

# WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

### PRESENT:

#### Parish Council

Cllr Glenn Fuller – Chair

Cllr Gareth Williams

Cllr Sue Latham

Mr Ian Coles - Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Mr Paul Bragg, Ms Anne Davison, Mr Jim Mooney, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe

### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Anna Thompson

Cllr Ashley Baxter

### 2. BRIAN MARSDEN / COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Cllr Glenn Fuller reported the sad death of Cllr Brian Marsden and paid tribute to him, with our thanks for his service as one of our parish councillors.

There is now a vacancy for a new councillor to serve up until the next election in May 2027. As required by law, we are obliged to offer residents the opportunity to call a by-election if ten electors call SKDC and request this to take place. A notice confirming this was placed on both our notice board and website on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2025. In the event that no by-election is required, we can co-opt someone to serve as a councillor once a period of 14 working days after this time has expired.

### 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None

### 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2025, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Sue Latham, seconded by Cllr Glenn Fuller and signed by the Chair.

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

None

### 6. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE THE PARISH COUNCIL

None

### 7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr Gareth Williams is our representative of the 'Multi Agency Group' (MAG), set up by Anglian Water and holds regular online meetings to discuss and try to minimise the impact of any ongoing and future flooding and sewage problems. This is a joint group with Tallington and recent issues have primarily focused on problems beneath the railway crossing, where blockages have been identified. Gareth confirmed that supplies of sandbags are available, if required and that early warning systems are in place, where heavy rain is expected, to address rising water levels and possible flooding. Notices are also published on our website with advice and emergency contacts numbers for Anglian Water.

## **8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS**

The repair of potholes and tree work in the Boaty is a priority project for us this year and councillors agreed at the February 2025 Parish Council Meeting to use some surplus funds from our last financial year, along with our annual levies for the Boaty, to deal with this. Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that gravel had now been ordered and that this will be put in place once we have received it. We are still awaiting a quotation from Gary's Gardens for dealing with the tree work so he will advise further on this at the next meeting.

At the last meeting, a question was raised regarding the ongoing closure of the Lolham railway crossing. Both Cllr Glenn Fuller and Mr Ian Coles have looked into this and it appears from the Peterborough City Council website that this could continue to be closed until October 2026, due to ongoing investigatory and repair work to the road surface. It should also be noted that there is a suggestion that it may close permanently, as previously suggested by Network Rail, with a bridleway put in place locally to allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross the railway. We will continue to monitor the position and advise of future developments, as and when we have more information.

## **9. CEMETERIES**

At the last meeting, it was confirmed that various trees needed to be tidied up and we were liaising with Gary's Gardens regarding this. There is also one tree on the front right hand side of the cemetery which is growing over telegraph wires and also on to the thatched roof of the neighbouring property. Gary has applied for planning permission to deal with this, which is still awaited and we therefore hope that it can be cut back as soon as possible.

Gary's Gardens have also provided us with a quotation for both pollarding two trees at the front of the cemetery and to coppice four Irish yew trees. The cost of this is £1,100 plus VAT, if both are completed at the same time, or £400 plus VAT and £800 plus VAT respectively, if they are dealt with separately. Whilst they were happy with the quotations, councillors felt that we could not commit sufficient funds for both at the present time and therefore agreed to pollard the two front trees only. We will then consider dealing with the yew trees in the next financial year. Mr Ian Coles will confirm the position to Gary.

## **10. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that he is liaising with volunteers to discuss this further and a meeting has been scheduled for January 2026. Agreeing the most suitable location within the village and organising the funding of this will be key factors in the future development of the playground.

## **11. DEFIBRILLATOR**

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we now have new pads and batteries for our defibrillator and that these have been fitted by Mrs Lesley Ward. Going forward, David and Melanie James have agreed to take over the regular checks on the defibrillator that Lesley has been carrying out for us.

It was also noted that, following the registration of our defibrillator on 'The Circuit'; the national register of defibrillators linked to the British Heart Foundation, we have now updated this to confirm that it should be in working order after the replacement of pads and batteries.

