

## WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2021

#### PRESENT:

#### Parish Council

Cllr Colin Blagrove – Chair  
Cllr Maggie Ashcroft  
Cllr Sue Latham  
Cllr David Ward

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mrs Nicky Bowling, Mr Paul Bragg, Mr Mark Chesworth, Mr Andrew Hall, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mr Matt Moore (Anglian Water), Ms Rose Shisler (Anglian Water), Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Mr Andrew Wild

Cllr Colin Blagrove welcomed everyone to this online meeting which is being held remotely due to the village hall being unavailable as a result of a third period of lockdown during the current pandemic.

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Steve Snell  
Ms Rowena Everitt

#### 2. OPEN FORUM

Following an escalation of the waste water issues that we have experienced in the village recently, several residents attended this meeting to discuss these with Mr Matt Moore and Ms Rose Shisler from Anglian Water (AW).

A general summary of the current position was provided including the ongoing Infiltration Reduction Plan that AW have been undertaking with the help of CCTV to try and ascertain where surface water is entering the system, investigate high flow into the village and to ascertain whether or not sewers need relining to prevent infiltration. Once this has been completed, a copy of the report will be provided to us.

In addition to this, an application has been made to the Environment Agency for a Local Enforcement Position statement which will allow excess water to be pumped into local rivers and streams, providing that it meets strict environmental criteria.

Rose also confirmed that they will set up a note on their systems to advise their Contact Centre agents of interventions required in the event of being advised of future flooding in the village.

It was also agreed that a further meeting will be arranged in due course with all relevant parties to review progress and discuss further action required to alleviate the problems.

#### 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

#### 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2020, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft, seconded by Cllr Colin Blagrove and signed by the Chairperson.

#### 5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Colin Blagrove confirmed that a Christmas tree was donated to the village by Mr Graham Magee and we express our thanks to him for doing so.

## **6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Ashley Baxter provided us with a verbal report covering both special constables and that he has been lobbying on behalf of residents to help resolve our waste water issues by liaising with both Environmental Health at SKDC and the Flood Agency at Lincolnshire County Council (LCC).

Our PCSO, Rowena Everitt, provided a written report in advance of the meeting, circulated to councillors for their information, which primarily details their priorities in the current quarter and advising on how incidents should be reported, along with a summary of some recent incidents.

Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew also provided a report covering the progress of Covid19 vaccinations for care home residents, testing for care home staff and the availability of additional vaccination sites across the county. LCC have also agreed revised budget proposals to provide additional funding for businesses as well as a £12 million package to support the local economy. There was also an update on MS25 (see Mineral Extraction below).

## **7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT**

Following on from discussions with Anglian Water in the Open Forum, it was agreed that a resident forum should be set up to try and escalate a resolution to the problems that we have been experiencing.

Mr Ian Coles contacted Pete Rogers at Environmental Health at SKDC again as discussed at the last meeting to see if they had any further comments on our sewage and flooding issues and he responded suggesting that we keep a diary of the problems and also wondered if we can ascertain what the sewerage capacity is in comparison with the pump capacity so that we know what the pumps can deal with. We have subsequently learnt from Anglian Water that a new, larger pump has been fitted which pumps out 12 litres per second compared to the previous one which pumped 8 litres per second.

We have also received an e-mail from a resident at Tallington Lakes who has advised us of similar excess water problems which have been exacerbated by the ongoing unit development there and that he is happy to assist us if we require further information. Cllr Ashley Baxter confirmed that he was aware of their problems and that investigations are currently being undertaken but he is unable to disclose any additional information at this stage.

## **8. MINERAL EXTRACTION**

A separate working group has been set up to discuss the MS29 project in more depth although no further meetings have been held since the last Parish Council Meeting.

Breedon hosted an online meeting with councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2020 to discuss redevelopment plans for MS29. Cllrs Colin Blagrove and Maggie Ashcroft have recently finalised their notes from this meeting and will be circulating these to councillors shortly. A further planning meeting, scheduled for December 2020 was postponed and details of a new date are awaited.

Mr Ian Coles contacted Sarah Wells, LCC Business Manager, to ensure that our views would be represented when a planning application for MS29 was submitted and she confirmed that we would be consulted.

We have been contacted by both Richard Astle of the Langdyke Countryside Trust and Perry Burns of the Welland Rivers Trust and it has been agreed that we will engage with them both as part of the MS29 Working Group. In addition to this, Cllr Maggie Ashcroft attended a zoom presentation on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2020 regarding Welland Water Transfer.

