

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2024

PRESENT:

Parish Council

Cllr Glenn Fuller – Chair

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Anna Thompson

Cllr Brian Marsden

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Ashley Baxter, Cllr Pam Byrd, Mrs Lisa Blackmore, Mrs Pat Dethick, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mrs Emma King, Mr Graham Magee, Mr James Mooney, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe, Mrs June Thomas

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON / VICE CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Glenn Fuller and Cllr Gareth Williams both offered themselves to stand for Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. Their re-election was proposed by Cllr Sue Latham, seconded by Cllr Anna Thompson and agreed by all councillors.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Virginia Moran

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

Cllr Glenn Fuller declared his interest in respect of a planning application (S24/0155) to be discussed later in the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2024, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Anna Thompson, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and signed by the Chair.

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

At the November 2023 meeting, Cllr Brian Marsden mentioned that he would like us to consider the purchase of large poppies for Remembrance Day and Cllr Gareth Williams has looked into this for 2024. This also includes purchasing two metal soldier silhouettes. The cost of these is likely to be in the region of £440 so we would be looking for sponsorship from residents and local businesses. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that our 'Best Kept Village Sign' has now been put back in its original location following the renovation work carried out on it last year.

6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Pam Byrd summarised various initiatives that the District Council had been involved with which included the promotion of the 'I'd Rather be in Deeping' magazine circulated to households and the introduction of purple lidded bins for paper and card collection.

Cllr Ashley Baxter provided us with an update on the potential renovation and reopening of the Deepings Leisure Centre with South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) agreeing to pay £850,000 towards this. The Anthem Schools Trust is currently negotiating with the Deepings Community Leisure Centre Community Interest Company to try and progress matters further.

SKDC are also looking at options for battery recycling and hope to make progress on this in the coming months.

There are ongoing legal disputes with Tallington Lakes and their expansion of further units which impacts on both traffic and sewerage issues in our village.

Ashley also reminded us that there are funds available for community projects and that an application had been made for the refurbishment of West Deeping Village Hall.

7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Following the flooding issues that we experienced in the village over the winter, we have kept in touch with Anglian Water to ensure that they deal promptly with these problems as and when they occur and have also requested that they consider pipeline improvements which should help to alleviate them in the future. Following this, they have set up a 'Multi Agency Group' with four villages (including Tallington and West Deeping) invited to attend regular monthly meetings online to enable us to work together to combat problems and put resilience plans in place. Cllr Gareth Williams attended the first meeting held on 8th May 2024 on our behalf.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we have also been corresponding with Phil Swinton, the Health & Safety Manager at SKDC, who have offered us assistance and support on flooding issues.

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that, in addition to the sandbags supplied by SKDC some months ago, there is an additional supply available from Breedon's if needed.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that the repair of the potholes and possible resurfacing of the Boaty is still under consideration and that he and Cllr Gareth Williams are liaising in order to try and find a suitable and affordable solution. It has been decided that we will not approach Breedon's for assistance on this matter.

After making no further progress with National Grid on the resurfacing of the footpath on Stamford Road, which has been repaired with tarmac, whereas it was previously a grass verge, Mr Ian Coles has contacted the Highways Officer at LCC directly. They have confirmed that this has been investigated and they are currently considering the matter and will advise further in due course.

Cllr Sue Latham reported that there had been a couple of footpath issues that she has been dealing with and progress was being made in resolving these.

The next Parish Council Engagement Session with Lincolnshire Police on road safety is due to be held on Tuesday 25th June 2024. Cllr Gareth Williams attended the first session and it was agreed that Mr Ian Coles will ask him if he can also attend this session on our behalf.

Cllr Glenn Fuller reported, on behalf of Cllr Gareth Williams, that the speed indicating device data has been analysed and that we are continually looking at measures we can put in place to ensure that speeding through the village is minimised.

Cllr Glenn Fuller also reported that the Red Lion had received permission for a brown road sign to be erected at the King Street crossroads.

9. CEMETERIES

After recent strong winds, there is a fallen tree in the cemetery which needs attention. Mr Ian Coles has contacted SKDC, who have confirmed that, as the cemetery is in a conservation area, we will need planning permission if we wish to remove it. Cllr Glenn Fuller agreed to look at this in further detail and would then recommend what actions we should take to deal with it.

10. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

On behalf of Cllr Gareth Williams, Cllr Glenn Fuller reported that a number of options are being considered for the location of the proposed playground and has suggested that a working group should be set up to discuss this and possible fundraising ideas in order to finance it.

