

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2022

PRESENT:

Parish Council

Cllr David Ward – Chair

Cllr Iain Gowans

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Steve Snell

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Mr Paul Bragg, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mrs Moira Small, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. NEW COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT

Following the resignation of Ish Kamran as a parish councillor, the standard notice was issued on 23rd September 2022 whereby 10 electors could request a by-election on request to South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) within 14 working days. The notice expired on 14th October 2022 and SKDC confirmed on 17th October 2022 that no requests had been received. We are now able to co-opt a new councillor on to the Parish Council and there have been two candidates who have expressed interest. It was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting should be arranged to discuss this in further detail which will be organised as soon as possible.

3. OPEN FORUM

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft mentioned that there is a naturist in the village who has caused offence to some members of the public. Mr Ian Coles will contact our PCSO, Rowena Everitt, for advice on the appropriate steps to be taken.

Mrs Alison Ireland asked if all the requirements had been completed with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) following the recent extensive bulb planting exercise in the village. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had completed and submitted the requested form and has received no feedback so we assume that nothing further is required.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 8 AUGUST 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2022, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Iain Gowans, seconded by Cllr Steve Snell and signed by the Chairperson.

6. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr Iain Gowans confirmed that he has acquired a supply of dog waste bin bags and will drop these round to Andrew Pickering who kindly empties these bins for us.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Mr Ian Coles advised that we receive monthly reports from Rowena Everitt, our PCSO and her latest report for the Market Deeping area confirmed that the main issue that they have been focusing on is anti-social behaviour but is pleased to confirm that the number of incidents has dropped, as expected for this time of year. There were also a number of burglaries towards the end of October. There will also be new PCSO's in the area from January 2023 with PC Collinson settling in as Beat Manager for Stamford.

8. MINERAL EXTRACTION

Cllr David Ward attended a meeting with Breedons in September 2022 when it was explained that they have extensive plans for further mineral extraction around the village in future years which has now been confirmed in the recently updated Lincolnshire Minerals and Local Waste Plan. In order to provide some protection the village, a tree belt will be erected around the main affected areas. DW also explained that Henry Tinsley, the landowner, has suggested that the future restoration plans could include a large pond and wooded area. He is also happy to consider the possibility of the land being transferred to the village in due course. Mrs Maggie Ashcroft also advised that she had attended a further meeting with Breedons today and that they intend to hold a public meeting in January 2023 to explain their plans in more depth and submit a planning application around the same time. It was agreed that we will continue to liaise with Breedons and monitor the situation closely.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Iain Gowans is liaising with Highways at Lincolnshire County Council to see 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 following a request from a resident, as discussed at previous meetings.

A resident previously asked us about the potholes in The Boaty and wondered if the Parish Council has any plans to repair these. Mr Ian Coles advised that another resident has now made a similar request. Cllr David Ward advised that he has mentioned this to Breedons and they have agreed to undertake the repair for us. It was also mentioned that the vehicles used by Anglian Water for access along the Boaty have created significant damage to the surface over the years and that the levies paid by them and Tinsleys should be reviewed. Mr Ian Coles advised that these were last increased in 2007, when the Anglian Water levy was increased to £100 per annum and the Tinsleys levy was £30 per annum. To reflect increasing costs and inflation over this period, it was proposed by Cllr David Ward and seconded by Cllr Iain Gowans that these levies should be doubled to £200 per annum and £60 per annum respectively, which was agreed by all. Mr Ian Coles will contact them both to advise of these increases which will apply from 2023.

At the last meeting, Mr Ian Coles advised that we had received an e-mail from a resident in The Lane asking if anything could be done to prevent residents from parking close to their property as this restricts their access. They also expressed concern that many people park on the pavement there and that this can also cause a problem of access for pedestrians who often have to walk into the road to get past certain vehicles. Following consultation with Highways at LCC and our PCSO, it was agreed that the best course of action would be to promote considerate parking through our usual publication channels – Facebook / website / Towers & Spires / newsletter etc. and Mr Ian Coles has arranged for a notice to be issued in this respect.

A resident mentioned that the bulb in a street light near the village hall needed replacing and Mr Ian Coles has been in touch with SKDC / LCC regarding this. It appears that this has now been rectified but IC will check with the resident concerned to ensure that this is the case.

10. GARY'S GARDENS / MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Mr Ian Coles advised that we expect to receive a revised quotation from Gary's Gardens in the New Year for the usual work that they carry out for us in the village. As this is a major item of our annual expenditure, it was agreed that we need to obtain alternative quotations for comparison and Cllr Iain Gowans advised that he has six other contacts that we could consider. He will supply the details of these to IC so that they can be contacted over the next few months before work would commence in March 2023.

