

GUNTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Parish Council Meeting Held on
Wednesday 24th July 2024 at 7.15 pm in the Village Hall

Present: Cllr's: Tony Everington (TE), Lyn Palmer (LP), Nick Hill (NH), Ray George (RG), Lesley Jeffery (LJ), Chris Cope (CC) and Dona Kent (DK).

In Attendance: three members of the public. Peter Platten (PP) Amy Latham (AL) and Paul Jeffery (PJ) PJ volunteered to take minutes.

Year and Minute	DISCUSSION AND DECISIONS
	<p>Public Participation: The issue of the state of the bridge was raised and the condition described as being in an appalling state. A tree taking root, Ivy growing up the East Bridgford side, weeds growing in the gutters, metal upright and cross beams broken as well as a poor road surface.</p> <p>The footpath from the bridge to the junction of Main Street was also in a very poor state where growth had encroached over the path and trees and shrubs overhanging it, making it a danger to walk along.</p> <p>County/District Cllr Roger Jackson, (RJ) was not present, therefore there was no update from him on the actions he had taken. Cllr RG will, however, be updating the meeting of actions he has been involved in under item 061/24.</p> <p>The progress on the Lengthsman scheme was questioned in relation to the time being taken to implement it.</p> <p>TE stated that £1200 had been granted from Notts County Council towards the scheme but had been deposited in another parish council's bank account by mistake. The scheme will be progressed.</p> <p>Questions were asked on work being carried out by the Fishing Club adjacent to the access track from the bridge towards the Nature reserve. It seems that the Club were conducting work as though they were owners of the track and this needs to be challenged. Fencing had been erected and building materials stored. Notts County Council need to be contacted to see whether they had consented and if not, they need to be made aware.</p> <p>PJ said he would contact the County Council to raise the issues and report back.</p> <p>An update on the progress on the request for traffic lights at the A6097 junction with Main Street was requested.</p> <p>LJ stated that the petition had been considered by the County Council and the installation of traffic lights was rejected due to there being no change in circumstances since the PC's last request some years ago. They were to consider two other options, the installation of a mini roundabout and the revision of the speed limit. These were now subject to a feasibility study and the PC envisaged this would be done in time to inform the NCC budget for the next financial year.</p> <p>The PC was questioned why a proposed opening of the Nature Reserve had not taken place.</p>

	<p>TE stated that the unavailability of RJ as our County / District Councillor was the major reason behind this. As soon as things were clearer the opening can be arranged.</p> <p>Grass cutting at the entrance to the village had not been done for some time and a member of the public had done it instead.</p> <p>TE said that Newark and Sherwood District Council, who had the contract, had met with a series of breakdowns that prevented them from sticking to their grass cutting rota. Ironically, they attended to cut the grass the day after it was done. TE suggested that any person frustrated at the lack of grass cutting should contact him and should not take it upon themselves to cut grass. This is for their own safety and to avoid duplication.</p> <p>The extent of the grass being cut, and lack of hedge cutting was also commented upon. This was considered outside of the contract with N&SDC and the responsibility of the landowners.</p> <p>The purchase of the Lowdham Road Flood resilience shed and materials for laying its foundation was brought up. Delays in ordering and funding were a cause of dismay.</p> <p>The store is expected to be delivered on or around 22nd September giving time for the base to be laid. To this end: -</p> <p>LJ to attend B&Q with cheque to pay for building materials</p> <p>Peter Platten (PP) to attend JP Smiths with cheque to pay for Sleepers.</p>
051/24	<p>To receive and accept apologies for absence: Apologies were received and accepted for Cllrs Roger Jackson and the Clerk Lisa-Jayne Cambell</p>
052/24	<p>To receive and note declarations of interest: There were no declarations of interest.</p>
053/24	<p>To accept as a true record of the meeting the Minutes of the previous meetings:</p> <p>Minutes from the meeting held on 26th June 2024 and 3rd July 2024 were accepted as true records of the meetings and signed by the Chair.</p>
054/24	<p>Matters arising:</p> <p>a. To receive update on A6097:</p> <p>Discussed in Public Participation section and covered in item 061/24</p> <p>b. To receive update on resilience shed:</p> <p>Discussed in Public Participation section</p>
055/24	<p>To receive and note reports from District and County Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr Jackson gave his apologies.</p>
056/24	<p>Planning:</p> <p>Applications: none at the time of setting the agenda.</p>

