

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th April 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Marshall Ferguson, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts (BC), Jim McCabe (Neighbourhood Warden) and 2 Members of the Public.

Apologies:- Julie Smith, Mark Thompson, Matthew Moore, Terri Meechan, Sandra Naden Horley (CC), Joe Devlin (PCSO)

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th March 2018 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting Open to the Public:-

Elisabeth Jordan was of the opinion that the TVAS sign recently sited on Corby Road was placed facing the wrong direction in view of the number of vehicles which exceeded the speed limit when leaving the village. A lively discussion ensued as to the next steps to be taken in the crusade against excessive speed. The three entrances and exits to the village will be covered by the TVAS on a rota basis with other villages using the device. The purchase of a TVAS for Gretton use only is still a possibility and the question will be returned to in due course. The recent siting on Corby Road produced many interesting statistics which will be kept on file. The chances of villagers operating a speed gun or equivalent on their own patch in the future are thought to be negligible.

Chairman expressed concern that the 67 bus service linking the village to Corby is soon to cease. A recent communication from a villager mentioned 20th April as a stop date but during a conversation with an officer at Northants CC it appeared that 25th May was more likely. In any event Council has had no official communication from Northants CC and no word from the village County Councillor.

Councillors are extremely concerned about this turn of events. Gretton has an ageing population, some of whom have no other way to access Corby for appointments etc. Furthermore the village is facing applications for extra housing and the bus service is a part of the facilities which make up a community. Coupled with a lack of school places and no shop it is a bleak picture. Northants CC have confirmed that if funding was available from another source they would continue to manage the service even if it was reduced. Borough councillors were urged to ascertain from Corby BC what might be possible in the alleviation of isolation for a significant number of villagers. Rockingham residents also face a similar problem and the two PCs could work with Corby BC to identify a solution.

Report from Neighbourhood Warden:-

Jim McCabe introduced his report which had been received by the clerk prior to the Meeting. He opened by saying that two penalty notices for dog fouling had been issued across the villages in Corby Borough and some 35 walkers had been engaged in conversations. He is

aware that some dogs are allowed to roam free in Gretton and attempting to engage with owners is an ongoing problem.

Jim stated that a new manager has been appointed for his team and Laura Shaw will take up her post soon. The team is also one employee down on establishment and he is hoping this will be addressed. He has reported two items to Northants CC namely the repainting of the yellow lines and request for traffic calming measures outside School.

Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting on 12th March:-

Additional CCTV is now available and Dave Clements could fit a new recording box at the Recreation Ground next week. Discussions with the Sports Club as to increased facilities will come later.

The trimming of the trees at Tythe Barn has now reached a position where the owner of the property must be consulted. Steve Ellis has indicated that he is prepared to undertake the work involved.

Plaques in memory of Ailsa Dempster will be placed in the Village Hall and St. James church. Identification of a suitable cabinet for the Hall is still a priority.

The imminent demise of Northants CC is being extensively covered on local and national media but Council still await an official statement from village County councillor Sandra Naden Horley.

The source of a replacement flag has now been identified and clerk will discuss with the Flag Steward.

Kevin Watt (BC) is still awaiting a response to the removal of the grit bin at the top of Winchelsea Drive.

No official statement has been received from Uppingham Surgery regarding the possible removal of service from Corby Urgent Care at Lakeside. Some 500 villagers are registered with the Surgery and could be denied access to Corby under arrangements which operate on a strict county boundary basis. Local MP Tom Pursglove is involved and a report is awaited.

The metal dugouts have now been removed from behind the Sports Club.

Clerk and chairman to discuss a reminder letter to Anglian Water regarding the 'fitness for purpose' of the village sewerage and clean water systems.

The unspent grant funds for the pursuance of the Neighbourhood Plan has been returned. A new application will be made in the future as events progress.

