

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
30th August 2007 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Auger, Barber, Baxter, Blessett (Chairman), Broughton, Lindfors-Windsor, Neal, Parr, Pelling, (Vice Chairman), Shinkins, Stevens, Wallis, Walsham and the Clerk, Mrs Sheila Kostyrka.

Open Forum

Three members of the public attended together with PCSO Chris Clarke and a member of the press.

- 50/07 To receive apologies for absence.**
Cllr Helyar (holiday) Cllr Dilks did not attend.
Cllr Barber apologised that he would have to leave at 9pm.
- 51/07 To receive declarations of interest, if any.**
Cllr Shinkins Planning 17/07 applicant.
Cllr Broughton Finance 9/07.1 Travelling Expenses
Cllr Barber Finance 9/07.1 Reimbursement
Cllr Auger 20/07 Cabinet Member of SKDC
- 52/07 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th July 2007.**
It was proposed by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor, seconded by Wallis and carried unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted, and the Chairman duly signed them.
- 53/07 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke (Five minutes.)**
PCSO Chris Clarke gave an overview of the problems experienced in the village over the last month and confirmed that there had been an increase in anti-social behaviour during the holiday period. Concern was expressed regarding specific problems on some of our open spaces which were being monitored. Alcohol and cigarettes have also been confiscated together with a BB Gun. The "Where is your child tonight" article is to be re-run in the newsletter.
- 54/07 To receive the Clerks Report.**
As a lot of people take their holidays in August, this has had a knock on effect with many actions being incomplete. Enquiries this month have included overflowing litterbins, and overgrown hedges and shrubs which are being cut back now the weather has improved. The sand for the bin has been chased up several times. A road traffic incident resulted in the village sign near The Goat being demolished. This has been retrieved by Tom Clare who will advise us if he is able to refurbish it, or if a replacement is needed. I am in the process of claiming under the drivers insurance.

Finance

The quarterly VAT return has been submitted and the bank and budgets are balanced to the end of July. Printer has been mended under warranty. The Millennium sign and Youth Shelter have been added to our insurance cover.

Cemetery

We have had three burials this month. The new water tap and path will be installed any day. The community team continue to paint the fence and are making a god job of catching up with the weeding after all the summer rain.

Allotments, Footpaths & Open Spaces

The allotment renewals have been sent out. A further inspection has been made and many of the plots now need attention. The padlock was vandalised and a replacement has been fitted. The AA has been notified and will be making the first approach. Cllr Neal will be attending the AA meeting on 04.09.07. Submitted grant application to LCC under Parish Paths scheme for £680.00.

Youth & Community

The level of vandalism and litter has noticeably increased during the school holiday period, with a number of small fires being reported. The rugby field fence has been cut again, and has been reported three times to SKDC. The Youth Shelter has been delivered and installed. The Grant claim will be made to LCC when the receipt for payment has been paid. ROSPA have done the inspection and we are awaiting the report. Our application to the lottery fund for additional skate park equipment has got through to the next round. I have met with several

companies regarding quotes for a multi activity centre pending investigations into future funding.

55/07 To receive the report of progress in relation to matters arising from these Minutes not dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

Due to the holiday period, matters still outstanding included organising Finance training for Cllr Pelling, the request to PCC to improve the signage to prevent lorries using the DSJ bridge, and our request to SKDC for a presentation on tree policy.

56/07 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.

Item 11. Concerns were expressed regarding the naming of the new road on the old concrete site. Although the Council were sympathetic towards this suggestion, the person concerned was not a resident of Deeping St James and is unknown to the council. It was noted that traditionally names have had a historical association which always helps with their location by emergency services. It was unanimously agreed to recommend that "Hall Meadow Close" be put forward for consideration as the development lies just off Hall Meadow Road.

57/07 To consider planning related issues:

1. To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 23rd August and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 2 to this document.

It was agreed that due to further concerns on the old concrete site, a meeting would be organised as soon as possible with the SKDC arborculturalist, Michael Walker and the Persimmon operations team responsible for the removal of the trees and hedges. The AMPY site would also be considered at the same meeting. It was then proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Pelling and agreed that the recommendations be adopted.

