

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Marshall Ferguson, Julie Smith, Frances Woolston, Terri Meechan, Matthew Moore, Phil Bromhall, Tim Fox, Kevin Watt (BC), Len McIlhatton (Neighbourhood Warden), John Hindle – clerk

Apologies:- Mark Thompson, Rob McKellar and Bridget Watts (BC), Olivia Stinson (NW)

Chairman reminded councillors to declare an interest where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Report from Neighbourhood Warden:-

In the absence of Olivia Stinson, Lennie McIlhatton reported on behalf of the Neighbourhood team. He highlighted the fact that patrols had continued in the Pocket Park following the anti-social incidents of recent days. No reports of problems had been received but the wardens will continue to treat the area as a ‘hot spot’ and invited any resident with information to contact the team. The ‘den’ area was noted for possible pruning and cutting back as it would be made less attractive as a hideaway for the young people.

Dog fouling patrols continue in the village and the priorities identified are parking, speeding and litter; the eradication of the problems incurred relating to these areas will occupy the team for the foreseeable future. The Rural Week of Action focussing on the above will take place from 16th to 20th October and will be led by Suzanne Preston in conjunction with the Wardens, the Environmental team at Corby BC and the Police.

The next walkabout in Gretton will be on Wednesday 6th December and will commence from the Cottage Salon on Kirby Road at 1pm.

Phil Bromhall informed Lennie of his concerns regarding young people congregating in Church Gap and climbing the wall near the church. He referred to a previous tragic accident in this area and wished to ensure that such an incident should not be allowed to happen again.

Chairman reported that following the Meeting last month a letter of complaint concerning the anti-social behaviour in the village addressed to Inspector Julie Mead had been hand-delivered to Corby Police Station. This had been replied to by Suzanne Preston inviting himself and Clerk to identify dates where they could meet with Suzanne and PC Mark Walker. This was felt to be unacceptable as a response given the seriousness of the situation. Chairman also emailed PCSO Joe Devlin on 18th September detailing the concerns of a resident following an incident in the Pocket Park. A reply was received on 26th September saying no action would be taken as the information was too vague. Again, this is unacceptable as a response. Also, it was reported that if villagers dial 101 they can be kept waiting for upwards of 30 minutes before being answered. Again, it is recognised that

manpower is short in the Police but it gives no encouragement to residents when it takes so long to register a problem.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 11th September:-

No further information has been received from the Community Payback team relating to outstanding work in Church Gap.

Clerk is awaiting a reply from KierWsp at Northampton relating to the provision of permanent signs around the village to the Village Hall

Clerk is still on the trail of an up to date Bus timetable to be placed in the Bus shelter by the Village Hall.

Clerk is awaiting an estimate from Mark Thompson relating to the damage to the wall by the Jo Stone on Kirby Road.

Following last month's Meeting a grant in the sum of £1,075 for capital expenses has been made to Lydia's in recognition of the committee's actions following the demise of the Village shop.

The steps to the War Memorial although in a poor state have been inspected by Mark Thompson who has expertise in the building trade. The steps will certainly require attention in the future but are safe for use at the present time.

It was reported that no progress has been made with regard to the lack of street lights on Clay Lane. Councillors will keep trying to effect a solution.

Apparently some progress has been made by Mark Thompson to secure a Christmas tree for the Village Green in December.

The trimming of overhanging trees at Tythe Barn on High Street and 1, Arnhill Road has been addressed with the residents concerned.

Report from Cllr. Terri Meechan:-

Terri arranged to meet with some young people at the Sports Club following incidents of anti-social behaviour around the village. She also invited Charmain Taylor of the Groundworks team at Northants CC who had attended the July 10th meeting of Parish Council. They were keen to put an end to activities which had upset neighbours around the Recreation Ground and the Pocket Park. After a rather wary start the youngsters were prepared to open up to the adults about under-age drinking and damage to community property. They emphasised that they were not happy with the language of adults who had remonstrated with them but the point was also made that they were not helping themselves with their actions and the creation of excessive noise. The group has agreed to meet again and a secure Facebook page has been set up for comments with an entry on Gretton News and Views. Chairman had also separately had a conversation with some youths congregating next to the Band Hut and they had requested provision of 7 & 9-a-side football nets for the

MUGA to alleviate their boredom. Tim Fox agreed to investigate how this request might be achieved.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan:-

Andrew Royle, Frances Woolston and Tim Fox attended a meeting of the Steering committee on 12th September. Gary Kirk the MD of Your Locale Ltd a consultancy based in Church Langton addressed the meeting and offered his expertise to the Group. Gary came highly recommended by David Gibley who is the secretary of the Great Easton NP Group. The Steering Group agreed to make a recommendation to Parish Council that Your Locale Ltd be appointed as the professional advisor for the Gretton NP Group.

Chairman stated that the fees for Your Locale Ltd would be covered by grant applications identified by Gary as being available to Gretton. In anticipation of PC's approval an application for funding has already been sent to the Neighbourhood Plan and Community Buildings programme asking for an initial grant of £5,500 being the estimated charges for the start of the process. Confirmation has been received that this has been successful subject to the acceptance of Terms and Conditions as well as completion of a 'due diligence' process. A grant of up to £9,000 is largely guaranteed and further grants of an additional £6,000 are available to support parishes undertaking housing site assessments and a grant of up to £10,000 is available from 'Awards for All'.

Correspondence:-

A letter has been received from the Women's Institute committee relating to the sad death of Ailsa Dempster enquiring if Parish Council had any plans for a permanent memorial of Ailsa's considerable contribution to village life. After discussion councillors were of the opinion that a suitable plaque be placed; the most likely site being the Village Hall. Discussions will continue with interested parties.

Circulation:-

NCALC UPDATE Magazine
Agenda and Minutes from CPRE from 3rd October

Planning:-

16/00173/OUT Provision of 10 houses on land on Corby Road opposite the entrance to Huntsfield Drive.

This application was commented on by Parish Council in June 2016 and various objections were raised. Corby BC planners have not made a decision since this date and have now referred the papers for comment to the Neighbourhood Plan Steering committee as this body has now joined the consultation process. The response from NPSC has included the statement that there is no discernible demand for this type of housing.

Finance:-

Current A/c balance	£29,464.58
Amounts owing:-	
Lydia's Coffee Shop – Capital grant	1,075.00
Lamb and Holmes – fees for land registration of V. Hall	140.00
R. Cunningham – expenses for refurbishment of seats on V. Green	45.96
J. Addy – cleaning and expenses in Pavilion – September	148.98

Police:-

Crime report for September detailed one incident of theft of livestock; one domestic dispute and the arrest of a man for drugs offences.

Any Other Business:-

Chairman appealed for councillors to represent Council at the Remembrance Day services in November as he is not available. Marshall Ferguson and Tim Fox agreed to cover the services.

Chairman will contact Northants CC Highways regarding the condition of Gretton Brook Road at its junction with Corby Road.

Councillors have been contacted by a representative of a group who are offering to plant trees along the banks of the Welland. He will be invited to the next meeting in November.

Councillors are concerned that the area around Church Gap is full of dangers particularly to young people. It is recommended that a Risk Assessment be carried out by Corby BC and Parish Church. At the least signs should be placed highlighting the dangers of the area.

Councillors agreed as in previous years to give grants to Village Hall in the sum of £850 and the Baptist Church for £525.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 13th November 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.