

## WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16 MAY 2022

**PRESENT:**

**Parish Council**

Cllr David Ward – Chair

Cllr Iain Gowans

Cllr Ish Kamran

Cllr Steve Snell

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mr James Mooney, Mrs Moira Small, Mr Iain Stowe, Mr Barrie Upson

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Sue Latham

**2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Cllr David Ward offered to stand as chairperson for the forthcoming year (no other nominations). He was proposed by Cllr Steve Snell, seconded by Cllr Ish Kamran and all voted in favour.

Cllr Steve Snell offered to stand as vice chairperson for the forthcoming year (no other nominations). He was proposed by Cllr David Ward, seconded by Cllr Iain Gowans and all voted in favour.

**3. OPEN FORUM**

Mrs Alison Ireland advised that a programme to plant additional bulbs in the village had been drawn up and that a priority area to do this has been identified. It is necessary, however, to ensure that grass cutting in this area by Environment SK / Lincolnshire County Council is carried out at a suitable time and details of their schedules are required. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he would provide Alison with contact details in this respect.

**4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None

**5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr David Ward, seconded by Cllr Steve Snell and signed by the Chairperson.

**6. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Cllr Ashley Baxter confirmed that he remains in contact with the Environment Agency regarding the developments at Tallington Lakes and will provide further information as and when available in due course. He also advised that discussions remain ongoing regarding the refurbishment of the Deepings Leisure Centre, Highways had confirmed that they would not consider a roundabout at the West Deeping crossroad with the A1175 and that he and his fellow councillors are looking closely at proposals for a further supermarket in, or around, Market Deeping to ensure that a suitable location is found if permission is granted for this to go ahead.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we receive monthly reports from Rowena Everitt, our PCSO and her latest report confirmed that the main issues that they have been focusing on are e-scooter use and speeding. She was also pleased to report that anti-social behaviour has been lower than expected recently. It also mentioned that Lincolnshire Police are currently recruiting PCSO's and that training for this will start in the Autumn.

## **8. MINERAL EXTRACTION**

We had previously been advised by Breedon that there were no further meetings planned at present to discuss MS29 in more depth. Cllr Ish Kamran agreed to keep in touch with them regarding this and other gravel extractions planned in and around the village. Mr Ian Coles advised that we had received details of both a Scoping Opinion and planning permission for a southern extension by Cemex to the existing site and that extensive comments, based on previous meetings held over the last 5 years, had been submitted to both South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). It was confirmed to both that we expect to be kept informed of developments. Mr Iain Stowe advised that his understanding is that the landowner is happy for the land to be returned to low level agriculture following the extraction and that, if we expected anything different, it was important to be discussing this with all parties at the earliest possible opportunity.

## **9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Iain Gowans confirmed that he has been surveying the data from our speed indicating device in some detail and has concluded that, whilst we don't believe that we have a speeding problem in the village, he is recommending that we keep the device at the present time. Councillors agreed to do so. We had previously been contacted by the clerk at Thurlby Parish Council who were interested in purchasing it and Mr Ian Coles will now advise them of our decision.

We have been contacted by a resident who has asked if it is possible to erect a 'Give Way' sign at the bottom of the bridge at the southern end of the village to try and minimise accidents there in the future. This was discussed in some depth, with consideration of other solutions and Cllr Iain Gowans agreed to progress this further with Highways at Lincolnshire County Council. Cllr Ashley Baxter advised that it would not be possible to consider installing a mirror there, however, as Highways consider them to be too dangerous.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we had also been contacted by a resident who was concerned at the extent of the brambles near our West Deeping sign at the northern end of the village. Cllr David Ward advised that Keith Garfoot, our main contact at Anglian Water on the waste water issues we had previously, had mentioned to him that they would assist with tidying up various areas so he will contact him in this respect.

Western Power Distribution have advised us that they need to undertake work on the Boaty from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 which will involve cable laying etc linked to the overhead line rebuild at Tallington. We will put a note about this on both our website and on Facebook nearer the time to advise residents who often walk along there. Cllr Ashley Baxter suggested that it might be a good idea to take photographs of the area both before and after the work to ensure that it is restored to the same standard.

At the last meeting, Mrs Melanie James mentioned 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 considered further but it was felt that most of the litter was being thrown out of passing car windows so additional litter bins would not solve this problem. In addition to concerns that this might also encourage flytipping, it would also be necessary for someone to ensure that any additional bins were emptied regularly. Consequently, it was decided that we would not be purchasing additional litter bins at the present time.

