

# WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 MAY 2023

### PRESENT:

#### Parish Council

Cllr Glenn Fuller – Chair

Cllr Gareth Williams – Vice Chair

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Brian Marsden

Cllr Anna Thompson

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Pam Byrd, Ms Anne Davison, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mrs Emma King, Mr Graham Magee, Mr James Mooney, Mr Glenn Roberts, Mrs Patricia Snell, Mr Steve Snell, Mr Roy Slater, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Glenn Fuller offered to stand as chairperson for the forthcoming year (no other nominations). He was proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams, seconded by Cllr Brian Marsden and all voted in favour.

Cllr Gareth Williams offered to stand as vice chairperson for the forthcoming year (no other nominations). He was proposed by Cllr Brian Marsden, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and all voted in favour.

### 3. OPEN FORUM

No matters raised.

### 4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

### 5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 FEBRUARY 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2023, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and signed by the Chairperson.

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

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had now received the new batteries for the defibrillator and that Mrs Lesley Ward has arranged for these to be fitted.

As discussed at the last meeting, Mr Ian Coles confirmed that the Parish Council has agreed to take ownership of the picnic benches and the centenary bench in the Tinsley Field and be responsible for their future maintenance. They have both been added to our Asset Register at a nominal value of £1.

### 7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

District Cllr Pam Byrd introduced herself to the meeting and confirmed that she will be happy to either attend our future meetings to confirm updates on local issues or will provide us with a brief summary report beforehand.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we receive monthly reports from Rowena Everitt, our PCSO and her latest report confirmed that the main issue that they have been focusing on was anti-social behaviour, which has been lower than expected recently.

## **8. MINERAL EXTRACTION**

Cllr Glenn Fuller summarised the current position with regard to ongoing and proposed mineral extraction in and around the village, highlighting the work being done by the West Deeping Quarry Committee and confirming the support of most residents in opposing the expansion plans by Breedon's and the effects that it has on the quality of life for all of us.

Cllr Brian Marsden raised the issue of the proposed re-routing of footpaths in the village which, under Breedon's plans, are likely to be much closer to the A1175.

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft asked if we had received minutes of the last Quarry Liaison Meeting at Breedon's but these are still awaited. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he will chase them for an update on this and also that the next meeting had been arranged for 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Cllr Gareth Williams added that he will also provide a summary of the discussions from his notes of the recent meeting and will also provide information in due course following the discussions being held at the forthcoming West Deeping Quarry Committee Meeting.

Mr James Mooney asked if we can ensure that all communications with Breedon's are put on the website and asked that we continue our dialogue with their Managing Director / CEO in order to confirm our thoughts and objections, as appropriate. Cllr Glenn Fuller agreed to do this.

## **9. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Sue Latham confirmed that we are still waiting for Gary's Gardens to look at the overgrown ivy along the Boaty and to provide us with a quotation for doing this. Mr Ian Coles will chase this up.

## **10. CEMETERIES**

We received a quotation last year from Gary's Gardens to deal with the dead hedge in the cemetery but we felt that this was too expensive and decided not to proceed. However, this does need to be attended to and we are looking for volunteers / members of the Big Help Out who could assist us with this. Cllr Gareth Williams agreed to investigate this further.

## **11. BUS SHELTER**

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had asked for updated quotes from both Paul Scoats and Andrew Blades who had previously provided us with estimates in the region of £10,000 for replacing the bus shelter. Whilst we do not have sufficient funds to finance this ourselves, there is the possibility of a grant through the South Kesteven Prosperity Fund (SKPF). However, neither Paul or Andrew are able to undertake the work for us in the foreseeable future. Cllr Glenn Fuller suggested that we could approach Cemex to ask if they would be prepared to fund this for us and he will pursue this further. The alternative option is a short term repair which Paul Scoats confirmed that he would be able to undertake and Mr Ian Coles will contact him for a quote to do this. Cllr Sue Latham suggested that if we did decide to repair, rather than replace the bus shelter, we should also consider if the SKPF would provide a grant to us in order to finance it.

