

## MINUTES OF DEEPING ST JAMES ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at The Priory Church Hall, Church Street, Deeping St James

on

Thursday 12 May 2011 at 7.30 pm

Present were 61 members of the public, Parish Councillors, County Councillors and exhibitors.

1. **Apologies** for absence  
Apologies were received from Parish Councillors Jim Blessett and Kate Shinkins, Lesley Dennis, Julie Banks, and Simon Chandler
2. **Welcome** by the Chairman of Deeping St James Parish Council, **Cllr Phil Dilks**  
Cllr Dilks welcomed everyone to the Meeting and all Parish Councillors in attendance were introduced to everyone.
3. **Approve** the minutes of the 2010 Annual Parish Meeting  
It was proposed, seconded and agreed to approve the minutes.
4. **Annual Report** of the Chairman of the Parish Council  
The Chairman gave a report which included the following:-
  - A few moments silence in memory of Ken Joynson
  - Value for money – reduction in this years Council Tax
  - Best deal for Deeping St James – Bus Shelters and meeting with Delaines to cover Stagecoach withdrawal.
  - Funding additional Youth Leader post at the Youth Centre
  - Summer Play scheme run by Madcaps
  - Policing in DSJ, good work by Neighbourhood Police Team and Street Wardens
  - Probation service Community Payback Team continue to work in the village
  - Thanks to all Parish Councillors who give up their time to help the community
  - Garford's Farm machinery won a Queens Award for Industry
  - Britain In Bloom entry , driven by Judy Stevens resulted in a Silver Award
  - Over 30 Planning Applications considered and commented on
  - Allotments are still in great demand
  - The PC continues to maintain a number of public footpaths and the river bank
  - Daffodils trees and hedge plants have been planted around the village
  - Grants to community bodies continue to be made
  - A new Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Maintenance worker were appointed last year
  - The cemeteries continue to be provided and maintained.
  - A community skip for residents is provided at Prentice Brothers Recycling Centre.
  - The Council usually meets on the last Thursday of each month when there is an Open Public Forum at the commencement of each meeting. All meetings and Committee meetings are open to the public.
5. The **Parish Council's Financial report** for the year ending March 2010.  
The Clerk presented details of the Parish Council's finances for the year ending 31 March 2010. Copies of the accounts had been provided for all those in attendance. The Council remains free of borrowing, receiving its main income from the annual council tax precept. The Councils finances are subject to both internal and external audit and no issues have been raised.
6. The **Hall Meadow Estate Charity Report** for the year ending March 2010.

The Clerk presented details of the Charity's finances. Its only asset is a piece of land let to the Parish Council and used for allotments. Copies of the accounts had been provided for all those in attendance.

#### 7. **Report on the "Call Connect Bus Service"** by Lincolnshire County Council

This was given by Maria Lyon of Lincolnshire County Council.

- Call Connect has operated in Lincolnshire for approx 10 years initially around Horncastle and Spilsby and expanding to support and provide public transport to all needs.
- There are now 26 services operating in the County with bookings being controlled via a call centre and computerised system. They work closely with Northants County Council, Rutland County Council, Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council with 3 buses serving the local areas including Deeping St James.
- Call Connect is a demand responsive service which operates only on request but which can be used by anyone of any age with or without mobility problems. However it cannot operate in competition with existing timetabled commercial services.
- There is no fixed route or timetable and it operates Monday to Saturday from 7.00 am to 7.00 pm and it may be booked up to two weeks in advance and up to 1 hour beforehand. It is however fitted around the first bookings and subject to availability
- The bus doesn't have to stop at a bus stop and those who have mobility problems may be collected from their gate. However no passenger assistance is available – drivers will do what they can but they cannot go to a house.
- Across Lincolnshire the service carries 260,000 passengers per year. Bus pass holders have free travel, otherwise a zone 1-4 trip to Peterborough is £4.90 return, children are half price, under 5s free and dogs 50p each way.
- The service may be used to go to hospital and passengers can be collected from the door of a hospital. Call Connect only covers existing bus routes outside normal hours – at least 45 minutes either side of an existing service.
- Always call and ask about the service as advice is also available on all forms of transport e.g. Car services.

#### 8. **Reports from Community Groups**

Reports were received from:

**Deepings Arts** - who are now a charity aiming to improve community facilities and hold an Annual arts Festival. They are fund raising for a multi use, multi purpose building and have car boot sales in May and August and are looking for partners and volunteers in this venture

**Neighbourhood Policing Team** – have operated for 5 years, there are a number of changes coming up but they will still be based at Market Deeping Police Station. They have open public meetings every three months at Joan Wake Close in Market Deeping to agree priorities which are currently Speeding, Parking, Graffiti, Anti Social Behaviour. Please let them know of any problems in your area. Parking on pavements is a continuing issue with over 50 tickets issued last month for parking as a whole.

**Deepings Youth Centre** – This has been here for 11 years and is a service under threat, the number of staff still remaining will only be known at the end of May. They are trying to register as charity to continue into the future. They think they do a good job especially with some who have challenging behaviour and are open 5 nights a week at present They offer specialist advice which would be hard to be provided by volunteers but the service will be maintained come what may. Thanks to help from the Parish Council and the united Charities.