Mr Andrew Pickering had contacted us to say that he requires a new supply of bin bags for the dog litter bin which he very kindly empties for us and for which councillors expressed their gratitude. Previously, we had purchased these from Glasdon, who supplied the bin, but they are very expensive and slightly too large anyway. Cllr Iain Gowans advised that he can obtain a suitable supply for us and Mr Ian Coles will liaise with Andrew so that we can ascertain the most suitable size required for the bin.

## 10. CEMETERIES

Cllr Ish Kamran has created a sign to let visitors know that a water butt is available to use to water graves and will arrange for this to be put up in the cemetery in the near future.

Gary's Gardens contacted us earlier in the year about the dead hedge in the cemetery and asked if we had any thoughts on the best way to deal with this. It was agreed that we will liaise with Cllr Sue Latham and confirm what action we should take in due course.

## 11. BUS SHELTER

Cllr David Ward summarised the position regarding the various options available to us in respect of the bus shelter. As mentioned at the last meeting, the overall cost of replacing it is likely to be in the region of £10,000 and whilst we may be able to receive grants from SKDC and/or LCC, the overall costs are prohibitive when taking account of demolition of the existing shelter as well. There is still some debate as to whether or not it should be replaced at all and Cllr David Ward volunteered to undertake further research amongst residents on this matter. Cllr Ashley Baxter also said that he would investigate this with LCC on our behalf. We will review this matter again at the next meeting.

## 12. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Cllr Ish Kamran confirmed that there is an independent meeting to discuss this further at the Red Lion public house on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Mr Ian Coles advised that he has received various promotional material from companies by e-mail which may be of interest and he will forward these on to Ish for his information.

## 13. PLATINUM JUBILEE

Several events have been organised over the 4-day holiday weekend from Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 inclusive. Cllr Steve Snell suggested that it might be a nice idea for the Parish Council to plant a tree in the village to recognise the Platinum Jubilee and further thought will be given to this.

## 14. PLANNING

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

**S21/2463** – 2 The Row - This has been previously reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Work was allowed by SKDC on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

**S22/0316** – 8 The Lane (Holly Lodge) - This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Work was allowed by SKDC on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022.

There have also been three further corporate applications:-

**S22/0230** – Anglian Water – Planning application for 95 kilometres pipeline scheme from Grantham to Bexwell. This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

**S22/0757** – Cemex – Varying of planning permission for S19/2127 to allow for an amended phasing programme with revisions to the approved restoration scheme at their West Deeping quarry. This has also been notified to us under reference PL/0033/22 by LCC. This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

**S22/0759** – Cemex – Changing and extending the use of the existing West Deeping quarry to allow for the importation of mineral to the site for processing. This has also been notified to us under reference PL/0044/22 by LCC. This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

## 15. FINANCE / INSURANCE

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that accounts have been prepared for our year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 which have now been inspected and agreed by Mrs Louise Cooke, our internal auditor. Louise pointed out that we should update our asset register to include additional items that the Parish Council owns (identified as the cemetery, the Boaty, the bus shelter and two notice boards). Mr Ian Coles confirmed that this had now been updated and all items added with a nominal value of £1, as stipulated by regulations. It was agreed that we should purchase a voucher to the value of £25 for Louise to express our thanks for undertaking the internal audit for us.

The usual Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) has been completed and agreed and was signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer. Mr Ian Coles will arrange for the appropriate details to be sent to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn. As our annual income and expenditure is less than £25,000 per annum, we are able to sign a Certificate of Exemption to be exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015. A Notice of Public Rights will also be put on both our notice board and website before Monday 13 June 2022, the date from which residents can ask to inspect accounts records, up until Friday 22 July 2022. A Financial Report, along with a separate Chairman's Report and all the usual financial documents that we are obliged to provide will also be published on our website shortly.

Cllr Steve Snell confirmed that he had had a meeting with Barclays to supply all the required information to be added as a signatory to our bank account and we wait confirmation from them when this has been effected.

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £797.47 and £7,600.52 respectively. At our year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2022), our balances were £214.07 and £100.52 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £0.02 in bank interest and £9,000.00 in respect of the annual precept from SKDC. We have paid £411.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £145.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and will be reimbursed in due course), £974.22 for gross salary payments to the clerk, administration expenses of £90.00, £82.46 to LALC for our annual membership, £95.31 to SKDC for council tax in respect of the cemetery and £45.00 in respect of the hire of the village hall for meetings during 2021.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had received our usual insurance renewal for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2022 which had only increased marginally from last year due to a small increase in cover for Gates & Fences, as part of the standard cover provided by BHIB for small local councils.

## 16. CORRESPONDENCE

None

## 17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

## 18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.07 p.m.

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

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