

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Gosberton held on
Monday 16th April 2018**

Present: Councillors: Tim Smith (Chairman), Mrs Sue Thorley (Vice-Chair), Mrs L Allen, C Bayston, J Clark, Mrs R Perry, M Taylor, Mrs L Tweddell (Clerk): **Also in attendance:** PCSO Abbots, County Cllr R Grocock, Lynne Harrison – Freepress reporter.

Public: No members of the public attended.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 10th April 2017 and matters arising

It was noted that the year of the signed minutes at the last meeting should read 7th March 2016, Gubboles Drove should read *Gubbolds Drove* and Mr Coxon should read *Mr Coxen*. The minutes of the AGM held on Monday 10th April 2017 were then approved and signed and there were no matters arising.

2. Letting of the Wastelands

No notices on the Wastelands received therefore the tenants remain as:

C F Harrison, Gubbolds Drove	£ 30
Mr J Carrott, Westhorpe	£ 25
Mr M Baker, Chopdyke Drove	£ 20
Mr & Mrs D Stafford Westhorpe Pit	£ 25
Mr D Coxen, Sandiacre	£110

However, Mr Garner has sadly passed away and this is a matter for discussion at the meeting of Gosberton Parish Council to be held following the Annual Parish Meeting.

3. Financial Statements of the Charities of the Parish

- None received but Robert Marjorum's Foundation to be supplied.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman tabled his report.

Resolved: The report was adopted.

5. Public Session/Open Forum

No issues raised.

Meeting ended 7.55pm

Chairman

Gosberton Parish Council

Chairman's Annual Report 2017 / 2018

First of all, I would like to thank our parish councillors for all the time and effort they devote to their duties. I would like to remind you that they do this on a completely voluntary basis. I believe every councillor is concerned for the well-being of the parish and has the best interests of the village at heart. I would also like to thank Councillor Thorley for her continued support throughout the year as vice chairman and for chairing the meetings I was unable to attend.

I would also like to add a personal note as I believe that we, as many other rural parishes, are entering a time of uncertainty due to the unknown impact that the forthcoming exit from the EC will have on us. As well as this the village is about to undergo a considerable expansion due to the proposed housing development and it is therefore important that the Parish Council continues to act as a single voice within our community.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Lisa Tweddell (Clerk) for her hard work and support throughout this period and Simon Kitchen (Groundsman) for his hard work in maintaining the cemetery and playing fields and County Cllr Grocock for his attendance and advice at the meetings.

It is also important to recognise the families, relatives and friends of our councillors who continue to give their support and time freely to help with the many maintenance tasks around the villages.

Parish Council Meetings and Parish Councillors 2017 / 2018

There have been eight meetings of Gosberton Parish Council since I was re-elected as Chairman in May 2017. There have been six representations by the residents in the open forums and the meetings attended three times by Lincolnshire Free Press.

Councillors Perry (Rowland) and Bayston were co-opted on to the council on the 22nd May 17 and the 22nd January 18 respectively after satisfying the District Councils requirements for co-option. Councillor Newton resigned his position on the 19th February 18. I would like to thank him for all his hard work. Advertising for the vacant parish council position was posted on the 23rd February with a closing date of the 15th March 2018.

Finance

Precept

It was agreed that the precept should be increased by 2% to £30,090. This includes a rolling reserve to help cover the future acquisition of cemetery land.

Auditor

The current auditor Vivienne Gensiorskyj's contract was extended for a further 12 months. The auditor is responsible for auditing the accounts twice yearly.

Banking

Electronic banking was adopted in 2016 / 2017 and continues to be used and after the initial problems now seems to be working well. Transactions require second approval and Councillors Clark, Smith and Taylor have access.

Clerks Working Hours

It became apparent that the workload of the clerk significantly exceeded the 12 hours originally contracted. After maintaining a careful log of actual hours worked it was agreed to increase the clerk's contracted hours from 12 hours per week to 16 hours per week as proposed in the previous report.

Playing Fields in Gosberton and Gosberton Risegate

I am pleased to say that the incidences of vandalism and defacing of equipment has apparently reduced since last summer although there have been instances of broken glass on or near play equipment. Rubbish / litter and fouling by dogs does remain a problem.

