

**DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
26th APRIL 2007 at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present

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

Open Forum

Two members of the public and three officers from SKDC attended together with PCSO Chris Clarke who gave an excellent account of the ongoing success of "Operation Lantern" - to reduce anti-social behaviour in the village. It was confirmed that the Police would be having a Drop-in-session in the Library on alternate Monday's beginning on the 30.04.07. There were no reports of any further problems in the Spalding Road/Millfield Road footpath. There has been a slight increase of burglaries in the sector. They all left after item 4. A member of the press was in attendance.

149/07 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Lincoln (illness) Cllrs Auger and Shinkins apologised that they would have to leave early.

150/07 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

Cllr Pelling Item 9.1- 169 Accounts – Personal interest.

Cllr Auger Item 10.2 - Planning

Cllr Blessett Item 2 SO7/0487/25 – Planning, known to neighbour

Cllr Warrick Item 11 relates to event on lawn, personal.

151/07 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th March 2007.

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

152/07 To receive a presentation about the changes that have taken place at SKDC regarding The Deepings Leisure Centre from Mr Paul Stokes, Asset & Facilities Manager, Mr Mike Smith, Team Leader Operations, and Mrs Sharon Haythorn, Premises Inspector. The presentation will cover the planned improvements and time scales to rectify identified repairs and cleanliness issues.

Paul Stokes gave an overview of the outcome of the last meeting a year ago which, along with other factors, resulted in the restructuring of the leisure team. The existing contract with Leisure Connections expires in March 2008 and the new team have been committed to monitor the management and ensure that everything in the contract is delivered on time, within budget and with quality. Many improvements had been made and future funds had also been secured. It was confirmed that SKDC are working with their leisure consultancy PMP to put together a foolproof document for the future contract which could cover the next 5 – 15 years. It had not yet been decided to invite Leisure Connections to tender for the forthcoming contract. The Parish Council welcomed the improvements and the commitment of the new management team to rectify and improve the many identified problems. Mike Smith was thanked by the Council for his honest approach with the problems, some of which had been difficult decisions to make, and were very pleased to note that he was confident they would meet the standards that were expected within the next year. Sharon Haythorn gave an overview of her role as premises inspector and confirmed that during her weekly visits the cleanliness, maintenance and management were monitored. The SKDC Officers were asked to investigate the relationship and conditions with the swimming club, and the facilities and conditions available for social inclusion. The SKDC Officers agreed to attend the October meeting of the Council to give a further report. Parish Council members were asked to telephone SKDC immediately to report any concerns or problems.

153/07 To receive the report of progress in relation to matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Manor Way Open Space - letters written to the Catholic Church, United Charities and Deepings Management Partnership regarding third party funding for scheme. Response from DMP who will support us financially, amount to be confirmed.

Storage of Sand Bags – No response from appeal in newsletter. Letters have been sent to Waterton Arms and the Methodist Church to ask for help, with no response. Cllr Warrick offered to help with finding a location if necessary. Cllr Blessett agreed to visit the Waterton Arms for further discussion.

Spalding Road/Millfield Road Footpath

Cllr Blessett contacted the head teacher at the Deepings School who confirmed that he was

unaware of the problem and that only 20 pupils have permission to go home at lunchtime. He will monitor the area and the PCSO has also been informed. A local resident has volunteered to join the working party that will be set up in May when the new Council meet. It was agreed that Cllr Blessett would talk to the DMP regarding the funding of a graffiti kit for use on private property in the village.

Recycling

The Clerk had contacted Cllr Strange expressing our concern about how long this was taking. Cllr Strange had telephoned on 13.04.07 to confirm that Richard Belfield will be writing to us within the next two weeks.

Citizens Advice Bureau

The proposed visit has been postponed until the new Council meets.

154/07 To receive the Clerk's Report.

Admin & Community

Hard standing is now complete at Millennium Wood. The Credit notes have been received from BT. The archived material has now been stored in the loft of the Institute. An account has now been set up with Branch Brothers, all purchases by agreement with the Clerk.

Cemetery

The Community Team are continuing to paint the galvanised fence, and have recently repaired the snags identified by the Cemetery Committee risk assessment. Mr Hopper has continued to mow and tidy the old cemetery which is looking very good. He has also agreed to repair the tap. He has also disposed of the waste in the compost bins. The maintenance operative has started the mowing season and any green waste will now be composted in the cemetery bins. The bench has been painted.

Finance & General Purposes

Staff Appraisals have been conducted and will be reported to the next Finance Committee. . The bank has been agreed for the end of the financial year. The Clerk is currently working on the accounts for audit which will be conducted this year by the Peterborough branch of Moore Stevens with assistance from their Bath office. The pension statement and the P11's have been prepared. The first half of the precept for £39,655.00 has been received and banked.

Allotments

Four allotments have been allocated to new tenants who have all been asked to pay £10 for the remaining half of the year. One tenant has asked for the fee to be waived due to the overgrown condition of the plot, which was agreed by the Council. Five more residents have been added to the waiting list.

155/07 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke

Reported in Open Forum.

156/07 To consider arrangements for the co-option of four Councillors due to the uncontested election.

It was agreed to consider any necessary advertising at the May meeting. It was identified that several residents had shown an interest in co-option and would be urged to come forward by members.

