

GLAPTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

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2018 Northamptonshire Council of the Year

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Main Street on Wednesday 20 February 2019 at 7.30 pm

Present: Cllr. Malcolm Moss (Chairman); Cllr. Nick Knowles; Cllr. Alan Barnish; Cllr. David Chapple and Cllr. Mike Newton.

In attendance: Alan Tresadern (Clerk); and 4 members of the public.

1. Apologies:

Councillor Nerissa Buchanan was unable to attend due to a prior commitment; Councillor Roy Kerr was unable to attend due to illness. Their apologies were accepted.

2. Declaration of interest:

All present declared an interest in item 4.1, item 13 and item 14. Cllrs. Barnish and Knowles declared an interest in item 8.

3. Public forum:

Mathew and Lucie Walters expressed concern over the letter from the Oundle Rugby Club that supports the Parish Council's applications for funding the playing field project. Furthermore, they expressed alarm at Sport England's response to the council's planning application, in which they make reference to changing rooms and floodlights. Mr and Mrs Walters said such developments were not made clear to the village when the council sought support for the project.

The Chairman, Cllr. Malcolm Moss, reassured the meeting that floodlights are not in the plan nor is it envisaged there would be heavy use of the facility. However, he did point out that it was necessary to promote favourable correspondence such as the letter from the Rugby Club to encourage support for the various funding applications.

4. Planning matters:

The following NEW Planning Applications were considered:

- 4.1. 19/00055/FUL – Land, change of use to car park and recreation area with new vehicle access from Benefield Road at Glapthorn Primary School.
The members considered the application. Since this was the Council's own planning application it was deemed to be appropriate not to make any further response to the application at this stage.

Cllr. Alan Barnish expressed dismay at the lukewarm support of the school and the regional arm of Sports England in their comments on the planning application.

Cllr. Malcolm Moss said the school has a duty in relation to the planning application to point out their statutory duties regarding "safeguarding"; and Sport England's comments were from the regional office rather than the central funding operation to which an application for funding for the playing field had been submitted under their "Community Asset Fund". This provides funds for the wider community recreational use, not just sport.

- 4.2. 19/00092/FUL – retention of kitchen to annexe at The Cottage Benefield Road Glapthorn. *The members considered the application. It was resolved to authorise the Clerk to submit the following response: **No comment.***
- 4.3. 18/01496/FUL - Proposed two new cottage style dwellings. at Land Adjacent The Cottage Benefield Road. *The members considered the application. It was resolved to authorise the Clerk to submit the following response: **See Appendix A to these minutes.***

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk should also write to ENC reminding them of the need for some equitable arrangement for funding infrastructure to accommodate rural developments. Ideally a tariff system despite the known statutory impediments to such a scheme.

The following 'decisions' were noted:

- 4.4. 18/02297/FUL - Three-bedroomed detached dwelling and outbuilding at Leverton, Southwick Road. Permission Granted.
5. Minutes of the previous meeting:
It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting, held on the 17 January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
Matters arising: None
6. Windy Spire report:
It was RESOLVED to enter into a licence agreement with Spire Homes (LG) Limited to 'occupy' and be responsible for, the area of land now known colloquially as 'Windy Spire', next to No. 1 Brookside and The Brook on Main Street, Glapthorn.
7. Playing Field Association report:
Cllr. Malcolm Moss presented a report on the Glapthorn Paying Field project. See Appendix B below.
Cllr. David Chapple suggested it may be worth looking examples whereby other councils have set up a charity with its own bank account with the 'council' as the trustees.
8. Village Hall Representative:
It was RESOLVED to reappoint Cllr. Nick Knowles to serve as the Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Committee as required by the Village Hall Trust Deed.
9. Community Speed Watch report:
Cllr. Malcolm Moss presented a report on the Community Speed Watch programme. See Appendix C below.
10. Vehicle Activated Signs:
Cllr. Malcolm Moss advised on the planned locations on Benefield Road for two Vehicle Activated Signs. The type to be installed will be Speed Indicator Devices and one will be opposite the bridleway by the school facing west and the other, facing east, will be either on the existing school sign by Threeways or on a new post by the GAGA site. The devices will be battery operated and moveable.
11. Annual Monitoring Report of the Glapthorn Neighbourhood Plan:
In preparing the first annual monitoring report of the Glapthorn Neighbourhood Plan Cllr. Alan Barnish said he asked himself the question, "If we did the plan today, would we do anything different? He considered a more detailed 'tariff' scheme on each site would be appropriate; and some polices are too broad. It was RESOLVED to present the report to the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April.
12. Projected cash situation 31 March 2019:
The Clerk presented a report on the projected cash situation at the end of the current financial year (31 March 2019). See Appendix D below.
13. Village Sign:
It was agreed in principle to support a request for the Parish Council to support the erection of a 'Village Sign'(s) for Glapthorn and to consult the community on how the project might be funded. The matter will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.
14. Replacement grass-verge edging slabs – Main Street:
The members considered a request for the Parish Council to agree to replacement/covering of paving slabs forming the banking to the west of The Thatched Cottage (Main Street) by a stone wall. It was agreed to seek a more detailed and fully costed proposal and reconsider at a future meeting.

