

## MAIN MINUTES MARCH, 2010

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF GOTHAM PARISH COUNCIL 2<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010, held in the Memorial Hall Weldon Room, COMMENCING AT 7.30 P.M.

---

**Present:** T.Vennett-Smith, (Chairman), G.Trickett, (Vice-Chairman) J.M.F.Royce, B.J.Walker, M.Frankish, J.P.Anderson, P.R.Dines, R.Muir, E.Padden, G.Clark, D.Bexon, S.Hall, P. Dainty.

**In attendance:** RBC Deputy Chairman - Paul Randle, RBC Project Planner - P. Marshall

The Chairman welcomed Mr Paul Randle and Mr. Philip Marshall to the meeting.

**10/34: Apologies:** None

**10/35: Acceptance of Apologies:** N/A

**10/36: Declaration of Interest:**

B.J.Walker and P.R.Dines as Trustees, declared an interest in any discussion that involved the Memorial Hall.

**10/37: Minutes of the previous meeting:**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010 as circulated, be signed as a true record of the business transacted, with the following amendments: **10/24: Finance Monthly Payments and Receipts: Reword paragraph as follows: Cemetery:** J.P.Anderson queried the decision made at the Finance Committee meeting to request transfer of the burial funds held by the PCC for use by GPC for Cemetery maintenance. The PCC/GPC agreement for official handover of Cemetery duties had not yet been signed. J.P.Anderson had apologised to the PCC for the letter requesting the burial funds: unfortunately this letter had also included the £500 donation to the church for roof repairs. J.M.F.Royce, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said he had assumed the formal arrangements were concluded when the Chancellor of the Diocese had submitted her decision to approve the faculty. He was under the impression that the burial funds had already been promised to GPC without need for further paperwork. As the commencement of the reordering was imminent, substantial expenditure would shortly be incurred. J.P.Anderson asked the Council for the assurance that no further communications should be made to third parties re Cemetery matters without his prior consent.

**10/21: Report by Chairman of Planning and Development Committee (J.P.Anderson) second paragraph: delete E.Padden and replace with G.Clark. 10/25 Gotham News – delete ‘part’.**

PROPOSED: J.P.Anderson SECONDED: J.M.F.Royce. Vote: All in favour.

**Progress arising from the Minutes: Nil to report.**

**10/38: RBC Core Strategy Consultation:**

The Chairman invited J.P.Anderson to open the debate on the RBC Core Strategy Presentation.

J.P.Anderson had received a copy of the Core Strategy – ‘Vision for the Future’ which included various aspects/details of the consultation, together with forms and email reply address which should be received by RBC by the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010. J.P.Anderson invited Deputy Chairman P.Randle and Project Planner, P.Marshall to give a short report and an update on the latest news on the procedures re consultation on the Core Strategy.

Mr. Marshall explained a less formal approach to consultation i.e. The Big Picture which included ten questions and could be accessed on the RBC website. Two questions related to the Clifton site. RBC did not support the Clifton site in principle but were under pressure from the Government to make provision for 15,000 new houses by 2021. Should RBC not plan for the future, it might be faced with many appeals which could ultimately result in a less appealing housing development. e.g. The Sharpill Appeal was lost. If RBC did not put forward an urban sustainable development, the Government could do it for them. Mr. Randle advised on the importance of objectors giving reasons ‘why’ they were opposed to development plans. If a development was built, it was important to ascertain ‘what made a good community for the future with adequate transport links’. Exhibitions were being set up throughout the Borough and in Gotham Memorial Hall on the 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 from 2 – 7 p.m. More information was available on the Big Picture website which was the most efficient way for RBC to receive comments. The RBC customer service centre could be contacted by telephone. A Parish Form would take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010 for more information on Clifton and Gamston sites. The Greater Nottingham Community Growth Point Model would look at cumulative effects across the region on the impact of traffic. The Nottingham City Council, Nottingham County Council, Highways Agency would have to approve the Traffic Model and its sustainability, prior to substantial developments. If the NET 2 and the A453 widening had not taken place, there would be no development. The Chairman invited comments from round the table which were, as follows:

- A Clifton development would not feel part of RBC and could be incorporated into Nottingham City Council.

- Government targets too ambitious and impossible to achieve.
- Would the traffic model include rat running figures?
- Green Belt Land once allocated could not be withdrawn.
- M.P's had not challenged the need for three million houses nationwide.
- The development would be better spread among existing villages which would prove a happier place to live.
- The threat of a large-scale development at Clifton had already prevented small scale development within Gotham.
- Did the Castle Donington development effect regional numbers. – No, as in N.W. Leicestershire.
- Should a sustainable urban development go ahead, RBC would lose a large area of land to Nottingham City. – Boundary division held every ten years.
- Employment during the recession – what jobs available and what likely future employment? Actual house building would provide jobs for up to twelve years. Businesses might move out of the city to avoid parking levy.

The Chairman reiterated the difficulty of enforcing the importance of more letter writing on the parishioners. He reminded Council that it was not the whole Council that made the ultimate decision over housing but a Cabinet of six members.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Randle and Mr. Marshall for their attendance and they left the meeting at 8.40 p.m.

The Chairman called for a vote on the need for a Village Public meeting to help gain support for a response to the Core Strategy ten questions. Questions could be asked such as 'Do people prefer an extra three hundred houses in Gotham or four thousand two hundred houses at Clifton? Vote for a Public Meeting: six in favour, three against, four abstentions.

