

## WEST DEEPING PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019

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

Mr Ian Coles – Clerk

Cllr Ashley Baxter, Mr Paul Bragg, Mr Jim Mooney, Cllr Virginia Moran, Mr Iain Stowe, Mrs Jean Stowe

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

#### 2. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON / PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Discussions took place regarding the election of the chairperson as a suggestion had been made that this role could be shared amongst councillors during the year. A vote on this proposal was taken and agreed by a majority of 4-1. Mr Ian Coles then asked who was prepared to stand on a rota system and Cllr Maggie Ashcroft, Cllr Colin Blagrove and Cllr Sue Latham all volunteered themselves to act as chairperson for 2 meetings each, in that order. Cllr Stephen Snell proposed that we move forward on this basis and it was seconded by Cllr David Ward. Cllr Stephen Snell also volunteered to become Vice Chairperson. This was proposed by Cllr Colin Blagrove and seconded by Cllr Sue Latham. All councillors signed 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office' forms enabling them to serve as parish councillors for the next 4 years. Councillors agreed that public participation should be permitted at any time during this meeting, as has been the practice under the previous chairman, providing that comments were directed through the chairperson.

#### 3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

#### 4. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2019, previously circulated, were agreed unanimously as a correct record. They were proposed by Cllr Colin Blagrove, seconded by Cllr David Ward and signed by the Chairperson.

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

There have been several comments made by residents in respect of debris which has been left on one of the footpaths to Tallington from the village after recent trees and bushes had been trimmed on nearby private land. Cllr Sue Latham confirmed that SKDC's Footpath Officer had inspected this and is satisfied that the footpath has been cleared although it is still not completely satisfactory. Mr Ian Coles contacted Robert Woodfield at Tinsley Estates, who own the land from where the debris came from to make him aware of the problem and a meeting with him, Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and Cllr Sue Latham was arranged so that he could inspect it himself. He was very sympathetic to our concerns and will take steps to try and ensure that this situation does not reoccur in the future.

Following comments by West Deeping Parish Charity that the bench in the Tinsley Field is in need of repair, Mr Ian Coles contacted Melanie James as this may be something that the Jubilee Fund would be prepared to consider undertaking on behalf of the village. She had previously confirmed this will be discussed although the cost of repair was likely to be prohibitive and that it would be preferable to replace it. They have made no decision regarding this but we previously discussed the possibility of purchasing a new bench as part of our Parish Council Centenary in July 2019. This is discussed further under agenda item 14.

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

Cllr Ashley Baxter and Cllr Virginia Moran provided verbal reports and updates on several matters including the market in Market Deeping and the 'Love Deeping' campaign. Cllr Ashley Baxter also confirmed that there had been no further developments with Anglian Water regarding sewage issues in the village that we have been discussing at recent Parish Council Meetings.

## **7. CEMETERIES**

Cllr Maggie Ashcroft and Cllr Sue Latham have had discussions with relatives of burial plots regarding maintenance in the cemetery and particular attention needs to be made to tree branches and hedges. It was also suggested that hedging could be planted on the Back Lane side of the cemetery fence to deter possible intruders and improve the appearance. Mrs Jean Stowe has considered this but doesn't think it is likely to be successful. It was agreed that an initial exercise to tidy up the cemetery would be worthwhile and Cllr Colin Blagrove and Cllr Sue Latham will discuss this further. In the meantime, we can utilise the spare black bin from the churchyard for this purpose. As a separate task, the compost heap needs dismantling and clearing away and it was agreed that we should ask Gary's Gardens to provide us with a quotation for doing this which Mr Ian Coles will request from him. It was also thought that the 6 – 8 lime trees needing trimming and tidying up and that we should look to obtain quotations for this work as well under the supervision of Mrs Jean Stowe.

## **8. POTHOLES**

Cllr Colin Blagrove advised that he had reported the 7 outstanding potholes which needing repairing following discussions at the last Meeting and is pleased to confirm that these have all now been dealt with. As far as we are aware, there are no new ones that need reporting at present. Lincolnshire County Council offer a 'Fix My Street' facility which can be used by all residents to report problems and everyone is encouraged to use this.

## **9. SEWAGE PROBLEMS**

As mentioned by Cllr Ashley Baxter under agenda item 6, it was confirmed by Cllr Stephen Snell that there have been no further developments from Anglian Water following discussions with their representative, Caitlin Docker, who is satisfied that they have undertaken sufficient investigations for us. Any residents who have specific problems are encouraged to contact Anglian Water directly on their helpline number - 03457 145145 so that these can be investigated directly.