**Deeping St James Baptist Church** – this was founded in 1839 and are now in a modern building where they provide baptism by immersion, they hold monthly services at Exeter

Close, weekly Mums and Toddlers groups, a caravan at Market Deeping Market, Fellowship evenings, Good Friday Tea, visit residential homes at Christmas, have a signing service, support missionaries across the world, visitors are always welcome.

**Deeping Lions** – one of 45,000 clubs around the world, raise money for local communities and around the world, work in Haiti, New Zealand and Japan continues. Their main aim is to prevent blindness across the world. They run the local carnival – this year on 2<sup>nd</sup> July with support of the Parish Council, the annual duck race and help others in the community such as helping the elderly with decorating. Over 30 years they have raised over £300,000 and support the Scouts, Guides, Age Concern, Community Centre. They have helped over 14 million children with inoculations and operations and this is down to everyone's support.

**Deeping St James United Charities** – the trustees were introduced to everyone. They are based in DSJ and have money available from 17 century investments to spend on DSJ residents for help with those in need of money due to illness or hardship and they can help with transport costs to hospital, white goods, courses for young people, book grants for university, citizens advice bureau, bedding and they help and support the Deepings Mens group, schools, exotic pet refuge open day for DSJ residents, cricket and rugby club. If anyone knows of anyone in need – let them know about the Charity. All contact is totally confidential.

**Deepings Round Table** – a group for young men aged 18-45 with an affiliated group for ladies. They raised £20,000 for charity last year but also offer help with In Bloom, Pet Refuge, Deeping Diamonds, Romanian Orphanage, Madcaps etc. They fund raise at events such as a kart race, Children in Need. They exist for fun and fellowship and have a family social side. New members are always needed and welcomed.

**Open Door Church** – based on Spalding Road they have a centre with multi use facilities and meeting rooms holding up to 150 with volunteers who can help and assist in the community. In August they hope to run a holiday club.

9. Arrangements for **Deeping St James in Bloom Judging 2011** presented by Cllr Judy Stevens

It had been a privilege to see all the good will from members of the community and community groups including Round Table, Lions, Rotary, WI and others which helped to achieve a Silver Award in 2010.

This year will see the continuation of planting an unusual container, new planters at Manor Court Gardens, a Trough at the Cross, Ian Prentice was singled out as a great supporter last year and this. Judging will be in July.

This brings out the best in people and is more than just the flowers.

10. **Making a Difference Awards** – Celebrating the people of Deeping St James who make a difference

There were 17 nominations in total

### **1. Young Person (11-19) to most make a difference**

The winner was **Tom Waterhouse** as an active member of the Deeping Youth Centre who has been the catalyst for several projects as well as supporting other projects. He regularly attends the youth centre despite a recent serious illness and he serves on the members planning committee. He is always prepared to help anyone.

There were also certificates for

**Georgia Gibbs** who was nominated for fund raising for Kidney Research UK,

**Rebecca Cherry and Christopher Cherry** who have given their time to organise and support fundraising activities for good causes

**Niall Dignall** who has been an excellent peer mentor at the Deepings School.

## **2. Citizen to most make a difference**

The winner of this award was **Brian Baxter**, a person who is said to be an unassuming man but who is always helping everyone. He is a volunteer at the local Police Station and in the past has been a Scout Leader. He is currently caring for "Pickles the dog" whilst his owner is abroad.

There were also certificates for

**Carol Precey** for her contribution to charities and voluntary groups over many years,

**Ken Littlemore** – a Rotarian who has worked hard to organise much voluntary work in Deeping St James,

**Maggie Fleming** who has worked hard on behalf of the DSJ Women's institute,

**Judy Stevens** for her enthusiasm for Deeping St James in Bloom and other initiatives,

**Margaret Flegg** who is passionate in her involvement in village life including the WI, the Priory Church and Deeping Show,

**Sonia Marshall** who kept the Priory Church's worship and ministry alive whilst there was no Vicar,

**Ian Prentice** who has 50 years of Community Care with the Red Cross, blood donation and First Responders,

**Cyril Smith** a member of Deeping Lions for his many efforts in the community including Santa Sleigh Collections, the Duck Race, the Carnival and activities for the visually impaired.

## **3. Organisation to most make a difference**

The winners were the **Deepings Round Table**, an organisation that is said to make things possible that require strength, ability and enthusiasm and who always do over and above what is requested to help others and the community.

There was also a certificate for **Prentice Brothers at Deepings Recycling Centre** who deal with people in a friendly, courteous manner helping to keep the local area tidy.

There was also an **additional award** to the family of the late **Jim Gentry** as someone who was originally nominated in the first year of the awards. He voluntarily carried out work for others in the community, doing jobs which others couldn't do. He showed that he really cared about the community and the people who live here. He is said to have been a special man who showed concern for others. Sadly he passed away recently and he is missed by all who knew him.

## **11. Vote of Thanks, end of meeting and Free Prize Draw**

The Vote of Thanks was given by Cllr Andy Pelling and was followed by a prize draw for all those present.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 and was then followed by home made refreshments provided by Margaret Flegg.