

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 9th January 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Julie Smith, Mark Thompson, Frances Woolston, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Joe Devlin (PCSO), Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts (BC), John Hindle – clerk and 4 Members of the Public.

Apologies:- Rob McKellar (BC), Terri Meechan, Stan Heggs (CC)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2016 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Report from Police:-

Joe Devlin introduced himself as a new member of the PCSO team replacing Anita Hambly and Mark Walker. His crime report for the past month detailed a few low level incidents but included a local burglary which had been the result of an unsecured door. He stressed again the necessity of keeping doors locked and not allowing strangers to gain entry to properties unless carrying appropriate identification.

Councillors drew attention to a vehicle which is parked in High Street on the wrong side of the road creating a traffic hazard. Joe agreed to seek out the owner.

Meeting open to the Public:-

The prospective Conservative candidate for the County Council elections in May of this year is Sandra Naden-Horley and she introduced herself to the Meeting. She was welcomed by councillors who outlined the interactions between County councillors and Parish Council.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 12th December:-

The ongoing problem of inadequate maintenance of the footpath on Station Road has been referred to Street Doctor and the Neighbourhood Wardens and action is awaited.

The Village Welcome Pack requires proof reading before being uploaded to the website.

Clerk has now obtained the key to the old phone box and will ensure that the inside is cleaned.

No response as yet to claim for rate relief on the Pavilion. Clerk to chase.

Clerk and chairman to meet Solargen on Monday 23rd January to ascertain the feasibility of traffic calming signs at village entrances.

The costings from Northants CC regarding the erection of signs to the Village Hall are still awaited and will be pursued this month.

School Head Jane MacDonald will discuss with Terri Meechan the principle of Year 6 children becoming Junior councillors and the reporting procedure to be adopted.

Anglian Water has all information available to make a decision on the Pumping Station servicing the Club and Pavilion and a reply is awaited.

A response has been sought from Corby BC regarding the ownership of the hedge on Latimer Close.

Clerk will erect the bus timetable frame with a contractor as soon as possible.

The allotments between Kirby Road and Fulwell Avenue are likely to be offered to Corby residents first but Clerk will continue to monitor the position.

The repair of kerb stones at the Old Fox has been requested to Street Doctor and a reply received confirming the work is scheduled in the next three months.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-

Corby BC submitted its Plan for Corby recently and a response was formulated by councillors and returned. A copy will be available to the local group at a meeting arranged for Thursday 19th January. Strategy towards the Plan for Gretton will be discussed and presented to the Project Group to take matters forward. Weldon PC is also about to apply to Corby BC for its parish area to be designated as a 'neighbourhood' and the two parishes will co-operate in the future.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts informed councillors that Weldon PC were making a case for an extra £40,000 to be added to their precept from Corby BC to provide traffic calming measures in the village.

A presentation from the local Clinical Group will take place in the Cube on 26th January highlighting the problems of the NHS.

Corby BC propose to install solar panels to existing Council owned houses to reduce electricity charges to residents.

Deenthorpe aerodrome has been designated a 'Garden Village ' site by central government. It is expected that some Section 106 monies will filter down for use in Corby.

Report on Assets registered with Land Registry:-

Tim Fox advised that the applications to the Land Registry to register Parish Council ownership of property at Harringworth Road, Stone Pit Close, Church Gap, Village Green and the Old Fire Station had been successful but he drew attention to various outstanding matters which have come to light during his time of research into the Parish Council Asset Register and land holdings. He advocated the use of a firm of solicitors to give advice on the registration of ownership of the Village Hall and also with regard to issues that need to be resolved on the previous registration of the Southfield Road Allotment land. It was agreed

that he should contact Lamb and Holmes to obtain initial advice and an estimate of likely costs to act on behalf of the Parish Council.

Circulation:-

Clerks and Councils 'DIRECT' Magazine

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Sport England has introduced a Safeguarding Policy which has been forwarded to Corby BC. A small amount of rewording has been advocated and this policy will be adopted by the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground committee and made available to all users of the area.

Planning:-

16/00514/COU Change of use of land to builder's yard at rear of 54, Arnhill Road.

At this point Cllrs Thompson and Ferguson declared an interest and left the Meeting.

Chairman introduced the discussion by alluding to a previous planning application in June of 2016 which was in fact for a different piece of land owned by Mr. Paul Thompson adjoining the one under consideration. At that point Council had objected to the scheme because the land was outside the village boundary of development and for consistency with other schemes this policy was followed. For various reasons the application did not proceed but it was noted that no objections were received from surrounding residents.

The present application is for land to be used as a builder's yard; 60% yard and 40% access. The site is currently used for the purpose outlined and it has been argued that this has been the case for in excess of 10 years although disputed in some quarters. In a report on the scheme Northants CC Highways has only requested a restriction on the weight of vehicles that can be permitted access to the site.

In the ensuing discussion councillors felt that there was no alternative but to raise an objection due to the land being outside the village area of development. In addition there was no evidence apart from anecdotal that the site had been used for the purpose requested for in excess of ten years. There were various factors which made the scheme desirable for the village, not least the employment opportunities. It was decided that if Corby BC and the applicant could come to an agreement over an established use of the land for the purpose stated over the requisite period of time then councillors would not raise an objection.

Clls Thompson and Ferguson rejoined the Meeting at this point

16/00516/DPA Detached garage at 94, Kirby Road.

No objections were forthcoming to this scheme.

Finance:-

Current balance	£26,680.19
Amounts owing:-	
J. Addy – cleaning at Pavilion	128.00
Gretton Village Hall – rental of room for 2016	225.00

Highways:-

Various potholes have been reported to Street Doctor. Interestingly, Church Gap and Hardwick Road have been marked up for repair.

Any Other Business:-

Chairman made a statement that he was looking to retire from the chair at some point in the next Parish Council year. He is keen to establish a line of succession and has asked that a strategy be developed to achieve this aim involving councillors being prepared to accept extra delegation and responsibilities.

Over the festive period there was an amount of rubbish collected in the dugout at the Recreation Ground operated by the Football Club. Obviously a policy needs to be formulated for these eventualities and Clerk will discuss with the Football Club management.

An amount of gravel from the driveway between Lydia's Coffee Shop and No. 34 High Street regularly spills over the pavement. Clerk to talk with residents with a view to eliminating the problem.

Phil Bromhall is continuing with his application to secure a grant for the cleaning of the War Memorial. He was asked to enquire whether cash could be used for repair and the moving of the flagpole.

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