

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Matthew Moore, Tim Fox, Frances Woolston, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Julie Smith, Mark Thompson, Rob McKellar and Kevin Watt (BC), Mark Tooley (PCSO), John Hindle – clerk and 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies:- Terri Meechan

Chairman reminded all councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th December 2015 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Report from PCSO:-

Mark Tooley was welcomed back to the Corby area after a placement around Daventry. He reported a recent burglary and a theft of items from a vehicle along with some plants. A local vehicle dealer was robbed of four vans but three of these are now recovered.

The investigation into stone throwing incidents from Dunlop Close off Gretton Brook Road is ongoing. The perpetrators would appear to be young children from the Travellers site. There are various road safety problems along that stretch of Gretton Brook Road as there is no footpath and 40mph signs have only recently been introduced. The responsibility for site management will be transferred to Corby BC Sheltered Housing Dept. from April of this year.

Meeting open to the Public:-

Elisabeth Jordan on behalf of the History Society asked if Minutes were available of a committee set up after WW1 to maintain the War Memorial. Clerk replied that he was not aware of any but would arrange a meeting with Elisabeth to go through the filing cabinets in the Village Hall.

Matters Arising from Minutes of Meeting on 14th December:-

With reference to the Balancing Pond on Huntsfield Drive it is understood that letters have been sent to residents by Corby BC advising on safety and also that Borough Council officers will meet with the Housing Association to discuss the next steps in the drive to make the area considerably safer for residents.

Steve Rainbow has attended to most of the outstanding items following the recent Tree Report. He will return in a few days to complete the work including the pruning of the oak on the Village Green.

During the recent rains there was a considerable amount of water draining on to the road from the building plot at the end of Hatton Lane. As the weather gets colder this will be a hazard to motorists. Corby BC planners to be informed.

There is a collection of rubbish in Church Gap following work on a nearby field. The owner of the field will be informed with a view to its removal.

Thanks are due to the united efforts of Parish Council, Corby BC and Northants CC for the road resurfacing work in Southfield Road and Finch Hatton Drive areas. It has been noted that some of the road levels are exhibiting dips which hold water. NCC to be informed.

A meeting has been arranged with staff at Gretton House to discuss the provision of more hard surface parking on High Street opposite the entrance to the House.

Councillors are keen to keep the application for four houses on Corby Road under review and regular updates will be sought from Corby BC planners.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Rob. McKellar and Kevin Watt discussed various financial aspects as Corby BC prepares its budget for 2016/17. There is a proposal to reduce the funding of PCSOs and increase the spending on Neighbourhood Wardens. This would save £20,000 in a year but was not favoured by Rob who will argue that the photocopying spend is too high and savings could be achieved in that area.

There is also a proposal that a Trust Fund could be created to run the Leisure Services Dept which would reduce expenditure on some statutory items.

Circulation:-

Clerk and Councils DIRECT Magazine

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox advised that a site meeting would take place with a company used by Corby BC for the provision of skateboard ramps with regard to the feasibility of installing such a facility on the Recreation Ground. He will report back to Council in due course.

Planning:-

15/00460/DPA Extension and conversion of outbuilding to provide annexe at 31, Kirby Road. Matthew Moore declared an interest as the property is next door to his dwelling. Councillors raised no objections so long as the extension remains attached to the house and could not be separately rented in the future. There could be some parking considerations on what is already a congested road.

15/00276/DPA The demolition of the existing bungalow and the erection of four new dwellings at 44, Arnhill Road.

Councillors were opposed to this scheme as it would adversely affect the street scene and constitute a backland development which is not favoured by planners. The access to the new properties is narrow and there does not appear to be enough provision for the parking of vehicles. In addition, Arnhill Road is also narrow at this point and the movement of vehicles would be an extra hazard to existing residents.

Chairman stated that following the circulation to villagers with the Newsletter of information on the possible formation of a Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton he had received five

responses. He underlined again the fact that any plan would have to be driven by parish councillors and he was reluctant to commit resources from within Council as those with expertise were already working hard for the village.

After a lively discussion it was agreed that chairman would invite those who had responded to a meeting where the situation could be explained. Tim Fox and Frances Woolston offered to be present and this was gratefully accepted. The Neighbourhood Plan advisory document will be circulated to councillors and the five residents. Future progress would be decided at the meeting.

Finance:-

Current balance	£23,115.43
Amounts owing:-	
June Turkington – wages for cleaning at Pavilion	96.00
Brunel Signs – sign for Pick Playing field	41.02
Steve Ellis – Grasscutting additional payment	250.00
John Hindle – clerk – Salary and Petty cash	856.08

Clerk stated that the Precept for Gretton would be £11,000 with no increase from last year. The grant to the Parish from Corby BC would also remain at £9,615.

Highways:-

Alongside the work underway in Southfield Road and Finch Hatton Drive there are other areas of the village which require attention. Some holes are marked in yellow while others are not. Councillors will monitor the situation and make representations to NCC if necessary.

Any Other Business:-

A villager has raised the question of the preservation of footpaths which could be lost if not registered with Northants CC. Mel Jarvis as Footpaths Warden did a considerable amount of work to ensure all local paths complied with the requirements and councillors were not aware of any which had slipped through the net.

Chairman attended a recent meeting of the Social Club committee when the status of the liquor licence was discussed. It is known that Corby BC officers have questioned committee members in the past and clerk will ascertain if any further work needs to be undertaken.

PC Minutes will be sent to Julie Smith along with Maurice Kellner for inclusion on the Parish Council website.

A timed security light is required for the entrance to the Village Hall. Clerk to pursue.

Reports have been received of more dog fouling on the Recreation Ground near the children's play area. It cannot be stressed enough how dangerous the droppings are particularly for youngsters. Villagers are asked to take all possible steps to prevent this happening.

Date of next Meeting to be 8th February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.