

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th July 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Mark Thompson, Julie Smith, Marshall Ferguson, Frances Woolston, Bridget Watts and Kevin Watt (BC), John Hindle-clerk and 1 Member of the Public

Apologies:- Terri Meechan, Phil Bromhall, Rob. McKellar (BC)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th June 2015 were declared a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting Open to the Public:-

With Mr. Stuart Rochester, whose property is the closest to the planned development, in attendance chairman outlined the position of Council relating to the planning application 13/00092/OUT for the construction of 14 affordable houses at the end of Southfield Road where it joins Fullen Lane, currently under consideration by Corby BC planning officers. Mr. Rochester has forwarded an extremely detailed letter of objection to Corby BC, copies of which were available to councillors. This is the second revision of the project with only minor adjustments on each occasion. Parish Council continues to maintain its stance of objection to the plans and some 33 residents have also expressed their opposition to Corby BC. In the event of planning officers recommending approval, the scheme will be referred to Development Control Committee at Borough and councillors will decide following a presentation by officers and a pre-determined number of speakers from the floor. Parish councillors will explore the feasibility of a meeting with objectors prior to DCC to discuss strategy as only a very limited time will be available for spoken objections and the main arguments must be clearly stated.

One of Parish councillors' principal objections is that this scheme for affordable houses is not necessary to meet Borough targets as other sites are available. This is disputed by BC officers and a meeting with Gavin Ferries (Planning officer) will be sought prior to DCC to discuss the situation.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th June:-

Kevin Watt has expressed concerns to Corby BC officers and is awaiting a reply surrounding the safety of the Balancing pond in Huntsfield Drive. He stated that the chief officers are aware of complaints from villagers.

Steve Rainbow has been asked to schedule the required tree work in the village as soon as possible.

Chairman will compile a list of village issues relating to roads, bins and signs and forward to Rob. McKellar for submission to Northants Highways.

The drainage problems at the top of Lyddington Road have still not been addressed even though there has been correspondence between Highways and Corby BC. Clerk to pursue with all parties.

The overgrowing hedge on Station Road has been reported to Street Doctor and this will be kept under review.

A weatherproof sign for Pick Playing field will be ordered very soon.

A response is awaited from residents of Arnhill Road before a meeting will be arranged to discuss necessary works to the bank.

The grasscutting backlog will be discussed with Cricket club members in the absence of Steve Ellis through illness.

The Sports and Social Club committee wish to install extra CCTV cameras to cover their premises. Council are in agreement with this and will donate £150 towards the cost. In addition, chairman to liaise with Dave Clements in an attempt to resolve the unsatisfactory position of maintenance of the CCTV equipment on the Recreation Ground and also the installation of additional equipment to be kindly donated by Dave Clements and his company.

Mark Thompson to arrange the laying of plantings on the footpath between Huntsfield Drive and the Recreation Ground

The removal of scrap metal behind the allotments on Southfield Road will be completed.

Council will invite Mrs. J. MacDonald, Gretton School Head to a meeting after school re-assemblies in September.

The situation relating to the appearance of Japanese knotweed on Station Road by the bridge has been reported to Street Doctor and it has been confirmed that the necessary work was instructed on 8th July.

Report from County Councillor:-

Stan Heggs informed chairman prior to the Meeting that he had discussed the state of the hedges on Gretton Brook Road with Highways at County and the work is in hand. A resident has complained to him about a faulty streetlamp and he will forward the correspondence to chairman.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

As previously stated a list of matters relating to Northants Highways will be forwarded to Rob. Mc.Kellar who will submit to County.

Kevin Watt has been approached by a villager concerning the mound of earth on Hatton Lane. Planning has been consulted but no enforcement action is possible as the area is a work in progress.

Bridget Watts reported that she had attended a briefing from the Police Commissioner at which he assured councillors that there would be no loss of officers in the area with the emphasis returning to local policing. With the cells at Corby Police Station being declared as unfit for purpose there are plans for a 20 cell mini prison to be erected out of town on the A6003.

Correspondence:-

Letter from Northants CALC relating to the roll out of superfast broadband across the area.

Circulation:-

CPRE information
Clerk and Councils DIRECT Magazine
Rural Area Forum Agenda for 16th July

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox underlined that the Funday at the Recreation Ground would be Sunday next, 19th July from 1pm to 4pm. Attractions include Bugtopia and Bouncy castle with a demonstration of the new defibrillator. All are welcome to attend.

Planning:-

15/00252/DPA Two storey extension to side of 50, Finch Hatton Drive
No objections to this scheme

15/00239/DPA Viewing gallery/balcony to front elevation. Additional dormer window to rear elevation of 11, Arnhill Road.
No objections were raised by councillors

15/00220/DPA New dwelling at 7, Caistor Road.
This is a further revised plan for the site submitted by the applicant. Planners will be asked to consider the size of the proposed dwelling and its impact on the neighbouring property.

Officers from Corby BC are holding an event for councillors to discuss the formation of neighbourhood plans for Parish Councils and other defined areas in the town. This will take place from 2pm – 4pm on 25th August and five councillors from Gretton have expressed interest.

Finance:-

Current Balance	£32,296.94
This includes the payment of £11,000 precept and £9,615 grant from Corby BC	
Amounts owing:-	
British Gas – electricity in Pavilion Jan – May	1,189.06
Bugtopia – Funday 19 th July	150.00
BDO – external audit of accounts 2014/15	360.00
Internal Audit fee for accounts as above	40.00

Eon – electricity at MUGA – June	8.34
J. Hindle – clerk, salary and petty cash	843.83

External audit raised the question of the valuation of fixed assets. It has been agreed that they will be shown in future at cost and not as insured value as before.

Any Other Business:-

Chairman has received complaints about the bus service in recent months and these have been forwarded to Northants CC for comment. It is noted that the service has improved lately.

The hand rail by the old people’s bungalows at the top of Craxford Road was removed and has not been replaced. Enquiries to be made at Corby BC.

A resident has asked for a seat to be placed in the bus shelter by the Village Hall. This is not a desirable proposition for many reasons and the resident will be informed.

It has been noted that the seat in the layby on Harringworth Road is overgrown by nettles and other vegetation. Councillors think this is in Harringworth Parish Meeting area and enquiries will be made.

Chairman to discuss with Network Rail Community Relations Dept that their vehicles are using Arnhill Road to gain access to the tunnel for maintenance work. There is a road safety issue here and also it is observed that contractors are dumping rubbish from their vehicles.

Both Gretton Village Hall committee and Baptist Church have applied for and will receive £850 and £525 respectively in grants for this financial year.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 10th August 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.