

Glaphorn Parish Council

Parish Clerk: Alan Tresadern 30 Lytham Park, Oundle PE8 4FB
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Minutes of the Glaphorn Annual Parish Meeting held at the Village Hall, Main Street on Thursday 9 April 2015 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr. Ian Davidson (Chairman) and 25 members of the public

Also in attendance: Alan Tresadern (Parish Clerk); County Councillor Heather Smith (NCC Oundle Ward); Sharn Mathews and Lucy Foster (Officers - East Northants Council); Inspector Julie Mead and PCSO Nadia Norman (Northants Police)

Apologies: District Councillor Jeremy Taylor (Prebendal Ward); Nick Knowles (Village Hall Committee); Wendy Knowles (WI President); Jeff Knowles (Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator) and Katherine Towns (Head Teacher Glaphorn School).

1. The Chairman welcomed all present and introduced the guests.

2. County Councillor's report:

Councillor Heather Smith presented a report on behalf of Northamptonshire County Council.

Councillor Smith focused on two topics: the planned changes to the education system in Northamptonshire; and the Women's Cycle Tour 2015.

Cllr. Smith spoke favourably about how the Glaphorn School was embracing the changes. Cllr. Smith commented on plans for the disposal of land, currently occupied by the Oundle Middle School, stating that after the change to Primary School status, there will not be a requirement for such a large site. As part of the property lies within the parish of Glaphorn it is of interest to the village, but Cllr. Smith stated the land is unlikely to be sold for at least two years, and as yet there has been no application for outline planning permission.

Cllr. Smith advised that the timescale for the changes to Prince William School will be phased over a two to three year period, with temporary accommodation being used in the short-term.

Mrs Ann Williams expressed concerns about the parking situation by Glaphorn School. (Clerk's note: I will put this matter to the Parish Council).

For the second time, the Women's Cycle Tour will be coming to Northamptonshire with Stage 3 on Friday 19th June starting at 10.00 am in Oundle and passing through Glaphorn, along Main Street, before turning left to Benefield. Cllr. Smith said, the Northamptonshire County Council will work with the Glaphorn School to ensure the children are involved, but it is up to the 'parish' to engage with the event as it feels appropriate.

There seemed to be general enthusiasm within the meeting for this occasion. It was noted that the matter will be on the agenda for the Parish Council's next meeting.

3. District Councillors report:

In the absence of District Councillor Taylor, Sharn Mathews (Executive Director & Monitoring Officer –East Northamptonshire Council) and her colleague Lucy Foster presented a report on behalf of ENC.

The report focused on two topics: the East Northamptonshire Greenway project and the Destination Nene Valley.

The Greenway will make attractive and safer walking and cycling routes available in the heart of the Nene Valley. It is being developed in phases, some of which are already completed and others will follow within the next few years.

The Greenway will help connect East Northamptonshire's communities to a central route that will run from Wellingborough Railway Station in the south and to Peterborough railway station in the north and vice-versa.

It will link open spaces together with opportunities for informal recreation and alternative means of transport to services and facilities. The project will also provide safe routes for young people who walk and cycle to school.

Destination Nene Valley will promote the Nene Valley as a competitive, sustainable destination, offering world class wildlife to a mixture of local, national and international audiences. Its focus is on creating an enterprising approach to the rural economy; to attract visitors and spend from local, national and international markets, as well as encouraging local communities to lead healthier outdoor lifestyles and promote green transport.

4. Police report:

Inspector Julie Mead presented a report on behalf of the Northamptonshire Police.

The presentation focused on new initiatives in Policing with a lower budget! Northamptonshire Police launched its Futures Programme last year which will focus on two distinct areas of the county and see intensive work carried out to tackle crime, and improve the quality of life for residents.

The project will focus on Oundle and its surrounding villages and the All Saints area of Kettering. It will see a new style of policing developed, with extensive community engagement used to identify people's concerns and priorities for their area.

With work from Special Constables, volunteers and organisations such as local councils and health bodies, the police will also work to improve peoples' feeling of safety and satisfaction with their area.

Parish Constables will be introduced in some areas to work directly with their own community.

The Police want more people to join Neighbourhood Watch and for Streetwatch to be a real focus for people's attention so the public can be a real part of the policing solution.

5. Annual report of the Parish Council:

The Chairman presented the annual report from the Parish Council.

