

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
4th JANUARY 2007 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Auger, Barber, Blessett (Chairman), Chambers, Helyer, Lincoln, Lindfors-Windsor, Shinkins, Stevens, Thomas, Warrick, Wallis and the Clerk, Mrs Sheila Kostyrka.

Open Forum

Two PCSO's attended at 7.55pm and the meeting was adjourned to enable them to address the Council for fifteen minutes. On behalf of the Police, the Council was thanked for their support regarding the future installation of CCTV cameras at the Thacker's Way Shops which would provide the surveillance needed to help reduce ongoing crime in the area. The Shop watch scheme was discussed, and the PCSO's were asked to report back at the end of January. It was noted that there is a PCSO Surgery every Saturday morning at the Police Station in Market Deeping from 11am-1pm. The Town Enquiry Officer also hopes to be able to man the police station during the week. The PCSO's were thanked for their contributions to the community.

93/07 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Fisk (illness), Dilks (family commitment), Helyer (work – who arrived at 8.20pm) and Pelling (holiday).

94/07 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

7.4 (Cllr Shinkins, Planning, know to applicant)

95/07 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th November 2006.

It was then proposed by Cllr Auger, seconded by Cllr Barber and carried unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted, and the Chairman duly signed them.

96/07 To receive the report of progress in relation to matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Cllr Stevens confirmed that the Winter Newsletter will be produced this month. It would also include an article about the PCSO Surgery and also highlight the importance of ensuring house numbers were visible to enable the First Responders and Emergency Services to locate houses quickly.

97/07 To receive the Clerk's Report.

Allotments

A new Allotment Association Committee will be appointed at their annual meeting on 16.01.07. The Green house on plot 32 has yet to be confirmed, and the allotments are all allocated. Various Plots are overgrown again and the committee has been asked to inspect them. There have been two further incidents at the allotments, which seems to be anti social behaviour. The Police have been informed. I challenged Anglian Water regarding their bills, which have now been reassessed and a credit of £270.00 received. The Gate has been repaired.

Cemetery

We had two burials prior to Christmas. The Community Team attendance was cancelled due to the weather prior to Christmas and we were therefore unable to thank them personally. The hedge has been cut.

Transport

The bus shelters have recently been cleaned and a safety inspection made.

Playing Fields

The path is now complete, and the French drains will be laid in the spring. The earth banks have also been seeded. The tree stump will be removed on Saturday, and the kissing gate will be installed shortly prior to the hard standing. SKDC have been in touch again regarding setting up a play forum and this was referred to the Playing Field Committee on 01.02.07. SKDC had telephoned to enquire if we wanted to implement a dog exclusion order at the skate park as he had noticed the signs. The Clerk was asked to confirm the powers of the PCSO and revisit the legislation. The gate and posts through to the rugby field have been damaged and reported to SKDC. A Grant has been submitted to LCC for funding towards the proposed Youth Shelter.

Finance

A fireproof safe has been ordered from Granite Safes at a good discount. Our thanks to the United Charities for allowing us to store it on the ground floor. The Valuation Office Survey and Rent return forms have been completed and returned. The preparation of the proposed precept has been prepared, and a start has been made on the three year predictions. The quarterly return for the NI and Tax payments has also been done. The Bank

is balanced to the end of 2006.

Community

A Play Scheme meeting has been held, with a second scheduled for 11th January. A report will be made at the next Council meeting. More enquiries about Wheelie Bins have been received, together with an enquiry about renting a garage from the Council and areas that need litter picking.

98/07 To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting: Enc 1

This is attached at Appendix 1 to this document.

Motion to suspend Standing Orders

It was then proposed by Cllr Chambers, seconded by Cllr Warrick and carried that in accordance with Standing Order 64, the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes to allow the PCSO's to address the Council for the Public Forum session.

99/07 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 21st December 2006 and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein: Enc 2

At 8.20pm Cllr Helyer arrived, and then Cllr Auger and Helyer declared an interest and left the room. All of the recommendations made by the Planning Committee were approved by the Council.

The report is attached at Appendix 2 to this document.