15. Further Flood prevention work:
A proposal to lay turf and plant suitable species on the banks of The Brook, following recent excavation of silt, was withdrawn. The land, in its present state, is unsuitable. The Clerk advised that he had instructed the contractor to revisit the site and complete the work, by reducing the height of the bunds and spreading the spoil; and to dispose of some of the debris by burning or removal by skip. Whilst the funds for this are coming from underspend of the allocated flood prevention grant the Chairman reminded the Clerk that such expense must come to the council for approval.
Clerks note: a group of volunteers attended the site on 23rd February and cleared more debris from The Brook to support the flood prevention effort.
16. Grass Maintenance Contract 2019:
The Clerk presented a report on the Grass Maintenance proposal for 2019 which advises of significant price increases by many contractors. See Appendix E below. It was RESOLVED to award a contract directly to Turney Landscapes and for the underspend from the 2018-19 contract to be carried forward to meet the extra cost.
17. Asset Register review – proposed write down of old printer:
It was RESOLVED to write-off from the fixed asset register the HP printer Envy 4507.
18. Finance report:

18.1. It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

Payments:

Date	Payee*	Details	Amount £
21-Jan	Landtech	Ditching improvements	1653.60
21-Jan	ENC	Grass maintenance	1137.70
28-Jan	Gigaclear	Home 50 unlimited broadband in Village Hall	41.30
01-Feb	County Life Ltd	NVN delivery	23.84
01-Feb	Currys PC World	Norton Anti-virus renewal	17.99
11-Feb	Colemans	Stationery	58.27
11-Feb	Andy Kemp	PC health check on laptop	50.00

19. Dates for forthcoming meetings:
The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday 21st March in the Village Hall to start at the **later time of 8.00pm**.

It was RESOLVED to move the Annual Parish Council meeting to Thursday 23rd May to be held in the Village Hall commencing at 7.30pm.
20. Closure:
There being no further business the Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed..... (Chairman)

Date.....

NB: Copies of full reports are available on the village website, www.glapthorn.org.uk, or from the Clerk, by arrangement.

/Appendices

Appendix A – Item 4.3 Planning Application 18/01496/FUL response:

Glaphorn Parish Council notes that the revised planning application for two dwellings shows a reduction from two of '4-bedroom properties', to two of '3-bedroom properties'. However, this has not been accompanied by changes to the overall dimensions of the proposed properties but by a simple, and apparently easily reversible, alteration to internal walls. This does not address the Parish Council's concern that developers should seek to address the need for smaller and more affordable dwellings (as set out in both Joint Core Strategy and Neighbourhood Plan Policies). Nor do these small internal changes mitigate the concern that the properties are too large and dominant for the site and sit uncomfortably with neighbouring properties.

The Parish Council has previously raised concerns about the need for a footpath joining up the new development with the existing developed area of Glaphorn and for traffic calming measures on this difficult and dangerous stretch of road. It is understood that these matters have been addressed.

If this application is approved, Glaphorn Parish Council would expect conditions to be attached stipulating that:

1. the properties shall not be altered back to 4-bedroom properties
2. a footpath shall be provided along the existing grass verge from The Cottage to the entrance to this development, and ideally on towards the Glaphorn Allotments, next door.
3. a contribution of a minimum of £1000 be made towards speed reduction measures currently being agreed between the Parish Council and the Highways Authority.

