

# GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

**Present:-** Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Terri Meechan, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Julie Smith, Mark Thompson, Rob. McKellar and Kevin Watt (BC), Stan Heggs (CC), Sgt Roberts (Police) and one Member of the Public.

**Apologies:-** Marshall Ferguson, Bridget Watts (BC)

**Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate**

**The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2015 were considered a true record and duly signed by the chairman.**

**Appointment of Vice chairman:-**

Chairman reported that he had discussed the position of vice chairman with the present incumbent, Marshall Ferguson and had received an assurance that he did not wish to be considered for re-election if another councillor was prepared to stand. Phil Bromhall had expressed his willingness to stand and was duly proposed by Terri Meechan, seconded by Matthew Moore and unanimously accepted by councillors. Chairman recorded his best wishes to Phil and grateful thanks to Marshall for his support during his own early months as successor to Marshall as chairman of Council.

**Report from County Councillor:-**

Stan Heggs informed councillors that the hedge cutting on Gretton Brook Road would proceed quickly. Chairman stated that as a newly elected Council the desire would be to put pressure on our partners to achieve results for the village and avoid duplication of efforts and move to collaboration. For example, the condition of Finch Hatton Drive and surrounding roads has gone beyond pothole repairs and councillors will push County to facilitate a total resurface of the area.

County will also be reminded that weed clearance on village roads is a high priority and must be undertaken soon.

**Report from Police:-**

Sgt. Roberts reported the theft of a breeding partridge and a flytipping incident at the gateway to Austin Clark's farm. There is possible evidence of the perpetrator and Corby BC are following up. Mark Thompson reported that there are vans around selling tools and larger items such as generators.

**Meeting Open to the Public:-**

A concerned villager attended the meeting to discuss the position of Parish Council on the Facebook petition relating to Paul Thompson's land on Arnhill Road. Chairman stated that this situation has been in discussion since 2012. In 2014 Corby BC requested a response from us to the Planning Inspectorate. Council decided that as the property was outside the

village envelope it could not support the development but should the Inspectorate be disposed to grant consent then certain conditions should be imposed to limit the size of vehicles and operations conducted.

Paul's personal circumstances could not form part of our discussions and Council is not inclined to get further involved. The decision rests with the Inspectorate backed up by Corby BC officers. The petition may assist in the process and usage of land should be the basis of any appeal. Corby BC has suggested screening in the past but this is only a possibility for the future.

### **Report from Borough Councillors:-**

Kevin Watt had attended the recent walkabout in Gretton with Andrew Royle and Corby BC officers. Their findings dealt with the cleaning of graffiti, speeding, repair of potholes, odour from the Waste Plant at Kirby Lodge, flytipping on Corby Road and the ongoing strategy related to the Balancing pond on Huntsfield Drive.

It was decided to raise the issues of speeding and repair of potholes with Northants Highways. This will be on a separate night from Parish Council and Stan Heggs will also be invited. During discussions Rob. McKellar offered to arrange this meeting and we await his report. Any odours from Kirby Lodge should be reported to the Environment Agency on 0800 807060.

Kevin is keen to facilitate a solution to the Balancing pond and the dangers it presents. There have been recent reports of a dog and a child in the water and it is regarded locally as an accident waiting to happen. The eradication of the weed is a vital first step; hopefully Corby BC officers will treat the area seriously.

Chairman impressed on Kevin the fact that Council will follow through on all items to their conclusion and work with its partners to attain a safe environment for villagers.

Rob McKellar informed councillors that Corby BC is looking at the service provided by Kier in its routine maintenance of the Borough. Considerations include value for money and the standard of work carried out.

With reference to Brookfield Rob stated that a Judicial Review was not pursued and no new planning application had been received. In the event of an application being placed he would recall CARRP and decide on strategy.

### **Matters Arising from Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> May:-**

Clerk has received a quotation from Steve Rainbow regarding the outstanding tree work around the village. The amount is £565 and Steve will be asked if this includes the trimming of the oak tree on the Village Green.

The road to Rockingham is unsafe at the edges and will be added to the list of outstanding works.

A permanent notice is required for Pick Playing field and Clerk will pursue with interested contractors.

A meeting has still not been arranged with a Diocese representative to discuss the possible removal of the hedge on Station Road. This is required as the footpath is often impassable. This area will be added to the list to discuss with Highways

It is noted that grass is growing naturally on the extension to the new churchyard in Station Road. Volunteers are required to move stones from this area.