As was noted in my previous annual report we had confirmation that the ash tree on the front perimeter of Gosberton playing field was diseased. SHDC advised that we should either fell or reduce it and it was felt that in the interests of safety that the best course of action was to have it felled and removed. This was successfully carried out in July and it has been requested by SHDC that it and the previous tree removed are replaced by new trees when possible.

Wicksteed's completed the annual inspection of the play equipment and were instructed to carry out all medium and high risk repairs at a cost of £463.20.

Mrs Emma Walters of GCAT updated the PC on the progress of the fundraising for the new play area. The current estimated cost for the updated play equipment and area is £36,000. Unfortunately, Sport England has refused the grant application and alternative funding sources are being sought.

GCAT held a summer fair on the 18th June and it is hoped that this will grow and become an annual event and an opportunity to help raise funds. I am pleased to say that here will be another summer fair organised by GCAT on the 10th June 2018.

It is previously proposed that a small hardstanding area was laid in the park to ease the parking along the high street. After receiving costings for the construction of such an area it was felt that it was too much of an expense at the present time and the project would be deferred.

The regeneration of the playing field at Gosberton is important to the PC but currently its priorities lie in securing the acquisition of the cemetery land. It is hoped that when this is completed satisfactorily that the PC will be able to focus attention on the rejuvenation of the playing field. I therefore ask for the parishes continued patience and would thank all those who currently take an active role in helping maintain it.

Again there is little to report regarding the play area at Gosberton Risegate. The picnic bench was removed after it collapsed and was repaired by Councillor Perry and returned.

Traffic and Highways Issues

Further passive speed road signs have been placed throughout the villages with 40mph signs being sited along the Gosberton Risegate. New positions for the interactive speed sign have been approved and include the approach to the Clough and Risegate Primary School, in addition Cllr Perry has also spoken to Graeme Butler of the LRSP and two other additional locations have been identified. The interactive sign incorporates a speed recording device which has allowed us to gather significant data over the past twelve months on both the speed and volumes of traffic using the village. The PC has looked into the purchase of a second solar powered interactive sign in order to avoid the periods where the sign has to be removed for charging however these are prohibitively expensive. A second basic interactive sign without the data collection facility is therefore to be bought.

Councillor Perry has volunteered to undergo training with the Police on the use of hand held speed control devices.

The interactive sign has to be regularly moved and charged and the speed data downloaded I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Perry for his hard work.

Unfortunately the cutting of the highway verges, unrelated to safety, by LCC was withdrawn with little notice due to the need to reduce costs. As a result SHDC made an offer to provide 10 cuts to highway verges. This was accepted at the November meeting.

Cemetery and War Memorials

The acquisition of land to extend the cemetery is a high priority with the PC. After formal enquires into the ownership of the land adjacent to the cemetery it was agreed at the PC meeting of the 25th September that R Longstaff and Co would be appointed to begin the process of securing the land if possible.

The cemetery mower has been replaced as the old mower, as previously reported, was beginning to accrue significant maintenance costs.

New fees and cemetery rules and regulations have been drawn up and adopted.

It has been proposed that a working party is formed to clean the War Memorials in recognition of the centenary of the ending of WW1.

A plaque has been ordered to be placed near the noticeboard in Gosberton Risegate to commemorate Britain's WW1 fighter airfields.

Allotments and Wastelands

A training day for Councillors on allotments was held at Waddington on the 28th June. Unfortunately, it tended to focus on small allotment holdings rather than the larger agricultural allotments we have.

Up to date plans of the allotments have been produced by Cllr Thorley and the Clerk.

Notice has been received on three 1 acre Barchards plots from October 2018. Four 1 acre Highbridge plots were also vacated in January 2018 and subsequently let as 2X2 acre plots on the 22nd January.

The tenants of the Chopdyke wastelands requested replacement of the roadside fencing. This was declined as not being economically viable. The tenants have expressed an interest in purchasing the land and the PC is currently considering this.

The passing of the current tenant of Gubbolds Drove Wastelands was recently received and subsequently a letter received from an interested party regarding taking on the land. A decision will be made shortly.

The PC continues to pursue an amenable solution to the three tenancies which were served s6 notices. One tenant has now signed the new agreement and the remaining tenants are taking further advice. Again I wish to reiterate that this does not affect the tenants' rights but is merely an instrument to establish in writing the terms of their tenancies.