The recommendation of the Planning Committee regarding the Consultation Document for Gypsy and Traveller site locations was thoroughly discussed. Cllr Augar declared an interest as a SKDC Cabinet Member. It was then recommended, with ten Councillors in favour and one abstention, that "**Deeping St James Parish Council wish to oppose the five possible sites in Market Deeping for gypsies and travellers on the following nine points:**

1. **VISUAL INTRUSION.** However well landscaped, all the proposed sites would, in the context of a small historic market town, be visually intrusive.
2. **GREENFIELD SITES.** Development of any other kind on these Greenfield sites would not be permitted, nor do they fall within the permitted category of rural exception sites.
3. **PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE.** The Housing Act of 2004 makes it clear that a balance should be struck between the accommodation need of gypsies and travellers, and the good of the community as a whole. This same principle was applied by SKDC's own Development Control Committee when overturning their own officers' recommendations to approve the application to approve 12 pitches on the privately owned Lazy Acres site in Grantham.....approval would militate against "a peaceful co-existence between the site and the local community" (planning application SO6/0328).
4. **IDENTIFIED NEED.** The Fordham Research was carried out in 2005, and was based upon a very small sample. 13 interviews were conducted. It does not state there is a definitive need for 20 permanent and 5 transit pitches in South Kesteven, but suggest these numbers as 'indicative'. The same research in South Holland produced a figure of 15.
5. **REGIONAL REPORTS.** All the local research reports...Lincolnshire Gypsy & Travellers Accommodation Assessment June 2007....Cambridge Sub-Region Travellers' Needs Report May 2006...The East of England's Planning for the Accommodation Needs of Gypsies And Travellers July 2007....stress the need for regional rather than district assessment, the need for a co-ordinated and integrated approach, and for a more positive approach by planning authorities towards small, private sites in appropriate locations, so that there maybe no necessity for local authority sites.
6. **SMALL PRIVATE SITES.** All the evidence points to small (not more than 15 pitches), self owned sites for family groups being the most successful, enabling good relationships with the local community to be established.
7. **PREFERRED LOCATIONS.** Surveys show clearly that within Lincolnshire the locations preferred by gypsies and travellers are Lincoln, Gainsborough, Boston and Grantham. Market Deeping is not mentioned.
8. **INFRASTRUCTURE.** Services and facilities in the Deeping area are already stretched. There is a part time Fire Station, a part time Police Station, No Hospital, oversubscribed use of health facilities and schools and limited Council provision for enquiries regarding unemployment, benefits and other social needs. It is felt that the regional centre (Grantham) does have these facilities and would therefore be a more suitable location as it meets all the required criteria.
9. **NEARBY SITES**

The two traveller and gypsy sites in Peterborough, which are within eight miles of the Deepings, have, and continue to create ongoing problems. It was felt that this had not even been considered by the SKDC Officers in the location of identified sites.

58/07 2. To consider planning applications received since:

SO7/1026/25

SO7/1093/25

SO7/1128/25

SO7/1116/25
Mr Hillan
126-128 Bridge Street
Deeping St James

Mr G Smith
10 Broadgate Lane
Deeping St James

Mr G Perry
10 Knight Close
Deeping St James

Mr Hilton
70 Thacker's Way
Deeping St James

Change of use to residential and single storey rear extension to dwelling

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Erection of 2 dwellings

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Erection of rear conservatory

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

2 storey extension to dwelling

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

59/07 To consider financial matters:

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

It was proposed by Cllr Shinkins and seconded by Cllr Auger that the accounts be paid.

2. To approve emergency repairs to the skate board ramp at Woody Heights and agree Insurance Claim.

It was proposed by Cllr Pelling and seconded by Cllr Shinkins that repairs are carried out to the half pipe at a cost of £700, and a claim is made through our insurers for the damage. Cllr Pelling confirmed that he had been on site during the repairs and was disappointed that the soundproofing could be peeled off easily. The Clerk was asked to talk to the manufactures.

60/07 To receive the following reports and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein:

1. To receive the minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 9th August 2007 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 4 to this document.

It was proposed by Cllr Barber, seconded by Cllr Pelling and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and to increase the Cemetery Fees by approximately 20% to bring the fees more in line with the adjoining authorities. It was also recommended

that the Exclusive Rights of Burial fee be waived for stillborn babies less than one month old, and that the memorial fees for a head stone or a foot stone be increased. The recommended size of a memorial stone for cremated remains plots will be increased by one inch in height. It was also recommended that the cemetery contractor be invited to re quote for grass cutting due to the difficult conditions this year. Expenditure for 2008-9 of £6,000 will be considered by the F&GP Committee. Cllr Walsham was concerned with the charging policy regarding burial fees for children, and this was referred to the Cemetery Committee for further investigation.

