

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 2 SEPTEMBER 2019

PRESENT: **Parish Council** Cllr Colin Blagrove – Chair
Cllr Maggie Ashcroft
Cllr Sue Latham
Cllr Stephen Snell
Cllr David Ward

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mr Paul Bragg, Cllr Virginia Moran, Mrs Moira Small, Mrs Jean Stowe

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Maggie Ashcroft provided the Clerk with a letter at the start of the Meeting resigning as Chairperson but confirming that she will continue to serve as a parish councillor. This is in accordance with discussions held at our Annual Parish Council Meeting in May 2019 where it was agreed that the role of Chairperson would be rotated during the year. Cllr Colin Blagrove agreed to stand as the new Chairperson which was proposed by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and seconded by Cllr Stephen Snell. A new 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' form was also completed by Cllr Colin Blagrove as Chairperson.

3. OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised this month.

4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Cllr Maggie Ashcroft declared an interest for item 9 – Cemeteries regarding an issue that we discussed at the last Meeting concerning the nearby presence of bees and their possible relocation which is affecting our contractor working in that area.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15 JULY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2019, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Sue Latham, seconded by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and signed by the Chairperson.

6. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cllr David Ward mentioned that there is a damaged bollard displaying a 'Keep Left' sign at the junction between King Steert and the A1175. Cllr David Ward also asked if rumble strips could be put on the southbound side of King Street approaching the A1175. Cllr Colin Blagrove agreed to raise both issues with the Highways Department at Lincolnshire County Council.

At the last Meeting, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew mentioned that there was a meeting planned in September regarding speeding radar guns which Cllr Colin Blagrove is interested in attending. We have heard nothing further about this so Mr Ian Coles will ask her if this has now been arranged.

Cllr Colin Blagrove advised that he is still dealing with the erection of a sign at the entrance to the Tinsley Field asking visitors to pick up litter and place it in the bin provided.

Cllr Colin Blagrove thanked the Jubilee Committee for organising the Parish Council Centenary event at the end of July, as well as Cllr Stephen Snell for organising the new bench and Amy at the Red Lion public house for her assistance on the day. It was also confirmed that Steve Cook, a local resident, had paid for the portaloos which was required on the day and Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had now received an invoice for this and would therefore reimburse him for the cost of doing so.

7. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Ashley Baxter and Cllr Virginia Moran provided verbal reports covering issues such as the village green in Market Deeping, an open meeting regarding Molecey Mill, leisure centres and the local market.

8. GARY'S GARDENS

Mrs Jean Stowe advised that the long grass in Tinsley field needs to be cut and that this is usually dealt with in the early Autumn. We understand that Gary is unwell at present but Mr Ian Coles will check with his wife, Angela, who is running the business in the meantime.

9. CEMETERIES

At the last Meeting, a discussion took place regarding the need to prune certain yew trees and action is required for 6 – 8 lime trees which need to be topped. It was agreed that we would obtain quotations for doing so from both Gary's Gardens and Woodcraft Tree Services, another local firm and ask them to liaise with Cllr Sue Latham to establish exactly what work is required. These have now been received with a cost of around £2,000 - £2,500. All councillors will now be provided with a copy of both quotations so that they can be considered further.

Cllr Colin Blagrove raised the issue of the church wall which needs to be repaired in various places. It was agreed that he will now obtain 3 quotations from separate sources for us to consider. Cllr Stephen Snell also raised the possibility of grant funding which it was agreed that we will look into.

Following the last Meeting, Mr Ian Coles advised that he had written to the owner of the property at 36 King Street, next to the cemetery where bees are kept, to ask if it was possible for them to be relocated as they were preventing Gary's Gardens from maintaining a certain part of it after being stung twice recently. The property owner, Julie Steels, has responded confirming that she would be happy to do this over the winter although this may create a similar problem for residents on the other side of her property. Following discussions, Cllr Stephen Snell proposed that we do not ask her to move them which was seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by Cllrs Colin Blagrove and David Ward with Cllr Maggie Ashcroft abstaining. Mr Ian Coles will write to her to confirm this. As a result, it was agreed that the part of the cemetery causing Gary's Gardens maintenance problems should be left to become a 'wild area'.

Cllr Sue Latham advised that there has been a small amount of damage to one of the gravestones which she is currently dealing with.

10. SEWAGE PROBLEMS

At the last meeting, Mrs Moira Small mentioned that her daughter had been advised by a representative of Anglian Water that the sewage problems in our village were exacerbated by the increase in the number of residents at Tallington Lakes. Cllr Stephen Snell had contacted Nick Daubney at Anglian Water to mention this but he strongly refuted it, as they have always done in the past. Moira will try to obtain the name of the representative in question and advise the Clerk of this so that we can let Nick know.

11. PLANNING

11.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been no new planning applications since the last Meeting.

11.2 EXISTING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that three previous planning applications for which we had no comments or objections - S19/0430 / S19/1454 / PL/0103/19 had now all been approved.

12. FINANCE

BALANCES / INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £522 and £6,442 respectively. Since the last meeting, the only income that we have received is deposit account interest of £3.51. We have paid £784.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £385.00 will be reimbursed by WD Charities for the Tinsley Field in due course), plus £100.00 to Paul Scoats for fixing our new bench and £73.43 in election fees to SKDC.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we receive various documents in the post but he is unable to forward these on to councillors by email as he doesn't own a scanner. It was agreed that he should arrange for one to be purchased from Apollo Computer Services in Deeping St James so that we can overcome this issue in the future.

13. DOCUMENTATION REVIEW

At the last Meeting, Mr Ian Coles advised that he has been reviewing all the Parish Council’s documentation and felt that we should ensure that all of this is up to date and published on our website, as is the case for many of our neighbouring parish councils. Cllr David Ward agreed to review this for us and has now forwarded draft documents to all councillors for us to consider, primarily based on those used by Greatford Parish Council as their village is of similar size to ourselves. As this will require considerable thought and debate, it was agreed that an Extraordinary Meeting should be held on Tuesday 15th October 2019 at 7pm. Mr Ian Coles will check to ensure that the Village Hall is available on this date and will confirm this to councillors. As this Meeting is solely to discuss statutory matters, it was confirmed that the public would not be invited to attend it.

14. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE NOTED

None.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr David Ward mentioned that metal detectorists have returned to the village. Cllr Maggie Ashcroft confirmed that she was aware of this and has advised Robert Woodfield of Tinsley Estates who is dealing with the matter.

It was also confirmed that the footpath areas which we complained about last year are much tidier and the hedges are being attended to in a different way to eliminate the amount of debris previously left on them which is much appreciated by all local residents who use them. Cllr Sue Latham also advised that the Footpaths Officer at SKDC has contacted her regarding keeping these clearer in future. We will discuss this further at the next Meeting.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at The Village Hall on Monday 18 November 2019 at 7:30pm. At that Meeting, all dates for 2020 will be agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____