)    **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – ONE**  501 – 07/07/23: MISTREATMENT OF ANIMAL (ENQUIRIES ONGOING)    The crime and anti-social behaviour figures for AUGUST 2023 are as follows:    **CRIMES – TWO**  THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE (23000481456): CAR STOLEN – RECOVERED (SUSPECT UNKNOWN, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)  ASSAULT (23000482870): NO INJURY – MENTAL HEALTH (SUSPECT KNOWN, NO COMPLAINT, ENQUIRIES COMPLETE, FILED)    **ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR INCIDENTS – ONE**  56 – 04/08/23: NEIGHBOUR DISPUTE (BEING DEALT WITH BY N.N.C.)    **POLICE SURGERIES**  PC820 B WILSON completed POLICE SURGERIES using the BEAT BUS on THURSDAY 10th AUGUST 2023 between 09:30Hrs x 10:30Hrs @ RECREATIONAL FIELD CAR PARK, KIRBY ROAD, GRETTON during which seven members of the public attended & between 11:00Hrs x 12:00Hrs @ NR LYDIA’S COFFEE SHOP, HIGH STREET, GRETTON during which eight members of the public attended.  ***RESOLVED:*** *Approved* |
| ***23/313 To receive a report from the Police Liaison Representative and Gretton Neighbourhood Watch***  ***Co-ordinator***  Trevor reported at the meeting that after a 10 year wait there are now 25 officers in the traffic section split into 5 sub sections. They have new top of the range cars and are looking to clamp down on speeding, use of mobile phones while driving, drug and drink driving, and not wearing seatbelts.  This is now an active team and the Inspector in charge is happy in principle to come along to any awareness events to publicise what they are doing.  Trevor also shared that the Charity Victim Support has gone through a restructuring process and offers a  range of services. Trevor will forward the data he has received as it can be very relevant to GPC as they can refer people.  Neighbourhood Watch  Trevor received information of a RTC on Station Road involving a car, horse and 14 year old girl.  The car was coming down Clay Lane and turned left. A car coming up Station Road hit back of the Horse causing injury 10cm long. The rider was thrown from the horse. The passenger got out of the car and spoke to the girl but the driver did not leave the car. The victim called her father who came to help his daughter out. PC Wilson is aware of this incident and there is an investigation on going. The parents have raised the issue of lack of waring signs in the village re horses.  A suggestion of an event on the village green with Brad, the police and horses etc in attendance with cars being stopped and leaflets issued. GPC have said they would support this.  A minor vandalisim on a vehicle was reported. The person has been spoken to.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/314 To receive a report from the Safer Corby Team***  Report received prior to meeting sharing updates on community work from May-Aug 23 including the Knife Angel Legacy, Child Exploitation on county lines and walk to school week amongst others  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/315 To receive a report from the following working groups***  **23/315a Neighbourhood Plan and Local Plan matters -Cllr Lilley**  Cllr Lilley reported before the meeting on the following  Concerns with NNC tenants: the issues continue and were discussed in confidence at the meeting. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Councillor David Watts, head of housing, to ascertain exactly what steps were being taken to resolve the issues, and to lodge a formal complaint by the PC, on behalf of concerned Gretton residents, about the service being given by the Safer Corby Team.  Nature recovery plan  An advertisement is being prepared for the recruitment of members to form a management committee for the PC.  Picks Playing field  Going to try for a community grant from the Rockingham Forest Vision Project to purchase tools, signage etc. A meeting has been arranged with the Head Teacher and Forest School leader at GPA to collect their requirements.  Traffic committee  A walk round the village was conducted with Sarah Barnwell NNC and Matt from Kier. This was to review our traffic proposals. With a few minor changes all proposals are do-able. The report includes also includes details of re-marking lines and signs to be added to work list, parking restrictions and yellow lines to be included in the annual review for Corby, The Speed limit proposals needs to go before the Speed Limit Review Panel, A Zebra crossing outside the school has been requested.  Speedwatch  This is now happening within the village with a team of volunteers  Driver Awareness day to be heldin conjunction with Neighbourhood watch to help draw attention to the issues of driving in the area  Cllr Lilley shared at the meeting that Gretton Good Neighbour scheme is gathering momentum with number of calls increasing. There are a couple of events planned for later in the year including a skills café.  