## **10. PLANNING**

### **10.1 NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

**S19/0653** – Alterations to listed building at 30 King Street which councillors had considered and have no comments or objections.

**S19/0466** – A single storey extension at 9 The Lane which councillors have been made aware of and comments are awaited.

### **10.2 APPEAL TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOLLOWING REFUSAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION**

**S18/1038** – Councillors were invited to make any additional comments on this appeal for the erection of two single storey dwellings at 18/20 King Street although, after consideration, it was felt that there was nothing further to add to comments we made at the time of the original planning application.

## **11. FINANCE**

### **11.1 : BALANCES / INCOME & EXPENDITURE**

The bank balances in our current and deposit accounts are £360 and £8,435 respectively. Since the last meeting, we have received our precept of £4,000.00 from SKDC. We have paid £455.00 to Gary's Gardens (of which £240.00 will be reimbursed by WD Charities in due course for the Tinsley Field), plus election expenses of £29.60 and £40.03 to SKDC for non-domestic rates in respect of the cemetery.

### **11.2 : ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN (AGAR) 2018/19**

Mr Ian Coles confirmed that all the arrangements for the AGAR for 2018/19 had now been completed. Our previous internal auditor, Andrew Ricketts, had asked if he could stand down if we are able to find a suitable replacement and Louise Cooke agreed to take on this role for us. She has carried out an extensive check on our accounts, documents and procedures and it was felt that we should purchase a gift token to the value of £25 for her as a token of our appreciation. Mr Ian Coles will arrange this.

**12. INSURANCE**

Our annual premium of £338.40 is due on 1st June 2019 and Mr Ian Coles will arrange for this to be paid. This is a slight increase from last year to reflect increases in the Consumer Price Index. Our speed indicating device is also now covered under the policy but our insurers have made no additional charge for this.

**13. CORRESPONDENCE TO BE NOTED**

An e-mail has been received from Mr Iain Stowe who previously represented the Parish Council on the committee of the South Lincolnshire Fenland Partnership whilst he was a parish councillor. It was agreed that Cllr Sue Latham will replace him in this role for their future meetings.

**14. PARISH COUNCIL CENTENARY 2019**

As referred to under agenda item 5, the purchase of a new bench has been previously considered and Cllr Stephen Snell has been investigating this. There are several options available from Cyan Teak Furniture and even though we have asked the Jubilee Fund to consider purchasing this, it was agreed that we should do so. The Balmoral 6ft traditional bench at £349.99 was chosen and Mr Ian Coles will arrange for this to be purchased shortly. We will then arrange for an engraved brass plaque to be fitted to reflect our centenary for which wording will be agreed at our next Parish Council Meeting in July. In return for purchasing this, we will ask the Jubilee Fund if they would be prepared to organise a function in the village for us instead. Cllr Maggie Ashcroft will discuss this with Melanie James with a suggested date of Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2019 being considered.

**15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

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.

Cllr Colin Blagrove advised that he had investigated a potential issue that had been previously raised by a resident in respect of incidents at the crossroads at the north end of the village which they felt was dangerous. Cllr David Ward, as a professional driver and member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, stated that the Council has the wrong priorities regarding speed awareness in the village and were not paying sufficient attention to safety concerns at the junction between the A1175/King Street. Other Councillors stated their disagreement with Cllr Ward's comments and explained the background behind purchase of the Speed Indicating Device. Cllr Blagrove highlighted numerous concerns raised by residents on Facebook including 7 posts within the previous week. Lincolnshire County Council have reported back and said that there have only been 2 injuries in the last 3 years and that this junction is only number 91 on their priority list. Cllr Ward stated that he was aware of many accidents at the A1175 junction but could not offer any evidence to support his claim or suggestions as to what the council should do. Following discussion, Cllr Blagrove agreed to follow up on the feedback received from Lincoln Road Safety Partnership to clarify the number of injury collision accidents at that junction and ask for accident figures covering longer periods of time. He also undertook to speak to the PCSO (Michelle Laughton) about the concern raised and to invite her to attend the next meeting.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at The Village Hall on Monday 15 July 2019 at 7:30pm. The dates were agreed for subsequent meetings to be held in 2019 as follows:-

- Monday 23rd September (changed from the original date of 16<sup>th</sup> September)
- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> November

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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

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