11. MINERAL EXTRACTION

Cllr Glenn Fuller summarised the current position with regard to ongoing and proposed mineral extraction in and around the village.

Maria Cotton of Breedon's has called an Extraordinary Meeting of the Quarry Liaison Group for Friday 24th May 2024, ahead of further consideration of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan by the Scrutiny Committee of LCC on Tuesday 28th May 2024, the executive decision by them scheduled for Tuesday 4th June 2024 and the Public Consultation by Breedon's in our village hall on Monday 10th June 2024.

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that the landowners, Henry Tinsley and LCC, along with senior personnel at Breedon's had all been invited to attend our meetings this evening but all had declined or not responded.

Mr Jim Mooney mentioned that, at the forthcoming Public Consultation, attendees should keep notes of their discussions with Breedon's which we can collate for future reference. He also asked Cllr Ashley Baxter to confirm that the archaeology works carried out in the proposed MS29 safeguarding area in West Deeping in August and September 2023 was in strict compliance with the consented proposal, as approved by the Secretary of State in 2017, which is protected from gravel extraction under LCC safeguarding provisions.

Cllr Glenn Fuller also confirmed that he and Mrs Alison Ireland had attended a recent meeting at Greatford Village Hall to discuss the impact on gravel extraction with representatives of several of our nearby villages and work together to try and reduce the effect that this has on all of our lives.

12. PLANNING

There has been one application since the last meeting:-

S24/0155 – The Granary, Stamford Road – Change of use to residential / single storey rear extension.
This has been reviewed by councillors who had no comments or objections.

At the last meeting, the following applications had been circulated to councillors and were under review. There were no comments or objections and work was allowed by SKDC on 5th April 2024 :-

S24/0023 – 36 King Street – Replacement windows / doors.

S24/0109 – 36 King Street – Design amendment to replacement windows / doors.

The Planning Department of SKDC have been conducting a Local Plan Review of services and facilities for which we were invited to participate. Cllr Glenn Fuller completed this on our behalf and it was submitted to them on 25th April 2024.

13. FINANCE / INSURANCE

The balances in our current and deposit accounts at our year end of 31st March 2024 were £231.01 and £250.00 respectively. Since the last meeting up to year end, we have received burial fees of £55.00 and £6.15 in bank interest. We have paid £1,277.36 for gross salary payments to the clerk and administration expenses of £77.00.

Our current balances are £352.27 (current account) and £10,000.00 (deposit account). Since 1st April 2024, we have received our annual precept from SKDC of £10,900.00. Our expenditure was made up of £40.00 for the hire of the village hall in 2023/24, £110.07 in council tax for the cemetery, £93.98 for our annual subscription to LALC, clerk salary payments of £518.69, administration expenses of £26.00 and £240.00 to Gary's Gardens, of which £130.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and will be reimbursed by West Deeping Parish Charity in due course.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that all the usual Annual Government and Accountability Returns (AGAR) had been completed and signed off by our internal auditor. These were signed by Cllr Glenn Fuller, as Chairman and Mr Ian Coles, as the Responsible Financial Officer and will be put on our website shortly. As our income / expenditure is less than £25,000 per annum, we qualify as an exempt authority so only need to forward our signed Certificate of Exemption to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn which Mr Ian Coles will arrange. In accordance with our usual practice, we will also arrange for a £25 gift voucher to be purchased for our internal auditor as a token of our appreciation for inspecting our accounts for us.

Our annual insurance is due for renewal at 1st June 2024 and we have received a competitive quotation from Zurich of £300.00, which councillors examined prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Glenn Fuller and seconded by Cllr Anna Thompson that we switch across to them from our current insurers and agreed by all.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

We have received a recent query regarding the maintenance of unadopted roads and it was confirmed that the landowners whose properties are adjacent to them are responsible for their upkeep. A recent problem relating to this has now been resolved.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

We have been made aware of funding available from SKDC's Community Engagement Team in respect of community orchards and it was felt that this was worth pursuing. Cllr Glenn Fuller agreed to discuss this with Cllr Gareth Williams, which could be located in a similar area to the proposed playground.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we have obtained a copy of the King's Portrait and Cllr Glenn Fuller arranged for this to be put in the village hall prior to tonight's meeting.

16. OPEN FORUM

No matters raised.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the village hall on Monday 5th August 2024 at 7 p.m.

Additional meeting dates for the remainder of 2024 are as follows:-

Monday 4th November 2024 – 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____