

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019**

Attended:

Cllr Ashley Baxter
Mr Paul Bragg
Mr Jim Mooney
Cllr Virginia Moran
Mrs Jean Stowe

Mr Iain Stowe – Chairman
Cllr Maggie Ashcroft
Cllr Colin Blagrove
Cllr Sue Latham
Cllr Stephen Snell
Cllr David Ward

Mr Ian Coles - Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2018

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 May 2018 were considered, following which it was proposed by Cllr Colin Blagrove, seconded by Cllr Stephen Snell and unanimously agreed the minutes be accepted as a correct record of the meeting; the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2018 – 31 MARCH 2019

The Chairman, Cllr Iain Stowe, gave a report to the meeting on the activities of the Parish Council for the year ending 31 March 2019. A copy of the Chairman's full report is attached to these minutes.

The Chairman wished to thank his fellow councillors and the Clerk for their support and cooperation during the year and confirmed that he is now stepping down after 15 years as a councillor.

During the year, a speed indicating device was purchased and erected in the village in the hope that this will reduce speeding and he thanked Cllr Colin Blagrove for all his work in this respect.

Ongoing maintenance of the closed church yard of St Andrews and the King Street Cemetery is required and in addition to expected increases in expenditure for the forthcoming year, a small increase in our precept has been put into place for the first time since 2013.

Over the year, we have engaged in various discussions with Anglian Water on ongoing sewage problems in the village and he thanked Cllr Stephen Snell for leading this and ensuring that we are doing all that we can to resolve this issue.

The Chairman also thanked all residents who have helped in various community obligations and other community activities.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES AND CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

None.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

The financial summary for the year was presented and a copy is attached to the minutes. The precept remained at the same level as in the previous year but has been increased slightly for the forthcoming year as referred to in the Chairman's Report.

The various requirements for our Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) have been completed and the appropriate forms were signed by the Chairman and the Responsible Financial Officer. It was also confirmed that we are an 'exempt authority' for this purpose as our income and expenditure did not exceed £25,000 in the year and that our Certificate of Exemption will be submitted to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn. Mr Jim Mooney questioned whether or not it was appropriate for this matter to be discussed during the Annual Parish Meeting and it was agreed that Mr Ian Coles will take advice on this and if necessary, we will change the procedure in future years.

As recommended by our internal auditor, it was confirmed that we are happy that the financial processes and controls which are in place for receipts and payments have been complied with during the year and will continue to be effective for the forthcoming year. Furthermore, with regard to future expenditure, we will ensure that alternative quotations are received from suppliers where it is both relevant and appropriate.

6. COMMUNITY REPORTS

6.1 WEST DEEPING PARISH CHARITY REPORT

No report has been received this year.

6.2 WEST DEEPING VILLAGE HALL CHARITY REPORT

Mr Iain Stowe, Secretary to West Deeping Village Hall Charity, produced a report for the year up to 31st March 2019 which is attached to these minutes.

6.3 WEST DEEPING PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Mr Colin Blagrove, Secretary to the Parochial Church Council provided a verbal update at the meeting. The key points were the appointment of the new Rector, Father Aran Beesley, attendance at church services, plus events and fundraising for improvements to St Andrews Church including a new toilet and servery for which tenders have been invited. A copy of the Report is attached to these minutes.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A vote of thanks was given to Mr Iain Stowe, the outgoing Chairman, for his long-standing service to the Parish Council.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7:26pm.

Chairman

Dated _____