

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th July 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Matthew Moore, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Frances Woolston, Julie Smith, Tim Fox, Terri Meechan, Bridget Watts and Kevin Watt (BC), Sandra Naden-Horley (CC)

Apologies:- Mark Thompson, Joe Devlin (PCSO), Jim McCabe (Neighbourhood Warden)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest whether prejudicial or non-prejudicial on any item under discussion.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th June 2018 were declared to be a true record with the clarification of a location causing a possible traffic hazard. The Minutes were duly signed by the chairman.

Chairman reported that the application to build 120 houses to the east of Southfield Road had been turned down by Corby planners. The officers decided that the application contravened policies in force. Some 150 letters of objection to the plans were received by Corby BC officers.

The five year land supply stipulated in the Joint Core Strategy for Northamptonshire currently stands at 5.02 years and is included in Part 2 of the Local Plan for Corby. Gretton residents will have an opportunity to examine the proposals of the Plan at an exhibition to be held in the Village Hall on Friday 3rd August from 3pm to 8pm and respond accordingly.

A questionnaire related to the proposed Single Tier Authorities for the county had been circulated to councillors and the chairman requested a response which could be submitted to Northants CC prior to 22nd July.

After discussion the response will be:-

Q1 To what extent do you agree or disagree that we need to make changes to respond to these challenges. Answer – strongly agree

Q2 To what extent do you agree or disagree that there is a need to reduce the number of councils in Northants Answer – tend to agree

Q3 To what extent do you agree or disagree that a number of unitary councils should be introduced in Northants Answer – neither agree or disagree

Q4 To what extent do you agree or disagree with the specific proposal to replace the existing councils with two new unitary Councils; North Northants and West Northants
Answer – tend to agree

Q5 Any further views Answer – no comment

Q6 Please rate from 1 – 10 the importance of the following:-
Accountability, Quality, Local identity, Access, Value for money
Councillors voted 10 in each case

Chairman to submit the foregoing prior to 22nd July

There is also a questionnaire from Corby BC which has been delivered to every house seeking views on the setting up of the two unitary authorities. Each resident is invited to submit a response.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Kevin Watt stated that a motion had been submitted to a full council meeting of Corby BC on 28th June requesting the funding of a once weekly bus service for the villages. The motion was deferred to the August meeting by which time councillors could be furnished with further information. The decision will be in the light of a contribution of £3,000 from Kettering BC. The current situation is that prior to the Corby decision parish councils will be required to make up the shortfall in order that contracts can be let. In the event of an affirmative from Corby these councils can be refunded.

It was agreed that Gretton PC would contribute £500 to the fund and our borough councillors would add £200 each from their allowances. Clerk to be in contact with Wilbarston PC as to the actual amount required.

It is understood that these arrangements are for a trial period up to the 31st March 2019. The service only has a chance of continuing if people use the weekly bus on a regular basis.

Chairman briefly described an alternative possibility should (for whatever reason) the current arrangements not take place. Mary Williams an employee of Lawsons Coach firm had suggested that during term time buses already passing through the village could be utilised to provide a service at minimal cost subject to the creation of a bus club to get around the legalities of not operating a full PSV service. Councillors agreed that this proposal was worthy of consideration and could be used at a future date if necessary.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th June:-

Clerk to ask Charles Woolston to trim the hedge on Station Road as it is becoming increasingly difficult to navigate the footpath.

Clerk has had discussions with Bob Cunningham and permanent signs to the Village Hall will be added to convenient signposts around the village.

The new flag will be used for the next auspicious day in the National calendar.

Clerk to remind Uppingham Surgery to comment on the right of Gretton residents to use Corby Urgent Care centre.

No response as yet from Anglian Water as to the extra pressure that will be exerted on village infrastructure due to 10 houses being constructed.

Chairman to remind Street Doctor as to the state of the railings outside the Old Fox.

A letter of complaint has been sent to Anglian Water regarding the state of their fencing surrounding the Water Tower and indiscriminate use of car park spaces when work has been done to the Tower.

Clerk to remind Jim McCabe regarding the painting of yellow zigzags on the road outside school.

Julie Smith has updated the Welcome Pack for new villagers and will add to the website. Printed copies will also be available.

Tree Protection Orders will be organised through Corby BC by Bob Dobson and Phil Bromhall.

PCSO Joe Devlin is aware of the possible traffic hazard at the junction of Gretton Brook Road and Kirby Lodge.

Clerk has emailed regarding parking the Pizza van on the car park as opposed to the field.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-

Frances Woolston reiterated that there would be an exhibition on the Corby BC Neighbourhood Plan Part 2 on Friday 3rd August from 3pm to 8pm in the Village Hall to which all villagers are welcome.

The next meeting for the Local Plan group is scheduled for 12th July. Chairman explained that the next task is to compose a letter and to write to all local landowners on behalf of the PC requesting details of any small scale parcels of land which may be developed to satisfy the housing needs of Gretton. Authority was given to the chairman to proceed appropriately. The response will help shape the future content of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Correspondence:-

Suzanne Preston (Rural Pride Officer) has sent details to GPC of a Summer Play Scheme for young children taking place on Tuesday afternoons on the Recreation Ground. If this initiative is well used Parish Council may fund another session during the school holidays.

Circulation:-

Clerks and Councils DIRECT Magazine

CPRE Agenda and Minutes of a recent meeting

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox was pleased to remind councillors that the Fun Day would take place on Sunday 15th July. All the usual attractions will be present and all villagers are invited to attend.

Parking is becoming a serious problem at the Recreation Ground and also in Kirby Road and School Road. Chairman will address the issue on Facebook.

Planning:-

Chairman announced that the consultation period for the Local Plan for Corby Part 2 concludes on 28th August and Parish Council will meet to consider its response on Monday 13th August. In the meantime he will circulate the document which will be backed up by the exhibition on 3rd August in the Village Hall and residents also will be encouraged to respond.

Chairman confirmed that the Local Plan document contained a serious error in reporting the number of properties being required at rural locations throughout the Borough in the recently completed Housing Needs Survey. Chairman will report to Corby BC accordingly.

Finance:-

Current balance	£36,288.44
Amounts owing:-	
Steve Bullimore for work on locks following keys stolen	244.00
Zephyr Flags for new flag for Village Green	100.74
S. Eaton – Flag Steward for 2018/19	30.00
P. Rossell for Internal Audit of PC books for 2017/18	40.00
P. Butler for work on sewer pump at Sports Club	60.00
J. Hindle – clerk for salary and petty cash	956.54

The balance on Current Account includes £18,416 received from Corby BC for Precept and Grant.

Highways:-

Concerns continue to be expressed by councillors relating to the many potholes in the roads around the village. Highways at Northants CC are well aware of the problem and we await the scheduling of repairs.

Police:-

In the absence of our PCSO chairman accessed the Police website which showed 6 crimes in May in our area and 7 reported in June. These related to anti-social behaviour, vehicle crime and theft of property. He also confirmed details of an on-line crime reporting facility which is a quick and easy way to report non-emergency crime and suspicious activity. The reference is <https://www.northants.police.uk/webform/online-crime-reporting>.

Any Other Business:-

Small groups of young people are gathering in Kirby Road at various times in the good weather. The situation will be monitored.

A villager has reported large items between houses near the Balancing Pond on Huntsfield Drive. This is a possible fly tip and will be kept under review.

Peter Chisholm has set up a Neighbourhood Watch Group and PC will purchase the street signs at a cost of £250

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