

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th June 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Matthew Moore, Marshall Ferguson, Terri Meechan, Mark Thompson, Julie Smith, Rob. McKellar (BC), Kevin Watt (BC), Bridget Watts (BC), Mayor Julie Riley and consort Bob Riley, Anita Hambly and Tony (PCSO), Olivia Stinson and Karen Millsop (Neighbourhood Wardens) and 10 Members of the Public.

Apologies:- Tim Fox, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall and Stan Heggs (CC)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate and to state whether it be prejudicial or non-prejudicial to the matter under discussion.

The Minutes of the Meeting on 9th May 2016 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Election of Officers for the year 2016/17:-

The following councillors were proposed and seconded by fellow councillors and agreed to stand in the capacities shown for the next twelve months.

Andrew Royle	Chairman , Rural Area Forum, Sports and Social Club and Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground committees
Phil Bromhall	Vice chairman of Parish Council
Marshall Ferguson	Gretton Silver Band committee
John Hindle	Village Hall committee
Matthew Moore	Chirpy Chicks Pre School committee
Mark Thompson	Gretton Pocket Park committee
Tim Fox	Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground committee

Meeting Open to the Public:-

The large gathering of residents attending the Meeting were present to hear the latest news on the situation relating to the continuation of the Bus service to the village following the decision of Centrebus in conjunction with Northants CC to withdraw the service from 23rd July this year. Chairman was able to inform the Meeting that news had recently come through from Northants CC that it will award a new contract to an operator and this will commence on 25th July with a very similar timetable to the one presently in place. This information was received with relief and delight and a spontaneous round of applause was afforded to the chairman who soaked up the acclaim with a beaming smile. The support of the travelling public was acknowledged in this positive outcome and councillors were pleased

to record a situation where the voice of local people had been persuasive when taking issue with the County Council.

Councillors welcomed the Mayor of Corby, Julie Riley to the Meeting. She responded with a spoken desire to bring Parish Councils and Corby BC closer together during her year of office and offered her support to councillors in any appropriate way. Chairman thanked her for her attendance and noted that the visit was reassuring to all present.

Report from Neighbourhood Wardens:-

Olivia Stinson and Karen Millsop were welcomed to the Meeting by the chairman who hoped that Gretton Walkabouts could be more extensively advertised and attendees more geared up to the problems in the village. The next Walkabout will be on 7th September and councillors will prepare an agenda for discussion on the way round the streets.

The Wardens reported that Suzanne Preston is in the process of arranging for the local Payback gang to tackle the problems in Church Gap. In addition there is to be a Litter Pick with Chirpy Chicks on 15th June and a successful Park and Stride event at School had taken place in May.

Councillors drew the Warden's attention to the weed problem around village streets and they promised to follow up with Council staff.

Email addresses for the Wardens are olivia.stinson@corby.gov.uk and karen.millsop@corby.gov.uk.

Report from PCSOs:-

Anita Hambly reported few instances of problems in the last month. However there was a sighting of a mini motorcycle on the Recreation Ground and a Range Rover driver who was seen marking trees. No officer at Corby BC was aware of any activity in this regard. Reports of unattended dog nuisance – barking and jumping etc were received from Huntsfield Drive. The Police are dealing with this situation.

The Speed Gun was out three weeks ago at the junction of Kirby Road and Corby Road and some motorists were warned as to their future behaviour.

Councillors asked Anita to observe the vehicle parked on High Street just above the Talbot pub as it is likely to be a traffic hazard.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Rob McKellar stated that the application from Shelton Road Recycling Plant for a bigger building had been withdrawn from the public enquiry. Instead, a new planning application will be submitted for a larger building and a change of process from pyrolysis to gasification. This will result in far greater temperatures being employed with their attendant concerns.

Rob is meeting the applicant in the next few days to gain a full picture of the proposals. It is acknowledged that planning permission has been granted for the original site so the applicant will argue that all ancillary matters such as HGV movements will have been accepted previously. However the new application does give residents the right to register objections and Rob will be heavily involved in their co-ordination. The main problems would appear to

be extra HGV movements, emissions from the site and building size. A weight limit for HGVs of 7.5 tons through the village would be an advantage but it is thought that most traffic will approach the site from another direction. Ensuring compliance with the agreed mode of operation will be the greatest challenge for all concerned and Council officials need to be proactive and aware rather than allowing situations to develop.

