

# WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2024

### PRESENT:

#### Parish Council

Cllr Glenn Fuller – Chair

Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Anna Thompson

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Mr Paul Bragg, Ms Anne Davison, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mr James Mooney,  
Mr Iain Stowe

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None received.

### 2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

As discussed at the last meeting, it has been noted that all councillors have land or property interests in the village and the value of these could potentially be affected by future mineral extraction. At that meeting, it was proposed by Cllr Glenn Fuller, seconded by Cllr Gareth Williams and agreed by all that councillors be granted a dispensation to allow them to participate in discussions on this matter for a period up to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2027. Each councillor signed a form confirming their request for dispensation, which also includes discussions to set our annual precept. As Cllr Sue Latham and Cllr Anne Thompson were not present at the last meeting, they signed their own dispensation forms at this meeting before any discussions commenced.

### 3. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 5 AUGUST 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2024, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams, seconded by Cllr Glenn Fuller and signed by the Chair.

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

At the last meeting, Mrs Maggie Ashcroft pointed out that either our website or Facebook page refers to the fact that we have six councillors, instead of five. Mr Ian Coles checked this and confirmed that this was on our Facebook page and it has now been corrected.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had now received a response from the Environment Agency confirming that they are unable to undertake any clearing of the weeds / debris in the River Welland this year, as previously hoped, due to a lack of funding being available.

### 5. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

No reports received this month.

### 6. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr Gareth Williams provided an update from the recent meetings of our 'Multi Agency Group' (MAG), set up by Anglian Water, with four villages (including Tallington and West Deeping) invited to work together to discuss flooding and sewage problems and take any possible steps to minimise, or prevent, these reoccurring in the future.

## **7. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) had taken action to improve the entrance to the Boaty from King Street where potholes have become a problem. He has been assessing the additional issues in the Boaty for both the repair of potholes and tree work and suggested that the cost of dealing with these was likely to be in the region of £750. Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we have £260 available from the levies that are charged to Anglian Water and Tinsley's each year and it was agreed that we should also allocate an additional amount of £500 in next year's budget to deal with this.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he has continued to chase the Highways Department at LCC regarding the resurfacing of the footpath on Stamford Road, which has been repaired with tarmac, whereas it was previously a grass verge. They have confirmed that an investigation is still ongoing and we await further updates.

## **8. CEMETERIES**

The fallen tree in the cemetery still needs to be dealt with and as discussed at the last meeting, there are several other nearby trees that have died. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Latham and Mr Ian Coles will look at these in further depth so that we apply for planning permission to remove them all.

We were recently asked by one of the local funeral directors if the soil removed from digging a grave in the cemetery should be taken away. In the past, the soil has been deposited at the back of the cemetery but there is quite a significant amount accumulated there now. It was agreed that, in future, all excess soil should now be taken away by the grave diggers.

## **9. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

Cllr Gareth Williams has been discussing options with residents for the location of the proposed playground and we hope to make progress on this, along with fundraising suggestions to finance it. Gareth also pointed out that we need to be aware of the ongoing and long-term costs of maintaining any playground once we have established a suitable location.

## **10. BUS SHELTER**

Mr Ian Coles advised that we had been contacted by Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) who had undertaken a survey of all the bus shelters in the county and had concluded that ours 'needs demolishing'. Following this, IC contacted them to discuss their views further and they confirmed that their inspector had based this view based on previous fire damage and rotted and missing panels.

Last year, Mr Paul Scoats undertook work for us on the bus shelter to strengthen the base and whilst it was acknowledged that this was only a short-to-medium term measure, it provided us with more time to consider additional options in the future. In advance of this meeting, Paul has inspected it again and in conjunction with Mr Pete Ashcroft, they have concluded that spending further money on renovation to bring it back to a suitable standard, fit for long-term use, was not likely to be worthwhile and it would be preferable to replace it.

We are aware that grants of up to £3,000 are available from Lincolnshire County Council for bus shelters although, from previous research, it is anticipated that the cost of replacing it will far exceed this. It is unlikely, therefore, that we will be able to consider this option in the foreseeable future, given limited funds available.

