

NOTES – GREETHAM ANNUAL PARISH MEETING **Held on 14th May 2025 @ 6pm held at the Community Centre**

15 members of the public attended.

Ken Edward (Chair of Greetham Parish Council) opened the meeting.

An Annual Parish Meeting is required to be held between 1st March and 1st June every year.

GPC Annual Report

The Chair of GPC, Ken Edward, thanked all fellow councillors and clerk for the hours of hard work they all do in delivering various projects and duties.

The year has been extremely busy for quarrying issues. Ricardo, an independent monitoring company, was engaged to do PM10 dust monitoring on a robust and scientific basis. This was needed because Mick George submitted a very poor monitoring regime. Because of approval by RCC Environmental Health, no effective monitoring of dust emissions has been achieved. Results from the Ricardo monitoring have provided the basis for GPC to contact the international organisation, Heidelberg, who have recently acquired Mick George. They have agreed to take full responsibility for the ongoing dust monitoring. GPC has worked hard to establish a good relationship with Heidelberg and get suitable monitors installed.

Further quarry applications were submitted throughout the year. The first, for an extension to the existing Hooby Lane quarry and the second for a large new quarry in the area opposite Hooby Lodge Farm on New Road Stretton. Both applications are currently being determined by RCC and GPC are pushing for the planning authority to undertake a detailed cumulative impact assessment.

As part of the environmental strategy, GPC have made significant progress in achieving a continuous hedge line around the village, and feel very lucky to have the group, Greetham Goes Wild.

Plans are underway to link the new housing development in the old quarry to the Community Centre by a footpath, to enable a safe route to walk away from the main road.

The Village Green which needs a makeover, is something to pursue in the year ahead. GPC also want to continue to look at ways of slowing down traffic and making Greetham a safer place to live.

Support for the Community Centre is also a major commitment – the Centre's facilities are excellent and offer a great multipurpose venue at a reasonable cost.

As part of our community development, GPC are now working with Thistleton, Clipsham, Stretton and Pickworth to form a network called the Rutland High 5 to work with on various projects.

COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

Pat Evans, as Chair of Greetham Community Centre gave a summary of events over the last year. It has been a very busy and successful year with the Centre being used more, particularly during the day for various sports. There has been a noted increase in bookings from outside the village. A Family Fun Day run for the first time had proved successful and the field is now being used for the teaching/training of football. 5 motor car rallies have taken place, providing a good

income. As a consequence, GCC is able to hold some village events free of charge, such as the Fireworks evening and Schools Club in the School Holidays.

The monthly Cinema Club is proving popular at a fraction of the cost for those attending.

In the coming year, the Community Centre roof will be replaced. A grant has been awarded of £36,000 towards the work, thanks to Linda Edward for applying for the grant.

A Questionnaire will be going out to all residents in the village to find out what people want.

The Chair expressed thanks to all volunteers, the Trustees and GCC Manager, together with GPC for their support.

GREETHAM CHURCH

Jackie Gauntly gave a talk on 3 topics which Greetham Church are currently involved in:

1. Greetham Church Bells

Members of the PCC have managed to raise donations, together with grants and support from other organisations over the past 10 months, to restore the Church Bells and frame.

The bells have been removed and sent off for repair and the old frame has been dismantled and removed, together with the clock mechanism.

It was noted that the small bell was flat, but when they come back all bells will be perfectly tuned. The bells are expected to be returned mid July and it is hoped that they will be on the ground for display before being re-installed.

There will be special service on 14th September and the Church are planning a celebration to the whole village that weekend.

2. The Vicarage

The Church Vicarage has now been empty for over a year, and it is becoming an eyesore and a wasted resource. It is the responsibility of Peterborough Diocese and very little information is forthcoming. Substantial work is needed to enable it to be rented.

It was noted that any individuals concerned can write to Peterborough Diocese.

It was suggested and agreed that the Church and GPC work together to get RCC involved as there is potential for the property to be made into small housing units if the property was upgraded, which has been identified as a need in Greetham.

3. Community Fridge

The Community Fridge operated by Root and Branch has now been running for a year, hosted in the Church. This initiative saves waste food going into landfill, and provides an opportunity to gather in the Church for a chat with tea and coffee. The Church is happy to host other community events.

There will be a plant and cake sale on 24th May at Shepherds Lane grass verge 10 – 12am.

The Church Fete will be held on Saturday 5th July 12am – 4pm.

GREETHAM WI (Women's Institute)

Helen McGarrigle as President of Greetham WI gave a talk. The WI is the first organisation that used the Community Centre. It meets every second Monday of the month, has 30 – 35 members and is a very useful social gathering. The Greetham WI holds several village social events, such as the popular Soups and Sweets.

There are numerous WI social events and sub groups organising Cinema/theatre outings, walks, skittles and darts.

The National WI chooses a resolution each year which is debated nationally – for example, clean rivers was a Resolution a couple of years ago. This year the Resolution is “Bystanders can be Lifesavers”.

All interested ladies are welcome to join Greetham WI.

GREETHAM GOES WILD (GGW)

Karen Mellor gave an update on the news of an allotment offered at the back of the Plough Pub. This is seen as a very exciting project and 10 people have already shown an interest. It is hoped to grow fruit and vegetables, meeting up every Monday morning. Anyone interested, please contact Karen Mellor.

There is also a plan to tidy up the Village Green – a clear up of the planting bed and pruning of trees, for which planning permission has been granted. This work is hoped to start in September.

The new hedging at Merry Meadows is doing very well and there is work in progress with an insect survey at the wildflower meadow at the back of the Burial Ground.

Barbara Clarke gave a talk on the most recent stream water testing results. The first water survey in September had identified very high levels of nitrate and phosphate. This was followed by a second round of water testing to look at the huge decline of wildlife round the brook. The testing checked for E.coli was extended beyond the village for readings, with 6 locations selected. There were again very high levels of nitrate and phosphate, higher than last year in some cases.

Earthwatch, the overarching organisation, provided the testing kits and the results analysed a catalogue of chemicals with a high level of E.coli found to be very disturbing, together with evidence of sewage in the brook. Concern has been passed onto GPC who have written to the Environmental Agency and the Public Protection Agency. To date no responses have been forthcoming.

After further discussion it was agreed for GGW to work with GPC to put together a plan based on the data collected, in order to jointly approach Anglian Water/RCC/Environment Agency.