

## WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 6 NOVEMBER 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 Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mrs Lisa Blackmore, Mr Paul Bragg, Mr Bob Briggs, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mrs Jennifer Hutchings, Mr Frazer King, Mr James Mooney, Mrs Margaret Mooney, Mr Iain Stowe

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Pam Byrd, Cllr Virginia Moran

#### 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Whilst no declarations were made, Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that we are aware there has been correspondence issued recently which didn't differentiate between the Parish Council and the independent West Deeping Quarry Committee. In future, we will endeavour to ensure that all communications are issued separately. Mr Iain Stowe asked councillors and the clerk to clarify if they are also members of the Quarry Committee and Cllrs Glenn Fuller and Gareth Williams confirmed that they are the only members of both.

#### 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2023, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams, seconded by Cllr Brian Marsden and signed by the Chair.

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

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that Mr Paul Scoats had completed the renovation work for the bus shelter, as agreed at the last meeting. Whilst this has strengthened the structure, more extensive work could be undertaken to improve it further so we will keep this under review.

Following the presentation from the Deepings & Glinton Patient Participation Group at our last meeting, we have published notices on our website from them for both their forthcoming Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and a request for volunteers to help with transporting patients to the surgery.

#### 5. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Ashley Baxter provided us with updates on local issues including the availability of funds through both South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) and the Rural Community Fund for community projects. He also mentioned that there is a 'Hello SK' App now available if residents wish to access this for SKDC matters.

## 6. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that the repair of the potholes in the Boaty should be undertaken within the next two weeks. He will also obtain a quotation for a complete resurfacing of the Boaty and will liaise with Cemex / Breedon's regarding the possibility that they may be prepared to fund the cost of this.

Cllr Brian Marsden mentioned that he would like us to consider the purchase of large poppies to be fixed to lampposts in the village, as has been done in our neighbouring village of Maxey. Given that Remembrance Day is next Sunday, it was agreed that we would take no action this year but review it for 2024.

At the last meeting, Mr Ian Coles advised that the Highways Department of Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) 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. Comments from both councillors and residents were requested on any issues that they felt should be mentioned to LCC but none were received and therefore no submissions were made.

Mr Bob Briggs mentioned that there is a road gully blocked which affects the residents of 10, 12 and 14 King Street. Cllr Ashley Baxter agreed to look into this on our behalf.

Cllr Sue Latham confirmed that the light in the lamppost outside 33 King Street had now been rectified and that, following correspondence from a resident, she has spoken to the Footpaths Officer at LCC regarding an overgrown footpath affecting residents between 13 and 33 Stamford Road which they have asked their contractors to rectify as soon as possible.

## 7. CEMETERIES

Following discussions at our last meeting, Mr Ian Coles confirmed that the revised 'Schedule of Charges' for cemetery fees has been updated on our website.

## 8. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

No progress has been made since the last meeting but Cllr Glenn Fuller and Cllr Gareth Williams will look into this again and report back at the next meeting. Mr Ian Coles will arrange for recent details that he has received from companies offering playground equipment and services to be forwarded to them both.

## 9. BEST KEPT VILLAGE SIGN

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that the lettering on the sign has now been attended to and that we need to consider the best location for it in order to try and minimise future weather damage. Further thought will be given to this and suggestions from residents would be most welcome.

## 10. SPEED INDICATING DEVICE

Cllr Gareth Williams has taken over responsibility for this and will extract the data periodically to analyse it and ascertain if speeding issues are still prevalent in our village.

## 11. PLANNING

There have been two applications since the last meeting:-

**S23/1836** – 70 King Street – Tree work.

This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

**S23/1965** – 58 King Street – Tree work.

This is currently being reviewed by councillors.

At the last meeting, application reference S23/1236 for replacement doors and windows for a listed property at 36 King Street was discussed and planning permission was granted on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

## 12. MINERAL EXTRACTION

Cllr Glenn Fuller summarised the current position with regard to ongoing and proposed mineral extraction in and around the village and provided details of the Quarry Liaison Meeting held at Breedon's on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2023. We expect to receive minutes of these in due course which will then be published on our website. He also confirmed that councillors from LCC had had a recent site visit so that they are aware of our location.

It was noted that there was a Planning and Regulation Committee Meeting held at LCC's offices earlier today where planning permission was granted to reduce the standoff distances from Rectory Farm, Crown Farm and the Lodge (planning references – PL/0129/22 / S23/0103 and PL/0130/22 / S23/0102).

Mr Iain Stowe and Mr Jim Mooney confirmed that there have been various Freedom of Information Act requests made to see the agreements that have been made with and between LCC, Breedon's and Tinsley's in respect of ongoing and future mineral extraction affecting our community.

