

# GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:-** Andrew Royle – chair, Terri Meechan, Marshall Ferguson, Tim Fox, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Bridget Watts and Kevin Watt (BC), Sandra Naden-Horley (CC), Jim McCabe (Neighbourhood Warden), Joe Devlin (PCSO), John Hindle – clerk

**Apologies:-** Matthew Moore, Mark Thompson, Julie Smith

**Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest and state whether prejudicial or non-prejudicial where appropriate.**

**The Minutes of the Meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.**

## **Report from the Police:-**

Joe Devlin (PCSO) stated that there were no crimes recorded in the month of November in Gretton.

Joe circulated some questionnaires to help identify priorities in the villages for the next few months. Recently the most raised problems related to parking on narrow roads, speeding and dog fouling.

Joe is keen to promote the Community Speedwatch initiative because it provides a deterrent to motorists on rural roads. He appreciates that villagers are reluctant to spy on their neighbours and suggests a village exchange of residents. He left councillors with some information and invited participation in the scheme.

He reported that there had been a spate of activity recently relating to persons trying door handles both cars and houses mostly in the early evening. He stressed the necessity of keeping doors locked and if keys were inside a property not to be near the front door.

Chairman commented that usually the first point of complaint for a villager was the Parish Council. Residents generally were not keen to talk to Police. When councillors complain to Police following residents' concerns it appears that officers take a low profile and are not evident in the village which was highlighted by our recent ASB problems. Joe commented that he was keen to have a regular surgery in the village but as staffing was now down to one officer to look after several villages he simply did not have the time available. He asked for residents to contact 101 even though this line was fraught with problems particularly in the waiting time demanded.

## **Report from Neighbourhood Warden:-**

Jim Mc Cabe has recently been appointed to join the team of wardens with Gretton on their patch. He has been associated with the village in the past and was welcomed by councillors. He reported that Olivia Stinson who had worked in the area for some eighteen months had been seconded to other duties and would succeed to Community Safety Officer in the New

Year. Jim was asked about his role and stated that he had a presentation available and would be happy to show this to any interested organisation. Basically he would keep a high profile along with his colleagues around the villages designated to him. Clerk was instructed to email Jim with all councillors emails to enable him to keep in touch. Regular reports of activities prior to meetings would be ideal.

Chairman questioned the value of walkabouts as a low turnout of locals occurred at each one. Jim agreed that the profile could be raised. He was invited to put his presentation on Gretton Facebook page and join Gretton News and Views as a way of keeping in touch with community concerns.

### **Report from County Councillor:-**

Sandra Naden-Horley was asked about the budget cuts proposed by County and stated that the meeting with councillors would take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December and she would then have more information. She promised to ask a question if the bus service to the village was going to be cut or curtailed. Councillors await her report.

Sandra reported that she had used £1,000 of her discretionary allowance to help fund the TVAS system which Suzanne Preston will purchase for the villages around Corby. She also agreed to discuss with Sarah Barnwell of Highways Dept the trimming of overhanging branches particularly on the wall of 25, High Street.

### **Report from Borough Councillor:-**

Kevin Watt reported that Corby and Kettering councils are discussing sharing services on Streetscene ie bin collections and the treatment of toxic and/or dangerous waste. Operational hours were discussed with the possibility of gangs working six days a week with start and finishing times extended.

### **Matters Arising from Minutes of 13<sup>th</sup> November:-**

It appears that there is progress towards the purchase of a TVAS system for villages following County councillor's report. Suzanne Preston will be contacted to ascertain the current position.

There are a number of street lights not working in the village particularly on Clay Lane, Arnhill Road and Caistor Road. Councillors are in contact with the appropriate department in Corby BC. Jim McCabe was asked to make enquiries on behalf of Parish Council.

The Christmas tree is in place on the Green and thanks are due to Mark Thompson and Martin Branston for their efforts.

As mentioned in the report from County councillor the overhanging trees outside 25, High Street are still a matter for concern. Clerk to again talk to the tenant to work out a solution.