157/07 To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 1 to this document.

Enc 1

158/07 To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 19th April 2007 and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein:

Enc 2

Cllr Helyer left the room for the duration of the planning discussions.

It was then proposed and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein which had all been approved under delegated powers.

The Minutes are attached at Appendix 2 to this document.

1. To consider planning applications received since:

SO7/0487/25

SO7/0509/25

SO7/0480/25
Lionel Graves
110 Church Street
Deeping St James

R M Addy & Sons

Cranmore Barn Farm
Station Road
Deeping St James

Mr Roberts
94 Millfield Road
Deeping St James
Change of use from part commercial/residential
To full residential (C3)

Extension to grain store

Two storey side extension

No objections

No objections

No objections

At this point, Cllr Auger thanked Cllr Chambers for her support as Chair of the Finance Committee and for her understanding of local government finance which was supported by all.
159/07 To consider financial matters:

1. To approve accounts for payment as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 3 to this document.

Enc 3

The Clerk requested that an amendment be agreed to item 4 due to the changes in the National Insurance contributions, and also that the quarterly return of Tax and NI be made to HM Revenue and Customs for £1245.14. It was then proposed by Cllr Chambers, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and unanimously agreed that the accounts be approved for payment.

2. To consider and agree the preferred style and cost for the Millennium Wood finger post.

The Clerk circulated photographs of styles and prices. It was proposed by Cllr Chambers that the preferred style was the black print on white as provided by Sprint Signs. It was then proposed by Cllr Thomas, seconded by Cllr Warrick and carried unanimously that the sign be purchased and installed at a cost of £398.29. It was confirmed that the licence would be issued by LCC at no cost, and the Clerk would meet with Brian Littler to confirm the location.

160/07 To receive the following reports and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein:

1. To receive the minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 5th April 2007 as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 4 to this document.

Enc 4

It was proposed by Cllr Warrick seconded by Cllr Dilks and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein.

2. To receive the minutes of the Transport Committee held on 5th April 2007 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 5 to this document.

Enc 5

Cllr Thomas suggested that we contact the Road Safety Partnership regarding the provision of a prize. Cllr Warrick confirmed that the bus stops that would be suitable sites for the installation of cycle racks were Broadgate Lane near Priory Close and Benedict Court at Horsegate. It was then proposed by Cllr Warrick seconded by Cllr Thomas and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein.

161/07 To consider the following matters in the order upon which notice of resolution or recommendation has been given:

1. To report on the forthcoming Play Scheme (Parish Clerk)

We have been unable to take the proposals forward for a scheme to run at Linchfield School this year. Jimmy Dee's have agreed to run a registered play scheme for one week beginning 23rd July. SKDC have now confirmed that they will only be prepared to allocate 33% funding, which could give us a shortfall depending on the number of sessions offered by Jimmy D's which still has to be confirmed. Cllr Blessett proposed that a working party/committee is set up by the new Council to consider the options for future years.

2. To report on attendance at The Friendship Club AGM on 20.04.07 (Cllr Thomas)

Cllr Thomas reported that the AGM was well attended and Cllr Dilks had been the guest speaker. Cllr Thomas had been elected Chair. The Club had passed on their thanks for the recent donation. The Club were actively seeking new members.

3. To report on the Deepings Management Partnership meeting and confirm attendance on 7th May 2007. (Cllr Blessett)

Cllr Blessett reported that the web site was now active. The flower columns were to be installed in Church Street. The s106 agreement with Tesco's would fund CCTV's improvements and associated works. Attendance at the next meeting will be confirmed.

4. To confirm arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May 2007. (Clerk)

The Agenda was circulated for information and is attached at Appendix 6 to this document.

Enc 6

5. To congratulate local sporting teams on their successes. (Cllr Chambers)

Cllr Chambers proposed that the Council write to the Deepings Rangers Football Club and the Rugby Club to congratulate them both for being at the top of the league which was unanimously agreed by all.

162/07 Parish-pump: Report of urgent information and notice of agenda items for the next meeting.

Frognall litterbins are not being emptied weekly and are now overflowing.

The Bollards on the bridge are still unfinished and need cleaning.

Cllr Chambers thanked the Council and said she had enjoyed working with them over the last ten years.

The Clerk was asked to send thanks and good wishes for a speedy recovery to Cllr Lincoln.

Cllr Thomas passed on her thanks and said she would miss working with the Council.

Cllr Blessett thanked everyone who was standing down for their valuable contributions over the years.

Annual General Meeting of the Council in the Meeting Room at The Institute at 7.30pm on Thursday 17th May 2007.

Annual Parish Meeting 24th May 2007 7.00pm in the Priory Church Hall

Planning Committee 7pm in the Clerk's Office on 31st May at 7pm

Finance & General Purposes in the Clerk's Office on 31st May at 7.30pm

Annual Parish Walks: Thursday 14th June 7pm meet outside The Rose in Frognall

Wednesday 20th June 7pm meet at Jubilee Playing Field

Tuesday 26th June 7pm meet at the Wildfowl Reserve Car Park

Transport Committee Thursday 21st June 6.30pm in the Clerk's Office

Planning Committee Thursday 21st June 7.15pm in the Clerk's Office

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.54pm

Signed Cllr Jim Blessett
17th May 2007