## **12. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

Mrs Emma King confirmed that certain meetings were held regarding this in the past but no progress had been made due to objections from certain residents on its location. It is understood that Mrs Yvonne Arnold has all the previous correspondence and Cllr Gareth Williams agreed to contact her to pursue this further. It was also pointed out that the financing of the playground would need to be independent of the Parish Council.

## **13. BEST KEPT VILLAGE SIGN**

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has been in touch with Mr Peter Ashcroft who has kindly offered to renovate this for us in return for a £50 donation to Prostate Cancer UK. Councillors were very grateful for this and asked Mr Ian Coles to make arrangements with Peter, passing on our thanks for doing so. The lettering will need to be attended to separately and Cllr Glenn Fuller will arrange this once the repair has been completed.

#### 14. SPEED INDICATING DEVICE

Mr Ian Coles advised that this had previously been dealt with by Mr Iain Gowans when he was a councillor and that we need someone to take over responsibility for dealing this and processing the data etc. It was agreed that he will contact Iain and advise further on what is actually required.

Cllr Sue Latham mentioned that our PCSO Rowena Everitt and a colleague came to the village last week to undertake speed checks and stopped some motorists who were exceeding the speed limit and warned them about keeping within this in the future.

#### 15. PLANNING

There has been one ongoing applications for tree work since the last meeting:-

**S23/0232** – 2 The Row - This has been previously reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections. Work was allowed by SKDC on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

At the last meeting, the following application was discussed :-

**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.

#### 16. FINANCE / INSURANCE

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that accounts have been prepared for our year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 which have now been inspected and agreed by Mr Dane Paul, who has taken over from Mrs Louise Cooke as our internal auditor. It was agreed that we should purchase a voucher to the value of £25 for Dane 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 5 June 2023, the date from which residents can ask to inspect accounts records, up until Friday 14 July 2023. 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.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has been in contact with Barclays to advise that we will wish for two new signatories to be added to our bank account and it was confirmed that Cllr Glenn Fuller and Cllr Gareth Williams should be appointed in this respect, as Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Mr Ian Coles will contact them again to put arrangements in place as soon as possible. However, as this is quite a lengthy process, it was agreed that our previous Chair, Mr David Ward, would continue to authorise payments for the time being.

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £308.22 and £8,106.43 respectively. At our year end (31<sup>st</sup> March 2023), our balances were £170.41 and £106.43 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £1.44 in bank interest and £9,900.00 in respect of the annual precept from SKDC. We have paid £470.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £250.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and will be reimbursed in due course), £2,244.23 for gross salary payments to the clerk (£1,302.87 : 2022/23 / £941.36 : 2023/24), administration and election expenses of £151.50, £84.36 to LALC for our annual membership, £100.07 to SKDC for council tax in respect of the cemetery and £75.00 in respect of the hire of the village hall for meetings during 2022/23.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had received our usual insurance renewal for 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 through BHIB which has increased by £37.93 from last year due to inflationary increases in cover and the introduction of a £25 administration fee. As this will be the final year of a 3 year contract we took out in 2021, we weren't expecting this but we agreed to accept it and will look at alternative costs and options for next year.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has received an email from Mr David James regarding our website who advised that there was no reference to the West Deeping Education Foundation. Consequently, he will provide us with some details in this respect so that we can include it in due course. It was also pointed out that the information for certain groups and organisations was out of date but Mr Ian Coles confirmed that it was the responsibility of each one to advise us, as and when changes are required to the details shown.

Mr Iain Stowe confirmed that he has had discussions with Elizabeth Houlden regarding a mobile library service for the village. This will be situated in the Red Lion car park and will initially visit the village every 4 weeks. Councillors thanked Iain for the work that he has done to arrange this.

Mr Ian Coles advised that he has been contacted by Lincolnshire Police regarding greater contact with parish councils, suggesting a twice-yearly meeting for each area between the Chairs and their senior officers to discuss activity and address concerns.

**18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Alison Ireland reminded us that our current Facebook page still needs to be updated and shown as a business, rather than a personal account. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he would look at this again and Alison offered to help to correct this.

Cllr Sue Latham mentioned that the telephone box in the village is in need of repainting and it was agreed that we will try and recruit volunteers to deal with this.

**19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.54 p.m.

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

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