

## WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2019

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

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mr Paul Bragg, Mr Jim Mooney, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

#### 2. OPEN FORUM

No matters were raised this month.

#### 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

#### 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2019, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft, seconded by Cllr Stephen Snell and signed by the Chairperson.

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

None

#### 6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew confirmed that she had a meeting recently with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership regarding speeding issues and this also led to discussion regarding our own meeting with them and the issue of bollards and rumble strips at the junction of King Street and the A1175. Rosemary also advised that she has had a separate meeting with Highways and that we should advise her if we have any flooding issues or if we feel that it would be beneficial for King Street to be gritted in the cold weather.

#### 7. GARY'S GARDENS

At the last meeting, 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. Whilst Gary is still unwell at present, Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had liaised with him and he had confirmed that this will still be dealt with. As this is still outstanding, he will enquire again as to when this is likely to be done.

#### 8. CEMETERIES

Following the last meeting, all councillors were provided with a copy of the two quotations that we had received to cut back the sycamore tree at the front of the cemetery, prune certain yew trees and for 6 – 8 lime trees which need to be topped at a total cost of around £2,000 - £2,500. Any decision to proceed with either contractor needs to be considered in conjunction with other work that needs to be undertaken. However, it was agreed that Mr Ian Coles will contact both to establish which they consider to be the most important work to be carried out and when this could commence.

Cllr Colin Blagrove raised the issue of the church wall which needs to be repaired for which we have obtained 3 quotations from separate sources for consideration. The most competitive ones received are from Helpston Masonry who have quoted £2,810 for repairing both sides of the main entrance and £1,730 for work on the wall to the west of the side gate. As it is unlikely that we will be able to carry out both repairs consecutively, Mr Ian Coles will contact them to ask which they consider to be the priority and establish a timescale for when it could be carried out. We discussed the possibility of grant funding at the last meeting which Cllr Colin Blagrove has been investigating and advised that it may be possible for us to apply for a grant. He will liaise with Mr Ian Coles regarding the submission of a grant application in this respect.

The metal gate at the entrance to the cemetery is in need of repair along with repair and maintenance to the fence. Mr Ian Coles will endeavour to obtain quotations for both of these issues.

Cllr Colin Blagrove advised at the last meeting that the headstone of the grave of Sarah and John Sissons had been damaged and was now laid flat next to the grave. Unfortunately, we have no contact details for their relatives so it agreed that, since the headstone is in a safe position, no further action should be taken.

Mr Ian Coles advised that he had been contacted by the Valuation Office Agency regarding the future re-rating of the cemetery, asking us to confirm various information in connection with available plots. He is liaising with Cllr Sue Latham regarding this and we will respond back to them as soon as possible.

## **9. SEWAGE PROBLEMS**

We have not heard further from Mrs Moira Small after she mentioned at recent meetings 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. It was therefore agreed that no further action should be taken in this respect.

## **10. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

Following discussions at previous meetings, Cllr Colin Blagrove reported that he had again raised our safety concerns with Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP) of the A1175 junction with King Street. A LRSP representative, Graeme Butler, visited the site on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 along with councillors and agreed to arrange for a safety specialist to look into our concerns. These were summarised in an e-mail from Mr Ian Coles on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2019 and whilst an acknowledgement has been received, we await a response for which a reminder will be sent. Cllr David Ward proposed a motion that a public meeting should be arranged to address the safety concerns amongst our residents although other councillors felt that we should await feedback from LRSP before taking any further action. Cllrs Maggie Ashcroft, Colin Blagrove, Sue Latham and Stephen Snell voted against the motion to hold a public meeting at this stage and Cllr David Ward voted in favour. Cllr Colin Blagrove stated that a report to Highways had been submitted to repair the damaged traffic signs on the island at the same junction and that he would endeavour to obtain a response as soon as possible.

Mr Ian Coles advised that Lincolnshire County Council have appointed Balfour Beatty Group Ltd, Colas Ltd and WSP UK Ltd as their contractors for highways maintenance contracts from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

Cllr Sue Latham mentioned that footpaths are not being maintained as efficiently as they have been in the past despite a previous meeting with the Footpaths Officer at SKDC. We are currently awaiting work to be completed following a request made to them by Mr Ian Coles after a resident, Charlie Mason, reported problems near his property and this will be monitored. Cllr Maggie Ashcroft also raised the footpath to Tallington that we discussed earlier in the year and Mr Ian Coles will obtain an update on this from the Footpaths Officer at SKDC.

Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and Cllr Sue Latham both confirmed that the problems that we encountered last year with debris on footpaths adjoining Tinsley Estates land have been largely eradicated this year after a meeting that they had had with Robert Woodfield, their Company Secretary.

## **11. PLANNING**

### **11.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There have been two applications for felling trees at 40 King Street (S19/1602) and 8 The Lane (S19/1925). The former has been considered by councillors for which they had no comments or objections and permission has now been granted by SKDC. The latter is still under consideration by councillors.

### **11.2 EXISTING PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

In April / May 2019, councillors considered alterations to a listed building at 30 King Street (S19/0653) and had no comments or objections. A subsequent application revising this (S19/1595) was submitted for which councillors again had no comments or objections and permission has subsequently be granted by SKDC.

In June 2019, planning permission was sought at Molecey House and Mill and the Granary for change of use and listed building consent for creation of new access and car parking under references S19/1165 and S19/1166. At that time, councillors considered both applications and had no comments or objections. After refusing the initial applications, a Committee Meeting was held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 for the Planning Committee to consider these further, following which permission has now been granted.

## 12. FINANCE

### BALANCES / INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £417 and £5,942 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received £30 from Tinsley Estates for use of the Boaty, £70 in burial fees and £385 from WD Charities in respect of maintenance of the Tinsley Field. We have paid £712 to Gary's Gardens (of which £220 will be reimbursed by WD Charities for the Tinsley Field in due course), plus £80 for hire of the portaloos at our centenary event and £297 for clerk fees and expenses.

Mr Ian Coles advised that we need to set our precept for 2020/21 with SKDC and had provided councillors with some indicative budget figures prior to the meeting to enable them to decide on a suitable level. This included a 5 year projection so that thought can be given to the work that we need to carry out at the cemetery and for the church wall repair. An increase from £4,000 to £4,200 was proposed by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham with all in agreement.

## 13. DOCUMENTATION REVIEW

An Extraordinary Meeting was held on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to specifically discuss and review the Parish Council's statutory documentation. This was debated at length at that meeting, following which Mr Ian Coles, with assistance from Cllr David Ward and Cllr Colin Blagrove, prepared revised documents for our Publication Scheme (with annex), Financial Regulations, Standing Orders, Members Code of Conduct, Equality and Diversity Policy and Health and Safety Policy. These were all circulated in advance of this meeting and agreed by all. It was proposed by Cllr Stephen Snell that these should all now be formally adopted and seconded by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft with all councillors in favour. Mr Ian Coles will arrange for these to be published on our website as soon as possible.

## 14. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE NOTED

Mr Ian Coles advised that he had been contacted by Power for People, a not-for-profit organisation campaigning for local, clean energy generation and asking for our support in promoting this. It was felt that this would be more appropriate for larger parish councils and it was agreed that no further action should be taken.

We have received an e-mail from Mrs Jean Stowe thanking everyone for their assistance in keeping the village tidy, particularly Allan Crowson and Dick Latham for their work on metal tree guards in the Tinsley Field.

## 15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Maggie Ashcroft advised that a new order for dog bin bags is required and she will liaise with Andrew Pickering regarding this.

After consultation with our insurance brokers, Mr Ian Coles advised that, if we assign any tasks to residents which are the responsibility of the Parish Council to undertake, we should undertake a risk assessment of these first. Two current matters were identified – emptying of the dog bins and maintenance of the bus shelter. Cllr Stephen Snell offered to prepare something suitable in these respects and forward it on to Mr Ian Coles to deal with.

Cllr Sue Latham advised that she would prefer not to take over the role of Chairperson for our remaining Parish Council Meetings of the year. Accordingly, Cllr Colin Blagrove agreed to remain as our Chairperson until the usual elections in May 2020 which was proposed by Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and seconded by Cllr Stephen Snell with all councillors in favour.

## 16. MEETING DATES IN 2020

Proposed dates for our meetings in 2020 were discussed and subject to availability of the Village Hall, the following dates were agreed with an earlier start time of 7pm:-

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May : 7.30 pm (Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm)

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm.

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

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

Initials:

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