## **12. SPEEDING**

We had been recently been contacted by a resident who expressed their concerns that the speed at which vehicles travel through the village has been increasing. Cllr Gareth Williams monitors this through our speed indicating device and he confirmed that, based on recent data extracted, there had been no significant increase. Consequently, we would not qualify for any additional measures to be put in place by Lincolnshire Police to counteract speeding. However, councillors do take this issue very seriously and we will continue to monitor speeds closely to identify if there are any increases in average speed in the future. It was also pointed out that the closure of the Lolham railway crossing (as referred to in agenda item 8. above) and the prevalence of parked cars along King Street should help to reduce both the number of vehicles and the speed at which they travel through the village.

### 13. CHRISTMAS TREE

Cllr Glenn Fuller confirmed that he is arranging for a Christmas tree to be provided, free of charge, for the village hall this year, for which we are most grateful. Residents can then decorate it if they wish to do so.

### 14. MINERAL EXTRACTION

Cllr Glenn Fuller advised that there had been limited developments since the last meeting, although a further Quarry Liaison Meeting was held at Breedon's last month, with very little to report.

It was confirmed at our last Parish Council Meeting that we had written to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) to suggest that sites previously under consideration for future mineral extraction (which are known as SG11 and SG17) should no longer be part of their future Local Plan, after the landowner confirmed that they did not wish for them to be developed. This follows the termination an agreement with Breedon's after a time limit to apply for planning permission had expired. LCC have replied to us confirming that they have everything under review and it is likely to be May 2026 before they can confirm if the above sites will form part of the Local Plan's allocation or not. Regarding landowner consent, they did confirm, however, that 'deliverability of an allocated site is a fundamental requirement to justify allocation'.

### 15. PLANNING

There have been two applications since the last meeting:-

**S25/1538** – A discharge of conditions for landscaping works and Local Plan Policy at 52 King Street. This has been considered by councillors who had no comments or objections.

**S25/1766** – Section 211 Notice to reduce the crown of an oak tree at Alcedo Lodge, Church Lane. No original notification was received of this application and we were advised by SKDC on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025 that this work has been allowed. Whilst we would have expected to have received prior details of this, councillors confirmed that they would not have raised any comments or objections and did not wish to take this up with SKDC. Mr Ian Coles will, however, monitor this going forward and query the position with SKDC if similar advance notifications are not received.

### 16. FINANCE

Our current balances are £1,041.46 (current account) and £7,000.00 (deposit account). Since the last meeting, we have received the Boaty levy of £200.00 from Anglian Water, reimbursement of charges for the Tinsley Field of £570.00 from West Deeping Parish Charity, burial fees of £27.50 and deposit account interest of £31.85. Our expenditure was made up of £1,105.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £670.00 is in respect of the Tinsley Field and has been partly reimbursed with the balance of £380.00 invoiced yesterday), £208.80 in respect of new pads and batteries for our defibrillator (of which £34.80 represents VAT and can be reclaimed in due course), clerk salary payments of £1,700.49, employer National Insurance contributions of £67.43 and administration expenses of £118.29.

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he had prepared a draft budget for councillors in respect of the 2026/27 financial year, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. This takes account of our existing funds and our expected income and expenditure up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027. It is proposed that our precept from SKDC for 2026/27 is increased by £500, from £11,500 to £12,000, representing a 4.3% increase from this year. The budget incorporates the agreed work in the Boaty, modest tree work in the cemetery and an allowance of £1,000 towards the medium to long term replacement of our bus shelter, for which we will consider opening a separate account in order for funds to be segregated. Mr Iain Stowe pointed out that we should ensure, however, that the level of accumulated funds did not exceed legal requirements and Mr Ian Coles confirmed that he would look into this. The proposed budget was proposed by Cllr Glenn Fuller, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all.

### 17. CORRESPONDENCE

Following their Annual Review Meeting, Mr Ian Coles advised Cllr Glenn Fuller that he wished to terminate his employment as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with the Parish Council, with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 and written confirmation of this has now been received. We will, therefore, endeavour to find a suitable replacement to take over this role as soon as possible.

**18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**19. OPEN FORUM**

None

**20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Mr Ian Coles advised that he had asked Cllr Anna Thompson to confirm the availability of dates for the village hall during 2026 and that we would look to hold our usual four meetings in the first two weeks of February, May, August and November. Once details have been received, they will be circulated to councillors and when dates have been agreed, they will be published on our website.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.58 p.m.

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

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