

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 15 JULY 2019

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

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Mr James Arnold, Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mr Paul Bragg, PCSO Rowena Everitt, Mrs Melanie James, Mr Graham Magee, Mrs Elizabeth Noble, Mrs Moira Small, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None

2. PROTOCOL ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION / OPEN FORUM

Councillors agreed that public participation should be permitted at any time during this and any future meeting, as has been the case in the past, providing that comments were directed through the chairperson and that they are limited to a maximum of five minutes. In addition, it was also agreed that we would incorporate an open forum for both this and future meetings at the start of our agendas so that any matters could be raised before conducting our other business. This was proposed by Cllr David Ward and seconded by Cllr Stephen Snell.

Mrs Moira Small raised the problem of sewage issues in the village on behalf of her daughter. Cllr Stephen Snell mentioned that Caitlin Docker of Anglian Water (AW) had previously assured us that they have conducted a thorough investigation of this and confirmed that they were unable to identify any major problems that need to be resolved. Whilst we have suggested to AW that we feel the problem occurs due to the concentration of residents at Tallington Lakes, they had previously declined to comment on this. However, Mrs Small mentioned that a representative of AW confirmed to her daughter that this was indeed causing our problems. Cllr Stephen Snell confirmed that if Mrs Small was able to establish who this representative was, we could take the matter up again with Caitlin Docker of AW in the hope of them taking further action to help resolve it.

PCSO Rowena Everitt pointed out that there is a drug dealing issue in the village which they are monitoring but they do require further input from residents in order to take action. If any residents are able to offer additional information regarding this matter, they should contact the Neighbourhood Policing Team by email at marketdeeping&uffington@lincs.pnn.police.uk

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2019, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Stephen Snell, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham 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 provided a verbal report covering issues such as the consolidation of emergency services at one location in Lincoln, the outstanding report we have recently received from OFSTED for the area, a review of mobile library locations and a scheduled meeting in September regarding speeding radar guns which Colin may be interested in attending.

7. HIGHWAYS

Cllr Colin Blagrove confirmed that statistics are being sent regularly to Lincolnshire County Council from the data recorded by our speed sign which enables both of us to identify if we have a problem with speeding in the village. The current data suggests that approximately 30% of vehicles exceed the 30 mph limit and approximately 3% of vehicles exceed 42 mph.

As discussed at the last Meeting, Cllr Blagrove agreed to follow up on the feedback received from Lincoln Road Safety Partnership to clarify the number of injury collision accidents at the junction of the A1175 and King Street and ask for accident figures covering longer periods of time which they have now supplied and had been previously circulated to councillors. We also invited PCSO Rowena Everitt to this Meeting for her comments and she confirmed that the results indicated that there were greater areas of priority in the county, as we had been advised previously. Cllr David Ward mentioned that he thought that the statistics may be inaccurate and misleading and asked PCSO Rowena Everitt if she could endeavour to obtain further information regarding these. Councillors felt that this matter could be pursued no further as a parish council matter and confirmed that David Ward could only pursue this as a resident, not a councillor.

8. STREET LIGHTING

At the last Meeting, Cllr Virginia Moran mentioned that she had been contacted by a resident who had complained about inadequate and inconsistent street lighting in the village. She agreed to try and ascertain the name of the person concerned so that we can address this issue with them, following which we will check the current policy with the Highways Department of Lincolnshire County Council. Mr Ian Coles advised that, despite contacting her by e-mail, no response had been received from her so this will be reviewed at the next Meeting.

9. CEMETERIES

At the last meeting, it was agreed that an initial exercise to tidy up the cemetery would be worthwhile and Cllr Colin Blagrove and Cllr Sue Latham agreed to coordinate this. With the additional help of many residents, this was carried out and there has been a substantial improvement. The bulk of the compost heap has been removed although there is still good compost available to any residents who would like to help themselves to it.

We still need to prune certain yew trees and action is required for 6 – 8 lime trees which need to be topped and it was agreed that we would obtain quotations for this. Mr Ian Coles will contact 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. It was also noted that the main gate will need to be repaired in due course.

Mr Ian Coles advised that Gary's Gardens (GG) have mentioned that there is a problem working in a certain part of the cemetery as a result of being stung by bees which are being kept in a neighbouring property. He will liaise further with GG regarding this and endeavour to contact the residents of the property to see if it is possible for the bees to be relocated to a different area to overcome this problem. Mr Iain Stowe pointed out that we have a legal obligation to maintain the cemetery and therefore our request should not be considered unreasonable.

There is a local day course on Cemetery Management in October 2019 which may be of benefit to us and Cllr Sue Latham will look further into this and advise if she feels it would be worthwhile her attending it at the next Meeting.

