

# GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

**Present:-** Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Julie Smith, Mark Thompson, Terri Meechan, Frances Woolston, Marshall Ferguson, Kevin Watt, Bridget Watts and Rob. Mc.Kellar (BC), PC Liverpool, John Hindle – clerk, 5 Members of the Public and Daniel Faulkner – Junior councillor

**Apologies:-** Phil Bromhall

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

**The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016 were declared to be a true record and duly signed.**

**Meeting Open to the Public:-**

Terri Meechan reported that she had attended the Gretton School Council meeting on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. Children are voted on to the Council by each year group. The headmistress Mrs. Jane MacDonald was also present to listen to concerns raised. Daniel Faulkner was welcomed by councillors and explained that most of the discussion centred around the Playing field with complaints being made about graffiti, dog fouling, vandalism of the MUGA and older children damaging equipment on the Play Area. One solution was offered being the production of large eyes for positioning in surrounding trees to deter offenders. Paul Blott from Grove Engineering was present at the Meeting and he offered to assist with printing of the eyes and any other posters required. Daniel was thanked for his contribution and invited to attend to express any further issues in the future.

Chairman then invited Paul Blott to address the Meeting regarding his Planning application for development of an area at the end of Clay Lane where it links with Station Road. The application is for five properties with a footprint of around 0.2 acres each. Quality materials will be employed in brick or stone with all properties having the advantage of a drive, double garage, accommodation for wheelie bins and room for emergency vehicles to turn. The access is planned from Clay Lane with extensive signage to underline the fact that the road is one way. Reports have been received from the various agencies and the scheme submitted for approval to Corby BC.

David and Elaine Clements along with other residents of Clay Lane expressed their concerns principally related to the use of Clay Lane for access to the site. They contend that residents travelling along Station Road will not bother to go around the village to access their homes from the correct direction and will attempt to approach up the road in contravention of the signs. In addition the amount of traffic using Clay Lane during the morning and evening rush hours creates dangers already well known to locals and the prospect of another fifteen to twenty vehicles accessing this road at these times is unthinkable.

One of the proposed dwellings is very close to the Clements residence and David and Paul agreed to discuss at a later date.

Paul Blott and David and Elaine Clements left the Meeting at this point.

Chairman introduced the key points that will feature in Council's response to Corby BC. He stressed that some development of the site was welcome but contended that the current scheme was fraught with problems. Traffic is the main concern for the reasons stated and the prospect of another five properties joining the overstretched sewerage system with the problems surrounding surface water in addition to foul sewage must be addressed. Pedestrians will not use Clinkers footpath to access the village and Clay Lane is too narrow with no provision for walkers. The five properties proposed could be reduced to four to reduce the overbearing effect on neighbours. The School is already at capacity so the prospect of being able to accommodate the incoming children is remote.

**Police:-**

PC Liverpool explained that local policing had been very understaffed for the past six months but the PCSO rural team was now being increased to five officers covering all shifts across the villages. Inspector Julie Mead will present the changes at the next meeting of the Rural Area Forum on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> November.

It was also noted that PCSO Anita Hambley who has been associated with the Rural team for some years is retiring from the Police. Thanks were expressed for her many attendances at Council meetings and support for the village.

**Report from Borough Councillors:-**

Rob. Mc.Kellar supported by Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts outlined the plans for Corby town centre including the replacement of the multi storey car park and increasing the shopping area. Discussions on the Cube are still continuing.

The councillors were keen to stress their support for the construction of a Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton and underlined the fact that Borough Council were committed to 120 new homes being built across the rural area between 2011 and 2031. The Local Plan would enable residents to contribute more effectively to debates surrounding future development within the village.