To consider planning applications received since:

- 1) **SO6/1610/25 R/O 44 Church Street - amendment of conversion of barn to dwelling. APPROVAL RECOMMENDED.**
- 2) **SO6/LB/6703/25 R/O 44 Church Street - amendment alterations and extensions to listed building. APPROVAL RECOMMENDED**
- 3) **SO6/1657/25 63 Eastgate - single storey extension.**
- 4) **APPROVAL RECOMMENDED**
- 5) **SO6/1660/25 39 Burchnall Close - single storey bathroom & utility to rear. APPROVAL RECOMMENDED**
- 6) **SO6/1649/25 39 Eastgate – material alteration to existing vehicular access. APPROVAL RECOMMENDED**

Cllrs Auger and Helyer returned to the meeting at 8.35pm

100/07 To consider financial matters: Enc 3

1. **To receive the report from Cllr Chambers of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 7th December 2006.**

Cllr Chambers gave an overview of the first part of the meeting and it was proposed by Cllr Chambers, seconded by Cllr Lincoln and carried that the Council accept the recommendation that the Freedom of Information Act Publication Scheme remain unchanged.

2. To discuss putting monies aside in Earmarked Reserves to purchase land for use as a Public Open Space. (Cllrs Shinkins and Stevens)

Cllr Shinkins and Stevens shared their concerns with the Council regarding the increasing built environment in the village and the need to secure open spaces for future generations to enjoy. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the possibility of setting aside a small amount of money each year for the purpose of purchasing suitable land should it become available. Councillor Warrick left the meeting at 8.55pm. It was then proposed by Cllr Shinkins, and seconded by Cllr Stevens that **"The Council put aside earmarked capital funds of £5,000 per year for the purchase of land as a public open space."** In accordance with LGA 1972 Sch 12 paragraph 13 and 29 and Standing Order 9, it was then proposed by Cllr Shinkins and seconded by Cllr Stevens that the vote be recorded. The vote was made by a show of hands.

IN FAVOUR – Cllrs Stevens, Shinkins, Barber and Thomas. (4)

AGAINST – Cllrs Auger, Wallis, Lincoln and Chambers. (4)

Councillors Helyer and Lindfors-Windsor abstained.

The Chairman Cllr Jim Blessett, in accordance with LGA 1972 Sch 12 paragraph 39 (2) then made the casting vote and was not in favour of the proposal.

THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT CARRIED.

3. To agree the estimated budget for 2007/8 and resolve to set the precept. Enc 4

Cllr Chambers gave an overview of how the Finance and General Purposes Committee had arrived at the recommended estimated budget for 2007/8 and suggested precept. **It was then proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Barber and carried unanimously that the precept be set at the recommended amount of £79,310.00**

4. To approve accounts for payment.

It was proposed by Cllr Shinkins, seconded by Cllr Auger and carried that the Accounts be paid.

5. To consider Grant Aid Assistance.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and carried that a Grant of £240.00 be given to The Deepings Friendship Club for the Disabled.

101/07 To receive feedback on Councillor Training (Cllrs Lindfors-Windsor & Wallis)

Cllr Wallis commented that the evening had been an excellent whistle-stop tour of Council matters, and Cllr Lindfors-Windsor had agreed and said that she also found it a valuable experience and enjoyed meeting with other Councillors. It was well worth attending. The Clerk was asked to purchase copies of the new edition of the Councillors Handbook.

102/07 To receive feedback on the Lincolnshire Award of Merit Presentation 15.12.10 (Cllr Warrick)

In Cllr Warricks absence, Cllrs Stevens and Thomas said how much Mrs Jones had appreciated the award and how much she had enjoyed the event and was most grateful to Cllr Warrick for taking her. The Clerk added that a letter of thanks had also been received which would be circulated at the next meeting.

103/07 To agree the location of LCC trees in the skate park and to make arrangements for tree planting on 13.01.07.

It was agreed that Cllrs Fisk, Blessett, Helyer and Shinkins and the maintenance operative would meet at the skate park at 9am on Saturday 13th January 2007 to decide where to plant and to plant the trees. Arrangements will be made to water and to protect the trees and the Clerk will discuss arrangements with Cllr Fisk.

104/07 Parish-pump: Report of urgent information and notice of agenda items for the next meeting.

Cllr Stevens asked if Hards Road could be litter picked.

Dates of forthcoming meetings:

Planning Meeting – Thursday 18th January 2007 7pm in the Clerks Office

Council Meeting – Thursday 25th January 2007 7.30 in the Meeting Room

Items referred from previous meetings: Sand Bags (Cllr Dilks)

Litter Picking (Cllr Fisk)

Play scheme (Cllr Lincoln)

Remembrance Service(Cllr Stevens)

Town & Parish Conference (Cllrs

Barber & Warrick)

Recycling (Cllr Dilks)

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.30pm

Signed Cllr Jim Blessett
25th January 2007