Headlines included: Nene Valley News has been delivered around the village now for several months, with the delivery costs funded by the Parish Council. It is assumed that people will want this to continue.

The southern parish boundary, where it borders Oundle town, has been shown to be incorrectly drawn on some official documents. This came to light in consequence of a planning application. The matter is under review by ENC.

The cost of electricity for the street lighting, paid from the parish precept, will be increased by nearly 50% as of 1 May 2015, however, the current 'mercury' street

lamps are no longer manufactured and are being phased out and the Parish Council plans to replace all the village street lights with low energy LED lamps. This will substantially reduce running costs.

In his last report as Chairman of the Parish Council, Ian Davidson thanked his colleagues for their support and wished the next Parish Council every success.

To read the report in full please visit the village website www.glaphorn.org.uk

6. The meeting received reports from the following organisations:

- 6.1. Glaphorn Allotment Gardener's Association - presented by Heather Ball.
- 6.2. Glaphorn School - submitted by Head Teacher Katherine Towns.
- 6.3. WI - presented by Heather Ball on behalf of Wendy Knowles.
- 6.4. Neighbourhood Watch - none
- 6.5. Royal Oak Club - presented by Bob Brewer
- 6.6. Southwick & Glaphorn Show – presented by Ursula Wide
- 6.7. St Leonard's Church – presented by Ursula Wide
- 6.8. Village Hall – submitted by Nick Knowles.

To read the reports in full please visit the village website www.glaphorn.org.uk

7. New Parish Noticeboard:

The Clerk reported that a new Village Notice Board will be located outside the Village Hall. It will be a shared facility between the Village Hall and the Parish Council. The Parish Council secured funding with an Awards-for-all Lottery Grant. The final design, manufactured of man-made-materials allowing easy maintenance and long life, will have four bays. One will be for the sole use of the Village Hall and its associate users; one for general public use; and others for the Parish Council. The installation is likely to be late May or early June.

8. Adopt a Telephone Kiosk:

The telephone kiosk, located at Brookside, is available to the Parish Council to purchase for £1. The questions of, "Do we want it?" and "What do we do with it?" were aired. The consensus of the meeting was, the Parish Council should purchase the telephone kiosk and open discussions with the Village Hall committee to see if it will be viable to relocate the kiosk at the Village Hall. Several suggestions and ideas were loosely considered, including a library, a home for a defibrillator, a plant display and an art gallery.

9. Women's Cycle Tour coming to Glaphorn

This was covered at item 2.

10. Any Other Business

Bob Brewer said the Village Hall have looked into the purchase of a defibrillator but found them to be very costly at c. £2,500. It was noted that Fotheringhay have one (in a telephone kiosk). The Clerk said he would see if there are any funding opportunities available.

Ann Williams asked for a dog-litter bin to be installed by the footpath MZ6. (This runs from the Village Hall and heads north). Ann Williams also expressed concern about the untidy look of the brook as it passes under the bridge on Main Street by Brookside and asked if anything could be done to clean it up. The Chairman advised Mrs Williams to contact the Parish council about both matters.

However, the Clerk will put both items on the agenda for the Parish Council to consider.

Sally Nolan expressed disappointment that fellow parishioners were being inconsiderate by having bonfires at in appropriate times. I.e. in the middle of the day when she had washing hanging out!

Brian Scott suggested the Village Hall bring out their bunting for village use to celebrate the Women’s Cycle Tour.

Geoff Delany asked about the procedures adopted by the Parish Council when reviewing planning applications. The Chairman explained the current process and advised that recently there has been a significant increase in planning applications; therefore the procedure was under review by the Parish Council.

Malcolm Moss asked if a Village Design Statement could earmark land for development. The Clerk said this was possible.

Brian Scott, in the light (no pun intended) of the increase in energy costs, questioned whether the village needs to retain its street lights!

Malcolm Moss asked why there were no Parish Council accounts available at the meeting. The Chairman pointed out that this was not a Parish Council meeting; however the accounts will be available at the Annual Parish Council meeting on the 21st May.

There was no further business and the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.40 pm.

Signed.....
(Chairman)

Date.....

Reports/.....

REPORTS

Parish Council

Elections are scheduled to take place for the new Parish Council on 7 May 2015. Nominations closed today at 4 p.m. Three councillors, including the chairman are not standing for re-election. There are currently known to be seven candidates, the number required to constitute a full Council and as things stand they can be elected unopposed. Any more candidates and there will need to be a formal election.