We have received further correspondence from Planning on the MS25 project at Greatford although we are concerned that our initial comments have not been fully considered. Consequently, Mr Ian Coles has resubmitted them and asked for reassurance that these will be taken into account. As referred to under agenda item 6, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew confirmed that this application has been referred for a second consultation with major concerns on the routing arrangement, the width of King Street and the lack of salting on the road.

## 9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Sue Latham mentioned at the last meeting that there is a big pothole in the area in front of 10-13 King Street which needs attending to. In conjunction with Cllr Colin Blagrove, a 'Fix My Street' notification was sent to Highways at LCC for this. They have now confirmed that they do not expect it will be dealt with until April 2021 due to short term funding limitations.

A LCC Highways Community Works Gang attended the village in September 2020 and all the issues that we highlighted were dealt with apart from the clearing of gutters. We have made Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew aware of this.

A notice regarding the diversion of a footpath between West Deeping and Langtoft has been received and has been displayed on both our website and the notice board.

Cllr David Ward raised the problem of flytipping in the layby on the A1175, east of the King Street junction, to councillors prior to the meeting. This has been reported to SKDC who have confirmed that they will remove it. Cllr Maggie Ashcroft suggested that we incorporate a link on our website for residents to report this directly to SKDC.

## 10. CEMETERIES

The metal gates at the entrance to the cemetery have been taken down and we plan to have these repaired in the 2021/22 financial year by B & R Fabrications following all the quotations that we have received. Mr Ian Coles confirmed this to them after the last meeting.

Woodcraft Tree Services (WTS) undertook work to cut back the sycamore tree at the front of the cemetery, prune certain yew trees and arranged for 6 – 8 lime trees to be topped recently and we are very pleased with the result. As they were able to complete this work in a shorter time than originally anticipated, they have offered us an additional half-day of work at no extra charge. It was agreed that we would meet up again with Brett Redshaw of WTS shortly to discuss this further and agree an ongoing maintenance plan for the cemetery, as proposed by Cllrs Maggie Ashcroft and Sue Latham.

Planning permission for removal of the silver birch tree in the churchyard has been received and this has now been dealt with for us by Gary's Gardens.

## 11. AMENITY CONTRACT

As discussed at the last meeting, Mr Ian Coles has contacted Environment SK, a company set up by SKDC to provide amenity services to parish and local councils. He met with one of their representatives and they have now provided us with a quote for grass and hedge cutting etc in the village. A similar quotation for 2021 and 2022 has also been received from Gary's Gardens and Mr Ian Coles provided information on both to councillors in advance of this meeting so that a decision could be made on which contractor we should use. Overall, costs were fairly similar and following discussions, councillors decided that we should continue to use Gary's Gardens as we had been very happy with the quality of their work for many years. Mr Ian Coles will contact them both to advise them of councillor's decision. The work will include Tinsley Field which is owned by West Deeping Parish Charity (WDPC). Mr Mike Hutchings, a Trustee of WDPC, confirmed their views and that, for insurance reasons, the Parish Council is required to manage the maintenance of the field on behalf of WDPC. Mr Ian Coles agreed to provide full details of the costs to WDPC following the meeting.

## 12. PLANNING

There have been two applications since the last meeting:-

**S20/2061** – A request for change of use of land, demolition of outbuildings and the erection of a single storey rear extension and detached double garage at 21 King Street. This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**S20/1887** – Removal of the silver birch tree in the churchyard which councillors discussed and agreed at the last two meetings. Planning Permission was granted by SKDC on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

We have also received a supplementary planning document supporting the SKDC Development Plan adopted in 2020. Cllr Maggie Ashcroft briefly summarised the contents of this and it was felt that no response is required.

### **13. FINANCE**

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £288.76 and £950.28 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £0.16 in bank interest and £72.50 from West Deeping Parish Charity in respect of charges related to the Tinsley Field. We have paid £562.50 to Gary's Gardens (of which £72.50 relates to the Tinsley Field and has been reimbursed, as above), £1,405.54 for gross salary payments to the clerk plus monthly expenses of £104.00, backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> September 2020, £800.00 to Iain Gowans for work associated with our new website and £2,928.00 to Woodcraft Tree Services for tree work in the cemetery (including VAT of £488.00 which we will be eligible to reclaim in the 2021/22 financial year).