Parish Councillors have been circulated details of the Northants Joint Core Strategy and the proposed Local Plan for Corby Borough. The consultation period ends on 20<sup>th</sup> December and an exhibition of the plans will be in Gretton Village Hall on the afternoon of Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November to which all villagers are welcome to attend. In addition it is hoped that a representative of the Corby team will be able to attend the next Parish Council meeting on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December. A sub committee of parish councillors has been set up consisting of Frances Woolston, Matthew Moore and Tim Fox to examine the effect of the proposals on Gretton with the objective of recommending to the Parish Council our response to the consultation for discussion at our next Meeting.

It was stated that Stan Heggs (CC) will not be the Conservative candidate at the forthcoming County Council elections in May of next year. He is suffering from poor health and any County problems which arise in the next few months will be forwarded to the appropriate officer by Rob. Mc.Kellar.

### **Matters Arising from Minutes of 10<sup>th</sup> October:-**

Julie Smith stated that the Welcome Pack for new villagers was now complete and ready for proof reading before being copied and circulated.

One estimate has been received for the moving of the flagpole on the Village Green. Another is expected soon and Clerk will report to next Meeting.

The repainting of the old Phone box is now complete and the inside will also be cleaned.

Quotations are soon to be received to construct a secure area at the rear of the Sports Club. A report will be presented soon.

Clerk has contacted the Rates Office to request a reduction of the Pavilion assessment. A reply is awaited.

Sports Clubs will submit their bids for funding to the Friends of Gretton Recreation Ground committee by the end of November.

Clerk is awaiting costings from Northants CC relating to the provision of road signs to the Village Hall.

The work to secure the door under West Wells has now been completed.

Clerk will submit an application to Anglian Water for the adoption of the pump serving the Club and Pavilion for sewage disposal.

Clerk is still in dispute with Orbit Housing over the ownership of the hedge on Latimer Close and will report soon.

Clerk is in discussion with Corby BC over the future of the allotments behind Fulwell Avenue.

Councillors formally thanked Mel Jarvis for all his work on the recent Litter Pick around the village.

### **Circulation:-**

Rural Area Forum Agenda for 17<sup>th</sup> November

Clerk and Councils Direct Magazine

### **Report on Recreation Ground:-**

There is a problem with the gutters on the Sports Club becoming blocked with leaves. Mark Thompson will inspect as to the suitability of the existing installation in respect of size and provision of downpipes. In addition there may be a requirement for a guard of some description if this is appropriate.

Tim Fox has been recommended to a machine which would be ideal for cleaning the floors in the Pavilion. The cost is £275 and Tim was given authorisation to pursue.

### **Planning:-**

Chairman commented that developers have approached Corby BC planners for a pre application discussion on land to the east of Southfield Road. Councillors will closely follow this situation and respond accordingly.

16/00435/DPA Conversion of stable building to provide ancilliary accommodation at 24, High Street

Councillors offered no objections to the proposal with the proviso that the building could never be sold in the future as a separate dwelling.

### **Finance:-**

Current balance	£31,208.81
Amounts owing:-	
Gretton Garden Club – flower displays at village approaches	250.00
Mrs. J. Addy – cleaning and expenses at Pavilion	180.07
Mr. R. Cunningham – painting old phone box	136.72
BDO LLP – external audit of accounts for year ended 31.3.16	240.00

### **Any Other Business:-**

A new communications aerial will be placed on the Water Tower and a few car parking spaces will be required to accommodate the Cherry Picker machine. Work is scheduled for 3 days from 21<sup>st</sup> November.

A resident has suggested turning the grassed area at the end of Latimer Close where it meets Southfield Road into a car parking area. Consultations to be undertaken with interested parties.

The idea of a beacon to be installed in the area to commemorate the end of World War 1 on 11. 11. 2018 was raised and Mark Thompson will look into the feasibility of such a move.

Terri Meechan is keen on the idea of a local news spot on Corby Radio similar to the Facebook pages which already exist.

The flower boxes at the village entrances look very good and thanks are due to the Gardening Group.

Phil Bromhall is researching the possibility of a grant from the War Memorial Trust to enable the village Memorial to be cleaned.

Council is informed that the clean up of Church Gap is progressing.

**Date of next Meeting** to be Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.