

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8th October 2018 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Tim Fox, Matthew Moore, Mark Thompson, Julie Smith, Terri Meechan, Frances Woolston, Phil Bromhall, Marshall Ferguson, Kevin Watt and Bridget Watts (BC), John Hindle – clerk and 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies:- Sandra Naden-Horley (CC), Jim McCabe (Neighbourhood Warden)

Chairman reminded councillors that they should declare an interest either prejudicial or non-prejudicial to the matter under discussion.

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10th September 2018 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting Open to the Public:-

Elisabeth Jordan referred to a street light outside 74, Kirby Road which has not been working for some time. Unfortunately this light is not alone and there are others in the village which also have been out of operation for months. Despite repeated calls and complaints to Corby BC no repair work has been forthcoming and councillors are considering the best course of action to facilitate these repairs. Marshall Ferguson will continue to press the case with officers at Corby BC and their response will be discussed at the next meeting.

Report from Borough Councillors:-

Kevin Watt was pleased to report that Corby BC despite earlier opposition to the reorganisation of councils in this area has now been invited to the table and will play a full part in the discussions working towards Unitary Councils in Northamptonshire.

The situation regarding the new bus service was discussed but no progress has been made by Wilbarston Parish Council who are acting on behalf of all area Parish Councils in completing matters with Northants CC.

Northants Highways are currently deciding which grit bins will be maintained this winter. Gretton has two under threat namely the bin at the corner of Southfield Road and Kirby Road and also the bin outside No. 48A Arnhill Road. Clerk and chairman met with Richard Woodhouse from Highways on Friday 5th October to discuss the possibilities of retaining both bins in the CC scheme. This will not be possible but Parish Council has decided to retain both bins in its ownership and respond to adverse weather conditions if they occur.

Borough Councillors attended a briefing by the Police on Operation Viper which seeks to crack down on the illegal trade in Class A drugs. There are vulnerable people in the borough and Police are anxious to protect as many as possible from the misuse of drugs.

Report on the condition and maintenance of the Jo Stone, Kirby Road

This area is under constant threat from traffic both heavy and lighter vehicles and repairs are constantly required. Councillors are fortunate to have the services of Ian Douglas who lives opposite and tends the garden. Discussions between the parties have arrived at possible solutions which include yellow lines to prevent parking at the entrance to Kirby Road; CCTV cameras; pedestrian barriers and a one way scheme.

Councillors are of the opinion that yellow lines would be a practical solution and also give drivers who are using Corby Road much improved space to turn into Kirby Road. Clerk will consult Highways for comments on the proposed course of action.

Matters Arising from Minutes of 10th September:-

Dave Clements plans to complete the work on the CCTV installation at the Recreation Ground later this month.

The beacon planned for 11th November to commemorate the conclusion of WW1 will be sited on land at Harborough Hill and Mark Thompson will co-ordinate this task in conjunction with Elisabeth Jordan and the History Society.

Anglian Water has replied to councillors regarding their concerns should 120 houses receive planning permission. The company will respond to Corby BC again should the scheme go to appeal. In this regard it is considered that the infrastructure for water supply and sewage treatment is not sufficient to support additional building. Councillors will watch the representations coming from any appeal very closely.

Councillors are informed that the work required on the damaged railings by the Old Fox will be carried out this month.

Phil Bromhall has identified trees in the Pocket Park which require Tree Preservation Orders because they border proposed development on Kirby Road and clerk will submit an application to Corby BC.

The Neighbourhood Wardens have been informed of the damaged fence on Huntsfield Drive and Corby BC is asked to effect a repair.

The Footpath sign showing walkers the way to Thorpe by Water at the end of Church Gap has now been refurbished. Thanks are due to Bob Cunningham.

The overhanging vegetation at Nos 60 and 78, High Street has been cleared.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-

Frances Woolston informed councillors that the next meeting of the committee was scheduled for Thursday 11th October when the members planned to put together the outline of the final report. There will be an Open Day on Saturday 24th November from 11am to 3pm in the Village Hall for villagers to inspect the findings prior to the submission to Corby BC.