Kevin reported that as a matter of interest Stanion has applied to Corby BC for the whole area to be treated as a parish for the purposes of constructing a Neighbourhood Plan.

Chairman reported in discussion that Jackie Lilley a resident of Gretton has volunteered to chair the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee for this village.

ACRE is advertising a workshop towards the end of June for all interested parties to send delegates to discuss the formation of Neighbourhood Plans. Councillors will certainly be involved in this initiative.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 9th May:-

Following a formal complaint to Corby BC regarding the situation surrounding the Balancing pond in Huntsfield Drive a response has been received from Iain Smith, Director of Environmental Services. Mr Smith has defended the workings of the pond even though it has always been councillor's contention that the design of the site was flawed from the outset. He has stated that the site will never be completely dry and agreed that regular clearing will be programmed and a 6' fence installed in July of this year. Councillors do not believe that the problems are at an end but the proposals represent a vast improvement on the present situation.

A concerned resident has drawn attention to the condition of the Pill Box off Haringworth Road. Unfortunately there are no plans to refurbish this building unless considerable funding can be found.

Julie Smith has revised the Welcome Pack for new residents. This will be checked and printed and made available through the Post Office.

A contractor will be approached soon to repaint the old Phone Box.

Various problems have been identified with the plumbing and electrics associated with the Pavilion extension. These are in the process of being addressed in association with Mark Thompson who was the original contractor.

Two rubbish bins around the village have recently been replaced and Northants CC have undertaken to refurbish some signposts at the edges of the village.

The problems surrounding the parking of cars opposite Gretton House are ongoing. NCC has declined to place bollards to restrict parking and the reaction from Gretton House management is at best lukewarm. However Mark Thompson will discuss informally again with staff.

There is a damaged ash tree hanging over the footpath GN2 at the edge of Church Gap. Clerk to inform Street Doctor.

Clerk has received a quotation from Solargen to place speed restriction signs at the entrances to the village. He will obtain further information and report back.

The puddles appearing in Finch Hatton Drive and Southfield Road following road resurfacing have been reported to Highways at Northampton. It is unlikely that any rectification work will be done.

Following the kind offer by the Gardening group to plant troughs at the village entrances it only requires Council to reply to Northants CC as to the safety aspects therein.

As stated in the Newsletter a new editor is required. Villagers are invited to register their interest in this position.

Report on Recreation Ground:-

In the absence of Tim Fox chairman reported that a rates demand for the Pavilion had been sent to the Sports and Social Club for the attention of the Football Club. Investigations with Corby BC have revealed that this annual demand has been settled in recent years until now. Tim has questioned whether this building should be subject to rates at all and will check on his return.

Planning:-

16/00173/OUT Proposed residential development of 10 houses on Corby Road.

This application is for outline planning permission for properties of various sizes to be built on land opposite the entrance to Huntsfield Drive. Councillor's objections to the scheme are centred on the fact that the land is used for agriculture, it is not a brownfield site and is situated on the edge of the village at the start of the countryside. In addition it is obvious from recent events that the sewerage system in the village is under severe pressure and another 10 houses will only exacerbate the situation. The additional traffic generated on an already difficult area of Corby Road alongside parking issues make this an unsuitable application. The reply to Corby BC Planning will include the comment that if this development is accepted then a traffic calming scheme must be installed on Corby Road.

Finance:-

Current balance	£13,548.88
Amounts recently settled:-	
Aon UK Ltd – insurance for the year 2016/17	1,416.42
Pat Butler Electrical – work on Pavilion	694.80
JJ Plumbing – work on Pavilion	336.00
Northants ACRE – subscription for 2016/17	35.00

Any Other Business:-

The bank on Arnhill Road is again becoming overgrown. Clerk to check on the arrangements for necessary tidying of the area.

Linda Downing of Chirpy Chicks has requested a grant to cover the purchase of 40 commemorative coins celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday. Councillors considered that this was not a fit use of public finance and would reply to Linda accordingly.

The service to remember the Battle of the Somme and the men of Gretton who died will be held on 30th June at 9pm on the Village Green. Matthew Moore will represent Parish Council.

The Gardening Group in the village has again performed sterling work on the Jo Stone at the junction of Kirby Road and Corby Road. Clerk to email thanks from Council.

It has been noticed that a door is situated underneath West Wells. An investigation will be carried out as to whether it represents a hazard to the public.

Date of next Meeting will be Monday 11th July 2016 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm