

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF  
GUNTHORPE PARISH  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MAY 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL**

Cllrs.           Lesley Jeffery (Chairperson)  
                  Mick Bowles (A)  
                  Chris Cope  
                  Tony Everington  
                  Peter Platten  
                  Jan Smith  
                  Jane Simpson (A)

Also present were the Clerk Gordon Oldham (TC), Cllr Roger Jackson (NCC and NSDC) and five members of the public

**1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

Cllr Leslie Jeffery welcomed Councillors and members of the public to the meeting. At the Chairperson's behest, Councillors and TC briefly introduced themselves

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Mick Bowles and Jane Simpson.

**3. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – CLLR LESLEY JEFFERY**

Thank you all once again for your support. Thank you once again to Roger Jackson as County Councillor. Roger continues to fight our corner and takes away many of our concerns and always knows the best person to contact. Roger is always ready to listen and steer us in the right direction although he may not always agree, he deals with issues in a diplomatic way.

We had two of our Councillors Tom Littlefair and Cam step down but we have welcomed two new Councillors Jan Smith, and more recently, Janie Simpson.

We continue to have a strong link with the Village Hall and Jan and I are the Parish Council representatives. We attend the meetings and support their fundraising events when we can. So keep your eyes open for future events to be held there or sign up to their Village e-mail newsletter produced by Paul Jeffery. This has become hugely popular and acts as a conduit for information sharing with the Village.

We still have the Village website where Parish Council Minutes are posted.

We were also required to set up a Publication site where certain documents need to be available for us as a Council to remain transparent.

I still await our virtual Parish Council meeting. Maybe Gunthorpe should hold the first one.

We still continue to have our concerns re the access and egress to the Village and traffic figures that were used originally were incorrect and there has been an increase in flow. We recently through Councillor Jackson presented a Village petition to the County Council but sadly we are not going to get the traffic lights we wanted.

As a Parish Council we continue to report concerns about litter and dog fouling (this costs the PC £1300 a year for bins).

We want the Community to know that the fight for flood protection also goes on. Regular meetings take place at Lowdhams to which we are invited and try and attend. Other attendees are GFAG, Gunthorpe and Environment Flood Action Group, who are a community group, the Environment agency, Nottinghamshire County Council, the internal drainage Board, Seven Trent and the Parish Council.

Work has also happened on the culverts and drains - this all contributes to understanding and determining water flow or not as the case may be. Our Parish Councillor Mick Bowles is involved in this and contributes with others, using his local knowledge.

## Planning

A lot of concerns were raised regarding the added development to business at the A6097 Junction with Main Street. I attended a recent planning meeting and while we as a Parish Council are not against businesses developing we are however concerned when any extensions or development take up our flood corridor. The planning authority however do not see this as on paper the Environment always say in their two lines that they have no concerns.

We recently invited two planners from the District Council to talk to us about specific planning concerns we have. This was a very informative meeting and they have promised us some further information. At the moment there is a lot of speculation re building on Green belt and Brownfield sites and I know a lot of people are concerned what is happening at the Pontefino's Restaurant site but until we receive any plans or change of use we cannot act. At the moment we know nothing except that the building is up for lease.

We continue to give an Annual Grant to the Village Hall to help with bills and the maintenance. The Village Hall Committee continues to raise money with fundraising. The Friday morning club held at the Village Hall is well attended where you can get amazing bacon or sausage butties and endless tea and coffee oh and cake! Oh and all the local gossip. This is a really successful group as are the Church get-togethers and coffee mornings.

Sadly the pavilion on the Village Hall field had to be closed due to repair and maintenance costs. One day someone may look to build a new Sports facility, maybe.

## Neighbourhood plan Explanation.

Hard work continues down on the land purchased by the Parish Council the Riverside Trust have regular meetings. We had a successful tree planting to represent the local soldiers killed in the First World War - this event was very moving to say the least. The work goes on and there are loads of people to thank re the land, but Peter Platten puts hours of work in and I am sure you would want me to thank him on your behalf. But also well done to all those who have given up their valuable time and energy to help secure and make this Land a joy to visit. I am sure Peter will answer any questions if anyone has any.

We as a Parish Council thank everyone for their support but if anyone has any ideas or skills that we can use come forward. You are invited to listen to our meetings held every fourth Wednesday in the month in the Village Hall at 7.15 and there is always a session for the public to speak.

Thank you.

## 4. OPEN FORUM WITH PUBLIC

Parishioners were asked if they had any questions or queries they wished to raise. The following issue was discussed:

Tony Mayors, Chair of the Riverdale Caravan Park Residents Committee raised a serious issue – it is felt that the owner of Park is in the process of selling some caravans and possibly increasing the overall number of caravans on the site. The owner of Pontefino's has given permission for 'travellers' to camp on the land behind Pontefino's and they have been given they are also taking water from the Riverdale site. Members queried whether there is a caravan licence in force for Pontefino's and whether fire regulations were being observed. Cllr Jackson to seek advice. TC will write to ..... and to the NSDC Gypsy Welfare Officer.

The meeting closed and Cllr Jeffery reminded the public that they were welcome to remain to hear the proceedings of the Annual Parish Council meeting.