

Minutes of the meeting of Glatton Parish Council
Held on 10th October 2012

Present:

Brian Hackman (BH)

Paul Williams (PW)

Stephen Smith (SS)

Gill Denton (GD)

Lynette Prain (LP)

4 residents of Glatton attended the meeting.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th August 2012 were signed by the chairman as a true record of proceedings.

3. Matters Arising

i) Defibrillator – BH has completed some preliminary investigations. Defibrillators are completely safe and are not a temptation for thieves. The batteries last for approximately eight years and are easily replaced. The only legal cases as far as St. John's Ambulance are aware occurred in America where the company involved failed to provide a machine. BH will, following consultation with the senior cardiologist at Peterborough Hospital, write a piece for the Glatton web site.

ii) Nene and Ouse Community Transport – Lorna McGoldrick was unable to attend the last meeting. We will invite her to the next meeting, so that she can inform on the service provided.

iii) Speed Watch Initiative – There is considerable concern at the speed of vehicles travelling on Sawtry Road. Build outs have been considered, however we cannot impede the farming community from going about their business. The large farm machinery would not be able to use Sawtry Road if build outs were installed.

GD - Agreed.

LP - Many other villages in this area use the build out system of traffic calming and therefore unable to agree that it cannot be used in Glatton.

SS – Rather than build outs, the “sleeping policeman” system of traffic calming should be considered, as this does work and would not impede the farming vehicles.

PW – Highways cannot install any system which would prevent the widest vehicle allowed on the road from using it. It is far easier for a large vehicle to slow for a speed bump than to negotiate an obstacle in the road.

The consensus is therefore to look at the option of speed bumps. SS will (via the website) take the views of residents that may be affected. SS will also consult with Sawtry Parish Council regarding effectiveness and cost, through our district councillor, Dick Tuplin.

The police have been contacted regarding a wire to collect data, which they will go ahead with. The clerk will follow up progress.

iv) Posts – SS having contacted Cambridge County Council, Highways Authority, the legal position is that no one is entitled to put anything on the grass verge outside their house. If an accident occurs as a result of an obstruction on the verge or pavement, the Highways Authority is responsible; however they generally turn a blind eye, on the basis that if there aren't any complaints they do not pursue it. They do suggest the white plastic posts, which would crumple if hit. Suggestion is that we write to the households involved pointing out the legal position and their responsibilities. However as this might create unnecessary tension, decision taken that SS would approach the owner of Ganymede and ask him to paint the posts white and attach reflectors.

v) Pot Holes - SS has arranged for photographs of the offending pot holes and their locations to be sent to Cambridgeshire County Council, who will take action. SS will continue to follow the progress on this matter.

4. Trees at Poet Rowe's House

We have received three quotes to pollard the trees as recommended by Huntingdonshire District Council. It is not necessary to decide on the lowest price but to take the quotation which the members believe to offer the best value. Members agreed to offer the contract to Bob Widd Associates.

5. New Standards Regime and Code of Conduct

The most appropriate format is the form proposed by Huntingdonshire District Council, with amendments to clause 1.3, 2.2, deleting references to Cabinet Members and clause 4.2.4 deleting “from the Authority's monitoring officer” and adding “in accordance with section 3.3 of the

Localism Act". Members unanimously agreed to adopt the New Standards Regime and Code of Conduct in this format. A general dispensation to discuss the precept was granted by the Clerk.

6. Precept

Members agreed to maintain the precept at the previous level of £3,700, which will allow a cushion in the event of a casual vacancy and any further tree work which may potentially be incurred.

7. Correspondence

Regarding charitable donations members agreed to support Caresco and the Citizen Advice Bureau.

8. AOB

i) PAYE - The council are now registered for PAYE and NI contributions, however as this had not been completed in a timely fashion, the council may have been liable to a fine. The Chairman had been unaware of the change in regulations and had not been notified by HMRC. With thanks to Jo Williams this matter has now been settled and a fine will not be imposed.

ii) Flock Farm - Having contacted the enforcement officer at HDC, the building work which is currently taking place around the existing bungalow is "within permitted development". HDC have received a certificate of lawfulness and planning permission is not required. The building work is basically an extension to the existing building. With regard to the temporary building, this is allowable whilst carrying out work, but the council are seeking a timetable of events, so that they can ascertain when the work will be completed and the temporary building taken away. With regard to the bund and the pond the council are currently in discussion with the Environment Agency and the Independent Drainage Board for a flood risk assessment. The council believe that a planning application for the bund and the pond will be forthcoming.

iii) Dog Fowling – particularly on Mill Hill. LP would like to recommend that we request "No Dog Fowling" signs at the bottom of Mill Hill. Clerk to contact Highways Authority.

Open meeting

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

i) The no cold calling signs at either end of High Haden Road are faded. Clerk to approach Trading Standards to get the signs renewed.

ii) Thanks to Carole Green the web site is in good order and continues to receive around 67 hits per day. Thanks also to Terry Brignall for providing the excellent photographs. Carole will also approach Tom Millington regarding photographs which he has taken at events.

Date of next meeting – TBA

Meeting closed at 8.01pm