

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Glatton Parish Council  
Held on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Present:

Brian Hackman (BH)  
Paul Williams (PW)  
Stephen Smith (SS)  
Gill Denton (GD)  
Hugh Appleby (HA)

Six residents of Glatton attended the meeting.

1. Apologies

Lynette Prain sent her apologies

2. Election of Chairman

Brian Hackman was elected as chairman (proposed by PW and seconded by GD). BH welcomed SS as a new member to the council.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman

Paul Williams was elected as vice-chairman (proposed by GD and seconded by SS)

4. Appointment of the Clerk

Hugh Appleby resigned as clerk and Helen Ford was appointed as the new clerk.

5. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012 were signed by the Chairman as a true record of proceedings.

6. Matters Arising

i) Glatton website – the webmaster Carole Green reported that the website which went live on 4<sup>th</sup> April has been very successful and that during the month of April there had been 1,340 hits. Businesses are advertising on the web site and this is free for the first year. BH commented that it is an excellent site and very well designed.

ii) Speed Reductions in Sawtry Road – LP is costing this work as well as ascertaining whether there are any residents in Sawtry Road willing to make a contribution to the cost of the work or whether the Highways

Authority will pay for the work. As LP was unable to attend the meeting, it was agreed that the item shall be held over to the next meeting.

iii) The tree which has fallen into the brook outside the Croften/Parson residences is a potential flooding hazard to the village. The tree needs to be removed but because of the dangerous nature of the road it will need to be done by the Highways Authority using temporary traffic lights. LP to follow up and report to the next meeting.

iv) Highway Wardens – LP to report on her findings at the next meeting. (Please note LP is not the Highways Warden)

v) Queen's Jubilee – The Parish Council decided that they would like to mark the occasion by planting an oak tree on land at the bottom of Church Road commonly known as the Village Green. The total cost of the tree including delivery etc. is £59.45. The Parish Council would like to mark the tree with a plaque, however in the current climate, a plastic plaque would be more suitable than a metal one. SS asked whether the council has any right to plant the tree on this land as it does not belong to the Parish and so there is a risk that the tree might be removed in the future. Hugh Appleby explained the position with regard to this piece of land, which has been regarded and used by the residents as a village green for many years and it was agreed that the members were prepared to take this risk.

vi) Heating Oil – BH has used the system and reported that it is a very good system with good service and costing approximately 10p per litre less. It is operated from the Great Gidding shop, but they are happy to include Glatton residents in the scheme. Details are available on the Glatton web site.

vii) Flock Farm – The clerk read a letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012 from Huntingdon District Council regarding an appeal to proposed development to Flock Farm. The first application for three large houses was turned down. There was no objection to the next application for a bungalow. The application was later turned down because of the design of the bungalow with a flat roof rather than a pitched roof, and this was made quite clear in the objections. The outcome of the appeal is awaited. However at the back of Flock Farm there has been a considerable development which is difficult to see from the road. There isn't any planning permission for that building. The Parish Council despite representations in person, by letter and by our district councillor to the

District Council have been unable to ascertain the nature of this building. The Parish Council will continue with its endeavours.

viii) PW requested a contribution of £400 towards the cost of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations for the Village Hall Committee. Hugh Appleby confirmed that before the precept that the balances of the accounts are £304.88 in the current account and £4,388.44 in the reserve account. The precept for this year will be £3,700 which is increased because of expensive tree work to be carried out and the possibility of a contested election. It was also increased because of increased expenditure for the Jubilee celebration. Members agreed that they were happy to spend £460 (including the oak tree) on jubilee celebrations. PW abstained with a declaration of interest.

### Open Meeting

The Chairman opened the meeting for those in attendance to raise matters of concern.

i) Mobile Library – the next visit by the mobile library is 17<sup>th</sup> May. It is use it or lose it so please visit the library.

ii) Subsidence – there is an area of subsidence outside 1, High Haden , caused by a sinking drain. This hazard caused a serious injury to an elderly resident. LP to investigate repair of the same with the Highways Authority and to report at the next meeting.

iii) Wet patch at the bottom of Church Road. It has now been investigated by the Council and it has been confirmed that it is a spring.

iv) There has been an offer to plant bluebells on the village green, however as these are Spanish bluebells and not indigenous the offer was kindly refused.

v) A question was raised as to the possibility of planting the oak tree to celebrate the jubilee alongside the village sign which celebrates the Queen's silver jubilee. However this area is probably too small for the oak tree in the long term.

### 7. Correspondence

i) Richard Hanwell who has carried out the internal audit on behalf of the Parish Council has sent in a letter of resignation as he is leaving the village. Parish will need to find a new accountant to audit the books.

BH recorded a vote of thanks to Richard Hanwell for his work on behalf of the Parish Council.

ii) Health Walk leaflets available for members

iii) Luminus have written concerning allotments. However this is not applicable in Glatton

## 8. Any Other Business

i) Automatic Defibulator- BH would like the Parish Council to consider buying an automatic defibulator which would be placed centrally in the village and to have training to use it. Emma Marshall has kindly offered to help with funding. SS has some reservations in the current culture of 'no win, no fee' and that the implications of the proposal should be considered. It must also be considered whether St. Georges home has such a machine and whether trained people could face many call outs from the home. BH will investigate through his contacts at St. John's Ambulance. Members agreed that the idea should be explored.

ii) Annual Audit – the internal audit has been carried out by Richard Hanwell. Members approved the 2011/2012 annual return and governance statement ready for submission to the external auditor.

iv) BH expressed his thanks on behalf of himself and the Parish council for all Hugh's hard work as Parish Clerk for the last 10 years. BH presented Hugh with a gift as a token of the council's appreciation.

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