Trevor raised that there are no posters at the Doctors surgery on the Gretton Neighbour Scheme.  This will be rectified  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315b Communications** **including website, newsletters, press** **and blog- Cllr Smith**  Cllr Smith reported before the meeting:  Gretton Life to be issued by mid October  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315c Highways Working Group – Cllr Thompson**  Cllr Thompson reported before the meeting the following:  Meeting with Sara Barnwell and Matt proposals were discussed on traffic calming and safety measures  Speed gun being used to gather information in and around the village and data will be available at the next meeting. TVAS to be moved temporarily to Harringworth Road. The box over the switch panel at the pavilion is complete and the benches and concrete pads removed in readiness for the outdoor gym.  Cllr Thompson reported he had been out and used the speed gun and so far the presence of the camera is good and encouraging people to slow down.  Cllr Lilley discussed the point that on the walk about a chicane was discussed on Corby road. This would cost between £30 and £70K and would need to be part funded by the Parish Council. To be discussed at Finance meeting. Potential for Village fundraising events.  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315d Community-buses, doctors surgery, school liaison – Cllr Husk**  Before the meeting Cllr Husk reported on the following:  Doctors surgery newsletter  There was 2 further community bus trips help in July and August  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315e Environment-trees,Pocket Park, Litter collecting groups – Cllr.Newby**  Before the meeting Cllr Newby reported on:  Tree Survey, Fly tipping, River Wardens, Gretton Weir re anti social behaviour, Gretton Brook Road still suffering with polluted water  The vegetation on Station road has been cut by highways.  There are still issues with hedges elsewhere in the village. Caister Road, High St, Arnhill Rd and Fulwell Ave. Cllr Lilley has asked Cllr Fox to have a look on the land registry in relation to Station Road as the owners have said they do not own this piece of land. If it is not them this needs to be checked as it could be under the ownership of the developers.  Caister Road hedge was discussed that it has become overgrown and dangerous from a road safety perspective. The resident in question sent correspondence to the Clerk that the road is 3.5 metres wide and only passible if cars mount the pavement. They have asked the council to come up with a solution.  The council have said if the resident cuts the hedge back to their boundary then 1 metre will be gained.  Fullwell Avenue overgrown hedge was discussed in that a letter was received from a villager who had an item of clothing ripped on the hedge and wanted to know who to send the invoice to. NNC have said due to a safety issue they would cut the hedge and bill the home owner and raise a CCJ  Cllr and Clerk to contact concerned parties to arrange for the hedge to be cut.    **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315f Recreation ground – Cllr.Fox**  Cllr Fox reported before the meeting:  Skatepark Project, Consultations on the Design have taken place,  2 cherry trees to be replaced,  Construction date is imminent,  Discussions with the Outdoor Gym tenderers Proludic on availability of equipment  Cllr Nicholls discussed that work was due to start this week. He visited the school to share with the teachers and children that work would be starting and that the area could not be used.  Tom Pursglove has asked for update on the skate park and all Cllrs are in agreement that although part of the requirement of the grant is to publicise the completion of the SkatePark and Outdoor gym, the invites to the opening should be about the children and the village only.  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315g Village Hall – Cllr.Smith**  Cllr Smith reported before the meeting:  A donation of £60,000.00 was received by the Village Hall from the estate of Geoff Ward  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315h Sports and Social Club – Cllr.Nicholls**  Cllr Nicholls reported before the meeting :  The sewer system  There will be no work completed in 2023. As of 5th September the box had not been put over the pump switch.  It was discussed that this needs to be resolved and discussed. A meeting with the PC has been arranged for 26th September  The club opened earlier for the women’s football final. Attendance was good.  