

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th April 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Terri Meechan, Frances Woolston, Julie Smith, Stan Heggs (CC), Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts (BC), Ivan and Olivia – Neighbourhood Wardens, John Hindle – clerk and 10 Members of the Public.

Apologies:- Mark Thompson

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2016 were declared a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting open to the Public:-

A large group of bus users attended the Meeting due to a report in the local newspaper recently that Northamptonshire County were planning to introduce cuts to the local bus service between Market Harborough and Gretton which also serves Corby. This was reported at the last Meeting and it was decided to contact NCC to discuss the situation. The response was received that County were planning to cut the peak time services and those running on Saturday from 23rd July this year. Chairman emailed the Cabinet member M. Clarke for details of the decision but no reply is as yet to hand. A representative of Centrebus has also confirmed that the company are aware of the decision but are still considering their response. Some statistics were available to the Meeting and it transpired that on average 80 passengers travelled the route per day from Monday to Friday with 20 using the service on Saturdays. During the ensuing discussion various points were raised including the importance of the bus service to villagers and the fact that Centrebus must run a profitable service however this is achieved. In addition the service is relied upon by schoolchildren and alternative arrangements must be made for them in the event of the loss of early morning transport. Stan Heggs (CC) agreed to discuss with his County colleagues, particularly M. Clarke and report back. It is understood that the local MP is also aware of the situation and awaiting developments.

It was made clear to the villagers that councillors are unable to act until the full picture is known. On receipt of actual proposals representations will be made to County and also to Corby BC as to what contributions might be forthcoming from our local authority. There is no doubt that PC will explore every avenue for the good of the village.

Report from Neighbourhood Wardens:-

Ivan Barkham and Olivia informed councillors that there were now six wardens in place so there should be good cover available in the villages. Chairman mentioned the list of concerns discussed at the last Village Walkabout which came up at PC Meeting in March and was passed to Suzanne Preston.

Chairman and Clerk have been contacted by Paul Britton at the end of Corby Road

concerning the parking of a vehicle on the pavement. Ivan has instructed Paul to move the car as it is an obstruction to motorists. Councillors took the view that although pavement parking was not to be encouraged, in this instance no obstruction was in fact being caused. Clerk and chairman will discuss with the resident.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 14th March:-

Councillors are concerned at the inordinate delay in making safer the area around the Balancing pond in Huntsfield Drive. A villager has complained to the officer in charge of day to day work on this site and received an apology and explanation for the delay. Chairman has discussed the situation with the officer and it was decided that an official representation be made to the Head of Service and Chief Executive at Corby BC attaching the email stream and requesting immediate action. Councillors are aware of the dangers inherent on this site and are not prepared to wait any longer for the safety aspect to be addressed.

Steve Rainbow has again been reminded to complete the work on the oak tree on the Village Green and remove a potentially dangerous branch.

The drainage problems at the top of Lyddington Road and the water on the highway emanating from the building site on Hatton Lane have been passed to Highways at Northants CC.

Mark Thompson has been asked to look at the possibility of constructing a disabled access to the Village Green.

Julie Powell at the Post Office has reported that she has run out of Welcome Packs for new residents to the village. The Pack needs updating and this will be addressed by councillors.

All legal papers in respect of the registration of Parish Council land have now been passed to Land Registry for completion of the various tasks.

In the absence of alternative uses the old phone box will be repainted and locked as a piece of history in village life.

Matthew Moore will examine the bench on the Village Green and recommend appropriate action to restore its quality.

The replacement of various litter bins around the village is still being discussed with Corby BC as the current stock represents a health hazard. The idea from Rural Pride to replace bins on the streets with some from the Recreation Ground is a non-starter as this is a well used public area. Kevin Watt is in touch with an officer who is facilitating the placing of new stock but no installation date has been promised as yet.

The pruning of the Ash tree by the wall of Tythe Barn has now been completed following the report to Street Doctor.

Julie Smith reported that the Website now carries a specific email address for villagers' use and this can be accessed when browsing the site.

The meeting of interested villagers in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan took place in the Village Hall on Monday 21st March. 21 attended and a presentation by Terry Begley from Corby BC opened the meeting. This was poorly handled by the officer and he was asked to prepare answers to specific questions raised by attendees prior to another meeting being arranged. Some questions are now to hand along with a map of the perimeter of Gretton Parish which will be useful should any future Plan come to Corby BC for approval. In addition Jeff Sharnock has offered his experience of 'affordable housing' applications which will form a significant part of future housing schemes. The Core Strategy for the development of Corby and the villages is the document which drives all decisions until 2031 so councillors will examine our current Village Plan and seek to update in relation to the Strategy. No plans are currently in place for another meeting but this will take place as soon as councillors and villagers have formulated their perceived requirements.

Phil Bromhall has asked villagers through Facebook for their ideas in the way that Church Gap can become an attractive village asset. Various ideas have been forthcoming and Phil will formulate a plan. Councillors will liaise with Suzanne Preston to ascertain the availability of any local grants.

Clerk has been in touch with ACRE in Northampton regarding the provision of permanent signs around the village to the Village Hall. A report will be produced in due course.

Junior Parish Councillors have not been a feature of Meetings since 2013. Councillors will invite School Head Mrs. J. McDonald to a future Meeting for a discussion on the feasibility of appointing children to this role.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

As previously reported Kevin will keep the complaint about waste bins in the forefront of his discussions at Corby BC.

There will be a change in the way that the New Homes Bonus is calculated in two years time. This will leave Corby BC about £1.5m short in cash and the Council will have to make plans as to future spending in the light of this situation.

The Council grant towards the cost of PCSOs has been used in house for the provision of extra Neighbourhood Wardens.

Circulation:-

NCALC Update Magazine

CPRE VOICE and FIELDWORK Magazines

Report on Recreation Ground:-

A villager has asked to use the Recreation Ground for a dog training class. Tim Fox will suggest that Pick Playing field may be a better option with a donation for use. In this instance the villager will be required to show evidence of adequate public liability insurance for the activity.

Planning:-

16/00109/COU Change of use from Public House to residential at Bluebell, High Street

Official notification has not been provided by Corby BC yet the details are available on the Borough website. There is no doubt that the pack will arrive soon so to remain within the timescale the decision was taken to discuss the application. This property has been up for sale for five years. The current turnover will not support the sale as a Public House. Councillors have no objections to this change of use.

Finance:-

Current balance	£17,854.20
Amounts Due:-	
MST Construction for work in Lyddington Rd and New Cemetery	1,400.00
Charles Woolston and Sons for hedge trimming by Picks PF	120.00
NCALC for subs 2016/17	490.18
J. Hindle – clerk Salary and Petty cash	886.33
Eon for electricity supplied to MUGA lights	16.50

Police:-

No attendance again at this Meeting. Mark Tooley to be asked to attend regularly.

Any Other Business:-

The street light opposite the Village Hall is still not fixed. Marshall Ferguson to again report.

Chairman to email J.Murphy and Sons to request the reinstatement of the grassed area under the bridge which is currently in an unsightly condition.

The Garden Group have requested a grant to upgrade the entrances to the village with troughs containing flowers and shrubs. Suzanne Preston has been asked to comment as to any funds available. Budget to be around £250.

The Battle of the Somme in 1916 will be commemorated with a service during June. The actual date will follow in due course. Parish Council will support.

The Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 16th April.

Date of next Meeting will be Monday 9th May at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.