The recent tree report did not come up with any urgent action required but Phil Bromhall and the Pocket Park committee will discuss a programme of work to ensure that remedial works are done on time.

Clerk has discussed with the Village Hall committee the placing of a memorial plaque to celebrate the work of Ailsa Dempster. The plans are to site this in the hall itself and will probably include wording about her service to Parish Council as well as chairman of the VH committee. This is an ongoing project and a report will be made in due course.

Areas of chestnut fencing have been placed in Church Gap in an attempt to maintain the safety of visitors. Phil Bromhall and St. James Church PCC will undertake any other necessary works when the need arises.

The street signs advertising activities in the Bluebell pub are considered undesirable and clerk has written to the Licensee advising that planning permission is required if they are to stay.

Clerk and Flag Steward to discuss the replacement of the flag damaged on the oak tree.

### **Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-**

Frances Woolston stated that a meeting had been held of the committee on 29<sup>th</sup> November. She stated that there are buildings not listed around the village which nevertheless have value such as the Sports Club, bridge, school etc which must be taken into account when plans are made. There is a Conservation Area survey currently being undertaken commissioned by Corby BC and the committee will await the results of this study. She reported that a Vision Statement and a Logo are in the process of being developed.

The old Post Office still has a window which is available for notices and this is being explored as a way of keeping villagers informed.

There are still landowners and statutory stakeholders which have yet to be contacted and these will be addressed in the near future.

### **Circulation:-**

NALC Update Magazine

Rural Area Forum Agenda and Reports from meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> November

### **Report on Recreation Ground:-**

Tim Fox informed councillors that no additional information had been received from the facilitator of the work planned for the Water Tower. It is understood that Vodafone and O2 wish to add aerials.

A refund on charges levied by British Gas for the pavilion is expected as they have confused day and night meter readings.

### **Planning:-**

17/00566/DPA Demolition of existing garage/store and proposed new dwelling on land to the rear of 76, High Street

This is a revised application because various problems were raised with the closeness of the proposed building to Barn House at 74, High Street. Councillors welcome the development of the land but ask planners to be aware of the fact that Barn House has minimal foundations and any work in its proximity could have major consequences. The materials used to build

should be in keeping with current surroundings and the requirements of the Highways Dept. report should be taken very seriously due to the difficulties of access on to High Street.

17/00609/DPA Ground floor extension and attached garage.

No objections from councillors but a requirement to adhere to the report from Highways Dept. on what is a very busy junction with Kirby Road.

**Finance:-**

Current balance	£31,842.96
Amounts owing:-	
Eon for electricity for MUGA Lights in November	51.90
BDO for audit of accounts for 2016/17	200.00
Lockhart Garratt for Tree survey	930.00
S.Ellis – Gretton Cricket Club – grasscutting 2017	4,692.00
J.Addy for Pavilion cleaning in November	128.00
Towergate Insurance for MUGA insurance	945.25

Clerk reported that Corby BC had sent their Precept form for completion. It was agreed to request £12,000 for 2018/19. In addition our grant for expenditure on items which are covered in the town by Corby BC – usually £9,615 – is being phased out so we will only receive £6,416 next year.

Our external auditors for 2017/18 will be PKF Littlejohn replacing BDO LLP. No financial problems were identified on BDO's report on 2016/17 but they were concerned as to the accuracy of the Asset Register. It has now been agreed that all amounts shown should be at cost to Gretton Parish Council net of grant income. In addition the auditors were concerned that no report had been made to Gretton PC of their nil findings in 2015/16 and no letter was received from the Internal Auditor saying no problems were found. Clerk will address the situation.

**Any Other Business:-**

The street lamp on School Road and three on Huntsfield Drive are out. Councillors to follow up with Corby BC

The signposts on the Village Green are in urgent need of repainting. Clerk to ask an interested villager.

Councillors are reminded of the service for Arthur Coleman a World War 1 serviceman at 2pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December in St. James Church.

**Date of next Meeting** to be Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall