

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Julie Smith, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Frances Woolston, Terri Meechan, Sandra Naden-Horley (CC), Kevin Watt (BC), John Hindle – clerk and 2 Members of the Public.

Apologies:- Mark Thompson, Bridget Watts (BC), Joe Devlin (PCSO)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate in any item whether prejudicial or non-prejudicial.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th October 2018 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting open to the Public:-

Elisabeth Jordan informed councillors that the brass plaque in memory of Ailsa Dempster had been completed by the manufacturers and posted to the village.

Report from County Councillor:-

Sandra Naden-Horley reported that Northants CC would come in on budget in March 2019 and the prospects for 2019/20 were also good. The council is looking at the best way of using its capital assets.

Two steering groups have been set up in preparation for the proposed unitary authorities in the north and the west of the county which have still to be authorised by government. The decision is expected in spring of 2019. Sandra stressed that the preparations were aiming for robust systems in social care and financial services and all support areas have been recognised. More government funding for highways is on its way and this is welcomed. No information is available as to what will happen in the future as regards local services. In the ensuing discussion various local matters were brought to Sandra's attention for her to report back.

Report from Borough Councillor:-

Kevin Watt stated that the contract with Kier Services for refuse collection would be extended into 2019. There would be no changes to bin collection days going forward. The grass cutting service is to be discontinued and Kevin will represent us in this aspect as the parish is losing its grant in 2020/1. Clerk will establish what areas are currently cut by Steve Ellis and this will be communicated to Corby BC.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 8th October:-

Tim Fox has been in contact with Dave Clements and the CCTV set up at the Recreation Ground will hopefully be completed this week.

Andrew Royle informed villagers through the Newsletter of his impending departure from the chairmanship and invited any interested parties to offer themselves as a parish councillor. It is likely that there will be no elections until 2020 so the new councillor would have to be co-opted.

The damaged railings outside the Old Fox on High Street have been repaired.

The new bus service commenced on Friday 9th November and was well supported.

Tim Fox will pursue the services of an inspector to report on the state of the MUGA surface.

Various Tree Protection Orders have been applied for from Corby BC planners. They relate to the trees in the Pocket Park which border the land allocated for the development of 10 houses. No response has been received as yet and clerk will pursue.

The damaged knee rail on the fencing between the Recreation Ground and Huntsfield Drive has not yet been repaired. The area is owned by Corby BC and clerk will contact the Neighbourhood Wardens to ascertain progress.

Clerk is in contact with Sara Barnwell in Highways at CC regarding the possibility of yellow lines being added to the junction of Kirby Road and Corby Road adjacent to the Jo Stone.

Clerk and chairman to discuss the budget for parish council for 2019/20 in the light of the removal of the grant from Corby BC.

Chairman and Tim Fox to discuss the provision of an outside gym facility at the Recreation Ground including what grants may be available.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan:-

Frances Woolston and Andrew Royle reminded councillors that the exhibition about the Plan would be held in the Village Hall between 12 and 3pm on Saturday 24th November. There would be a leaflet dropped into every house and councillors were asked for their help in deliveries. Villagers will be asked for their comments on the three main areas of the Plan namely Housing, Environment and Sustainability of projects. These headings will form the backbone of the document which will be presented to Corby BC and councillors were encouraged to demonstrate support by attending the exhibition.

Chairman reported that grant funding for the project is running low with no response to the new application expected before mid-January.

As to strategic sustainability developments the first site identified is the field opposite Huntsfield Drive on Corby Road. It was agreed that the resulting houses would not have too much effect on the village.

The second site available would be the field at the end of Fullen Lane. Access problems would have to be overcome if there was progress in this area.

Correspondence:-

Council is in receipt of an email from Steve Ellis in which he gives notice that he will be unable to cut grass in the village during the next growing season. The future was discussed and ideas put forward. It was agreed that a report would be requested from Steve detailing all areas currently under his remit of grounds maintenance. An email will be sent to Steve thanking him for all his efforts over many years.