Policing

Again, I would like to take the opportunity to thank PCSO Abbotts for his continued support over the past year. With the continued financial cuts affecting policing his area of responsibility has significantly increased and he cannot always attend meetings.

The majority of the reported incidents were to do with RTC's, theft and burglary, hare coursing and mud on roads. It is important that Councillors and residents report any crime to ensure that the statistics reflect the actual situation.

Planning

As already mentioned the Local Plan is looking to the development of over 200 additional residential properties in Gosberton. This is going to represent a significant challenge over the coming months as the growth of the village is important if it is to continue thriving but this has to be balanced with the current residents' way of life. The Parish Council continues to monitor the situation but residents must be aware that with changes to the way planning applications are reported it is not possible for the PC to see objections.

Parish Council representation on other charities and committees

The current charities and committees have Parish Council representation:

Robert Marjorum Charity	Sue Thorley (VC), John Clarke and Mark Taylor
Relief in Need	John Clarke, Sue Thorley (VC)
Public Hall	Rowland Perry (C), Rona Perry, Tim Smith
G.C.A.T.	Mick Pell
Unknown Donors	Lindsay Allen
Royal British Legion	Rowland Perry

Open Forums

There have been six open forums attended by residents:

- Three members of the public attended the open forum on the 10th April 17 to voice their objections to planning application H08-0266-17. PC discussed in the meeting and raised objection on the basis of access, loss of privacy and drainage.
- Mr Tidswell attended the open forum on the 25th September reference concerns over the state of Westhorpe Railway Bridge and surrounding land. Letters were sent to John Hayes (MP) and LCC in support of the resident's concerns.
- Jane Brigginsshaw, Susan Barker and Jane Parker attended the open forum on the 25th September 17 to give a presentation on the Good Neighbour Scheme for Gosberton, Quadring and District.
- A member of the public attended the open forum on the 6th November to complain about a letter issued by the PC. His grievance was noted, and he was advised of the complaints procedure.
- Two members of the public attended the open forum on the 11th December to discuss a personal matter.
- Two members of the public attended the open forum on the 22nd January to discuss the potential purchase of the wastelands on Chopdyke Drove. (See Allotments and Wastelands)

General

Parish Website and email Addresses

The clerk continues to populate the Parish website on <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov>

In order to meet the requirements of the new GDPR (see below) all councillors will have their own dedicated email address. It has been agreed that these will be gmail accounts.

General Data Protection Regulations

The GDPR will come in to effect at the end of this month. It will have far reaching consequences on how the PC both records and stores data. It will be necessary to appoint a Data Protection Officer and as such it was agreed that a risk assessment be carried out and training given to Councillors.

Village Inspection

The annual village inspection was carried out on the 26th June and Councillors visited the Cemetery, Gosberton Playing Fields, Gosberton Churchyard, Windmill Lane, Gosberton Risegate Playing Fields, War Memorials and Allotments. As a result the following observations / actions were made:

- Churchyard bin to be fixed (concrete base required)
- Control of weeds at the Gosberton War Memorial
- Removal of diseased tree (see playing fields section)
- Deterioration of railings at Old Five Bells, Chesboule Lane. Potential safety issue to be reported to LCC.
- Overgrown hedge opposite Marjorum Hall. Potential safety issue to be reported to LCC.

- Cleaning of War Memorials.

GCAT Good Neighbour Scheme

After the presentation by Jane Briginshaw, Susan Barker and Jane Parker at the open forum on the 25th September 17 it was agreed to donate £300 under S137 of the Local Government Act in the meeting of the 6th November.

Equality Act and Venue for GPC Meetings

Some concern has been expressed regarding the suitability of the meeting venue for GPC and its inaccessibility for the disabled. After the considerable fund-raising efforts of the Village Hall Trustees (Cllrs Perry and Perry) and a donation and loan from the PC a suitable chair lift has now been fitted. I am sure that this will not only benefit the PC but the community as a whole.

Weather

As well as the warnings received regarding storm Aileen in September 2017 we also felt the effects of the snow and freezing conditions in February. I therefore think it is appropriate to acknowledge and thank all those who helped clear the roads around Gosberton.

New Policies and Rules Adopted

- Co-Option of Councillors (10th April 2017)
- Cemetery Rules and Regulations (10th April 2017)
- Use of Parish Noticeboards

Tim Smith
Chairman Gosberton Parish Council 2017 - 2018