

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14 MAY 2025

PRESENT:

Parish Council

Cllr Glenn Fuller – Chair

Cllr Gareth Williams – Vice Chair

Cllr Sue Latham

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Cllr Ashley Baxter (LCC / SKDC), Mrs Lisa Blackmore, Mr Paul Bragg, Mr Mike Hutchings, Mrs Alison Ireland, Mr Graham Magee, Mr James Mooney, Mr Iain Stowe.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON / VICE CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Glenn Fuller and Cllr Gareth Williams both offered themselves to stand for Chairman and Vice Chairman respectively. Glenn's re-election was proposed by Cllr Sue Latham and seconded by Cllr Gareth Williams. Gareth's re-election was proposed by Cllr Glenn Fuller and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham. Both re-elections were agreed by all.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Anna Thompson

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2025, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Sue Latham, seconded by Cllr Gareth Williams and signed by the Chair.

5. ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Ashley Baxter provided us with an update on the reform of Lincolnshire and also confirmed that he will be a member on both the Flood, Water and Environment Committee and the Lincolnshire Education Authority.

One of the current promotions being put forward is for Cancer Awareness and leaflets are being prepared for distribution in respect of this.

Ashley also reminded us that there are funds available for village improvements but recommended that early applications are made for these as they will be limited.

7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr Gareth Williams has been attending the regular MAG011 meetings with Anglian Water on behalf of the Parish Council so that any issues that affect our village can be addressed quickly.

He also confirmed that, in addition to the limited supply of sandbags allocated to each parish council by SKDC, there is an additional supply available which can be purchased by residents, if required.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that the repair of the potholes in the Boaty is going to be dealt with shortly now that we have sufficient funds available to do so. There are also several trees that need to be attended to along the Boaty and we will endeavour to complete this work at the same time. It was proposed by Cllr Gareth Williams and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham that we use up to £1,000 of our surplus funds from the 2024/25 financial year, along with the £260 in levies that we will collect from Anglian Water and Tinsley's this year, in order to complete this work. Everyone was in agreement with this.

We have recently been made aware by SKDC that there is a Network Rail Community Tree Planting Fund available with grants ranging between £2,500 and £15,000, depending upon the size of each project. Cllr Glenn Fuller suggested that we should consider if there is a suitable area of the village which would benefit from this and / or on the site of a future children's playground. There is the possibility of sourcing some 'free labour' to help with planting etc. He agreed to liaise with Cllr Gareth Williams to discuss this in further detail.

LCC have contacted us to ask if our residents wish to complete a short survey in respect of their draft public rights of way improvement plan. This could also be related to tree planting above. Cllr Sue Latham pointed out that we have never received a suitable explanation as to why the footpath on the Stamford Road had been repaired with tarmac, instead of grass, as it was previously. Mr Ian Coles said that he had chased the Highways Officer at LCC several times but has been unable to make any progress. Cllrs Glenn Fuller and Gareth Williams will also look at this and decide what action, if any, is appropriate.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we had been contacted by the Environment Agency to say that they have a team of contractors looking at watercourses in our area and are also planning on grass cutting on river banks etc in order to reduce overall flood risks.

9. CEMETERIES

There are still trees in the cemetery which require attention, albeit that Gary's Gardens have dealt with some of these for us. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Latham and Mr Ian Coles would review any additional work which needs to be undertaken and if necessary, obtain a quotation from Gary for the cost of doing so.

As mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting, it has been reported to us that no water has been available recently for watering flowers on graves in the cemetery. It was thought that this was because the water butt was empty following the recent dry spell, although it could be that the signage directing people to this may not have been clear. Cllr Sue Latham will check both matters and endeavour to resolve them, if required.

10. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Cllr Gareth Williams advised that he now has 4 or 5 volunteers who are interested in setting up a group to discuss the development of a children's playground in the village.

A possible location for this is still being considered and he will update further regarding this at the next meeting.

11. MINERAL EXTRACTION

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

Mr James Mooney mentioned that the Government and LCC councillors are now starting to realise the health and safety issues which arise as a result of gravel extraction and are recognising their legal responsibilities. It could be beneficial for us to regularly assess the health conditions of residents and how they are affected, particularly for those with respiratory / lung problems which we believe are higher in the Deepings than in other areas.

Mrs Alison Ireland believes that we can challenge the process of LCC's Minerals and Waste Local Plan due to a lack of transparency and outdated assessments which have not reflected substantial changes. It also transpires that the SG11 / SG17 consultation document, covering sites in and around our village, does not appear to have ever been sent through to West Deeping Parish Council.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will submit our observations to LCC councillors to ensure that they understand the severity of the situation that West Deeping residents are feeling. Cllr Glenn Fuller also stressed that any additional assistance from residents of both ours and local villages would be most welcome. In addition, he confirmed that new recruits are currently being sought for the West Deeping Protect group.

Finally, it was confirmed that a Quarry Liaison Group Meeting at Breedon's was held in April 2025. Cllr Glenn Fuller's notes from the meeting are on our website and the official minutes will also be published when they become available. No planning application for future mineral extraction has been submitted at the present time.

12. PLANNING

There have been two applications since the last meeting:-

S25/0531 – Cromwell House – Section 211 notice to cut down ash tree.

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

Work was allowed by SKDC on 22nd April 2025.

S25/0657 – 1 The Lane – side extension to an existing dwelling.

This is currently being reviewed by councillors.

It was also noted that planning permission for a previous application – PL/0127/24 – to allow mineral extraction in King Street, Greatford without road widening but not exporting minerals from the site (to which we previously raised objections), was refused by LCC on 25th March 2025.

At the last meeting, Cllr Glenn Fuller mentioned that he had become aware of an application for an electricity substation at Crown Farm, which we do not appear to have been notified of. Mr Ian Coles investigated this and after studying related correspondence on SKDC's website, advised that there were no consultees at all. We therefore concluded that we were not permitted to submit any comments or objections to this.

13. FINANCE / INSURANCE

The balances in our current and deposit accounts at our year end of 31st March 2025 were £161.09 and £2000.00 respectively. Since the last meeting up to year end, we have received £11.02 in bank interest. We have paid £180.00 to Gary's Gardens under our amenity contract, £1,074.95 for gross salary payments to the clerk and administration expenses of £52.00.

Our current balances are £1,012.19 (current account) and £11,500.00 (deposit account). Since 1st April 2025, we have received our annual precept from SKDC of £11,500.00 and £220.00 in burial fees. Our expenditure was made up of £30.00 for the hire of the village hall in 2024/25, £134.73 in council tax for the cemetery, £96.02 for our annual subscription to LALC, clerk salary payments of £387.15, administration expenses of £26.00 and £695.00 to Gary's Gardens, of which £390.00 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 2025 and we have received our renewal invitation from Zurich, with the annual premium remaining at £300.00, as it was last year. It was agreed that we are therefore happy to renew our policy with them and Mr Ian Coles will arrange for payment to be made by the end of the month.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

None.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

As mentioned at the Annual Parish Meeting, the door to the phone box is in need of repair. We will look at this and try and resolve it as soon as possible.

Cllr Glenn Fuller mentioned that we had been contacted by the Planning Policy Team at Peterborough City Council regarding public engagement events for Peterborough's Local Plan. This could be relevant to us as there is a significant expansion of homes planned for an area close to Market Deeping.

16. OPEN FORUM

No matters raised.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held in the village hall on Tuesday 5th August 2025 at 7 p.m.

Additional meeting dates for the remainder of 2025 are as follows:-

Tuesday 11th November 2025 – 7 p.m.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Initials:

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