

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT:

Parish Council

Cllr Glenn Fuller – Chair

Cllr Gareth Williams – Vice Chair

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Anna Thompson

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mr Graham Magee, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mrs Emma King, Mr Jim Mooney, Mr Glenn Roberts, Mr Iain Stowe

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Brian Marsden

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None

3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2023, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams, seconded by Cllr Anna Thompson and signed by the Chair.

4. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

5. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Ashley Baxter provided us with an update on meetings that had been held in connection with the potential renovation and reopening of the Deepings Leisure Centre with South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) agreeing to pay £850,000 towards this. The Anthem Schools Trust is currently negotiating with the Deepings Community Leisure Centre Community Interest Company to try and progress matters further.

Following the recent flooding and sewerage issues in the area, Ashley also mentioned that he is meeting Sir John Hayes in London for an Internal Drainage Board Meeting and is also attending a Welland Drainage Board Meeting regarding our local rivers and ditches and associated issues.

Amongst other local matters, Ashley also mentioned that there are funds available for community projects and that SKDC are planning to replace street lights across the region with light-emitting diodes (LED) which use less energy.

Cllr Glenn Fuller congratulated Ashley on his recent appointment as the new leader for SKDC.

6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that the repair of the potholes and possible resurfacing of the Boaty is still being considered. Cllr Gareth Williams agreed to investigate other options to try and solve the problem.

At the last meeting, Mr Bob Briggs mentioned that there is a road gully blocked which affects the residents of 10, 12 and 14 King Street. Cllr Ashley Baxter confirmed that this had now been rectified.

Mr Ian Coles mentioned that he had been contacted by Mrs Melanie James regarding the loose chippings on both the roads and pavements in the village, following road resurfacing which makes it difficult for residents to walk on. Apparently, the Highways Department of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) have subsequently visited the village to sweep the road gullies although it was felt unlikely that they would sweep pavements. However, Cllr Ashley Baxter did confirm that this issue had been reported independently and was currently under investigation.

Ian also reported that Mrs Julia Mason had contacted him regarding work carried out by National Grid last summer on the footpath on Stamford Road. Following their visit, the pathway had been repaired with tarmac, whereas it was previously a grass verge and this makes it difficult to clearly identify the edge of the road. As traffic can travel quite fast in this area, it now presents a safety issue so we have asked National Grid to investigate and explain this with a response currently awaited.

Julia had also mentioned the difficulty for pedestrians in crossing the A1175 between King Street and Market Deeping, which can be hazardous given the speed of the traffic and asked if we may be able to request that the Highways Department at LCC might consider a longer term solution to this. Cllr Ashley Baxter felt that this was unlikely but we have been invited to an online Engagement Session with Lincolnshire Police on road safety on Tuesday 20th February 2024 so this would provide an opportunity to raise the matter.

7. CEMETERIES

Mr Ian Coles mentioned that he had been contacted by a resident at Tallington Lakes who had asked if it was possible to purchase an ashes plot in our cemetery. This was discussed and given that we only have a limited number of plots still available, it was agreed that only current and previous residents of West Deeping would be allowed to purchase them.

Cllr Sue Latham pointed out that the area of the cemetery where the ashes graves are is very untidy and needs attending to. Mr Ian Coles agreed to contact Gary's Gardens to ask him to deal with this on his first visit to the village this year, assuming that the cost of doing so is not excessive.

8. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Cllr Gareth Williams updated the meeting on the options available to us and will correspond further with us shortly on our Facebook page. Mrs Emma King mentioned that many residents don't always pick up information from Facebook so it was agreed that we would also use Towers & Spires, our village newsletter and consider an independent mailshot to all houses in the village.

9. BEST KEPT VILLAGE SIGN

At the last meeting, Cllr Glenn Fuller asked for suggestions from residents as to where the renovated sign should be located but none have been received. We will therefore plan to return it to its previous location as Spring approaches, which will hopefully minimise further damage previously caused by the poor winter weather.

10. PLANNING

There have been three applications since the last meeting:-

S23/1506 – 18 King Street – Single storey extension / detached double garage at rear of property.
This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

S24/0023 – 36 King Street – Replacement doors and windows.
This is currently under review by councillors.

S24/0109 – 36 King Street – Design amendment to replacement window / door.
This is currently under review by councillors

At the last meeting, the following application had been circulated to councillors and was under review. There were no comments or objections and work was allowed by SKDC on 6th December 2023 :-

S23/1965 – 58 King Street – Tree work.

11. MINERAL EXTRACTION

Cllr Glenn Fuller summarised the current position with regard to ongoing and proposed mineral extraction in and around the village.

We had recently received notice from Planning Services at LCC of a request for a scoping opinion from Breedon's in respect of the proposed replacement quarry site to be located on the south side of the A1175. Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that the Parish Council is currently preparing a suitable response to this. Mr Jim Mooney also questioned if the circulation of this for consultation was limited to only statutory consultees, or if those in the wider community would also be allowed to comment. It was agreed that we will endeavour to clarify this point as soon as possible.

12. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we have been in touch with Anglian Water to ascertain our current contacts there given the recent flooding and sewerage issues in the village.

SKDC have also written to us with an offer of 100 sandbags for use in the village, where required and these have now been delivered and stored at Molecey Mill. We will also consider if some of these could be kept at the village hall. SKDC will monitor our usage to assist them in ensuring that the supply of sandbags in the future reaches those who are in need of them most.

A leaflet has also been issued by SKDC regarding flooding and flood prevention and Mr Ian Coles will arrange for this to be put on our website for information.

Cllr Ashley Baxter mentioned that his colleagues at SKDC are keen to assist us on flood prevention and would welcome any contact and feedback so we will plan to keep in touch with them on this matter.

13. FINANCE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £274.22 and £1,500.00 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £13.05 in bank interest, £175.00 in reimbursement of costs from West Deeping Parish Charity related to the Tinsley Field and £148.50 in burial fees. We have paid £675.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £175.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and has been reimbursed as above), £2,186.88 for gross salary payments to the clerk, £79.00 for stationery and administration expenses of £78.00.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

We have received an e-mail from Mrs Alison Ireland pointing out that Lincolnshire County Council are currently offering community wildlife grants between £50 and £500. It was agreed that we will keep this under consideration.

The Patient Participation Group of the Deepings Practice have also contacted us to ask if we would be interested in defibrillator training if they decided to offer this to local communities. It was felt that this could be very useful and it was agreed that Mr Ian Coles would reply to them confirming that we would be keen to take advantage of this.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that he had investigated the large poppies that had been on display on lampposts in local villages, as mentioned by Cllr Brian Marsden at the last meeting and that the cost of these was £5 each. It was agreed that we will review this later in the year and decide if we wish to purchase and display some in advance of Armistice Day in 2024.

D-Day 80 takes place on 6th June 2024 and it was noted that various events such as a coffee morning and bell ringing at the church are being organised. There are likely to be other events organised in the village as well but nothing specific to be organised by the Parish Council at this stage.

Cllr Glenn Fuller is hopeful that we can obtain a copy of the King's Portrait which parish councils will shortly be eligible to apply for. We have been in touch with the company organising this who have noted our interest and will let us know when parish council applications can be made. He has offered to arrange for this to be framed and Cllr Anna Thompson confirmed that the Village Hall Committee have agreed that they would be very happy for this to be displayed in the village hall.

16. OPEN FORUM

No matters raised.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be our Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held in the village hall on Monday 13th May 2024. It will commence immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7 p.m.

Additional meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are as follows:-

Monday 5th August 2024 – 7 p.m.

Monday 4th November 2024 – 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.21 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____