There are major changes taking place in the way the Northamptonshire police force operates, driven mainly by cuts in funding. These include the recruiting of more Parish Special Constables and other volunteers to take part in local initiatives such as Neighbourhood Watch. Oundle has so far proved to be fertile ground with as many as 300 people coming forward and early operational results are extremely positive. The aim is to build on this by extending the message to the villages. Leaflets specially designed for Glapthorn have been produced and information is obtainable from the Parish Clerk, on the notice board and from the police and council websites. For the second year running, a stage of the professional women's international cycle race will start from Oundle - on 19 June 2015. The longest (140km) stage will pass down Main Street, Glapthorn on its way to Kettering.

Nene Valley News has been delivered round the village now for several months, the delivery costs funded by the Parish Council. It is assumed that people will want this to continue.

ENC has for some time been working on dedicated cycle and walking routes along the Nene Valley that will eventually link Wellingborough to Peterborough (The Greenway). This will take some years to complete due mainly to access problems over private property. Work is currently concentrating on the Oundle section. There is a wealth of information on the ENC website or in information literature available from the council offices.

Funding has now been obtained for the enlarged village notice board in front of the village hall, which will be put up in early summer 2015. This is a joint venture between the Parish Council and the Village Hall committee. There will be a section reserved for use by parishioners for posting flyers and personal items.

The southern parish boundary where it borders Oundle town has been shown to be incorrectly drawn on some official documents. This came to light in consequence of a planning application for six new residential dwellings on land thought to be in Oundle but in fact in Glapthorn. The matter is under review by ENC. Any financial consequences such as precept payments should in future be paid to Glapthorn. The application itself has been accepted by the Parish Council subject to some technical clarification. The application and its progress can be followed on the ENC website – as can information on all planning matters.

The cost of electricity for the street lighting, paid from the parish precept, will be increased by nearly 50% as of 1 May 2015. This is the first increase for seven years, but at £180 per annum is significant. Research in the market for a lower price has not been successful. However, the current 'mercury' street lamps are no longer

manufactured and are being phased out. The Parish Council plans and has already gone some way towards funding the replacement of all the village street lights with low energy LED lamps, provisionally scheduled for 2018/19. This will substantially reduce running costs (both supply and maintenance) and an already attractive return on the capital costs will become even better when set against the increased charges.

The annual litter pick takes place on 10-12 April 2015. Volunteers are most welcome. Equipment will be available from Leverton by tomorrow at the latest.

There was a zero response to a recent circular asking for volunteers to prepare a Design Statement which would record the wishes of the parishioners on the future development of the village. The proposal, which came through ENC, is part of a nationwide initiative to give people a say in how their local communities should develop. The lack of village interest resulted in the matter being dropped. However, there is still pressure from high places for these statements to be produced. A Design Statement comes in useful when considering contentious planning applications, as has been sometimes been the case recently in Glapthorn. Anyone with the time and motivation to set up and lead a working party to produce such a document should contact the Parish Clerk.

There are several important initiatives being promoted at national, county and district level which have direct relevance to local communities (e.g. the local change from three to two tier education). The Parish Council will be much better equipped to argue the views of the parishioners if there is an active dialogue with the community. A lot of work has gone in to making the Parish Council not only fit for purpose, and seen to be fit for purpose. It is to be hoped that the new notice board will contribute to this. Thanks to the efforts of the Parish Clerk, information on parish affairs can also be obtained from the Village website and the Parish Council's Facebook page. Parishioners are encouraged to use these outlets to keep themselves informed and then bring matters which concern them to the Council for debate. There is a period set aside at the start of each Council meeting as a public forum for this purpose.

This is my last report as Chairman of the Parish Council and I would like to take the opportunity to thank my colleagues for their support and to wish the next Parish Council every success.

Ian Davidson - 2 April 2015

Glapthorn Allotments and Gardeners Association

Once again we have had a very successful year on the allotments with all plots taken.

The boundary hedges are now in good order thanks to our volunteers and the plots have been topped with chippings generously donated by a GAGA supporter.

Deer were not seen on the allotments this winter although as it was such a mild winter we did not expect that deer would need to search too hard for food. We are however holding on to some money in case we do need to have a deer fence in place. GAGA received a generous donation from The Royal Oak Club for which we are very grateful – we may need to use this for any future deer fencing.