A meeting will be arranged between Clerk, Mark Thompson and residents of Arnhill Road to discuss the works required for the bank between Nos.7 and 9.

Council has received a report that superfast broadband will be usable by early July.

Clerk, Phil Bromhall and Mark Thompson to meet to discuss new position of flagpole.

The Telephone box has a wooden door and a cast iron frame. The provision of a coded lock is not possible so the usage of this facility will be re-examined.

The path from the Recreation Ground to Huntsfield Drive will be relaid with planings to provide a permanent all weather surface.

Mark Thompson has quoted for the removal of metal from the back of the allotments on Southfield Road. Corby BC to be approached to provide the finance.

Terri Meechan will produce pen pictures and photographs of councillors for publication.

Clerk to invite the School Headmistress, Jane MacDonald to the PC meeting in July.

The Women's Bike race will come through the village on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Bunting will be placed if received in time.

Julie Smith is researching the possibility of a website for PC use. She has found free hosting but the domain name must be purchased. grettonparishcouncil.co.uk has been suggested.

Posters have been received discouraging dog fouling. They will be displayed in the Pocket Park, Sports Club and Pavilion.

**Correspondence:-**

Invitation from CPRE to a free community energy workshop in London on 14<sup>th</sup> July

**Circulation:-**

Northants CALC UPDATE Magazine

**Report on Recreation Ground:-**

Tim Fox stated that the electricity charges for the Pavilion are now being met by Parish Council. A bill has been received for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2015. This is higher than might have been expected but there are good reasons for the figure and steps are now being taken to ensure energy savings in the future, for example, timing devices will be fitted in key areas ie for use only on match days.

The sewer pump has broken down twice in recent months and Mark Thompson was asked to

carry out checks to ensure best practice by users of the system. The payment of a retainer to Pat Butler to cover future callouts was considered.

The Fun Day will be on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July when all villagers are welcome to attend.

**Planning:-**

15/00182/DPA First floor extension and front extension and new vehicular access with off road parking at 3, Arnhill Road.

15/00209/DPA Erection of new detached dwelling at 57, Kirby Road

Both of the above schemes were discussed at length with a consensus that no objections would be made. However, the additional accommodation provided by both applications will put extra pressure on the sewerage system and have implications for neighbours in their proximity to other properties. Both aspects will be highlighted in the reply to Corby BC.

15/00976/OUT E. Northants application for Hub Rockingham Employment Park to be situated on the car park of Rockingham Speedway on Gretton Brook Road.

In discussion the projected traffic movements were highlighted as putting an extra strain on Gretton Brook Road and its surroundings. The scheme will certainly bring jobs and revenue to the area but a balance with environmental considerations must be maintained.

It has come to councillors' notice that the scheme to build 14 houses on Fullen Lane at the end of Southfield Road is again the subject of a planning application. The area is outside the village envelope and as such is being treated as an exception site with plans for all affordable houses being submitted.

In the borough as a whole there is no shortage of affordable houses and councillors are not sure of their attraction to local people. The comments made on the previous application still apply and a response will be forthcoming when the papers are received.

**Finance:-**

Current balance	£11,307.76
Amounts owing:-	
Aon Insurance for premium 2015/16	1,371.14
C. Woolston and Son for hedge trimming in village	132.00
J. Turkington for cleaning wages at Pavilion	52.00
T. Fox for sundry expenses at Pavilion	39.34

Chairman signed the accounts of 2014/15 prior to their submission to External Audit

**Any Other Business:-**

Chairman is in receipt of an email from a villager expressing concern about the infusion of Japanese Knotweed around the area of the bridge on Station Road. This will be taken up with Highways as to which department is responsible for the eradication of this plant.

In view of Steve Ellis's health problems the grasscutting around the village is requiring attention and this will be addressed.

Council is informed that the Scouts AGM will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> June and Mark Thompson has agreed to attend.

Clerk has received a letter from Mel Jarvis giving three months notice of his intention to stand down as Tree Warden and Footpaths Warden on 1<sup>st</sup> September. Councillors have accepted this with regret and wish to place on record their grateful thanks for all Mel's input over recent years.

Terri has discussed the availability of Junior Councillors Zeenat and Marcus Britt for meetings going forward. Other commitments are now impinging on their time and it has been decided to seek replacements. Grateful thanks and best wishes go to Zeenat and Marcus for all their time given to Council in the last two years. Councillors will seek advice from School Headmistress Jane MacDonald when assessing likely candidates.

**Date of next Meeting** to be Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July in the Village Hall at 7.30pm