It is the view of the Parish Council that this developer is not acting within the spirit of the Council's support for this site, within the Glaphorn Neighbourhood Plan, as suitable for development. Nonetheless, with the aforementioned conditions in place the Parish Council, with some reluctance, will not object to the proposal.

Appendix B - Item 7 Glaphorn Playing Field Association

1. Grant Applications

- a) The decision on the application to East Northants Council's "Community Facilities Fund" for a grant of £50,000 will be made at a meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee on February 27th.
- b) The application to Sport England (max. grant £150,000) will be put before a "peer review panel" in the next few weeks and if positive could give a conditional offer subject to ownership of the land and planning consent.

2. Planning Application

It has been decided at East Northamptonshire Council that the application will go before the Planning Committee rather than be determined by officers as it has been deemed to be a "major development". Although this has delayed matters until April's planning meeting the upside is that councillors can be lobbied.

Issues have been raised by statutory consultees relating to traffic and drainage. As far as the traffic matters are concerned the council is well aware of these from the NP and its own comments to ENC. However, the traffic report did not use the accurate figures from the council's own 2015 speed survey which differentiates between "oncoming" and "receding" traffic. Although traffic speeds coming into the village from Benefield (oncoming) showed an 85th percentile of 38mph those going out of the village (receding) showed only 34mph. We have unfortunately repeated this error in our submissions to ENC. The relevant parties have been notified of this situation.

3. PWLB

Permission to raise a loan of up to £60,000 was granted by the Dept. of Communities, Housing and Local Government on the 16th January 2019.

4. Charitable Status

In order to maximise its potential to obtain grant funding the PFA wishes to register as a charity but to do this it is required to have its own bank account. It therefore needs the consent of the council to do this.

5. Liaison with the school/diocese

There are ongoing deliberations with the school reference "safeguarding" issues and with the diocese regarding the arrangements to construct an access to the playing field/car park through the corner of school land by the bridleway. The question is to lease or to buy?

Appendix C - Item 9 Community Speed Watch (CSW)

At a public meeting on 18th October last year the following volunteered to be part of the 2019 Community Speed Watch team.

Malcolm Moss; Ted and Helen Starsmore; Nerissa and Ian Buchanan; Luke Mann; Allen Brown; Andy Pridmore; Matt Walters; Lucie Walters; and Ian and Pauline Davidson.

Training will be on 23-Mar-19 in Northampton. Volunteers will travel by car-share.

Glaphorn has been paired with Cotterstock. The speed device and associated equipment will be delivered to GLAPTHORN on 30-Mar-19.

The equipment is then exchanged between Glaphorn and Cotterstock on alternate weeks over the 6-week period. The equipment will then be collected from COTTERSTOCK on 11-May-19

Each trained community can request up to two further fortnightly sessions during the CSW enforcement window (Feb – Oct). Places are limited and will be on a first come first served basis.

Appendix D – Item 12 Projected unallocated reserve at 31 March 2019

Year-end balance	£ 9,344	
VAT reclaim	<u>£ 1,511</u>	
Total income	£10,855	
Allocated Reserve	£3,200	
VAS B/F	£1,000	
Playing Field allocation B/F	£2,333	
Recruitment Clerk	£ 400	
Election 2020	<u>£ 600</u>	
Total commitments	£7,533	
Unallocated		£3,322

Appendix E - Item 16 Grass maintenance 2019

The budget for 2018 grass maintenance was £1,405. The actual invoiced sum from ENC (using a contractor called Turney) was £1,137.70. The reduction was due to the seasonal weather giving an underspend of £267.30.

The budget for 2019 grass maintenance is £1,512.78, but the quote from ENC, using Turney, is £2,161.96. An uplift against the budget of £649.18.

(The general feeling from fellow councils is this is an industry wide increase as many grass maintenance contractors feel they have either been undercharging or costs have risen significantly. Many Clerks are seeking other quotations).

I have received three other quotes:

Wellingborough Norse £3,154.32
Mowerman £1,960.00
Turney direct* £1,766.88

I therefore recommend the contract is let to Turney (without ENC involved) and the underspend from 2018-19 (£267.30) is added to the budget to meet the shortfall of £253.90.

*The Turney quote to ENC was also £1,766.88 but ENC added an uplift of 22% for a management fee to cover 'monitoring/complaints handling'. I see no reason why the Glaphorn Parish Clerk cannot monitor the contract and handle complaints.