Our accounts have been professionally audited again by Bulley Davey on a charitable basis for which we are very grateful.

The grass is growing well and continues to be cut on a rota basis by a team of volunteers using the lawn mower donated, on permanent loan, by a plothead.

The compost bins on site are being well used and the manure supplied by Chris Crosby continues to be used on the plots. Again our annual water costs have been low thanks to the water harvested from the roof of the communal shed.

The committee decided against the purchase of a rotavator for plotheaders as plotheaders have differing requirements – it was felt that should anyone wish to rotavate their plot they could make their own arrangements.

We have negotiated a change in the classes open with the committee of the Southwick and Glaphorn Show. There will now be classes aimed particularly at members of GAGA.

In summary, GAGA continues to be a great success with plotheaders working well together.

Heather Ball

Secretary of Glaphorn Allotment Gardeners' Association

Glaphorn C.E. Lower School

Glaphorn C.E. Lower School is looking forward to becoming a primary school, taking Year Five children from September 2015 and becoming a complete primary school in September 2016. The school will have a temporary classroom in the playground for the next academic year whilst building work is completed on an extension onto the hall incorporating a new classroom and group room. The building work is due to begin in January 2016 and to be completed by July 2016. A new teacher, who is a Sports Specialist, has been appointed to begin in September 2015 and we are excited about the opportunities that will come from being a primary including closer cluster working, reducing transition issues for children and being able to nurture and support our pupils to become confident, independent learners to move onto their secondary school. The school, once again, is expecting to be over-subscribed for September 2015 entry.

It was all change for us back in September 2014 with the arrival of two new but very experienced teachers and a significant change in our approach to learning throughout the school. The children are working on a very creative curriculum now giving lots of opportunities for children to use and apply basic skills in real life contexts. The progress of the children, particularly the older children, has been outstanding and we are confident this approach will support our children as they move through Years Five and Six to reach high levels in reading, writing and maths whilst ensuring they remain enthusiastic about their learning. In the Spring Term, Class One learnt about their favourite stories, including planting beans for the allotment (Jack and the Beanstalk) and going up to Short Wood to find a gruffalo! Class Two studied London and had a brilliant trip there in March. Class Three studied Invaders and Settlers including a joint

day's workshop with Nassington School on the Romans, a trip to Peterborough Museum and culminating in a residential trip with Nassington School to York in May. They are planning an Invaders and Settlers afternoon for their families and the local community in the week beginning 18th May to share some of the things they have learnt so look out for more information shortly!

The school over the last year has been as busy as ever with church services in Glapthorn, Southwick and Oundle, sports events, trips, visitors and exciting curriculum events. Last May, we had our Diocesan inspection and were delighted to be judged good with outstanding features and that the 'capacity for driving up improvement is very strong' and 'learners' attitudes and behaviour are outstanding.' The school website is kept updated, including a copy of the inspection report, so please have a look at what we have been up at www.glapthornschoo.lk.org

Katherine Towns
March 2015

Neighbourhood Watch

None

Royal Oak Club

2014 was yet another good year for The Royal Oak Club. It opened on most Fridays during the past year, with a few exceptions; attendances throughout the year were generally in the 20's or 30's each week, with occasionally reaching 60 or more. Unfortunately we did not get many new members. We currently have 143 adult members and 23 juniors.

Our kitchen volunteers continue to serve up delicious food, using a wide variety of recipes, usually for only £5 per head including pudding. These gastronomic delights are very much appreciated by members and guests alike.

In the summer we held weekly barbecues which gave our kitchen helpers a well earned rest.

Committee members continue to man the bar on a rota basis so they all have a turn, sometimes with additional volunteer assistance. We are grateful to Marcus for agreeing to be on the bar rota even though he is not a committee member. We have had real ale from Nene Valley Brewery on occasions. However without a cellar we have difficulty keeping it in good condition and therefore we mainly use keg ale.

At our last AGM Allen Brown was elected as a full member of the committee. The rest of the committee remained unchanged.

