

# GLAPTHORN PARISH COUNCIL

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## **CLERK'S REPORT – 17 MAY 2018**

### **Purpose of report**

This regular report provides a brief update on activity since the last ordinary council meeting, which may not be covered under the meeting agenda.

### **Call Connect Bus Service**

The Call Connect Bus Service is a public bus service that operates in Peterborough, Rutland, Stamford and the Welland Vales that can be pre-booked on a 'dial a bus' basis. The 'bus' serves Oundle, Stamford Peterborough & Thrapston and a number of surrounding villages, and is run as a joint venture by Lincolnshire, Rutland, Peterborough and Northamptonshire County and Unitary Councils. In February of this year, Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) gave notice that it will withdraw from the partnership with effect 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018. On 9<sup>th</sup> May I attended a meeting, called by NCC, to explain the options open to the towns and parishes that wish to retain a 'Call Connect Bus Service'.

NCC was making an annual contribution to the scheme of £150k of which £43k was deemed to provide the services local to Glapthorn. A new funding partner is proposed to be East Northamptonshire Council (ENC), HOWEVER ENC will not be putting up the cash. ENC will act as the 'partner' and collect subscriptions from participating towns and villages.

The cost of providing a service to Glapthorn and the surrounding area will be £43k for a 12-month period. The pro-rata sum required to fund the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 (year-end) will be £25k. Thereafter, it will be £43k per year (subject to contract renegotiation due during the period).

The new service for Glapthorn would be available on Mon – Fri 0700 – 1900 and on Saturday 0730-1830. In addition to being able to travel to Oundle and Thrapston, Glapthorn residents would also be able to travel to Stamford and Peterborough.

During the period, 1st March 2017 to 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, 194 people boarded the bus and 172 alighted the bus at Glapthorn. The sum of 366 passenger movements will go towards determining the financial contribution required from this Parish, should the Council choose to participate. A list of all usage per town/village is attached.

The pro-rata payment would be based on the community's current use, weighted by whether or not their service is due to be all day on Mon – Sat or just off peak on Mon – Fri. It was considered by the meeting not to include the population of the community, as another weighting factor, as it would be too complicated.

It is envisaged that Councils will add the sum required to their Precept for 2019-20 and make a 'contribution' from their reserves for the period 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. It is expected there will be a shortfall after the funds have been collected for the latter, therefore ENC are considering making up the shortfall.

There was some 20 people at the meeting who expressed general support for this initiative. There was a sense that communities should, in future, try to build the demand by encouraging clubs for example to use the service. It was also noted that a local bus-service can enhance house prices! Most importantly everyone agreed that we must all do our best to avoid rural isolation therefore support for this venture is vital.

### **General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**

I attended a course on the Data Protection laws at Moulton on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**Diversion of Footpaths MZ5 and MZ7**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018 NCC made the order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 to divert the footpaths MZ5 (part and MZ7 (part). This has now been approved and the new footpath route is lawful.

**ACRE Best Village Competition**

I had a meeting with Elizabeth Barnish, Secretary of the Village Hall Committee during which we shared ideas for the project and I gave advice on funding sources and options.

**Traffic Incident**

I received message from a resident via the website, about an incident that happened on Benefield road at 4.45pm on Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018 when, according to the message, “a van travelling from the Corby direction came around the bend from the school at high speed. The vehicle was in the middle of the road and had clearly momentarily lost control due to his speed and the bend. This caused the correspondent to make an emergency stop”.

The reporting and logging of such incidents will hopefully, one day, assist with the case for remedial action.

**Alan Tresadern**

**Clerk to the Parish Council**