Barton and Thrumpton might wish to join forces and engage legal advice from a Barrister.

It was decided to hold a Public Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2010 in the Memorial Hall. P.R.Dines would check hall availability. D.Bexon offered to borrow a microphone and speakers for the evening. R.Muir would print a leaflet following T.Vennett-Smith's and J.P.Anderson's consultation over its content. Leaflets would be delivered to every household in the village.

#### **10/39: Finance Monthly Payments and Receipts:**

Receipts and Payments: RESOLVED: That the receipts, since the last meeting, are noted and the Accounts in Appendix F1 be confirmed and authorised for payment.

PROPOSED: J.M.F.Royce SECONDED: J.P.Anderson Vote: All in favour.

#### **NALC salary award for 2009/10 for Clerk:**

The Clerk had not yet received a response from L.Ogilvie of NALC re the salary award for 2009/10 and the correct procedure for spinal column promotion. (Agenda item for April, 2010)

#### **Sponsorship of C.Jones re RCAN: (Rural Community Action for Notts).**

The Chairman had received an application for sponsorship from C.Jones in aid of RCAN – fund for work and IT opportunities for all ages.

Ms. Jones had a personal target to raise £400 by walking fifteen miles.

PROPOSAL: Donation of £30 to RCAN.

PROPOSED: M.Frankish, SECONDED: B.J.Walker Vote: All in favour.

The Chairman had received an application for support for Ruddington Army Cadets toward a total of £10,000.

PROPOSAL: Donation of £100 to Ruddington Army Cadet Force. (Gotham included in detachment area).

PROPOSED: M.Frankish, SECONDED: B.J.Walker Vote: All in favour.

#### **10/40: Gotham News:**

J.M.F.Royce congratulated Gotham News editorial team on the latest copy and receipt of advertising revenue. Thanks for M.Weightman's contribution to sports news which was well received.

#### **10/41: Report by Chairman of Planning and Development Committee (J.P.Anderson)**

J.P.Anderson reported a meeting of the Planning Committee had been held on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. He was pleased to announce G.Clark had joined the Committee. The stables on Leake Road had been developed exactly to plan. The Hay Barn on Moor Lane looked taller than on the original planning application and had been reported to RBC for checking. J.P.Anderson, Report on the ELF meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 as follows:

J.P.Anderson, G.Trickett and B.J.Walker had attended an Environmental Law Foundation meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 at County Hall. The meeting concerned information re Public Enquiry procedure and referral to the Ombudsman. The meeting had been well attended by people interested in preservation of the Green Belt and also barrister, Toby Fisher of Landmark Chambers in London. He advised on a need to prove that 'something had been undertaken incorrectly' in order to sway a decision in a planning matter.

**10/42: Planning Decisions Received: Nil**

**10/43: Planning Applications Received: Nil**

**10/44: Chairman's Report: Environment Committee: (Chairman: M.Frankish)**

M.Frankish reported no environment meeting had been held in February. Two bus shelters had been erected on Nottingham Road.

**10/45: Policing Matters/Vandalism:**

B.J.Walker had circulated the month's crime figures.

- Bogus water board officials had been reported in the village.
- There had been an attempted theft of lead flashings.
- A van had been searched outside 11 Nottingham Road when dubious characters had been interviewed by police.

**Shooting in the Village on the 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2010.**

B.J.Walker reported a shooting had occurred outside the Star public house on Nottingham Road when four people had been arrested for the non-fatal shooting of two people. The village had been blocked off on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February while police carried out forensic tests. The diversion signs for traffic from Nottingham and Loughborough had been inadequate.

**10/46: Email Protocol:**

G.Trickett offered to draw up a protocol for future Council emails.

**10/47: Cemetery Update (J.P.Anderson)**

J.P.Anderson reported the formal handover document from the PCC to GPC Cemetery control had been signed on the 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2010. Tree work was almost completed and some headstones had been removed to the side of the Cemetery. Phase Two of the project concerned maintenance.

**10/48: Chairman's Report:**

The Chairman announced the following items:

He would be away on business for most of March.

Thanks to retiring Councillor P.Dainty for her Council work and Speed Gun organisation. A Casual Vacancy poster would be placed on the Parish noticeboard and RBC electoral officer would be informed.

**10/49: Clerk's Report:**

The Clerk had received the RBC financial reports which were passed to J.M.F.Royce.

Dates of RBC meetings had been received.

The Clerk invited Agenda items for the Annual Village Meeting to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

**10/50: Matters to Report:**

Mrs. J.Clark would take over Speed Gun organisation.

The Mobile Speed Gun had been trialled and R.Muir offered to transport it to The Ridgeway, when necessary.

E.Padden reported Ringmaster had been withdrawn due to lack of funds. The telephone messaging would be taken over by the Police.

Countylink contained a Village Hall competition to be given to The Trustees of the Memorial Hall.

B.J.Walker would resign as a Trustee in May, 2010 and asked for a Council volunteer to fill the post.

J.M.F.Royce asked for a volunteer to check the cemetery heavy duty water meter in order to ascertain whether or not a leak had occurred. J.P.Anderson offered to carry out a periodic meter check.

J.M.F.Royce reported Havenwood Construction was to start work at the Manor Farm site.

G.Trickett had attended an Executive Scout meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2010. The Scouts were fund raising to purchase the Malt Street Scout Hut.

**10/51: Date and Time of Next Meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 to be held in the Weldon Room in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m. Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.**