

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Julie Smith, Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts (BC) Jeff Gilfillan – Welland River Trust and one Member of the Public

Apologies:- Mark Thompson, Marshall Ferguson, Terri Meechan, John Hindle – clerk, Olivia Stinson (Neighbourhood Warden), Joe Devlin (PCSO), Sandra Naden-Horley (CC)

Chairman reminded all councillors to declare an interest either prejudicial or non-prejudicial where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2017 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

The Meeting was addressed by Jeff Gilfillan a Project Officer with the Welland River Trust. The Trust is keen to plant trees along the bank of the river for conservation and environmental purposes. He is looking for local landowners to plant trees and possibly involve the local community in the effort. The Forest School and Scouts could be interested. Chairman pledged the support of Parish Council and suggested that Jeff might like to write an article for the Newsletter prior to its publication in the next few days.

Meeting Open to the Public:-

Elisabeth Jordan informed councillors that she had received information from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission about a local soldier from WW1 named Arthur Coleman who had died one month after the end of the War and is buried in the churchyard. No Army funeral had taken place at the time and it has been decided that a service will be held in St. James Churchyard on Wednesday 13th December at 2pm.

Elisabeth again raised the problem of speeding vehicles along Corby Road. Chairman will talk to Suzanne Preston about her recent initiative to provide a mobile speed calming sign for villages.

The Mobile Post office should be in place soon with a twice weekly service for the village. It is reported that the Corby Road plant box at the entrance to the village has been vandalised again with the loss or destruction of various plants.

Clerk to contact the Bluebell Inn to request the removal of various temporary advertising signs around the village. These should have planning permission if they are going to stay.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Following the chairman's expression of disappointment with the lack of responses from our local councillors particularly county, Bridget Watts explained that Sandra Naden-Horley had been in a position to assist other councils with specific problems and questions and would undoubtedly perform similar tasks for Gretton if such a need arose. Chairman responded that

he would like to see her attend meetings so parish councillors could ask for her input on current situations. One particular problem which always seemed to impact on Gretton at this time of year is the Northants CC budget proposals for 2018/19 which now puts under threat the services of highway maintenance, regular road gritting and the 67 bus route between Gretton and Corby. Kevin Watt commented that matters are in consultation until 1st December and the outcomes of many proposals are unsure. County needs to balance its books and has tried to draw attention to areas where savings could be made. Chairman expressed the view that if gulley clearances and weedspraying etc were left more work would be needed when they were eventually addressed. All residents are free to respond to the proposals online on the County Council website.

Bridget Watts reported that the whole Priors Hall site had now been purchased by developers who were keen to complete the house building process. Moves are afoot to provide the area with a parish council and the proposals have been passed by Corby BC.

Report from Neighbourhood Warden:-

In her absence Olivia Stinson sent a report on the activities of the Warden team where they affected Gretton. She is keen to receive any information should there be any recurrence of the recent anti-social behaviour, particularly if names can be supplied which she can share with police. The risk assessment in Church Gap is being compiled in conjunction with Phil Bromhall.

The waste bin on the Recreation Ground has been repaired.

Patrols are continuing to remove the incidents of dog fouling in the village and the wardens have attended School to inform pupils of the dangers and make them proud to live in this area.

The next Gretton walkabout will take place at 1pm on Wednesday 6th December starting at Cottage Salon on Kirby Road.

The wardens continue patrols to regulate vehicle parking in conjunction with the police.

Olivia will be moving areas within Corby BC in January and will no longer have Gretton on her patch. Chairman will write to express the thanks of councillors for all her efforts in recent months.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 9th October:-

Clerk is in contact with Northants CC regarding the provision of permanent signs around the village to the Village Hall. As soon as information is available a report will be made.

The uncertainty surrounding the bus service for the village is undoubtedly contributing to the reluctance of Northants CC to provide an up to date timetable for the route. Clerk will keep in touch on this matter.

The fence and garden area around the Jo stone on Kirby Road has now been repaired following damage caused by a coach. Clerk to report on the payment situation for this work in due course.

The path between Huntsfield Drive and the Recreation Ground has been reinstated with weatherproof materials to withstand the winter conditions. Thanks to Mark Thompson for his efforts.

In response to a communication from the chairman, Sarah Barnwell at KierWSP has indicated that a sign for the Industrial Estate outside Ford and Slater on Gretton Brook Road might be installed if the operators thought it necessary and were prepared to fund the work. On the subject of the damaged road surface at the Corby Road junction Sarah has intimated that consideration for resurfacing will be given in the next financial year.

The provision of a Christmas tree on the Village Green will be chased up by the Clerk.

Tree trimming in various locations around the Village Green will be kept under review.

Phil Bromhall was thanked for his work following the recent tree inspection of Pocket Park and Church Gap.

The secure storage of the replacement sewer pump has been completed.

A response via Suzanne Preston has been received from Corby Police following the letter of complaint hand delivered last month. Clerk and chairman will seek a meeting with Sgt. Mark Walker and Suzanne in the near future.

Clerk will raise the possibility of placing a plaque in memory of Ailsa Dempster with the Village Hall committee and report to the next Meeting.

Some progress has been made by Phil Bromhall and Rev. Sian Reading with the Risk Assessment investigation for Church Gap. This will be worked upon and a report made in due course.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-

Fran Woolston reported that a meeting of the committee had been held on 30th October. The grant requested for expenses had been accepted and the sum of £5,050 received. A Vision statement is under consideration and an article for the Newsletter has been submitted. The results of the recent survey on Housing needs in Gretton commissioned by Corby BC are awaited. The identification of local landowners is underway along with the compilation of a list of important buildings, most of which are not listed. Villagers holding particular knowledge are assisting with this process.

An event to publicise the work of the committee is being considered with 3rd March 2018 a possible date. Chairman thanked Fran for her report and expressed approval with what had been achieved so far.

Circulation:-

Clerks and Councils DIRECT Magazine

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox informed councillors that he had received an application from a company who were seeking permission to erect telecom aerials on the Water Tower. This work would involve the positioning of a generator outside the compound for a short period. Tim has raised a few points with the company concerning health and safety and replies are awaited.

Planning:-

Corby BC no longer send out paper copies of planning applications for consideration by Parish Council. All paperwork is included on the BC website and interested parties are asked to comment. Clerk will circulate details of schemes to all councillors prior to Meetings to give opportunity for prior consideration.

17/00471/DPA Single storey rear extension and extended timber clad and lime render to south and west elevations at 27, High Street.

No objections were raised on this scheme but the reply to Corby BC will include the request for caution as tradesmen park on High Street which is particularly narrow at this point.

17/00534/DPA Erection of agricultural storage barn with home office along with temporary change of use of agricultural land for temporary siting of eight vintage caravans for one year which will then reduce to three at Keepers Lodge Farm, Corby Road.

Councillors again had no objections but concerns were raised regarding the continued use of the land for storage after the permitted time and the possibility of a commercial business on the site.

Finance:-

Current balance	£32,254.64
Amounts owed:-	
Savills for rent of car park at Sports Club	239.74
Eon for electricity usage on MUGA in October	42.04
Mrs. J. Addy for cleaning Pavilion in October	128.00
S. Bullimore for repair of lock on Pavilion	60.00
Royal British Legion donation for wreaths at Remembrance	50.00

Any Other Business:-

It was noted that on Remembrance Sunday the flag appeared to be in a threadbare condition due to damage caused by catching on branches of the oak tree prior to the moving of the flagpole. Clerk to discuss with the Flag Steward with a view to acquiring a replacement.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 11th December 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall