

GRETTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 11th September 2017 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

Present:- Andrew Royle – chair, Matthew Moore, Tim Fox, Mark Thompson, Marshall Ferguson, Phil Bromhall, Frances Woolston, Terri Meechan, Olivia Stinson – Neighbourhood Warden, John Hindle – clerk and 1 Member of the Public.

Apologies:- Julie Smith, Bridget Watts (BC)

Chairman reminded Councillors to declare any interest whether prejudicial or non-prejudicial where appropriate.

The Minutes of the Meeting on Monday 10th July 2017 were declared to be a true record and duly signed by the chairman.

Meeting Open to the Public:-

Bob Dobson of the Pocket Park committee informed councillors of recent activities in the Park. It appears that young people have been congregating in the Park and volunteers have found considerable amounts of litter and damage to the Picnic Table when they have attended the Park on morning inspections. Wines and spirits have been consumed and a lot of noise created which has upset neighbours particularly the occupants of Gretton House. Bob reported that the Picnic Table had been covered in graffiti last month and this had taken a great deal of time for the volunteers to clean off.

Councillors had observed that there were at least two groups of young people consisting of older youths and also of younger teenagers the latter being around 14 years old. Concern was expressed that this level of anti-social activity could go on without any intervention by the Police. Chairman remarked that there is a definite anti-social behaviour problem in the village at this time.

Phil Bromhall reported that last week a group of young people had been meeting in Church Gap and subsequently the door leading to the Crypt under the church was damaged. On this occasion Police officers appeared within 45 minutes of being informed.

Olivia Stinson explained that there are officers in Corby BC who have responsibility to investigate anti-social behaviour within the Borough. She asked any councillor with information to email her and she would liaise with the Police.

Terri Meechan explained that she would be meeting with young people at the Sports and Social Club on Thursday 14th September at 7.30pm along with Olivia and Charmain Taylor. There are some Police officers who live in the village and these will be contacted for any help they can offer.

It was resolved that clerk and chairman would prepare a letter to the Police expressing the concerns of Parish Council relating to poor or non-existent responses to a very serious outbreak of anti-social behaviour within the village. Also there are many meetings of Parish Council where the Police are not in attendance. In addition it was felt that when emergency road closures occur the amount of signage for motorists is minimal.

Report from Neighbourhood Warden:-

Olivia Stinson reported that the recent Rural Days of Action had focussed on dog fouling and many dog owners had been contacted and given goody bags along with conversations surrounding the dangers of not picking up after their dogs.

Along with Suzanne Preston Olivia will be talking to School and Beavers groups about not dropping litter and keeping the area tidy.

The next Gretton Walkabout will be on 6th December at 1pm at the Cottage Salon on Kirby Road.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of 10th July:-

Phil Bromhall passed all information on the possibility of a grant towards War Memorial expenditure to the chair who will decide how to proceed. Mark Thompson will assess any remedial works required at present.

Clerk to pursue costs and necessary work with Northants CC to provide road signs to the Village Hall around the village.

It may be possible for Community Payback to undertake some clearing work in Church Gap. This will be investigated.

The notice relating to balls being kicked against walls on the Recreation Ground has been erected.

Mark Thompson will assess the condition of the path between Huntsfield Drive and The Recreation Ground and perform remedial work if necessary.

Corby BC officers still have to decide on the best way forward in conjunction with their partners to complete the street lights on Clay Lane.

In response to a request from Parish Council relating to the parking and storage of caravans at Keepers Lodge Corby BC have replied that there is no problem. One is used as an office and some others are under refurbishment. Environmental department officers have asked that up to three be removed.

The idea of placing a Christmas tree on the Village Green was discussed. Mark Thompson agreed to donate a tree and find sponsors for the lights and decorations.

The trimming of trees at Tythe Barn has been reported to Street Doctor. A letter has gone out to 1, Arnhill Road to request the hedge by Hardwick Road be cut back.

Clerk and Steve Ellis have discussed the cutting back of foliage on the village walkways with householders and other interested parties.

Lockhart Garrett has been invited to perform a tree inspection around the Pocket Park and Church Gap. A report is awaited.

Clerk is in the process of ensuring that the spare sewer pump at the Sports Club is securely stored.

Report on Neighbourhood Plan for Gretton:-

Frances Woolston reported that a paper received from the History Society detailing the history of the village is so well prepared that it can be included in the final report without editing.

Corby BC has commissioned a survey of the housing needs of all residents in the parishes around the borough. The Steering Group will have an input to some of the questions which will be included on the survey questionnaire to assist in their information gathering. Andrew Royle will draft a letter to accompany the questionnaires which will go to every house to encourage completion of the document. Maximum return is very important to assess the true nature of the housing requirement.

Report on the closure of Gretton Post Office and Shop:-

It has come to councillor's attention that Lydia's Coffee Shop has expanded its activities to include basic foodstuffs and also provide space for the collection and storage of newspapers. In this regard a request has been made from Lydia's management for a grant to enable the purchase of items of equipment eg extra refrigeration. Councillors were sympathetic to the situation and wished to support the Charity in providing an important, even essential community service. Chairman was given discretion in view of the urgency to decide on the appropriate figure after receipt of a schedule of essential needs of a capital nature.

Councillors considered that they should be provided with a copy of the latest accounts for the Charity and it was stated that other sources of grant funding should also be sought by the Charity.

During the 10 year celebration at Lydia's on Saturday 23rd September on the Village Green a presentation will be made to Mike, Julie and Sam Powell recognising their considerable contributions over many years to village life.

Correspondence:-

Clerk reported that he had been informed of the death of Ailsa Dempster who was a past councillor and chair of the Gretton Village Hall committee. She had suffered illness in recent years and died in Kettering Hospital.

Circulation:-

Clerk and Councils DIRECT Magazine
CPRE papers

Report on Recreation Ground:-

Tim Fox informed councillors that the football stand and dugouts had been removed and no reports of behavioural problems had been received since.

A request has been received from the Sports and Social Club for monies to provide extra

shuttering for the doors which councillors felt that they could not support. However, Mark Thompson will discuss with the SSC committee the provision of shuttering and alternative methods of security with which he may be able to assist.

Planning:-

17/00350/DPA New doorway, new opening through stone wall. High fence and gate, alterations to ground floor at 74, High Street

This application had been received during August when there was no meeting of Parish Council. The Planning sub-committee replied to Corby BC with no observations.

Finance:-

Current balance	£29,504.58
Amounts owing:-	
Brunel Signs for signage at Recreation Ground	66.37
Quantum Print for Newsletter printing	298.00
R. Cunningham for painting of railings on Village Green	600.00

Highways:-

The various incidents of signage for road closures was discussed and it was felt that the signage was often inadequate and certainly left too long after the works had been completed. The condition of Gretton Brook Road where it joins Corby Road is in need of a permanent repair.

Police:-

Clerk had received a crime report for August from our local PCSO Joe Devlin. This showed seven instances of burglary and thefts from vehicles. Once again, residents are reminded that it is often unlocked doors which lead to opportunities for casual thefts.

Any other Business:-

There is a street light out in Arnhill Road and Marshall Ferguson will follow up.

Reports of a dog howling through the night have been received. It is necessary for neighbours to register an official complaint with the authorities.

Following the move of the flagpole it is noticed that the flag is in a tatty condition having been caught on the branches of the oak tree. Clerk to discuss with the Flag Steward and a replacement secured.

The question of disabled access to the Village Green was again discussed and Mark Thompson will assess the situation. The possibility of a grant for wheelchair access will be pursued.

Date of Next Meeting to be Monday 9th October 2017 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.