



CAYTHORPE

Parish Council

Minutes of Caythorpe Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting held on 1 May 2018 in Caythorpe War Memorial Hall, Caythorpe, Nottinghamshire

- **Apologies for absence:** none
- **Present:** Chair, 5 Councillors and 6 parishioners
- **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 31 May 2017:**
These were read out and agreed as a true record and correct by Cllr Harbidge, seconded Cllr Duff.
- **Chair's report:**
The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that interest in the Parish Council's activities remains low despite continued efforts to engage with villagers through the use of the newsletter, website and social media. She commented on the lack of female representation on the Parish Council and on the relatively high average age of councillors, expressing concern that the Parish Council is not more representative of the village demographic. She advised that there would be a village tidy up during June and expressed the hope that as many villagers as possible would take part.
Use of the Parish Council website remains steady, and it proves a useful resource for sharing meeting agendas and minutes, as well as other village news and events, and the membership of the village Facebook Page continues to increase, providing a real-time forum for villagers to discuss a variety of matters.
Taking the Annual Parish Meeting as an opportunity for further engagement, she explained that Parish Councillors are volunteers who utilise their time and skills to represent the village in the wider arena on matters such as crime, flooding issues, building development and speeding traffic, and who volunteer alongside many other villagers to help keep the village clean and tidy, and to maintain its fixtures and fittings.
She explained that over the last year specifically, the Council has continued to pursue ways to reduce the amount of speeding traffic and that, having been disappointed to find that although speed monitoring had demonstrated an extremely high level of traffic passing through at over

30mph, Nottinghamshire County Council deemed the volume of traffic to low to warrant intervention, they were hoping to get the speed tubes re-laid during the busier summer months.

She also advised that there is around £1,700, from CIL money and money set aside for security that proved unfeasible, available for a special project in the village and invited villagers to make suggestions with regard to its expenditure.

Finally, she thanked a large number of villagers for their help around the village and thanked everyone for coming.

- **Finances including Grant Thornton audit:**

Draft copies of the 2017/18 Treasurer's Report / Financial Statement were circulated, and Cllr King outlined the year's finances. In anticipation of the proposed security provision, the Council had an increased precept allocation of £3000, which, along with a carried forward figure of £2,769 and in-year receipts of £1,269 gave overall receipts of £7,038. Against this, in-year payments totalled £2,413. The resulting closing balance for 2017/18 was £4,625.

In view of the high end-year balance, the Council sought a slightly lower precept for 2018/19 of £2,000.

Cllr King explained that our audit requirements for 2017/18 have changed. In view of our low income / expenditure levels, Caythorpe Parish Council is now exempt from external audit scrutiny. However, it was explained that we are still required to produce and publish statements as part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (monitored by PKF / Littlejohn). This includes an internal audit.

A villager enquired about the nature of the rent payments / receipts. Cllr Cons explained that the Council has historically rented land to meet potential villager allotment needs. The land is currently sub-let for farming.

- **Flood Warden's report:**

Thankfully there has been little to report apart from a flood alert in March 2018. As part of the improvements to the information issued, Cllr Harbidge has added photographs to the regular updates to show how the river reacts during flood alerts. He also encouraged villagers to use the Caythorpe Facebook page as it is a good source of information including news about flood alerts. If residents wish to be included, then contact the Clerk or Cllr Harbidge.

- **Neighbourhood Watch report:**

As Caythorpe is a linear village we are a target for thieves. In January a property was broken into on Main Street, through the rear of the property. The property was ransacked with a television being taken, which was very upsetting for the resident. If anyone sees anything suspicious or a crime being committed phone 999 as you could be providing vital information to the police. Provide as much information as you can such as a description of the vehicle, the registration number and description of the occupants etc. Don't leave personal property and valuables in view in your car. Cllr Harbidge also warned residents to be aware as Summer is approaching they should protect garden sheds, equipment and furniture.

The chair and villagers thanked Cllr Harbidge for his hard work as both neighbourhood watch co-ordinator and flood warden.

- **Any other business, discussion and general questions:**

A villager raised an issue of potentially dangerous parking in Lowdham opposite the turning into Caythorpe Road. While this is not in Caythorpe, a councillor knew whose car it was and volunteered to speak to them.

Likewise, parking continues to be hazardous outside The Old Volunteer, on the bend. It was noted that the landlord has put planters out to displace the cars further towards the straight area of road, but that the customers had moved them back away from the road. Councillors and villagers discussed the fact that it is a thriving business which is welcome, and that the management have been co-operative, noting that the problem seems to have improved somewhat and would require monitoring.

Another villager, who is a regular litter picker and dog walker, commented on the large amount of rubbish they collect every day, including bottles from hedge bottoms, especially around the Old Volunteer and cigarette ends outside the Byars Nursing Home and village hall, plus rubbish dropped by the refuse lorries on bin day. The Parish Council provided litter pickers to aid villagers in the task.

One resident asked if the Parish Council were aware of the looming potential end date for permission to use the permissive way. No-one was certain of the legal position and the villager agreed to make enquiries and pass any information on. She also shared a concern that the drainage ditch was not being cleared at the rear of her property, between the cricket club and Lowdham. Other villagers suggested that Newark Area Internal Drainage Board may be responsible.