

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Mark Thompson, Julie Smith, Phil Bromhall, Frances Woolston, Terri Meechan, Rob. McKellar and Bridget Watts (BC) John Hindle – clerk and 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies:- Marshall Ferguson, Matthew Moore, Police, Olivia Stinson (Neighbourhood Warden)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th January 2017 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting open to the Public:-

Elisabeth Jordan stated that the pathway from Huntsfield Drive to the Recreation Ground was again very muddy and difficult to negotiate. Mark Thompson agreed to check and add more planings if necessary.

The large pothole outside the Doctor's Surgery had been repaired by Anglian Water but to a low standard and the tarmac is now breaking up. Representations will be made to effect a repair.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan:-

Frances Woolston, Parish Council representative on the Neighbourhood Plan committee reported that the first meeting of the committee had taken place in Hatton Arms on 9th February. Twelve villagers were present all in agreement that a Plan for Gretton was essential to avoid excessive and inappropriate development in the Parish. Jacki Lilley was appointed chairperson. Jacki and Frances plan to meet with Terry Begley at Corby BC in the near future. The committee will meet monthly and a secretary and treasurer are to be appointed. Kevin Watt a borough councillor informed the meeting that currently there are five sites across the borough earmarked for development with none in Gretton.

When the application to Corby BC was first made for a Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton Parish officers invited responses from local providers of services such as electricity, gas, sewerage and highways. These were forwarded to Parish Council when the consultation period finished and Andrew Royle promised to forward these to Jacki.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Rob. McKellar informed councillors that to date no new plans for Brookfield Plantation had been presented to Northants CC or Corby BC.

The Kier Services contract for Corby has one year to run and officers are keen to bring the duties in house. A business plan must be prepared for submission to borough councillors.

There is less pressure from Central Government currently for the formation of Unitary Authorities in local areas. If there is a change of heart then a feasibility study will be opened with Corby, Kettering and East Northants taking part at a cost of £25,000 for each authority.

Report on Legal and Property matters:-

Tim Fox stated that he had been in touch with Lamb and Holmes to request their assistance and estimate costs for the registering of various properties around the village.

The information received covered the first registration of the Village Hall at a cost of £140 plus £150 legal fees and a correction of the registration of the Southfield Road allotments area to reflect ownership by Gretton Parish Council rather than two individual councillors at a cost of £20 plus £75 in fees. This proposal was agreed by councillors.

Tim was also given authorisation to proceed with further enquiries regarding ownership of the site of the old well and other issues concerning the access.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 8th January:-

Following representations from Neighbourhood Wardens and Parish Council Northants Highways has agreed to cut back the hedge on Station Road and restore the pathway to its original state.

Enquiries to War Memorial Trust are continuing with a view to cleaning and possible repointing.

The bank on Arnhill Road has been cut back by Highways. The soil on the road should be washed away imminently.

The Welcome Pack is now complete and will be printed for new residents and added to the Parish Website.

The cleaning of the inside of the old Phone box will be completed soon.

All the required information relating to Rates levied on the Pavilion has been sent to the Valuation Office and a reply is awaited.

Mark Thompson reported that a new downpipe for rainwater has been added to the Pavilion.

No update is as yet available on the scheme suggested by Suzanne Preston for a movable traffic calming sign for the villages.

The condition of the verge opposite Gretton House has reached an intolerable level and an official report will be sent to Highways as the land is in a dangerous state.

Despite reminders there is still no information to hand relating to the costs of permanent road signs around the village to the Village Hall.

Terri Meechan and Jane MacDonald are in conversation regarding school pupils attending Parish Council meetings or Terri attending School Council meetings.

Clerk will ask Anglian Water for a report on the possibility of the Sewerage Pumping Station at the Recreation Ground being adopted by the Authority.

Orbit Housing has presumably accepted responsibility for the hedge at the entrance to Latimer Close as it has recently been trimmed.

