

# GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held in the Village Hall on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2015 at 7.30pm

**Present:-** Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Marshall Ferguson, Matthew Moore, Julie Smith, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Terri Meechan, Kevin Watt and Rob. Mc.Kellar (BCs), Stan Heggs (CC), John Hindle – clerk and 1 Member of the Public.

**Apologies:-** Mark Thompson, Bridget Watts (BC)

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

**The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.**

**Report from County Councillor:-**

Stan Heggs informed councillors that the dialogue between himself and Highways at County is ongoing in pursuit of the completion of outstanding jobs in the village. Kevin Watt mentioned that on a recent visit operatives had only filled in five potholes and queried why more work was not performed if all the equipment was available. Kevin also commented that Street Doctor entries confirmed that works had been instructed and would be completed within four months. However, it is now considered that the works need to be more extensive than basic repairs as the areas involved now require full resurfacing. It was agreed that County would be asked to comment.

**Meeting open to the Public:-**

Elisabeth Jordan again drew attention to the problems of speeding motorists leaving the village. Councillors agreed to discuss options available to combat this recurring situation.

**Report from Borough Councillors:-**

Rob. McKellar has received a reply from the Northants CC Cabinet member with responsibility for Highways dealing with concerns raised about the state of village roads and other projects. The content of the reply will be discussed under **Highways** Agenda item.

Kevin Watt reported on a presentation he had attended on the proposed development of the land to the west of Corby bordered by the A6003. Around 4,500 properties are involved with access points off four ways roundabout and opposite to the Danesholme turning off the main road. The plans include provision for primary and secondary schools along with a few industrial units. The work will start next year and be completed sometime in 2017.

The pressure on the local infrastructure was highlighted by councillors in discussion following Kevin's report with hospital and urgent care provision a particular concern.

Northants CC had previously approved the application from developers to increase the catchment area for waste materials to be delivered to the Shelton Road recycling unit. Following NCC's decision to approve the latest application for the Shelton Road site and the

change to a gasification process Corby BC has asked Ministers to 'call in' this decision and Tom Pursglove MP has written to request an update on progress.

**Matters Arising:-**

Corby BC officers have finally agreed that a problem exists with the safety of the Balancing pond on Huntsfield Drive. They are planning to put a fence in place and have requested quotations from interested contractors. Suzanne Preston will contact the Housing Association and discuss the general state of the area and the problems that appear to be the responsibility of some of their tenants. There is an anti-social aspect to this situation and PCSOs are aware. The basin was cleared of toys and other rubbish recently but they could only be left on the edge for collection by the owners when the work was completed. Sadly all items were quickly thrown back into the basin by persons unknown.

Steve Rainbow has felled the dangerous tree by the edge of the Recreation Ground where it borders Stafford Road. At present all other work remains to be completed. Corby BC has given permission for the trimming of the oak tree on the village green and this will form part of the specification given to Steve.

The drainage problems at the top of Lyddington Road are still to be addressed with Northants CC seemingly unable to find a solution. Clerk will discuss with the local farmer and chairman with Sarah Barnwell from Highways. There is strong evidence to suggest that the vast majority of the water is not run off from Pick Playing field or the adjoining land but from drainage issues on the Rockingham Road.

Northants CC have sent compliance letters to Diocese, tenant and St. James church regarding the state of the hedge on Station Road. Councillors await developments.

The weatherproof sign for Pick Playing field will be put in place shortly.

Land adjoining the new cemetery on Station Road has recently been sprayed at Council expense. The PCC at St. James will fund the next stage of grass seeding in preparation for the placement of new graves.

Northants CC have undertaken to perform maintenance on the hedge and bank in Arnhill Road if and when it is necessary for highway safety reasons.

The work of mowing and general ground maintenance around the village has suffered somewhat during the summer due to Steve Ellis's health problems. Clerk has ascertained that Pick Playing field will be mown soon with Church Gap completed next month.

Foliage obstructing the signpost on Corby Road has now been trimmed.

Terri Meechan and Martin McEvoy continue their discussions relating to the Old Phone box and it would now appear that it will become a depositary for books which can be lent out.

Dave Clements has confirmed to chairman that he is still in discussion with Craig Spence at Corby BC with regard to the installation of further CCTV equipment covering the Recreation

Ground and revised and improved maintenance and service arrangements regarding all of the equipment concerned. It has also been confirmed that the additional camera contributed to by Council and installed by the Sports and Social Club covering the car park area is active.