There are various issues to raise with Anglian Water about the management of the compound which contains the Water Tower. Clerk and chairman to discuss the content of this communication.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-

Frances Woolston informed councillors that the next meeting of the committee would be on Thursday 12th April. Various sub groups have been set up and their work would be discussed in detail at this meeting.

Correspondence:-

A communication has been received from Steve Ellis drawing attention to vehicles parking on grass verges that require regular cutting. Chairman will put a note on Facebook to the effect that such parking causes an obstruction.

Circulation:-

CPRE 'Fieldwork and 'Countryside Voice' Magazines

'Update' Magazine from NCALC.

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox reported that Steve Ellis had added anti-climb paint to certain structures and hand marks had been sighted.

Planning:-

18/00113/DPA Erection / installation of heritage style street light on St.James church pathway within church grounds.

No objections from councillors

Chairman stated that Corby BC had recently sent a revised application to 18/00024/DPA for comments by Council. This concerns the proposed 10 houses to be built on Kirby Road next to the Village Hall. Council responded to the original submission and it appears the variations are not regarded to be of a material nature. Nevertheless a response must be submitted and chairman undertook to provide this immediately. Parking and vehicle movements in general are of considerable concern not least in view of the fact that the number of car parking spaces allocated does not comply with Northants CC regulation for housing developments namely 18 proposed against a requirement of 34. Access to Kirby Road is difficult and residents whose properties are adjacent to the public highway will undoubtedly avail themselves of on street parking and not use dedicated spaces provided. The site is next to the Pocket Park where large trees are currently situated and any damage to the root system or size of these could adversely affect the current rural aspect of the Conservation Area.

The sewerage and water supply systems have long been a problem to Gretton residents and should this scheme go ahead considerable works will be required by Anglian Water in this regard.

The recent Housing Needs Survey did not show a need for this type of housing and the area is defined as 'green space' in the Conservation Area thereby enhancing the aspect. In addition the land is not included in the Corby BC five year land supply and should not be used for development at this moment in time.

Council has been informed that an application to build 120 houses on land between Southfield Road and Harringworth Road has been received by Corby BC and is awaiting validation. If past experience is to be relied upon Corby BC will not be supportive of development outside of the village envelope. The 5 year land supply will also be a consideration in this matter. Residents must wait for official notification of an application before responding to Corby BC.

Chairman asked councillors to respond to the Conservation Area Appraisal report prepared on behalf of Corby BC. He was disappointed with the feedback as only 2 councillors replied. Councillors must keep themselves familiar with statements made and conclusions drawn in the report and respond accordingly. The deadline is 16th April and chairman will reply to Corby BC.

The general conclusion is that Gretton is overrun by street parking. Also, certain areas have been recommended to be removed from the designated area. This is not seen as positive due to the age of the houses. The four houses on the left hand side immediately after the railway bridge as the village is encountered should be included along with local heritage assets such as houses of particular architectural interest.

Finance:-

Current balance	£18,871.71
Amounts owing:-	
Yourlocale for consultant work for Neighbourhood Plan	2,100.00
Quantum Print for Newsletter printing	298.00
Groundwork UK for excess grant from Neighbourhood Plan	1,018.05
Mrs. J. Addy for cleaning Pavilion during March	32.00
J. Hindle – clerk for salary and petty cash Jan – March	911.94

Highways:-

Councillors are of the opinion that whilst there is a countrywide problem the roads in Northamptonshire are at least as bad as any other county.

Any Other Business:-

Clerk stated that the keys to various Parish Council installations had been stolen during the recent burglary at 49, Kirby Road. Insurance documents will be studied and a claim made for replacement.

The local Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 14th April from 9.30am at the Village Hall.

Trees outside the fence at the new cemetery on Station Road should be examined by a Tree Surgeon. Phil Bromhall to monitor progress.

Phil Bromhall and Steve Ellis have cleared Church Gap of litter and other detritous. The cobbles and old style wheel wash have been revealed.

Clerk to discuss with Scouts as to a convenient time when the Meeting Room can be available for next Meeting of Council

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 14th May 2018 at 7.30pm