

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT:

Parish Council
Cllr David Ward – Chair
Cllr Iain Gowans
Cllr Ish Kamran
Cllr Sue Latham

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Mr Andy Barton (Cemex), Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mr Mike Hutchings

Cllr David Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Steve Snell

2. OPEN FORUM

Mr Andy Barton had previously asked to attend our meeting so that he could explain to us the plans that Cemex have for additional gravel extraction covering an area of approximately 2-3 hectares in West Deeping, as an extension to their existing operations which lie immediately north. A planning application to Lincolnshire County Council is likely to be submitted early in 2022. Their intention is to restore it to lowland meadow / agriculture thereafter. This is likely to take approximately 5-6 months.

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft confirmed that she has been compiling a digital map of the cemetery and that this will be available in due course.

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft also pointed out that the BT phone box in the village, which was purchased for £1 in 2017, is in a state of disrepair. A new door is likely to be required and it also needs repainting. It was proposed by Cllr Ish Kamran and seconded by Cllr Iain Gowans that a community group is formed to deal with this and all councillors are in agreement.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 AUGUST 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2021, previously circulated were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Iain Gowans, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and signed by the Chairperson.

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Iain Gowans reported that he has been monitoring our speed indicating device, having reversed the speed signs to compare the results between travelling north or south along King Street. This revealed no major differences but he was able to conclude that, with the exception of the expected isolated incidents, we do not have a speeding problem in the village. He is working with Maxey as part of an initiative between Lincolnshire and Cambridgeshire Police so that a joint submission can be made to them.

6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Ashley Baxter advised on the following matters :-

The debris that was recently left in the layby on the A1175 has been removed. An experiment is to be undertaken replacing the large bins there with smaller ones to see if this avoids flytipping in the future. If not, these can always be switched back.

A solar park covering 2000 acres between Essendine, Braceborough and Uffington has been proposed.

Following many comments on the recent closure of Market Deeping Leisure Centre, they are currently looking at both short-term opening and longer term solutions for this to be retained for community benefit.

7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr David Ward updated the meeting on the significant progress that has been made by Anglian Water (AW) dealing with our waste water issues. This is likely to be tested in more depth during the winter months when we would expect a greater level of rainfall but he confirmed that they are 'on call' with tankers to pump away excess water, if necessary. He also confirmed that the West Deeping Action Group has now been disbanded having achieved their objective of receiving decisive action from AW on dealing with and trying to solve the problems that we have been experiencing.

8. MINERAL EXTRACTION

A further meeting to discuss the MS29 project in more depth was due to be held at Breedon's recently and minutes of this are currently awaited. Mr Ian Coles will ask Gary Bannister at Breedons to confirm the current position and will advise councillors accordingly.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that there was a Planning & Regulation Committee at Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) due to be held on Monday 5th July 2021 in respect of the MS25 project at Greatford. No further correspondence has been received regarding this but Mr Andy Barton confirmed that this had now been approved.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has been liaising with Adam Dodd at SKDC regarding the large pothole in the area in front of 10-13 King Street and that they have confirmed that this will be repaired on 23rd November 2021.

10. CEMETERIES

Cllr David Ward confirmed that the water supply to the cemetery is no longer available as we have been relying on the goodwill of one of the residents adjacent to the cemetery and that, following a significant water leak to their outside tap, this has had to be turned off. To overcome this, it was agreed that we would acquire a water butt for use by visitors instead and that this will be topped up, as necessary. We may need to purchase one but Cllr David Ward and Cllr Sue Latham agreed to ask AW if they may have a spare one for us, having supplied them recently to several residents in the village.

Woodcraft Tree Services had previously offered us an additional half-day of work at no extra charge after completing the work they did earlier in the year in a shorter time than previously anticipated. It was previously agreed that there are several trees in the churchyard which need cutting back and Mr Ian Coles confirmed that they plan to do this work next week.

11. GARY'S GARDENS

Gary's Gardens recently pointed out to us that there is one particular tree in the cemetery that needs cutting back urgently as it is preventing them being able to cut the grass in that area. In addition, they have noted that moles are present in the cemetery and there is a certain area that needs to be treated to avoid a larger problem with them occurring. It was agreed that both jobs should be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Cllr Iain Gowans also pointed out that he has sourced an alternative supplier of gardening services we could use should we wish to consider this in the future.

12. BUS SHELTER

Cllr David Ward has been investigating different types of new bus shelters and the possible grants that may be available to us and produced examples of various types of shelters. Assuming we wish to retain a wooden shelter, costs range from around £6,000 to £12,000 and we are likely to be required to contribute at least 20% of this, even if a grant is obtained. Cllr Ish Kamran thought that the cost of replacement should be at the lower end of this price range and it was agreed that we should obtain additional quotes before taking matters further. Cllr David Ward agreed to do this.

13. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

At the last meeting, Cllr Ish Kamran confirmed that he has been working with Cllr Iain Gowans and Mrs Yvonne Arnold to set up a committee, independent of the Parish Council, to discuss this in further depth. There are no further updates at present but this will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

14. VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

It was agreed that a Christmas tree should be provided to the village as this was one of the main points raised at our Annual Parish Meeting in August 2021. Mr Ian Coles advised that Mr Iain Stowe had requested that this is not too tall as it may interfere with overhead power cables and that one of approximately 10 feet would be most suitable. It was agreed that we will all try and source one before the end of the month and if necessary, one would be purchased.

15. PLANNING

There have been the following applications since the last meeting:-

S21/0892 – Erection of two storey detached garage at 41 King Street which has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted by SKDC on 21st October 2021.

S21/1907 – Application by Tallington Lakes Leisure Park to extend an entrance for which councillors had raised objections, primarily on the grounds of safety. We understand that this will be discussed further at a separate Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday 18th November 2021.

S21/1894 – Application for tree work at 58 King Street which has been considered by councillors and they had no comments or objections.

16. FINANCE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £457.57 and £1,600.46 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £0.07 in bank interest and £360.00 from WD Parish Charity in respect of maintenance costs for the Tinsley Field. We have paid £1,135.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £560.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and £320.00 has already been reimbursed), £783.91 for gross salary payments to the clerk plus monthly expenses totalling £78.00 and £10.00 for stationery.

Mr Ian Coles had previously supplied councillors with a suggested budget for 2022/23 looking at an additional option to include our potential costs towards replacing the bus shelter. It was agreed that we should include an allowance for this and that we should also be aware that there may be a need to repair the church wall at some point in the future, as discussed back in 2019. Accordingly, a precept of £9,000 for the year was proposed by Cllr David Ward, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all councillors. This is a 50% increase on last year and it was agreed that the budget should be published on our website so that all residents can see why we have set it at this level. Mr Ian Coles advised that, according to the SKDC online calculator, a Band D council taxpayer would be charged £76.60 over the year, as part of their overall council tax bill.

Mr Ian Coles has undertaken further research on updating our asset register and information has recently been provided to councillors. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

17. CORRESPONDENCE

None

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 7th February 2022 at 7.00 p.m. Mr Ian Coles will check the availability of the village hall for subsequent meetings in May, August and November 2022 and advise councillors of the options available as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____