Following an exchange of emails Corby BC has stated that the fence requiring repair on the Recreation Ground to the rear of the Sports Club is on Parish Council land and not therefore their responsibility. In discussion, councillors agreed that the location map provided by Corby BC was misleading and the fence was undoubtedly on BC land. Chairman will continue to discuss with Corby BC.

Julie Smith reported that a website has now been set up in the name of Gretton Parish Council with an email address for the clerk. Pen pictures of councillors, prepared and collated by Terri Meechan will soon be forwarded to Julie for inclusion on the website. In addition, copies of these will be circulated with the next Newsletter.

Frances Woolston has surveyed road signs and waste bins in the village and the information will be used to seek improvement of some items from Corby BC.

The state of the ash trees by the wall of Tythe Barn will be reported to Street Doctor.

Council is considering the production of a new Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton as allowed by recent legislation. Such a plan will allow our community to take the lead in producing part of the statutory development plan for our area. The task is considerable and to be successful it is important that the involvement, assistance and support of the whole community is obtained. Further information in the form of a separate sheet with a returnable questionnaire to establish overall commitment will be circulated with the Newsletter produced in late November.

**Correspondence:-**

Letter from Corby BC Planners giving permission for the trimming of the oak tree on the Village Green.

Letter from Gretton Baptist Church in recognition of the grant for grasscutting in their churchyard.

**Circulation:-**

NCALC UPDATE Magazine

Leaflet on Open Day at Augean Recycling on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October

CPRE Minutes from meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

**Planning:-**

15/00377/DPA Single storey extension to front with two storey extension to side of 50, Finch Hatton Drive

This is a revised application. Councillors had no objections to the original plans and that situation continues with the new scheme.

**Finance:-**

Current balance	£28,951.59
Amounts owing:-	
Savills - Rent of car park at Club (by Water Tower)	239.74
June Turkington – Cleaning wages at Pavilion	136.00
Eon – Electricity usage at MUGA	11.37
Anglian Water – Recreation Ground	44.99
J. Hindle – clerk – Wages and Petty Cash	849.21

**Highways:-**

The response from NCC mentioned earlier dealt with various areas of the village and these are discussed below.

**The provision of a 20mph speed limit near school** is not considered possible as there is no suitable location to fit a sign that would have a logical link with the school. Clerk to write to the School Governors confirming this response.

**Speed restrictive measures around the village** are considered of questionable benefit and in any event the budget is not available. If Council wish to consider flashing lights or any other devices they would have to be locally funded and located along with the responsibility of upkeep.

**The installation of timber gates and the relocation of the speed restriction sign on Harringworth Road** are now complete.

**HGV signage** is done in accordance with Highways requirements. A weight restriction for Gretton is not considered feasible as it is too wide an area and legitimate vehicles cannot be excluded. Also, a formal restriction would be almost impossible to police effectively.

**Miscellaneous pothole repair** continues when resources permit. There is a programme in place and villagers are advised to use the Street Doctor service as it creates an audit trail and reminds officers of recurring defects.

**The installation of a ‘one way’ system for Caistor Road** will not materialise. It would be an expensive project and would have the possible effect of increasing speeds on a very narrow road.

**The possibility of making an additional hard surface car park area on the other side of High Street opposite Gretton House** will not be considered in view of cost and the potential of inhibiting utility works. Clerk to arrange a meeting with a manager at Gretton House to consider whether a financial contribution towards the cost of preventing further erosion of the land in question might be forthcoming.

**The edges of the Gretton to Rockingham Road** have been inspected and no defects found which meet Highways intervention criteria.

**Visibility at Gretton Brook Road** has been inspected and an order raised for the vegetation to be cut back. The Street Doctor service must be used in this regard.

**A compliance letter relating to the state of the footpath on Station Road** has been sent to the Diocese from NCC. There is no space to widen the footpath but a severe inhibition of growth of the hedge is required.

**Japanese Knotweed** has been sprayed where it encroaches on the highway. If and when it grows again must be reported to Street Doctor.

**Any Other Business:-**

Suzanne Preston is offering talks on rural safety to be led by PCSOs. It has been suggested that the monthly Village Hall lunch would be a good forum for this and Liz Watt – VH chair will be approached in addition to the Womens Institute.

Community workers were in the village doing various jobs and councillors are pleased to note that some work has been carried out to the wells at Clay Lane and also the area of Church Gap. Further work is required and councillors will pursue.

The delay light timer for exiting the Village Hall does not appear to cover the main entrance door at the front of the building and this will be passed on to the VH committee.

Remembrance Sunday is 8<sup>th</sup> November and there will be services at Spanhoe Airfield and the Village Green. Marshall Ferguson will represent Parish Council.

**Date of next Meeting will be Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.**