

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 13th March 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Marshall Ferguson, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Julie Smith – temporary clerk, Terri Meechan, Rob. McKellar (BC), Suzanne Preston (RPO at Corby BC), PC Mark Walker and two Members of the Public

Apologies:- Mark Thompson and John Hindle – clerk

Chairman reminded all councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th February were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting Open to the Public:

Elisabeth Jordan stated that the footpath between Hunts Field Drive and the Recreation Ground was still lacking planings and therefore extremely muddy. Chairman agreed to talk to Mark Thompson.

Jill Sheffer noted that the holder for the bus timetable was now in place and thanks were expressed. However there is a need for a new timetable as the present one is inaccurate relating to the bus route through the village. Clerk will seek a new timetable from Northants CC.

Police:-

Problems with anti-social behaviour have been noted recently with incidents of stone throwing at the Sports Club and private houses. Mark will check on a small group of young teenagers and explained that it was difficult to latch on to perpetrators unless they were repeat offenders.

Minor damage had occurred to a vehicle wing mirror but this was followed up by the resident concerned.

Report from Suzanne Preston (Rural Pride Officer)

Thanks were expressed to Olivia Stinson for her regular updates on village matters. All aspects of our relationship with Corby BC are being improved.

Suzanne reported the success of the first Great British Spring Clean campaign which yielded some 200 bags of rubbish across the Borough. Chirpy Chicks and Gretton School have been visited to educate the youngsters about dropping litter.

Frances Woolston was the Parish Council representative on the recent walkabout and the condition of two road signs were reported to Northants CC.

A number of young people had gained access recently to a house in Arnhill Road which has been empty for some time. It is understood that the Police were called but no mention was made of this fact in the previous report. Suzanne will notify Environmental Health and

Planning at Corby BC. There is a need for vigilance as the weather improves. Police confirmed that the registration numbers of vehicles which had been identified at raves previously held in the district were recorded on their system. If such vehicles converged on an area protected by automatic number plate recognition cameras the Police would be automatically alerted to a potential gathering. Their response would be restricted to the resources available.

The sign prohibiting the passage of large vehicles is down at the junction of Corby Road and Gretton Brook Road which has led to problems with articulated lorries getting stuck in the village. Chairman to report to Street Doctor.

Western Power have nearly completed the work to the streetlights in Clay Lane. A few issues remain which will be sorted soon.

The state of the bins in the Pocket Park have been reported to Environmental and Suzanne will chase up.

The pothole repair outside the Doctor's Surgery is still outstanding.

Highways at Northants CC will be asked to speed the work to the hedge on Arnhill Road as it is again becoming a hazard.

The Neighbourhood Wardens are monitoring the Recreation Ground regarding litter and dog fouling.

The next Walkabout in Gretton will be on 7th June at 12 noon by Cottage Salon.

The speed gun will be out in Gretton on 14th March.

Chairman has had second thoughts regarding the potential purchase of three units which would cost in the region of £17,000 and which was to be put to residents for consideration. A unit the same as that identified by Suzanne would be a more acceptable £2,400. Chairman will investigate the features and performance of such a unit, assess suitability for our circumstances and then provide a further report in due course. Suzanne is suggesting that Corby BC purchase one TVAS sign and this is contributed to by all parishes and used in rotation around the area. Chairman asked if Gretton purchased one sign for exclusive use in the village would Corby BC be prepared to maintain it and move the installation around. Suzanne will enquire but did not consider this a problem as Borough is involved in similar schemes elsewhere.

Report from Borough Councillor:

Rob. McKellar stated that there are problems with brown bins and recyclables and residents are not adhering to the rules as to what can be placed in the bins. There is discussion at Corby BC around the handling of the contract by Kier Services. Improvements are needed.

Corby BC will not pursue the £12m overrun of the contract to build the Cube as this was due largely to faults in Council. The problems with the roof will be followed up with either the contractor or architect.

Rob understands that the sum of £16m is included in the budget for 2017/18 for rural purposes and will ask for Gretton to be given priority for projects involving capital funding.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 13th February:-

Phil Bromhall observed that nature had adequately taken care of the outstanding pruning work required on the village green oak tree and that no further action was required.

The situation surrounding the hedge on Station Road has been dealt with previously in these Minutes.

Phil Bromhall is compiling an application form for submission to the War Memorial Trust relating to maintenance of the village memorial on the Green. An estimate of cost had confirmed that it would be within the first bracket of £5,000.

The Welcome Pack is now on the website and hard copies are in the Post Office.

The Flagpole on the Village Green is now re-sited.

The cleaning of the inside of the old Phone box is still underway. No bill has been received as yet.

The contract to create a secure area at the rear of the Sports Club has been let and will be completed soon.

Parking opposite Gretton House has damaged the verge to such a state that it is now dangerous. A report to be made to Highways as a matter of urgency.

The Football Club dugout on the Recreation Ground has been cleaned recently. Chairman has discussed the situation with groups of young people who regularly use the area.

The spillage of gravel outside Lydia's and opposite 3, Station Road will be addressed shortly.

The Old Fire Station in Arnhill Road comes up for rent at the AGM next month. Notices have been posted advertising the site.

Mark Thompson is seeking a reconditioned fridge for installation at Lydia's café and larger doors for the Mower shed at the Recreation Ground.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan:-

Frances Woolston reported that a recent meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee had been well attended. There is much work to be done and there is a need to spread the burden as widely as possible among residents. Frances and Jacki Lilley met with Terry Begley at Corby BC last week and received useful information along with a promise to forward the 5 year land supply document for the Corby area. The Plan will not be adopted until at least 2019. The push is now to involve local groups to see what their aspirations are for the village. The overriding wish is to keep the integrity of the village boundary. Chairman commented that it was important to ensure that villagers did not view this venture as a Parish Council led activity and that it was open to all to have their say on the future of Gretton.

Report on Legal and Property matters:-

Tim Fox stated that he would be asking Chairman and Clerk to provide details of identification and home address in order to pursue the outstanding items.

Planning:-

17/00047/LBC External works to Listed Building at 16, Arnhill Road.

17/00083/LBC Dry wall damp proof course installation to lower office and utility room areas at The Hollies, 6, Caistor Road.

17/00034/DPA Enlargement of existing entrance and extension to provide disabled WC and extension to vestry and boiler house at Gretton Baptist Church.

17/00079/DPA Revised plans for bungalow conversion to dormer style at 57, Kirby Road.

No observations from councillors on any of the above schemes.

Finance:-

Current balance	£21,458.42
Amount outstanding:-	
Mrs. J. Addy for Pavilion cleaning and expenses	135.04

Any other Business:-

It is noted that an array of caravans has arrived in the field adjoining Keepers Lodge on Corby Road. The driveway is of concrete structure and has been widened at some point. Chairman to discuss with Planning at Corby BC.

Corby Road at its junction with Gretton Brook Road is in a poor state and requires attention. In addition this is a fly tipping hotspot which needs a permanent solution from Borough operatives.

Terri Meechan introduced Bibet who is a Twin Town representative from Germany. Discussion ensued as to the working of Parish Councils as Gretton PC was the first such body that Bibet had encountered.

Date of next Meeting to be 10th April following the AGM at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.