

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT:

Parish Council
Cllr David Ward – Chair
Cllr Sue Latham
Cllr Steve Snell

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Mr David James, Mrs Melanie James, Mrs Moira Small

Cllr David Ward welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Iain Gowans
Cllr Ish Kamran

2. OPEN FORUM

Mr David James explained that a Platinum Jubilee Committee had been set up and discussions are taking place regarding various events over the weekend of 4/5 June 2022. These will be organised in conjunction with the Parish Council and Cllr Ish Kamran has offered to join the Committee. It was proposed by Cllr Steve Snell that this should be the case and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham, with all in favour. David confirmed that the main event will be held on Sunday 5 June in the Tinsley Field with several activities taking place. It was suggested that we should ask Gary's Gardens if they can ensure that the field is cut prior to the event.

Mrs Melanie James mentioned that there are certain footpaths around the village where it is necessary for a stile to be climbed and that this creates extreme difficulties for people with disabilities. Cllr Sue Latham agreed to investigate this to see if they could be replaced with wooden gates, where possible.

Mrs Melanie James also said that litter is becoming an increasing problem in the village and asked if it was possible to purchase additional bins to encourage everyone to dispose of litter properly. This was debated as we did find that the presence of a bin in a layby in the village encouraged flytipping but it will be considered further.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2021, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr David Ward, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and signed by the Chairperson.

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft confirmed that she had met with Cllr Iain Gowans and Cllr Ish Kamran to discuss the options for the use of the BT Phone Box in the village. It was thought that the key to its future use should be based on 'community involvement' and further details will be provided in due course.

6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Ian Coles advised that we receive monthly reports from Rowena Everitt, our PCSO and her latest report confirmed that the main issues have been anti-social behaviour, burglaries and hare coursing.

7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr David Ward advised that he had spoken to Keith Garfoot, Senior Project Engineer at Anglian Water, who confirmed that a tanker is on standby in case it is needed for excess water to be pumped in the village. However, we are pleased to report that, following the extensive work that they undertook last year, along with less rainfall than we have had in previous winters, there have been no reported incidents to deal with. Mr Ian Coles also mentioned that we had received praise and support on the Parish Council's Facebook page for our efforts in dealing with the sewage and drainage problems experienced in the past.

8. MINERAL EXTRACTION

A further meeting to discuss the MS29 project in more depth was due to be held at Breedon's in October 2021 and minutes of this had been requested by Mr Ian Coles. However, it transpired that this did not take place and a further meeting will be arranged in due course.

Mr Ian Coles advised that there was a Planning & Regulation Committee at Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) held on Monday 6th September 2021 in respect of the MS25 project at Greatford. As confirmed by Mr Andy Barton of Cemex at the last meeting, conditional planning permission was granted at this meeting.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

The large pothole in the area in front of 10-16 King Street has now been repaired although it was pointed out that this has not been tarmacked despite being part of King Street. We will keep this under review and take the matter up with SKDC again if it transpires that it has not been repaired satisfactorily and leads to further problems in the future.

Mr Ian Coles advised that Western Power Distribution are due to undertake cable work in the Boaty later this year. They will notify us when this is going to take place so that we can advise residents who walk along there.

Mr Ian Coles also advised that he had been contacted by the clerk at Thurlby Parish Council who are interested in purchasing our speed indicating device. Following comments by Cllr Iain Gowans at a previous Parish Council Meeting, we might be prepared to sell this if we feel that it has fulfilled its purpose. It was agreed that we should review this at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May. This is preceded by our Annual Parish Meeting where residents attending may also wish to provide their views for us to take into account in making a decision thereafter. Mr Ian Coles will confirm the position to the clerk at Thurlby Parish Council.

10. CEMETERIES

Cllr David Ward confirmed that the water butt has now been installed in the cemetery and Cllr Ish Kamran has created a sign to let visitors know that this is available to use to water graves. It was agreed that the sign should be positioned by the old water tap and whilst there are some concerns about walking on the soft ground between there and the location of the water butt, it was felt that this was the only practical solution now that the previous water supply is no longer available.

Mr Ian Coles mentioned that he had been contacted by Gary's Gardens regarding the dead hedge in the north side of the cemetery and asked if we wanted to take any action on this. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Latham will investigate this and recommend what action, if any, should be taken to deal with this.

11. BUS SHELTER

Cllr David Ward has undertaken further investigations into the replacement of our existing bus shelter. The costs of this vary considerably although one is available in Cornwall for £2,500 which is surplus to their requirements. However, the cost of transporting this to West Deeping, along with the cost of installing it, is likely to increase this to around £10,000. It may therefore be that the Rettendon bus shelter, made by Little Thorpe in Leicester, discussed at the last meeting at a cost of £11,000, is still the best one that we have found. As discussed previously, we would need a substantial grant from SKDC / LCC to be able to afford to purchase one and we know that that a minimum contribution of 20% of the total cost would need to be met from parish council funds. We also need to consider the cost of demolishing and disposing of the existing shelter which Cllr David Ward agreed to look into. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that, at the November 2021 Parish Council Meeting, we included the sum of £1,800 in our budget for 2022/23 as a contribution towards the cost of replacing the bus shelter. This will then be discussed further at the next meeting.

12. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Cllr Ish Kamran 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 have been no further developments but this will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

13. PLANNING

There have been the five applications for tree work since the last meeting:-

- S21/2314** – 70 King Street - This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted by SKDC on 11th January 2022.
- S21/2363** – 49 King Street - This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted by SKDC on 11th January 2022.
- S21/2482** – Mill House, Church Lane - This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted by SKDC on 18th January 2022.
- S21/2485** – 39 King Street - This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted by SKDC on 18th January 2022.
- S21/2463** – 2 The Row - This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. A decision on this is still awaited from SKDC.
- S21/1907** – Application by Tallington Lakes Leisure Park to extend an entrance for which councillors had raised objections, primarily on the grounds of safety. This was discussed at a Planning Committee Meeting on Wednesday 15th December 2021 and planning permission was granted on 5th January 2022. It is noted that, despite safety concerns of both West Deeping and Tallington Parish Councils, these were not shared by Lincolnshire County Council who did not feel that it would result in an unacceptable impact upon highway safety.

14. FINANCE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £495.46 and £600.50 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £0.04 in bank interest and £240.00 from WD Parish Charity in respect of maintenance costs for the Tinsley Field. We have paid £220.00 to Gary's Gardens, £50.00 for a Christmas tree for the village, £854.11 for gross salary payments to the clerk plus monthly expenses totalling £78.00.

Mr Ian Coles advised that he has confirmed to SKDC that we require a precept of £9,000 for the 2022/23 financial year, as agreed at the last Parish Council Meeting.

As stipulated under the clerk's contract of employment, an annual review was conducted recently, following which Cllr David Ward proposed that, from 1st April 2022, the scale rate of pay should move from SCP7 to SCP10 of the National Joint Council for Local Government Services pay rates. Whilst the current years pay rates are still under discussion, based on the levels applicable from 1st April 2020, this would increase the hourly rate from £10.44 to £11.08 per hour. This was seconded by Cllr Steve Snell and agreed by all.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has been investigating the digital asset register available through our insurers and whilst this might not be essential to record our assets in this way, it could be useful in the future. We do, however, need to identify all the assets we own and decide on how these should be recorded. This will be discussed further at the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

None

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 16th May 2022 at 7.30 p.m. preceded by our Annual Parish Meeting at 7.00 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____