We had several events and activities during the year:

TABLE TENNIS
PUB GAMES

QUIZZES

BINGO

BURNS NIGHT – with a superb three course supper, the wee piper from Oundle School, poetry, and whiskies

PANCAKE RACING

A SOUTH AFRICAN EVENING – with Karoo Curry, and South African wine and whiskey tasting

ST PATRICK'S DAY SPECIAL – with traditional Irish Fare and Irish Whiskey

PAELLA – by a chef from Polebrook

WE BBQ FOR YOU - with a special invitation to newcomers and non members, and games for children

BRING YOUR OWN BBQS

GLAPTHORN CONKER CHAMPIONSHIP

BEER MAT-FLICKING CHAMPIONSHIP

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

However by far the most memorable event was the HALLOWEEN EVENING. The ghost walk was really entertaining and factually correct in every detail. A BIG THANK YOU to John Coleman for all his research and wonderful delivery. The slaughter house with its real body parts was spine chilling. The wander in the haunted woods was scary thanks to the Young Farmers, and Andrew's props. And the meal was delicious. It was a brilliant evening and I would like to thank Alison for developing the idea and to everyone who made it happen. How can we follow that when we next want a really special occasion?

Finally I record my personal thanks to:

Royal Oak Club Committee – for their hard work.

Glaphorn Village Hall Committee – who we rely upon for our premises.

Tina Stone – for keeping the place nice and clean.

Organisers – who arrange special events.

Bar Helpers – for pulling pints.

Kitchen Helpers – for cooking and serving lovely food.

Our Posties - who deliver the flyers.

And lastly, but not least, those who help set up the tables and Chairs and put them away again but above all, you the participants – for making it all worthwhile.

All the hard work and support which makes our club successful is much appreciated by me and by many villagers who enjoy our social gatherings.

Bob Brewer

Southwick and Glaphorn Village Show

The 51st Southwick and Glaphorn Flower Show was held in the church in Glaphorn on 19th July 2014. It was a success and much enjoyed by all who attended. This year's show will be held on Saturday 4th July in the Village Hall in Southwick and the committee cordially invite everyone in Glaphorn to join in. The show schedules will be out in the next month or so, and they are delivered to every house in the village. This year's innovation is that there are now two separate classes for those who work on the

allotments in Glapthorn, one for adults and one for children, with a cup each kindly provided by GAGA.

Ursula Wide

St Leonard's Church

2014 has been a red-letter year for the church in Glapthorn, for it saw the completion of the new facilities and the re-ordering of church furniture, so that the internal space is now both more welcoming and flexible. The completion of the disabled lavatory and kitchen servery has meant that we can put on community events in the church, and also make things more comfortable and adaptable for our congregations, both those who worship every Sunday and those who visit for weddings, baptisms and funerals. We are grateful to all the funders who have helped us to achieve so much.

As a result of our improvements, this year the church has hosted the Southwick and Glapthorn Flower Show, a very successful concert in December given by the Oriana Choir, and also a successful Christmas bazaar, and we look forward to future events this year, including the chiming the bells, from the new raised ringing floor in the tower, on the anniversary of Victory in Europe day on 9th May.

We are continuing our maintenance programme for the church. Our priority this year is work on the south aisle roof, and in the longer term we are looking to improve the lighting and the sound system.

We continue to hold services weekly, including ones with participation by the children of Glapthorn School. The clergy in the Benefice of Oundle, with Glapthorn and Benefield, is now up to full strength, thanks to the very recent appointment of an Associate Vicar, the Reverend Jema Ball. The Glapthorn congregation numbers are the largest, in percentage terms, of any church in the Deanery of 27 churches, and they are rising slowly. But always there is much more to do, especially on the pastoral side, so we can never be complacent. If you've not yet joined us on Sunday at 9.15, please do come along one day. You will be assured of a very warm welcome, and you can participate as little or as much as you like.

Ursula Wide

Village Hall

The village hall committee has had another successful year with a number of projects been completed, such as the New village hall sign, the lighting over the sign to illuminate it and provide extra lighting for the parking bays; the installation of the solar panels which has started generating a return and providing the village hall with its Green Credentials; the replacement of the external lights at the door entrances; and the additional cupboard in the store room, to just mention a few of the improvements.

We have also had some exciting fund raising events such as the Safari Supper, and the Glapthorn village version of 'Countdown', both very successful and enjoyed by all.

In partnership with the Parish Council the Village Hall has agreed the replacement of a notice board with a shared version. We believe this will enhance the look of the hall as well as providing additional notice space. We thank the Parish Council for organizing the funding.

The village hall committee would like to thank the Royal Oak Club and all other hirers for the ongoing use of the hall, and we look forward to another successful year.

Last, but not least, I would like to thank the committee members for all their hard work and commitment for the last year.

Nick Knowles