11. CEMETERIES

Mr Ian Coles and Cllr Sue Latham have been liaising regarding the plots for Mr & Mrs Dawkins, the size of which has been affected by tree roots. As a result, it was agreed that no additional fees should be payable in addition to the amounts previously paid for the plots.

Cllr David Ward confirmed that he has obtained three quotes for removing the dead hedge in the cemetery, all of which are around £500. As we have insufficient funds available at present to consider this further, it was agreed that this should be reviewed again at the next meeting.

Cllr Sue Latham confirmed that there is now a sign to let visitors know that a water butt is available in the cemetery to use to water graves.

12. BUS SHELTER

At the last meeting, it was agreed that we would accept the quotation received from Ish Kamran for £2,630 + VAT to replace the bus shelter if we are able to obtain a grant of up to £3,000 for the cost of it through LCC. Following the meeting, Mr Ian Coles contacted Ish Kamran to confirm this. However, it was necessary for the quote to be updated and the revised cost increased substantially to £5,750. This meant that, even with a full grant from LCC, we had insufficient funds to proceed. Subsequently, following correspondence with Ish, the updated quotation was withdrawn. We then asked Paul Scoats, a resident in the village, if he would like to provide us with a quotation after he expressed interest in doing so but, in line with other quotations that we have received, the total estimated cost is around £10,000. It was agreed that, as we are unable to afford a replacement, we should try and undertake a renovation with the funds that we do have available and Cllr David Ward and Mr Ian Coles will liaise with Paul regarding this. Cllr Iain Gowans suggested that we should obtain views from residents on the style of a new shelter before deciding on a replacement, as and when funds do become available.

13. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

There has been no further progress on this but Cllr Iain Gowans will contact Yvonne Arnold to discuss this further and report back at the next meeting.

14. BEST KEPT VILLAGE SIGN

The current state of the sign was discussed and it was agreed that some renovation would be welcome. It was suggested that Pete Ashcroft would consider looking at this for us and Mr Ian Coles will therefore contact him.

15. DEFIBRILLATOR

Mrs Lesley Ward recently mentioned to us that the batteries in our defibrillator need replacing and that the 'Chatty Ladies' had raised sufficient funds to cover this, net of VAT. We agreed that we would arrange for these to be purchased and were also happy to take ownership of the defibrillator and become responsible for the cost of replacement batteries in the future.

16. VILLAGE CHRISTMAS TREE

It was agreed that we would purchase a Christmas tree for the village at a height of approximately 15 foot and that Cllr Sue Latham and Mr Ian Coles would liaise regarding this.

17. PLANNING

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that there has been four applications since the last meeting:-

- S22/1711** – Molecey Mill, Stamford Road – Change of use from residential to mixed including residential and wedding and events venue, civil ceremonies and temporary use of marquees, plus car parking.
This was reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections and planning was approved by SKDC on 14th October 2022.
- S22/1786** – Molecey Mill, Stamford Road – As above but in respect of archaeology.
This was reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections and planning was approved by SKDC on 9th November 2022.
- S22/1917** – Dove Cottage, 43 King Street – Removal of paulownia tree.
This was reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections and planning was approved by SKDC on 18th November 2022.
- S22/1308** – 52 King Street – Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of two detached houses with car barns and associated boundary walls.
This was reviewed by councillors who raised objections based on concerns about the sewage issues that the village has previously experienced, contradiction with SKDC's Design Statement and our understanding that the Planning Officer would not permit additional dwellings to be built in the village as a result.
We have now been advised by SKDC that this planning application has been withdrawn.

In addition, permission for the tree work at Mill Spinney in Church Lane (S22/1564), discussed at the last meeting and to which councillors had no comments or objections, was granted on 17th October 2022.

18. FINANCE / BUDGET FOR 2023/24

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £1,094.68 and £2,602.82 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £1.77 in bank interest and £300.00 from West Deeping Parish Charity as reimbursement for work done by Gary's Gardens in the Tinsley Field. We have paid £1,389.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £585.00 relates to the Tinsley Field with £285.00 to be reimbursed to us shortly), £1,573.86 for gross salary payments to the clerk and administration expenses of £78.00,

Prior to the meeting, Mr Ian Coles prepared a range of budget figures for councillors to consider for the year commencing 1st April 2023. After consideration of these, it was proposed by Cllr Steve Snell and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham that we set a precept of £9,900 for the year (10% increase from this year) which was agreed by all. Mr Ian Coles will arrange for SKDC to be notified of this, as usual and will also publish the budget on our website.

Mr Ian Coles advised that Barclays have contacted us and asked us to complete a comprehensive form in accordance with their standard financial requirements. This has now been completed with all the details that they require and it will be sent off to them imminently.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

None

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 6th February 2023 at 7 p.m. subject to availability which we hope to confirm shortly. The dates for additional meetings in 2023 will be decided in due course.

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

Chairman: _____

Date: _____