Mowerman Grounds Maintenance has contacted Council offering their services to replenish grit bins during the winter. Clerk will register interest and use their services if required.

Circulation:-

‘Outlook’ and ‘Countryside Voice’ magazines from CPRE

Report on Recreation Ground:-

A Fish and Chip van has started to visit the village on occasional Tuesday evenings parking on the Sports Club car park with no prior permission granted by Parish Council. Clerk has been in touch with the proprietors both personally and by email and a relationship established. The service has been well received by residents and in the circumstances should not be curtailed. One of the concerns of councillors is the position in which the van is parked as the noise from the generator causes nuisance to MUGA users. There is work planned for the Water Tower which may restrict parking in the spaces alongside. Councillors will monitor developments.

The work planned for the Water Tower is overseen by Anglian Water and little information has come from the company on exactly what is required by way of parking spaces for heavy machinery and on what timescale. Tim Fox is in correspondence with the contractors and has received misleading and incomplete information. The situation will be kept under review.

The Cricket Club is currently suffering from a shortage of players which means the wicket is underused at various times. The Club has been approached by Weldon Cricket Club as to the possibility of their third team using Gretton facilities. A decision will be made soon.

The Sports Club has suffered an attempted break in recently and damage was caused to the shutters. The Club is insured for damage resulting from break ins and Council await developments on what may be required.

Planning:-

18/00643/DPA Installation of external exercise pool at Manor Farmhouse, High Street.

No objections to this scheme.

18/00678/DPA Demolish existing conservatory and build single storey extension at 19, Maltings Road.

No objections in principle with the proviso that the applicants adhere to the conditions governing the Conservation Area.

18/00697/DPA New boundary wall and gate to street, new boundary railing and wall to side and demolition of contemporary canopy to side elevation at 94, High Street.

Councillors are concerned that the scheme contains no mention of car parking on site which could lead to on street parking on an already narrow road and cause a traffic hazard. Clerk to alert Corby BC planners to this possibility.

18/02061 & 2 E. Northants DC for Rockingham Speedway change of use.

Although the Speedway is not in the parish Council are consulted on any changes which occur at the site. The main thrust of racing is being phased out and the stands removed. Councillors are concerned about anything which may affect traffic management and the impact on village roads.

Finance:-

Current balance	£29,523.12
Amounts owing:-	
EON for electricity usage on the MUGA in September	32.21
Anglian Water for water usage on Recreation Ground	31.05
Mrs. J. Addy for pavilion cleaning in October	56.00
Bob. Cunningham for signpost refurbishment in Church Gap	150.00
PKF Littlejohn LLP for external audit of accounts 2017/18	200.00
J. Hindle – clerk for salary and petty cash June to September	933.14

Highways:-

Clerk to respond to Richard Woodhouse at Northants CC taking possession of the Grit Bin at the junction of Southfield Road and Kirby Road and also that outside 48A Arnhill Road. The other bins in the village remain the property of Northants CC and will be maintained and filled accordingly.

Police:-

Chairman expressed his concern that there had been no Police presence at Council meetings since June. Clerk to communicate with Joe Devlin to see if he could attend a meeting in the near future.

From the website it appears that six crimes were reported in September namely two incidents of theft, two of violence and two burglaries.

Any Other Business:-

Chairman will attend the Rural Area Forum meeting on 15th November with concerns to be discussed about highways and traffic.

Clerk to email Suzanne Preston and Mel Jarvis with thanks for their efforts during the recent Litter Pick morning.

Chairman will respond to Corby BC regarding changes to the Conservation Area boundary which a) do not reflect the text of the report in respect of Station Road and that b) our representations in respect of Corby Road appear to have been dismissed.

Clerk to enquire with Corby BC about the situation regarding any S.106 monies which might still be available for village use.

Two properties with overhanging branches will be pursued with a view to removing the hazard.

Provision of a sign to the Baptist church will be investigated.

There is a pothole at the end of the driveway to the Sports Club which requires attention.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 10th December 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.