Cllrs Colin Blagrove and Maggie Ashcroft have been liaising on the final details of the contract of employment for Mr Ian Coles and a final version has now been sent to all councillors. It was agreed that this should now be adopted.

Mr Ian Coles had prepared an updated budget for 2021/22 (including a 5 year projection) for councillors to consider. Based on these figures, a revised precept of £6,000 was suggested for this year. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Blagrove, seconded by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and agreed by all.

Cllr Colin Blagrove has dealt with the requirements of the Pensions Regulator in respect of auto enrolment with no pension contributions being payable.

Following a sharp rise in the cost of renewing our membership of the Society of Local Clerks as a result of an increase in the clerk's salary, membership for 2021 has not been applied for.

### **14. WEBSITE**

Our new website and Parish Council Facebook are now both live.

Cllr Colin Blagrove has been liaising with Andrew Hall, a resident of the village, who has kindly agreed to assist us on matters relating to the website in the future. One initial suggestion is that we look to change e-mail addresses for councillors from the personal ones currently used to specific parish council e-mail addresses which we will investigate further.

Mr Ian Coles advised that, following discussions with Andrew, he has been contacted by the clerk at Little Paxton Parish Council in Cambridgeshire for their thoughts and that we may need to review our Accessibility Statement. This was discussed although it was felt that our existing one was both compliant and suitable at the present time.

### **15. BUS SHELTER**

In response to concerns raised by a resident, Cllr Maggie Ashcroft inspected the bus shelter and reported her findings to councillors. Following this, it has been proposed that £100 be allocated for repairs in the 2021/22 financial year and this has been included in our budget. Cllrs Colin Blagrove and David Ward also inspected it and undertook a risk assessment which was presented to councillors. The result of this is that a safety inspection is required which may be able to be carried out by a contractor who is able to undertake the repair work. Cllr David Ward mentioned that Breedons may have 'surplus' concrete which could potentially be used to underpin the base of the shelter. It was also discussed as to whether or not Delaine, the local bus company, would be prepared to help us repair it. Cllr Colin Blagrove also mentioned that we could obtain a quotation from a local company, Burmor, who have recently undertaken other work in the village. Paul Scoats, who lives in the village, has also provided us with a quotation. Mr Ian Coles will investigate further and advise councillors of developments.

## 16. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Ian Coles has been contacted by Mr Jim Mooney who had requested details of all our Parish Council expenditure over the last 20 years and in particular, in relation to the cemetery and the churchyard. Full information for the last 6 years has been provided to him with additional details regarding the specific items requested going back to the early 2000's.

An e-mail has been received from Maisey McMahon at the 'Safer Together Team' at Lincolnshire Police regarding greater engagement with local communities.

Mr Ian Coles had recently asked for more information about the defibrillator in the village so that all residents are fully aware of how to access it in an emergency. Mrs Lesley Ward confirmed that there are straightforward instructions for operating it on the casing at the village hall but that residents will need to ring 999 to obtain an access code first.

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Maggie Ashcroft had recently raised a query regarding our Asset Register and the items that we should include on it as, currently, we only show the telephone box and the speed indicating device. It is thought that we should perhaps include the bus shelter, the Boaty and the cemetery as well. However, as these are assets that we have had for many years, this has potential implications for both our annual Accountability Return (AGAR) and our insurance policy. There is also the question as to how we actually place a value on such assets. It was agreed that this should be added to the agenda of the next Parish Council Meeting for further discussion.

The Annual Parish Meeting was discussed with several ideas for an informal event in the village hall whereby we might incorporate presentations and displays covering various matters that the Parish Council has been dealing with over the last year. It was agreed that this would only be possible once the Government have confirmed that we are able to meet face-to-face again. We will therefore review this in advance of the usual annual meetings in the first two weeks in May 2021.

Cllr Colin Blagrove confirmed that an anonymous donor has offered to pay for the repair of the side gate at the churchyard. As this is owned by the Parish Council, this requires the approval of councillors and everyone was in agreement.

## 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Meeting will be our Annual Parish Council Meeting and is scheduled to be held on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021, starting at 7.30 p.m., to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 p.m. It is hoped that this can be held in the village hall again, subject to availability and any Government restrictions. This will be reviewed in the next two months and confirmed as soon as possible thereafter.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_