All the fields around the village have now been identified and their uses listed being arable or pasture etc. The committee has notes of all areas of interest in addition to listed buildings and it has received nine responses from the letters to landowners which asked for any areas of land which might be suitable for development in the future. These replies have been passed to the consultant and his report is awaited.

Also on the Agenda for the meeting on 11th October is a comment passed by a Brookfield New Age Traveller that they may consider looking into extending the site to accommodate the younger people in their community possibly in the form of ultra low-cost housing subject to planning permission. After preliminary discussion it was agreed that this situation was outside the remit of the Neighbourhood Planning group as specific strategic policies exist to deal with such matters and this will be made clear to the meeting.

Correspondence:-

Formal letter of resignation received from Parish Council chairman Andrew Royle. This will take effect from 1st May 2019 and will include his role as a parish councillor. He intends to continue to sit on the committee formulating the Neighbourhood Plan and will see this through to its conclusion. Councillors gave Andrew a huge vote of thanks for his services over the years and expressed good wishes to himself and his wife for the future.

Bridget Watts (BC) brought to the attention of the meeting a letter received from Gladman Developments covering the 120 houses proposed for the land east of Southfield Road. No new information was contained therein but it will be filed pending the presentation of any planning permission appeal by the company to Corby BC.

Circulation:-

CPRE Agenda for 9th October and Minutes from July

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox informed councillors that during the preparations for the School Sports Day the contractor had used paint with a herbicide for marking the lines and this had damaged the grass. Tim will draft a letter to Jane MacDonald, school headteacher for the clerk to send.

Tim was asked by councillors to consider a project aided by grant funds to erect outside gym equipment adjacent to the Multi Use Games Area.

Planning:-

It has come to the notice of councillors that a telecoms firm has applied to use the Water Tower for business purposes. The details are not clear at this stage but any work will entail the use of car parking spaces and there must be parish council involvement in the timing of such work to facilitate minimum disruption to village usage. The situation will be closely monitored.

18/00633/DPA Creation of first floor to host dwelling with two storey rear addition at 15A, Arnhill Road.

Mark Thompson, Julie Smith and the clerk declared an interest.

This is a revised application following the dismissal of the first set of plans. Councillors are not against appropriate development of this site but neighbours are concerned about being overlooked if the plans are accepted. The applicants have made efforts to reduce the height of the proposed scheme and Corby BC planners will be asked to take this into account.

Finance:-

Current balance	£32,347.12
Amounts owing:-	
Eon for electricity usage on MUGA	28.26
Savills for annual rental of car parking spaces from A. Water	239.74
Yourlocale for consultancy fees for N. Plan for Gretton	2,940.00
Mrs. J. Addy for pavilion cleaning in September	64.00

Chairman and clerk will discuss the budget for 2019/20 in the light of a reduction in the grant paid by Corby BC.

Police:-

In the absence of a representative from the Police chairman outlined from the website the crimes recorded during August. There were 7 reported ranging from anti-social behaviour through domestic violence to criminal damage to a vehicle. Residents are encouraged to use the 101 telephone service to report any incident giving rise to concern.

Any Other Business:-

A resident of Huntsfield Drive is concerned about a smell which may be emanating from the dog bin situated by the fence bordering Stafford Road. No other residents consider this to be a problem and chairman will respond through Facebook.

A commercial van and car are parking on the grass in Fulwell Avenue. Clerk to keep the situation under review.

A food service is now provided by Kate Howes at the Sports and Social Club at various times. Councillors were concerned that licensing conditions and the terms of the Parish Council lease were not being breached and will monitor developments.

Residents are reminded that the Litter Pick will take place on Saturday 13th October commencing from the Village Hall at 9.30am.

Date of next Meeting to be Monday 12th November 2018 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.