

WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2026

PRESENT:

Parish Council

Cllr Gareth Williams – Chair (in absence of Cllr Glenn Fuller)

Cllr Sue Latham

Cllr Anna Thompson

Mr Ian Coles - Clerk

Mrs Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Ashley Baxter, Ms Anne Davison, Mr Jim Mooney, Mrs Clare Strak

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Glenn Fuller

2. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLOR

Following the death of Cllr Brian Marsden, it was reported at the last meeting that this had created a vacancy for a new councillor to be co-opted until the next election in May 2027.

A notice with details of this was placed on both our notice board and website in October 2025, confirming the official procedure in the circumstances, prior to the Parish Council being able to co-opt a new councillor. Since that time, Clare Strak, who moved into the village last year, has put herself forward for co-option. Consequently, Cllr Gareth Williams proposed that she becomes a parish councillor, which was seconded by Cllr Sue Latham and agreed by all.

Cllr Anna Thompson did point out, however, that the process of the appointment was poorly communicated between councillors and it was agreed that they would discuss this further amongst themselves, before the next Parish Council Meeting, to ensure that each councillors' expectations of each other are met.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS FOR AGENDA ITEMS

None

4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Anna Thompson, seconded by Cllr Sue Latham 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 summarised several issues which affect our community including the opening of the new council depot in Grantham, local government reorganisation, food waste recycling collection which will commence in April 2026 and additional council housing to be built in Market Deeping. Cllr Gareth Williams thanked Ashley for providing us with a comprehensive update on these matters.

7. WASTE WATER MANAGEMENT

Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that he continues to attend the regular meetings of the 'Multi Agency Group' (MAG) on our behalf, which was set up by Anglian Water to discuss and try to minimise the impact of any ongoing and future flooding and sewage problems. This is a joint group with Tallington, whose recent problems are improving, with good progress being made on culverts. Maintenance at Maxey Cut is also being undertaken at present. Gareth confirmed that supplies of sandbags are available at Molecey Mill, if required and Mrs Maggie Ashcroft also mentioned that there is an available supply at Breedon's as well, if needed. Notices are published on our website with advice and emergency contacts numbers for Anglian Water for residents.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

The repair of potholes and tree work in the Boaty / Back Lane is still an ongoing project for us and Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that 3 tonnes of gravel had now been laid to reduce the pothole problems. Most of the tree work required are for those overhanging from the back of the site of the Red Lion public house. The landowner had been consulted on this but does not currently feel that work is necessary at present. However, this has been disputed by Gary's Gardens Tree Care who feel it is hazardous and should be dealt with as a priority. It was agreed that the Parish Council would contact the landowner again to pass on these comments and express our concerns. The remaining trees in the area, on land that is owned by the Parish Council, will be dealt with as soon as possible.

9. CEMETERIES

At the last meeting, it was agreed that we would accept the quotation from Gary's Gardens Tree Care for pollarding two trees at the front of the cemetery at a cost of £400 plus VAT. Cllr Sue Latham confirmed that these had now been dealt with.

Following a review of the trees on the left hand side of the cemetery by Sue and Mr Ian Coles last year, it was agreed that we should consider a tidying up exercise, as required, in Spring 2026.

10. CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND

Cllr Gareth Williams confirmed that he is still trying to recruit volunteers to take this further but the project has been met with limited support so far. He will endeavour to rekindle interest within the village, with a suggestion that a door-to-door survey may be the most appropriate way forward.

11. MINERAL EXTRACTION

Cllr Ashley Baxter advised that planning regulations are due to change this year, which also applies to Lincolnshire Country Council's Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP).

There was an extensive debate as to whether or not SG17, the area closest to our village, will still be included in the MWLP when it is updated in Spring 2026. Ms Anne Davison suggested that we should request the opportunity to speak at the Scrutiny Committee Meeting on 15th May 2026 when this will be discussed further. In order for us to do so, Ashley suggested that we should contact the Chairman of that Committee, Cllr Adrian Findley. Mr Jim Mooney also expressed concern that we will be given the opportunity to respond to any proposal which retains SG17 in the Local Plan, following the conclusion of the public consultation that took place last year. It was also felt worthwhile that the West Deeping Action Group should be in touch with LCC again, prior to any decisions being made which affect us. It was agreed that the Parish Council will keep residents informed of any actions and developments through our website / Facebook page.

12. PLANNING

There have been two applications since the last meeting:-

S25/2361 – A first floor extension above existing garage and single storey rear extension at 38 King Street. This has been considered by councillors who had no comments or objections.

S25/2425 – Section 73 application to vary approved plans for two dwellings at 52 King Street. This has been sent to councillors and is currently under consideration.

At the last meeting, a discharge of conditions for landscaping works and Local Plan Policy at 52 King Street had also been considered by councillors, who had no comments or objections. These were approved by SKDC on 13th January 2026 (ref. S25/1538).

13. FINANCE

Our current balances are £421.39 (current account) and £5,500.00 (deposit account). Since the last meeting, we have received reimbursement of charges for the Tinsley Field of £380.00 from West Deeping Parish Charity and deposit account interest of £22.15. Our expenditure was made up of £410.00 to Gary's Gardens (all of which relates to tree and hedge work in the cemetery), clerk salary payments of £1,853.15, employer National Insurance contributions of £90.32 and administration expenses of £168.75.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that we had been informed by City Fibre that a full fibre broadband network should be available in our village shortly. Mr Jim Mooney asked if any action was needed by residents to access this and Ian agreed to investigate it further and advise further information via our website and Facebook page.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Sue Latham mentioned that Cllr Ashley Baxter had been extremely helpful in a case for one of our residents who had been experiencing heating problems on a rental property. There are 'Right to Repair' obligations under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1985 which were not being adhered to initially but, following Ashley's intervention, this was resolved quickly.

Cllr Gareth Williams mentioned that Mr Ian Coles would be leaving his role as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on 31st March 2026 and thanked him for his service on behalf of the Parish Council. A replacement is currently being sought although Cllr Anna Thompson reiterated her earlier concerns, referred to in agenda item 2, about how this process was being conducted. These will be passed on to Cllr Glenn Fuller who has been dealing with this matter up until now. It was agreed that a notice should be placed on both our notice board and our website, advertising this vacancy, so that anyone interested in taking up this role could pursue it further.

16. OPEN FORUM

None

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be our Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be held on Tuesday 12th May 2026. This will commence immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting which will start at 7 p.m.

At the last meeting, we were waiting for confirmation of available dates in the village hall during 2026. These have now been confirmed and dates for our additional meetings are as follows :-

Tuesday 4th August 2026

Tuesday 3rd November 2026

These meetings will start at 7 p.m. and take place in the village hall.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.28 p.m.

Chairman: _____

Date: _____