

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13TH FEBRUARY 2023

PRESENT:

Parish Council

Cllr David Ward – Chair

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Steve Snell

Cllr Gareth Williams

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Ms Lisa Blackmore, Ms Anne Davison, Mr Simon Gallon, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mr Jim Mooney, Mr Glenn Roberts, Mr Barrie Upson, Mrs Moira Small, Mr Iain Stowe,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Brian Marsden

2. NEW COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT

Cllr David Ward welcomed Cllrs Gareth Williams and Brian Marsden to the Parish Council, who had both been recently co-opted following the resignations of Iain Gowans and Ish Kamran.

3. OPEN FORUM

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft mentioned that a notice by the entrance to the Boaty had been knocked down and needs to be rectified. Cllr David Ward said that he would investigate this.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

5. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON TUESDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2022 / MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2022

The minutes of both the Parish Council Meeting held on 15 November 2022 and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 12 December 2022, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Steve Snell, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and signed by the Chairperson.

6. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

At the last Parish Council Meeting, it was reported that there is a naturist in the village who has caused offence to some members of the public. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had contacted our PCSO, Rowena Everitt, for advice who suggested that we publicise this on our Facebook page and ask any residents who are offended by this person to call 101 to report this.

Mr Ian Coles advised that the new batteries for the defibrillator have now been ordered and we expect to receive these in the next couple of months.

Graham & Glenn of the Granary / Molecey Mill arranged for a Christmas tree to be acquired for us following the last meeting. Whilst the cost was in excess of £100, they were aware that this was the amount in our annual budget and kindly agreed to pay the balance above this level for which we give our thanks.

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 area confirmed that the main issues that they have been focusing on are thefts on Stamford High Street, monitoring cold callers and anti-social behaviour in Deepings Skatepark.

8. MINERAL EXTRACTION

At the last Parish Council Meeting, the recently updated Lincolnshire Minerals and Local Waste Plan was discussed to which we have submitted our response confirming strong objections to two proposed sites in close proximity to our village. Breedon's, the local gravel extraction contractors, are likely to submit a planning application in due course and prior to this, they have arranged for an informal meeting to be held in our village hall on Monday 27th February 2023 to provide more information and address resident's concerns. In advance of this meeting, Cllr David Ward agreed to write to Rob Wood, the CEO of Breedon's, to ask him to clarify their short and long term plans for gravel extraction in and around West Deeping. For the record, it is also agreed to minute the fact that Cllr David Ward did not agree to any proposal for gravel extraction south of the A1175 at the September 2022 Liaison Meeting held at Breedon's.

In order to keep residents informed of discussions and developments, it was proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham, that a Quarry Committee would be formed, operating independently of the Parish Council, but including a parish councillor so as to ensure smooth communications between the two. This was agreed by all and Ms Lisa Blackmore agreed to set this up.

One area of concern is that the potential additional gravel extraction around the village contradicts LCC's 'Statement of Community Involvement' and this will be pursued by the Quarry Committee.

It was pointed out that there are many planning applications which are submitted for matters relating to gravel extraction which can be confusing for residents and Mr Ian Coles agreed to prepare a suitable summary which would be published on our website and Facebook page in due course.

9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

It was pointed out that there are still potholes in the Boaty in need of repair and Cllr David Ward advised that he would chase Breedon's to rectify this as soon as possible.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had written to both Tinsleys and Anglian Water to advise of the levy increases for use of the Boaty applying from 2023, as agreed at the last meeting. This has been acknowledged by the former but no response has yet been received from the latter.

Mr Ian Coles mentioned that he had been contacted by residents advising that there is a lot of mud and debris on the A1175 from the volume of gravel extraction lorries which they have a responsibility to keep as clean as possible. It was noted that road sweepers have been present again recently so we will keep this under review.

10. GARY'S GARDENS / MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Mr Ian Coles advised that we have now received the revised quotation from Gary's Gardens in respect of this year and next year for the usual work that they carry out for us in the village. Despite efforts to obtain alternative quotations for comparison, none have been forthcoming. Consequently, it was proposed by Cllr Sue Latham and seconded by Cllr Steve Snell that we will use Gary's Gardens again but with a reduced number of grass and hedge cuts each year so that the increased anticipated costs remain broadly within our budget. This was agreed by all.

11. CEMETERIES

No matters to discuss this month.

12. BUS SHELTER

At the last meeting, it was agreed that, as we are unable to afford a replacement, we should try and undertake a renovation of the bus shelter with the funds that we do have available and Cllr David Ward and Mr Ian Coles will liaise with Paul Scoats regarding this. Mr Ian Coles advised that he had met with him again recently and that he could deal with this for us in the Spring, if we have sufficient funds available. At this stage, the estimated cost of such renovation would be around £1,000 – £2,000. We will therefore review this at the May 2023 meeting.

13. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

There has been no further progress on this which will be reviewed again at the next meeting.

14. BEST KEPT VILLAGE SIGN

As agreed at the last meeting, Mr Ian Coles contacted Pete Ashcroft to ask for his thoughts on renovating the sign who advised that it would be preferable to do this in the Spring when the wood had fully dried out. We will review this as well at the May 2023 meeting.

15. PICNIC BENCHES – TINSLEY FIELD

Mrs Alison Ireland has asked the Parish Council if we would be prepared to take ownership of the picnic benches in the Tinsley Field and become responsible for their future maintenance. It was agreed that we would do so subject to no issues with public liability insurance and Mr Ian Coles will check this with our brokers and advise accordingly.

16. SPEED INDICATING DEVICE

This has been inactive since the resignation of Iain Gowans and it was decided that, at the May 2023 Annual Parish Council Meeting, a councillor will be asked to take responsibility for its operation and reporting back to the Parish Council on the results in the future.

17. PLANNING

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

S22/2412 – St Andrew’s Lodge, Church Lane – Pruning of various trees.

This was reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections and planning was approved by SKDC on 25th January 2023.

S23/0023 – 52 King Street – Demolition of existing bungalow and construction of two detached houses with car barns and associated boundary walls.

This is a revised application, updating S22/1308 (withdrawn), for which councillors had previously raised objections.

It was reviewed by councillors who raised the same 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.

A decision on this application is still awaited from SKDC.

18. FINANCE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £1,033.38 and £604.99 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £2.17 in bank interest, £113.00 from the Chatty Ladies towards the cost of replacement defibrillator batteries and £285.00 from West Deeping Parish Charity as reimbursement for work done by Gary’s Gardens in the Tinsley Field. We have paid £152.69 to Defib UK for the defibrillator batteries, £2,206.61 for gross salary payments to the clerk and administration expenses of £100.00.

19. CORRESPONDENCE

We have received correspondence suggesting that we should consider meeting more frequently than every quarter given the extensive ongoing discussions regarding gravel extraction in the village. However, as a Quarry Committee is now being set up, it was agreed that this negates the need to do so.

20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Ian Coles advised that all councillors will be required to resign in May 2023 and can apply for re-election if they wish to do so. He is attending an Election Briefing in Bourne, on behalf of the Parish Council, on Monday 27th February 2023 and will advise further regarding the election process thereafter.

Cllr Sue Latham asked if the Parish Council should be taking any action in respect of the forthcoming coronation of King Charles III. This will be considered further over the next two months.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING / 2023 MEETING DATES

The next meeting will be our Annual Parish Council Meeting and will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which will be held in the village hall on Monday 22nd May 2023 at 7 p.m. The remaining Parish Council Meetings for this year, also commencing at 7 p.m. will be held in the village hall on :-

Monday 14th August 2023

Monday 6th November 2023

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.04 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____