

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 AUGUST 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 Sylvia Alpe, Mrs Lisa Blackmore, Cllr Pam Byrd, Ms Anne Davison, Mrs Jennifer Hutchins, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mr Graham Magee, Mr James Mooney, Mrs Margaret Mooney, Mr Roy Slater, Mrs Moira Small, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe, Ms Peg Torrance (Deepings & Ginton Patient Participation Group)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. DEEPINGS & GLINTON PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (DGPPG)

Ms Peg Torrance of DGPPG was invited to come along to the meeting to explain the work that they do and the services available to patients. These include patient rights, improving services of the practice, operating a voluntary car scheme for patients with transport difficulties and liaising with the practice on matters of concern to patients. It was agreed that we would assist in promoting the DGPPG by including details on our website, Facebook page and in our newsletters. Cllr Glenn Fuller thanked Peg for taking the time to come along to our meeting to provide us information on the important role that DGPPG plays in our community.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 22 MAY 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2023, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams, seconded by Cllr Anna Thompson and signed by the Chair.

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had met up with Mrs Alison Ireland regarding changing our Facebook page, as discussed at the last meeting and passed on his thanks for her assistance with this. We have now completed the switch from a personal to a business page and it was agreed that Cllr Glenn Fuller should be provided with our password details as a 'back up' for access which will be arranged.

6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

District Cllr Pam Byrd provided us with updates on local issues, with one of the main matters of discussion currently being the balance between retaining agricultural land for food against the development of this for solar farms to address our requirement for cleaner energy.

7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Mrs Alison Ireland advised that, following our extensive bulb planting exercise last year, Western Power (WP) had been working in the area and had dug up land where we had planted bulbs. Whilst acknowledging the need to work on the highways, given the efforts of her team this is rather disappointing. Alison has been in touch with WP to ask if they would consider compensating us for the cost of the lost bulbs which would then allow us to replace them elsewhere in the village. A response from WP is currently awaited.

Cllr Sue Latham confirmed that we have never received the requested quotation from Gary's Gardens to look at the overgrown ivy along the Boaty and this still needs to be dealt with. However, the other main issue along the Boaty which needs attention is the repair of the potholes and Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that he is meeting with Cemex to discuss this, following which we are hopeful that they will provide the gravel to rectify the problem.

Lincolnshire County Council advised us that they have litter picking kits available and Cllr Gareth Williams has collected them for use in and around the village. He will liaise with Annie Newbigging regarding this for future use.

Mr Ian Coles advised that the Highways Department of Lincolnshire County Council have contacted us regarding the completion of an extensive survey with our views on several matters including roads, footpaths, transport services, signposts, lighting and pollution. It was felt that, in addition to councillors, all residents should be given the opportunity to have input to this so we will publish this on our website and request feedback to be provided by 15th September 2023.

8. CEMETERIES

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that he had arranged for the the dead hedge in the cemetery to be removed.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we had been contacted by a resident to ask what the cost would be to bury ashes in the King Street Cemetery for a child under 12 years old, as this is not stipulated on our current 'Schedule of Charges'. As a result, it was agreed that we should review all our current fees which had been in effect since July 2017. Cllr Gareth Williams proposed that we increase each of our current charges by 10% which was seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all. It was also agreed that, in respect of a child under 12 years, the charge would be 50% of the adult cost, with no charge for consent for a memorial stone or vase or for an additional memorial inscription. Mr Ian Coles will arrange for the schedule detailing the new charges to be updated on our website.

9. BUS SHELTER

As agreed at the last meeting, Mr Ian Coles contacted Paul Scoats to request a quotation for a repair to the bus shelter, strengthening the existing structure and allowing us more time to decide on its possible replacement in the future. A quote of £350 was received, which all councillors were happy with and it was agreed that we would proceed with Paul hoping to carry out the work next month.

10. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Cllr Gareth Williams advised that he has been liaising with Mrs Yvonne Arnold regarding this and will report back further at the next meeting. He also mentioned that there is the possibility of funding available if we are able to make progress with this and decide on the most appropriate location within the village.

11. BEST KEPT VILLAGE SIGN

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that Mr Peter Ashcroft has renovated this free of charge for us in return for a £50 donation to Prostate Cancer UK which has now been made. Cllr Glenn Fuller has also arranged for the lettering to be attended to and an invoice will be provided by the supplier in due course. We will also consider the best location for this in order to try and minimise future weather damage.

12. SPEED INDICATING DEVICE

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has met up with by Mr Iain Gowans regarding this and Cllr Gareth Williams has agreed to take over responsibility for this in the future. Ian and Gareth will meet up in the near future to recharge the batteries for the device and look at extracting the data we require.

13. PLANNING

There has been one application since the last meeting:-

S23/1236 – 36 King Street – Replacement doors and windows for a listed property.
This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

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.
Despite these objections, planning permission was granted by SKDC on 21st June 2023 and Mr Ian Coles pointed out that we should review the basis of any objections for similar applications in the future, instead of using the 'standard' response we have adopted in the past.

SKDC Local Development Scheme : 2023 – 2026

An updated plan has been received in respect of this and it was agreed that this should be put on our website so that residents can look at it and provide any comments for councillors to take account of before they submit their response to the proposals.

14. 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. We have been fighting this on all fronts and he commended the work that is being done by Protect West Deeping and independently by Mr Iain Stowe and Mr Jim Mooney. Progress on Breedon's future plans has been delayed as a result of our efforts.

Cllr Glenn Fuller also advised that he has been discussing the current position with Cemex, who have confirmed that they are relocating their site to Thetford and are likely to be out of the village by 2025.

At the last 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 has done this and copies of all our correspondence with them will be put on our website and updated regularly.

Mrs Alison Ireland mentioned that we may be able to obtain details of the locations of mains water pipes in and around the village which could impact future mineral extraction, through a company called Digdat. Cllr Glenn Fuller and Mr Ian Coles agreed to investigate this further.

Mr Ian Coles pointed out that the next West Deeping Quarry Liaison Meeting at Breedon's has been arranged for 5th October 2023.

15. FINANCE

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that the usual Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) requirements were met for our year ended 31st March 2023 and that the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn, has acknowledged this with no further action required. Copies of all related documents are available on our website.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we are still liaising with Barclays for Cllr Glenn Fuller and Cllr Gareth Williams to be added as signatories to our bank accounts. It is hoped that we will be able to complete this exercise in the near future.

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £775.04 and £6,116.99 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £10.56 in bank interest, £130.00 in levies for the Boaty from Anglian Water and Tinsleys and £570.00 in reimbursement of costs from West Deeping Parish Charity related to the Tinsley Field. We have paid £660.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £320.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and has been reimbursed as above), £1,016.53 for gross salary payments to the clerk, administration expenses of £62.32, £419.33 to BHIB for our annual insurance, £25.00 for a gift voucher for our internal auditor, as agreed at the last meeting and £50.00 for the donation to Prostate Cancer UK in respect of the repair to the Best Kept Village Sign.

16. CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs Alison Ireland confirmed that the Environment Agency had cleared debris from the river and it is looking much better. They are supposed to conduct this every year and it was agreed that Mr Ian Coles would make a diary note for next summer to ensure that this is carried out.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Glenn Fuller thanked various residents for supporting and promoting village spirit with a special mention to Mrs Lesley Ward for her work in establishing the 100 Club on behalf of the village hall.

Mr Iain Stowe mentioned that the mobile library will visit the village again on Monday 4th September 2023 and they will come along every month thereafter **providing** that residents come along and use it.

18. OPEN FORUM

No matters raised.

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 6th November 2023 at 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____