Pat Butler celebrated his 70th birthday and has been made a lifelong member.  The end of school BBQ resulted in a sum of money being raised, 50% will go to the cricket club and 50% to the football club  The Village Welcome pack is on the Website  Additional Photo’s of GSSC to be added to the website  A List of future events and dates have been provided in the report  **RESOLVED:** Approved  **23/315i Youth Council – Cllr.Blamire**  Before the meeting Cllr Blamire reported on:  Feedback was received from CYPN on support for a youth club. Follow up meeting to be arranged to discuss funding  It was discussed that already there are a Netball Team and 10 football teams which has resulted in 140-150 children using these facilities. It was shared that there is a shortage of children playing cricket. Cricket has grants available and it would be good to encourage through this route. One suggestion was to ask CYP if they have contact lists that they could share with us to help organise/manage these.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/316 Planning Applications received***  **23/316: 19/00561/DPA**  **SCHEDULE OF PLANS Conditions Removal: Please see 6”893-010301-230817**  **Planning Support Document” which has been submitted with this application**  **Substitution of approved drawings.**  **At 36 Arnhill Road Gretton Northampton NN17 3DN**  Discussed that the council still have concerns and a reply to be actioned by the clerk.  Continue to have concerns as the development of two properties with 10 bedrooms collectively suggests that the parking facilities are not adequate. There are already parking issues on this road and it is close to a junction.  **23/316a: COU Buckworth Barn NC/23/00288/COU**  **Change of use from Offices to dwelling of 74 High Street.**  This was not discussed at the meeting due to not entered on the agenda.  Emails were sent out between the councillors and comments were entered on the NNC site stating the objections.  It was stated that we would not object to the application if ***all*** of the following criteria are met to the Parish Council's satisfaction:   1. **Parking**:  the change of use of this property means that there are now three residential properties at 74 High Street.     Therefore we request that NNC do a full review of the parking requirements to ensure that there is adequate off-street parking for Barn House, Buckworth Barn and the Old Barnhouse. 2. **Curtilage:**  All three properties must, in perpetuity, remain as part of the same curtilage. 3. **Retrospective applications**:  going forward there can be no further retrospective applications related to 74 High Street, its buildings or land.   Should any of these criteria not be met, Gretton Parish Council's objection under Neighbourhood Plan Policy BE1 still stands |
| ***23/317 To receive Financial Statement dated 1-30th April: payments received; invoices paid.***  ***23/318 To receive Financial Statement dated 1-31st May: payments received; invoices paid.***  ***23/319 To receive Financial Statement dated 1-30th June: payments received; invoices paid. 23/320 To receive Financial Statement dated 1-31st July: payments received; invoices paid.***  ***23/321 To receive Financial Statement dated 1st-31st August: payments received: invoices paid.***  Cllr Wright has issued a report to the previous Clerk that these are still to be signed off once all changes are completed  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/322 To receive Tree Survey quotes.***  Quotes were received from Spendlove £250, NNC £1436.40 plus VAT,JAG £3000, and WILBY TREE SURGEONS £1650 Plus Vat  Spendlove was voted for and approved with a caveat that they are to ensure the accuracy of the new Report. Clerk to respond accordingly  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/323 Resolution of NatWest Mandate request***  ***RESOLVED*** Approved-Votes all in favour |
| ***23/324 To receive a report on any correspondence received since the previous meeting.***  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***23/325 Councillor questions***  Concerns have been raised regarding parties being held at the Village Hall. Councillors have referred these directly to the Village Hall Management Committee. Cllr Nicholls had further information about the events that the VHMC should be made aware of and has been asked to share this with them.  **RESOLVED:** Approved |
| ***22/326 Date of next meeting:***  Monday 9th October 2023  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved. |
| ***22/327 Close***  Meeting finished 9.20pm  **RESOLVED:** Noted and approved |

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cllr. Lilley, Chair Gretton Parish Council.

Date: