

# GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm

**Present:-** Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Frances Woolston, Julie Smith, Terri Meechan, Bridget Watts and Kevin Watt (BC) and 1 Member of the Public.

**Apologies:-** Mark Thompson, Stan Heggs (CC), Rob. McKellar (BC)

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

**The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.**

**Meeting Open to the Public:-**

Elisabeth Jordan representing Gretton History Society requested loan of the Enclosure map of 1837 for display at an open meeting of the Society on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November. Councillors were happy to accede to this request and Clerk will arrange.

**Matters Arising:-**

One of the trees previously identified as requiring attention on the edge of the Recreation Ground where it meets the gardens of Stafford Road is now considered in a dangerous condition and this must be addressed immediately. Clerk to contact Steve Rainbow to facilitate urgent action and also to pursue a start date for other outstanding tree works.

Chairman and Sarah Barnwell of Highways at Northampton CC have again exchanged emails relating to the drainage problems at the top of Lyddington Road. Recent works on electricity cables around the bridge on Station Road have revealed that there may be a fresh water leak in this area and the water is running downhill past Pick Playing field. A site meeting with Highways maintenance personnel is sought urgently. Clerk will contact Anglian Water for their comments.

The mowing of Pick Playing field and grassed area at Church Gap remain outstanding and clerk will follow up . The overall condition of Church Gap requires attention and councillors will draw up a maintenance and improvement programme in the new year.

A weatherproof sign has been commissioned for Pick Playing field and this will be placed soon.

The Gretton Parish Council website is close to completion and chairman will compose an introduction to the project.

Councillors' 'pen pictures' have been produced and are ready for inclusion in the next Newsletter to be published shortly.

The condition of the two ash trees by the wall of 25, High Street have been reported to Northants CC Street Doctor service.

A document informing villagers about the possibility of the production of a Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton will be included with the Newsletter.

Northants CC Highways has decided that a limit of 20mph for vehicles passing Gretton School will not be implemented. Officers cite signage difficulties and the lack of police resources to maintain adherence to the speed limit. School staff and governors have been informed.

Chairman and clerk will meet with officials from Gretton House in the next two weeks to discuss the establishment of a hard surface parking area on High Street opposite the entrance to the House.

**Report from Borough Councillors:-**

Kevin Watt reported that the recent illegal rave on the outskirts of the village did not appear to have been handled particularly well by the Police. Few telephone calls had been received and there was evidence of breaking and entering into fields. It would appear that the cost of clearing up will be borne by Corby BC.

A sum around £36,000 will be spent on a faith based commissioner in the Borough.

A new PCSO, Tony Greening has been appointed for the villages and will meet Council soon. Vehicle number plate recognition devices are being placed on Priors Hall to deter those with criminal intent.

Recent legislation has opened the way for villages particularly to produce their own Neighbourhood plans. Weldon are keen to explore further and it is hoped the subject will be discussed at the upcoming Rural Area Forum meeting when ideas and common targets could be shared.

All renovation work on the fourth floor of The Cube in Corby has been completed and it is now being offered for rent to interested parties as office space.

**Correspondence:-**

Communication from Suzanne Preston, Rural Pride Officer at Corby BC explaining that the Payback team will do vegetation clearing on the pathway between Recreation Ground and Kirby Road. Also she is in contact with Metropolitan Housing over the ongoing problems with the Balancing pond in Huntsfield Drive and discussions are continuing over the ownership of the fence between the Sports Club and Doctor's surgery.

**Circulation:-**

Clerk and Councils DIRECT Magazine

**Report on Recreation Ground:-**

There will be a meeting of the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

**Planning:-**

15/00414/DPA New dwelling alongside 7, Caistor Road

Two recent applications for a dwelling on this site have been rejected by Corby BC. The current scheme provides for a smaller house than before but the same observations previously made by Council still apply, namely that the proposed dwelling is considered too close to the cottage at 9, Caistor Road and privacy issues apply.

A concerned villager has drawn chairman's attention to an application for pruning of trees to be undertaken in the garden of 42, Arnhill Road. They are apparently causing difficulties to the occupant of 1, Hatton Lane. Councillors' opinion is that this is a reasonable application and should be left to the discretion of the Tree Officer in Planning at Corby BC.

Councillors noted that a 'temporary Stop Notice' in relation to groundworks on the plot of land at the bottom of Clay Lane had been served on the owners by Corby BC. The order is for 28 days with effect from 28<sup>th</sup> October and was issued as a result of unauthorised development considered likely to affect trees subject to tree protection orders.

**Finance:-**

|                                                |           |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Current balance                                | 27,740.28 |
| Amounts owing:-                                |           |
| June Turkington Cleaning at Pavilion           | 36.00     |
| Bob Rutt Spraying vegetation at new churchyard | 60.00     |

**Highways:-**

Chairman has received an email from Highways in Northampton explaining that the required work to Southfield Road and Finch Hatton Drive will be completed in the next four months. Clarification will be sought on this as to whether it refers to patching or resurfacing. The latter is the option very much required at the present time.

**Date of next Meeting will be Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**