The new bus timetable frame has been fitted in the bus shelter and Clerk will obtain an amended timetable from Northants CC.

Chairman reported that a developer is interested in the site to the rear of the allotments behind Southfield Road. No application has been presented and the situation will be monitored closely.

The kerbstones outside The Old Fox have been repaired.

The issue of rubbish accumulation in the Football Club dugout will be addressed by Club management.

Clerk to discuss with residents the encroachment of gravel over the pavement outside Lydia's café and the drive opposite No.3 Station Road.

Correspondence:-

Email from Olivia Stinson (Neighbourhood Warden) explaining that the next Village Walkabout will be on 1st March. Frances Woolston will attend. Olivia has undertaken patrols with Joe Devlin (PCSO) around School start and finish times checking on speeding and inconsiderate parking by parents. She will attend at Gretton School to alert children relating to dropping litter on 27th February. Olivia has also drawn attention to the fact that the Enhancement gangs will be in the village during May and now is the time to register works that could be undertaken. It was decided that the painting of railings around the Village Green and the painting and repair of the signpost in that area along with the removal of rubbish from Huntsfield Drive and the Recreation Ground would be requested.

Suzanne Preston has advised Council that the Rural Days of Action will commence on Monday 13th March for one week. It was decided to include the trimming of the tree by the bus stop on Kirby Road and the cleaning of the cobblestones in Church Gap on the list.

A villager has rented the Old Fire Station in Arnhill Road for three years and has requested an extension to the agreement. Councillors decided that the site must be advertised to villagers for a new period of rental commencing on 1st April. Clerk will put notices on the boards.

Attention has been drawn to the state of the picket fence bordering the Jo Stone on Kirby Road. A member of the Gardening Club has offered expertise in the replacement of the fence and advised a cost of some £120 plus labour. Clerk to contact interested contractors.

Lydia's café is in need of a replacement fridge and has approached Council for a grant towards the cost. Mark Thompson agreed to research prices for refurbished fridges and Terri Meechan will look out for any local grants on offer which might be suitable. Clerk will reply to Lydia's in due course.

Circulation:-

NCALC' UPDATE' Magazine

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox explained to councillors that a second quotation for a fence at the rear of the Sports Club had now been received and another was being sought from any qualified contractor.

Planning:-

1700013/DPA Conversion of existing double garage into two storey house extension and erection of a new detached garage (re-submission of 16/00369/DPA) at 88, Kirby Road

This application is a re-submission of a previous scheme and no objections are forthcoming.

Finance:-

Current balance	£25,998.48
Amounts owing:-	
Gretton Cricket Club – grasscutting during 2016	4,690.00
Mrs. J. Addy – Pavilion cleaning	128.00

Report on Speed calming signs for Gretton:-

Chairman and Clerk met a representative from Solargen recently to discuss the provision of traffic calming signs for the approach roads in Gretton. The signs are priced at around £5,000 each and the decision was to ask the village through an advertising campaign as to the wish of residents in this regard. On receipt of replies the best price will be sought for any installation.

Police:-

Joe Devlin (PCSO) gave his apologies for the Meeting and forwarded an email stating that a burglary had occurred in the last month and a vehicle was recovered from out of county. He asks that residents be vigilant as to property security and to report any unusual or suspicious vehicles which may be seen.

Any Other Business:-

The elder tree has been removed from the end of the mower shed on the Recreation Ground. The roof of the shed may need replacement in the future. Mark Thompson to make enquiries with Football Club as to the provision of new doors for the shed to increase the width.

The format of the Gretton Newsletter is being reviewed. Any comments or ideas to Julie Smith at Hatton Arms.

The incidence of dog fouling is again reaching unacceptable proportions. Residents are again requested to clean up after their dogs to protect the look of our attractive village.

The Village Quiz will take place at the Village Hall on Friday 24th February. Tim Fox, Mark Thompson and Frances Woolston will form the Parish Council team.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall