

Minutes of the Meeting of Glatton Parish Council Held on 3rd December 2014

Present:

Stephen Smith (SS)

Brian Hackman (BH)

Gill Denton (GD)

Paul Cole (PC)

4 residents of Glatton attended the meeting. Councillor Darren Tysoe attended the meeting (arriving at 7.30pm)

1. Apologies

PW sent his apologies. The meeting was chaired by SS (vice chairman) in his absence.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2014 were signed by the vice chairman as a true record of the proceedings.

3. Matters Arising

i) As requested by PW a quote has been received from Bob Widd Associates for reduction work to trees overhanging the highway in Glatton. BH raised the question of cutting back trees that are in private ownership and consultation with the owners of the affected trees. PW is leading on this matter and in his absence it is held over to the next meeting.

ii) Pot holes in the village are now all repaired.

4. Community Speed Watch Report

One volunteer has resigned. The kit is now being shared with a third village and is therefore available every third week. The trend in speeding traffic through the village is falling and in November was 2.1% of traffic driving in excess of the guidelines. The campaign is therefore proving effective and the message “Don’t speed through Glatton” is getting through. The

campaign will continue but the speed watch sessions will take place less frequently, once every three weeks during the dark nights with up to twice every three weeks in the better weather. Speed Watch is doing well and thanks go to all the volunteers.

5. Local Highways Improvement Bid

PC and SS attended the panel on 7th November to present the bid on behalf of Glatton. The elements are to reduce the 40 mile per hour section on B660 to 30 mile per hour and to put in place soft calming measures (roundels and dragon teeth painted on the road) at each of the four entrances to Glatton. The feeling is that the presentation was well received and notification of the outcome will be received in February 2015. The bid was presented on the basis that the cost is around £7,000 with a 50% (up to £3,500) contribution from the Parish Council. The panel enquired that if the costs were as high as £10,000 would the council still be prepared to contribute 50%. In the event that there was funding available this would be considered.

6. Village Green.

The consultation period in respect of the application to register the piece of land known as the “Village Green” on the B660 has now passed. There were no objections to the application and one representation from Cambridgeshire County Council to say that they had “no comment”. The next stage in the process is for a report to be written containing recommendations, on the basis of the evidence presented, as to whether the land qualifies to be registered as a village green. The recommendation will be placed before the Service Infrastructure Management & Operations at a decision meeting. The time scale for all of this is approximately six months.

7. Electoral Review of Cambridgeshire

PW attended a meeting on behalf of Glatton but unfortunately unable to be at the meeting to present his report. We have received information from the Local Government Boundary Commission seeking views on the future division

boundaries for Cambridgeshire Council. The 12 week public consultation began on 28/10/14. All the information is available via the Glatton web site.

8. Meeting of Kimbolton and Stonely Parish Council

SS was unable to attend this meeting. Clerk will request the minutes with a view to SS attending the next meeting.

9. Finance Report

The balance in the current account is £698.73 and in the business reserve account is £7,587.92.

10. Budget and Precept

There is a slight increase in the cost of the grass cutting for next year to £2,070. Included is the cost of the contribution for the speed calming measures (£3,500) in the event of the funding being received. It is agreed that the budget should include a contingency in the event of a contested election of £750.00. The cost of the traffic calming measures will potentially eat into the reserve. Mr Tysoe commented that HDC were expecting precept increases across the board of about 3- 5%. The increase if a precept of £4,000 were requested would be around 8% but send a covering letter with the request to explain the traffic calming measures project then Mr Tysoe would not anticipate a problem. The council approve the precept request at £4,000.

11. Appointment of Internal Auditor

Helen Anderson (Chartered Accountant) who is a resident in the village has agreed to be the internal auditor for the Parish Council accounts. Parish Council approved the appointment.

12. Correspondence

i) Thank you letters have been received from both the North Hunts Community Car Scheme and from Caresco for the donations. Information leaflets were also received from Caresco with details of some of the services that they are able to provide

including a car scheme. These have been passed to Carole Green and will be available on the Glatton web site.

ii) Household Recycling – One of Mr Tysoe’s responsibilities on HDC is for the environment. He comments that closing any of the household recycling plants is unacceptable and would lead to an increase in fly tipping. A reduction in opening hours would be more acceptable and more likely to be the case. Fly tipping is a major problem in rural areas and is taken very seriously and will be prosecuted. Fly tipping can be reported on the HDC free phone telephone number which can be found on their web site. In the event of any proposed changes to waste collection there will be notification and an opportunity to make representations.

Open Meeting

The vice chairman opened the meeting for those in attendance to raise matters of concern

i) Stones which have been placed to protect the grass verge at “Gracelands” are very dangerous, because it isn’t possible to see them especially in the dark. It would be very easy to trip and fall over them. Stones or other obstructions are not allowed on the verge beyond the boundary, and it is the responsibility of the Highways to remove. However in order to be consistent they will take action not only against the property reported but against all similar offending properties.

ii) Report on District Council Matters (Darren Tysoe)

Planning applications relating to Sawtry – this is a concern especially because of village creep. There will not be any final decisions, but Sawtry cannot cope with any more large scale housing developments.

Litter pick-ups – It is possible to ring the District Council to arrange for a litter pick up.

District and County Council are experiencing large scale reductions in money which will inevitably lead to a reduction in

services. They will be trying to maintain services by operating more efficiently.

The Planning Department is now at full strength so should now be in a position to deal with any planning applications received far more effectively. Unfortunately however there are still only two planning enforcement officers and this needs to be increased.

13. Any Other Business

BH – Great Fen Project have been invited but unfortunately they did not respond and due to lack of interest in such an event from the village this has not been pursued.

14. Date of next meeting – TBA

Meeting closed at 8.15pm