10. BONFIRES

Mr James Arnold mentioned that he was one of several residents who are being affected by bonfires when other residents burn various items at different times. A general discussion took place on this issue but, as there are no restrictions in our village on bonfires, it was agreed that it was difficult to enforce a ban or stipulate different days or times when they could be lit. It was concluded that each resident should discuss this with their neighbours and try and agree suitable times to have bonfires for the consideration and convenience of all.

11. PLANNING

11.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There have been two new planning applications since the last Meeting:-

S19/0430 – The erection of a three bay garage at 1A King Street which councillors are currently considering.

S19/1165/6 – A change of use and listed building consent for works at Molecey House and Mill and the Granary which councillors are also currently considering. Mr Graham Magee, the owner of the property, was present at the Meeting and confirmed that he was happy to answer any questions regarding this.

11.2 EXISTING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

S19/0466 – A single storey extension at 9 The Lane which councillors have reviewed and had no objections or comments has now been granted planning permission.

11.3 COUNTY MATTER APPLICATIONS

PL/0103/19 – An application to retain a changing room facility, office and welfare facility in portacabins plus a new car park for 16 parking spaces on land to the east of King Street. This had been considered by councillors who have no objections or comments.

11.4 APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOLLOWING REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

S18/1038 – Mr Ian Coles advised that the appeal to the Secretary of State for the erection of two single storey dwellings in the former haulage yard at 18/20 King Street had been dismissed.

12. FINANCE

BALANCES / INCOME & EXPENDITURE

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £979 and £6,938 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received a VAT refund on 2018/19 expenditure of £131.79, a burial fee of £75.00, deposit account interest of £3.54 and reimbursement of expenses for maintaining the Tinsley Field of £524.00 from West Deeping Parish Charity. We have paid £618.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £284.00 has been reimbursed by WD Charities above), plus our insurance renewal premium of £338.40, the purchase of our new bench for £379.99, clerk fees of £250.00 and the purchase of a gift voucher for our internal auditor for £25.00.

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE NOTED

We have received several e-mails from Mr Jim Mooney who has expressed his concerns about the way in which our Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was conducted and the protocols we adopt as a parish council. Since the last Meeting, councillors have held informal discussions to address points raised in connection with our APM and this was now debated further. Whilst we are satisfied that the APM met our legal obligations, we recognise that we can improve publicity of this and it was agreed that we would incorporate further information about its purpose on our notice board and website and also use 'Towers and Spires', our local newsletter and Facebook to advertise the APM in future years. In addition, it was also recognised that, whilst a brief Financial Report can form part of the APM, the key financial matters we deal with, such as the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), should form part of the Annual Parish Council Meeting instead. These changes were proposed by Cllr David Ward and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham.

With regard to council protocols, 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 has also agreed to review this for us and Mr Ian Coles will liaise with him regarding this and supply councillors with updated drafts of the appropriate documents for further discussion at the next Meeting. This will include our Standing Orders, Code of Conduct, Duties and Responsibilities, Complaints Procedure and our Publication Scheme. Mr Ian Coles also confirmed that Mr Jim Mooney had requested copies of these documents and it was agreed that these will be made available to him in due course.

Mr Jim Mooney has also made a 'Freedom of Information' request to receive any documentation we hold relating to councillor's consideration of his APM queries and it was agreed that this would now be supplied to him.

13. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE NOTED (continued)

Mr Ian Coles advised that Gary's Gardens has raised an issue about cow parsley in the Tinsley Field and Mrs Jean Stowe has been investigating this and has responded with her thoughts which were passed on to them. There were subsequent discussions on this matter between them and further details have now been supplied by Jean for them to consider in more depth.

Cllr Colin Blagrove had asked if the West Deeping Parish Charity would consider erecting a notice by the litter bin at the entrance to the Tinsley Field following a lot of litter which has been left there recently. Mr Ian Coles has been liaising with them and they have now come back and said that they feel it is the Parish Council's responsibility to organise this. Accordingly, it was agreed that Cllr Colin Blagrove will consider this further.

14. PARISH COUNCIL CENTENARY 2019

We have purchased a new bench from Cyan Teak Furniture and this will be installed in the Tinsley Field after agreeing a quotation of £100 from Paul Scoats, a resident of the village. It was agreed that an engraved brass plaque will be attached to it and Cllr Stephen Snell is arranging for this to be prepared.

Mrs Melanie James had previously agreed to organise a function in the village for us which will be held in the Tinsley Field on Sunday 28th July 2019 and she confirmed the details, as circulated amongst residents recently and that everything is in hand. Councillors thanked her for her efforts in arranging for all this to be done.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at The Village Hall on Monday 2 September 2019 at 7:30pm. which is a change from the previously agreed date of Monday 23rd September 2019. The date for our final meeting to be held in 2019 is:-

Monday 18th November

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.05 pm.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____