	<p>Decisions: 24/00383/HOUSE The Cottage, Cottage Pasture Lane, single storey extension – WITHDRAWN</p> <p>RG reported upon a development taking place without planning consent and that this had been referred to the Planning Enforcement official at N&SDC.</p> <p>NH informed the PC of another application for an additional glamping pod on the site on Peacock Close. Environmental Services were to comment on the application due to the probability of it on contaminated ground.</p>
057/24	<p>Financial Matters:</p> <p>a. To note payments received and authorise accounts for payment – payments totalling £1130.52 were approved.</p> <p>b. To approve monthly bank reconciliation: A balance of £13896.49 is in the UTB current account plus reserves.</p> <p>The matter of the PC having two bank accounts and the applied fees, was raised and discussed.</p> <p>No decisions were made to change the arrangement at present.</p>
058/24	<p>Environmental Matters/Nature reserve:</p> <p>Richard Ward had been contracted to maintain the nature reserve field.</p> <p>A tree was in a dangerous state adjacent to the footpath near to the wooden footbridge at the rear of Lowdham’s.</p> <p>PJ to write letter to County Council drawing it to their attention.</p> <p>Complaints received about fires being lit around Kingfisher Pond by people maintaining the land and cleaning up the area. NH to make enquiries on this matter and report back to PC.</p>
059/24	<p>Village Hall, Playing field and Playground:</p> <p>Gunthorpe Village Hall and Playing Field Fund had reported that they had concerns about the grass cutting schedule and the intermittent service being provided. It was noted that this was the same contractor as previously discussed within the public participation section and their future performance was to be monitored.</p>
060/24	<p>To receive, note and action Correspondence received:</p> <p>None received</p>
061/24	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>RG reported that the document regarding Financial Regulations 2024 was ready and waiting for the Clerk to agree content with a view to signing off in September.</p>

There was concern about the lack of information being recorded in the council meeting minutes. It appears to readers that the PC were doing little and the context behind decision making wasn't clear. There were instances of inaction on agreed matters not being pursued as a result.

LJ said that she had requested a copy of the audit report that had been signed off by the PC on 3rd July 24 meeting. The information supplied to her did not include the list of recommendations from the auditor. Noone present at the meeting had this information.

LJ to contact the auditor David Dixon to obtain a copy of the recommendations.

Money owed by the PC to individuals was not being processed in a timely manner.

TE said that any requests for reimbursement should be presented at the PC meeting, and he would ensure that it was paid within 7 days.

TE and LJ to meet with the Clerk upon her return from her holidays to discuss the issues raised in this meeting as part of the Clerk's appraisal process.

RG reported the following: -

He is to meet with a body dealing with the Inspection of the bridge in August to go through issues relating to the condition of the tree, Ivy and weeds growing in and upon the bridge he will also inform them about reported damage and deterioration to iron work and parapet as described in the Public Participation section.

He had been on a site visit on the A6097 with Louise Poole-Richardson a Senior District Manager at N&SDC and Matt Duckworth, Drainage manager at Via. The was to look at the state of the footpath and ditches along the A6097 from Main Street to the bridge. An Inspection was subsequently planned to establish what specific work was needed to reinstate the footpath. Overgrown hedges being the responsibility of various landowners was also going to be dealt with by N&SDC.

The bridge will be swept with a road sweeper to clear debris away from drains.

The bridge was treated with weedkiller on Sunday (21st July)

A bridge safety inspection that was started in March has been delayed pending the Canal and Riverside Trust's assistance with inspecting the underside of the bridge. This is expected to be concluded in August.

He asked whether the Emergency Flood Plan previously circulated was passed by the PC for circulation. This was agreed.

He reported that a quantity of equipment requested for the Resilience store, amounting to £1000 in value, was to be provided by N&SDC flood store through their Principal Officer for Flood Management, Ross Marshall.

RG was to store the equipment until the new resilience store was completed.

	<p>He was to meet with Ian Patchett, the Head of Highway Assets and Development for Via at 1.30pm on Friday (26th July). This was to discuss the state of the A6097 road from Lowdham to the bridge. He will report back.</p> <p>He had approached the Canal and Riverside Trust about obstructed access to the lifebelt on the Riverside. They said this was not theirs and was the responsibility of Marston's. RG had forwarded this information to TE as he was in communication with Marston's on other matters.</p>
062/24	<p>To note items for the next Agenda:</p> <p>Nothing other than already mentions in items above.</p>
063/24	Date of next Parish Council meeting: Wednesday 28th August 2024 at 19:15.
064/24	Private & Confidential:
065/24	Meeting Closed: There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 20:41.

Signed by Chair
Tony Everington

28th August 2024