Mr Bob Briggs pointed out that the suggested entrance for a processing plant on the south side of the A1175 will create a major safety issue due to slow HGV's leaving the site and meeting faster vehicles in transit, with limited visibility for both due to the bends in the road. Mr Jim Mooney pointed out that, in order to reduce this danger, it would be necessary for roundabouts to be put in place at both the crossroads between King Street and the A1175 and also at the proposed site entrance. Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that, in discussions with Breedon's, their preference was to keep the processing plant on the north side of the A1175 but Mr Jim Mooney pointed out that the landowners (LCC / Tinsley's) had undertaken an agreement with Breedon's to move it to the south side.

Mrs Lisa Blackmore then provided the meeting with a summary of the work being undertaken by the West Deeping Quarry Committee. Their primary objective is to stop the processing plant moving from the north to the south side of the A1175 for further gravel extraction, which has been 'allocated' but not yet consented. As referred to above, Lisa also confirmed that the Quarry Committee are liaising with Traffic at LCC regarding our safety concerns around the site entrance of the proposed new plant. It is expected that a public exhibition will be held in late 2023 / early 2024 regarding the proposals, with an application for planning permission expected to be submitted by Breedon's in Spring 2024. Lisa also mentioned that she had attended a meeting at Baston recently in connection with the mineral extraction that affects them and developments in their area are being closely monitored. The Quarry Committee are planning to launch a website over the next few months and further information will be provided regarding this in due course.

Mr Jim Mooney also pointed out that the officers of LCC would consider the legal position of both future gravel extraction and the location of the processing plant and would make a recommendation to their councillors on what should, or should not, be approved.

Finally, Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that he had corresponded with Breedon's on various matters and they have suggested establishing a 'working group' with our community, meeting regularly to discuss ongoing matters and concerns. Several residents have reservations on the wisdom of this so it was agreed that councillors should vote on whether we should agree or decline this offer. All councillors voted against the proposal so Cllr Glenn Fuller will confirm to Maria Cotton at Breedon's that we do not wish to engage with them on this.

## 13. DEEPINGS LEISURE CENTRE

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had been contacted by Andy Pelling of the Deepings Community Leisure Centre Community Interest Company (DCLCCIC) requesting that all parish councils consider make a contribution from April 2024 towards the cost of equipment and for refurbishing and reopening the Deepings Leisure Centre. They have asked for a payment of £3.50 per adult resident and based on our electorate, this would equate to a contribution of around £770. Cllr Ashley Baxter pointed out that this would only be payable if they receive the significant grants that they have applied for from local and central government and SKDC approve its reopening. Residents had been asked in advance of the meeting if they thought that we should support this or not but no opinions had been received. In order to make a decision, Mr Ian Coles had recently prepared three possible budgets for councillors to consider for the 2024/25 financial year with no support, reduced support or support at the full level and these were discussed further under 'Finance' below.

**14. FINANCE**

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that he had recently met with Mr Ian Coles for their annual review meeting, as stipulated in his contract of employment. This included a review of his current pay scale (SCP10) and following discussions with councillors, he proposed that this should increase to SCP11 from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. It was seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all.

As we are required to submit our precept request to SKDC for 2024/25 by mid-January 2024, it was necessary to agree our budget for the forthcoming financial year. Mr Ian Coles had provide councillors with suggested figures in advance of the meeting, with three options depending upon their views on supporting DCLCCIC, as referred to in the preceding agenda item. Following discussions on this, it was proposed by Cllr Glenn Fuller that we adopt a budget based on a precept of £10,900 (2023/24 - £9,900) which includes full support for DCLCCIC. This was seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all.

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £822.59 and £3,633.96 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £16.97 in bank interest, £280.00 in reimbursement of costs from West Deeping Parish Charity related to the Tinsley Field and £25.45 from HMRC for a refund of VAT on expenditure in the 2022/23 financial year. We have paid £560.00 to Gary’s Gardens (of which £280.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and has been reimbursed as above), £1,531.95 for gross salary payments to the clerk, administration expenses of £78.00, £72.95 to SKDC for election fees, £165.00 for the lettering for our Best Kept Village Sign and £350.00 for the renovation of our bus shelter.

**15. CORRESPONDENCE**

The only correspondence received has been in connection with the potholes in the Baoty and the overgrown footpath which are included in ‘Highways and Footpaths’ above.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Ian Coles mentioned that we need to arrange for a Christmas tree to be acquired which will be located in front of the village hall, as usual. Cllr Glenn Fuller agreed to source one for us.

**17. OPEN FORUM**

No matters raised.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 7 p.m.

Dates were also agreed for the remainder of 2024 as follows:-

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024 (preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting at 7 p.m.)
- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – 7 p.m.
- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2024 – 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.27 p.m.

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

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