Mr Paul Bragg pointed out that there are bus shelters in the villages of Barnack and Pilsgate which he feels would be suitable for us and it was agreed that Mr Ian Coles would contact their Parish Council to ask if they could provide us with information of the costs / suppliers. We would then be able to assess the viability, or otherwise, of replacing our bus shelter at some future date.

## 11. POPPY APPEAL

Cllr Gareth Williams reported that we had received generous donations from residents and local businesses which will cover our total costs of purchasing large poppies and two metal soldier silhouettes for Remembrance Day this year. A small balance is likely to be available, which will be retained for the purchase of replacement poppies etc in future years. Cllr Glenn Fuller thanked Gareth for all his efforts in organising this for us.

## 12. CHRISTMAS TREE

Mr Ian Coles advised that we had been contacted by a lady from Casthorpe House Farm, near Barrowby, who has Christmas trees available at £30 each. A discussion was held regarding a suitable size for this year's tree, to be located outside the village hall, as usual and Cllr Glenn Fuller agreed to arrange for a tree to be purchased and collected from them.

## 13. COMMUNITY ORCHARDS / BIODIVERSITY PROJECT FUNDING

At previous meetings, we have discussed the funding that is available from SKDC for community orchards and biodiversity projects. This has been considered but it was not felt that it was worth pursuing at the present time.

## 14. MINERAL EXTRACTION

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

Following the last Liaison meeting at Breedon's, it is expected that they will submit an application for planning permission for additional mineral extraction by the end of the year. Their current favoured location for a new plant is in the middle of the area, known as SG17, on the south side of the A1175, although consideration is still being given to this being sited on the north side instead.

## 15. PLANNING

There has been one application since the last meeting:-

**S24/1536** – Tree work at 54 King Street.

This has been considered by councillors who had no comments or objections and the work was approved by SKDC on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

At the last meeting, the following application had been considered by councillors who had no comments or objections. Planning permission was granted by SKDC on 12th August 2024 :-

**S24/0981** – 31 Stamford Road – Proposed two storey and single storey rear extensions.

## 16. FINANCE

Our current balances are £779.98 (current account) and £5,445.00 (deposit account). Since the last meeting, we have received Boaty levies of £200.00 from Anglian Water, reimbursement of charges for the Tinsley Field of £645.00 from West Deeping Parish Charity and deposit account interest of £26.81. We have also received a total of £945.00 in respect of our Poppy Appeal. Our expenditure was made up of £1,325.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £675.00 relates to the Tinsley Field and £190.00 is still to be reimbursed), clerk salary payments of £1,778.59 and administration expenses of £88.00.

Mr Ian Coles has prepared a draft budget for our 2025/26 year, which had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. This involved an increase in our precept from £10,900 to £11,500 (equating to approximately 5.5%) to cover our anticipated expenditure. It was proposed that the budget be adopted by Cllr Glenn Fuller, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all.

Cllr Glenn Fuller advised that he had met up with Mr Ian Coles for an annual review meeting, as required under his contract of employment. Following this, Glenn suggested that his current pay scale should increase from SCP11 to SCP12 with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. Based on current levels, this increases the pay rate from £14.13 to £14.36 per hour. This was proposed by Cllr Sue Latham, seconded by Cllr Gareth Williams and agreed by all.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE**

Mr Ian Coles mentioned that he had been contacted by City Fibre, a company who has been awarded the contract to bring gigabit-capable broadband to Cambridgeshire and surrounding areas over the next few months. Once complete, residents and business will have access to the fastest and most reliable broadband services in the country. Updates on their progress are awaited and will be communicated to residents at the appropriate time.

**18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Glenn Fuller wished to thank Mrs Maggie Ashcroft for her work with the West Deeping Heritage Group, with a particularly interesting archaeology talk at a recent meeting.

**19. OPEN FORUM**

No matters raised.

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held in the village hall on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 7 p.m.

Additional meeting dates for 2025 are currently being reviewed, subject to the availability of the village hall. These will be published on our website and Facebook page as soon as possible.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.55 p.m.

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

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