2. To receive the minutes of the Transport Committee held on the 23rd August 2007 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 5 to this document.

It was proposed by Cllr Pelling, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and order 100 slap wraps at 98p each subject to Cllr Pelling confirming the slogan. Cllr Wallis will be perusing the "Brake" campaign aimed at young drivers, and will be contacting the youth centre. Cllr Barber left the meeting at 9.05pm

61/07 To consider the following matters in the order upon which notice of resolution or recommendation has been given:

1. To report on the Deepings Management Partnership Meeting 31.07.07 (Cllr Blessett)

Cllr Blessett reported that the £2000 grant for the Manor Way Open Space had been confirmed. It was agreed to take advantage of the "two for one" offer from SKDC for litter bins, and agreed that £256.00 would be allocated towards the purchase. The sites identified are Rycroft Avenue and Thacker's Way Open Space. It was also suggested that the Spalding Road/Millfield Road Footpath would benefit from a bin. The Action Plan had been circulated and this item was referred to the next meeting for further suggestions and discussion as a response was not required until 14th October.

2. To Feedback on Working Parties and confirm dates for forthcoming meetings:

a. CCTV (Cllr Blessett)

It was agreed to hold another working party on Monday 10th September 2007 at 7pm in the Clerk's Office due to other matters that now needed consideration. PCSO Chris Clarke would be attending with the Thacker's Way incident reports. The working party would then be in a position to make their recommendations to Council.

b. Footpaths (Cllr Pelling)

Cllr Pelling reported back on the working party meeting of 29.08.07. The Clerk was asked to investigate costs of hedging in the area opposite the foot path on the Spalding Road. Cllr Auger pointed out that LCC may well be responsible for the fences as the leaseholder, and the Clerk will investigate. The sample graffiti kit would be tested, and if successful, kits could be borrowed by residents to clean graffiti off private property. Further investigation is required regarding the cost of a staggered barrier at the Millfield Road end of the footpath, and if not possible, the cost of a sign to deter motorcycles. The working party will be in a position to make their recommendations to the Council on receipt of these enquiries.

c. Manor Court Working Party (Cllr Blessett)

It was reported that a further site meeting had been held on 08.08.07 to consider the request for additional parking by the businesses and residents of the flats. SKDC had been asked to consider a smaller parking provision, but it had since come to light that the area of land had been dedicated to the Council as an open space, and vehicular use was not allowed. Cllr Auger agreed to speak with Anthony Hardy on 03.09.07 regarding a detailed scheme and plan prior to the consultation. It was agreed to go ahead with the original refurbishment plans, and the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries with the SKDC legal department regarding vehicular access on site. It was agreed that provision would be made for cycle racks, and the two end shops would be asked to paint the underneath of the balcony. It was also suggested that LCC and the Allotment Association be approached regarding the planting scheme.

3. To consider the costs and practicalities of providing a skip service for landfill items only at the Deepings Recycling Centre.

Cllr Blessett reported that a skip could be provided at the Deepings Centre on a Saturday from 8am to 6pm for landfill items only at a cost of £85.00 per Saturday. Councillor Auger abstained, and the majority of Councillors were in favour unanimously of providing this service for the Deeping St James residents. It was agreed that a trial would be run from October 2007 to March 2008 using the provision in the budget that had originally been allocated for the May election which had not been held. This equates to 26 weeks at £85.00 being £ 2210.00, and this was agreed. Residents would be required to provide proof of residency at the Recycling Centre and this would be considered further. Details would be circulated to residents in the forthcoming newsletter. Market Deeping Town Council would not be meeting for further discussion until September.

In view of the time, it was proposed by Cllr Shinkins, seconded by Cllr Pelling and carried that Standing Order 1d be implemented to extend the duration of the meeting to 10.15pm to

conclude business. This was agreed.
Cllr Walsham gave her apologies and left the meeting at this point.

4. To consider the forthcoming "Pride in Our Community" Campaign as attached at Appendix 6 to this document.

It was agreed that the "Pride in our Community" Campaign would be from 23rd – 28th September 2007. It would kick off on Sunday 23rd September 2007 at 10.15 at Woody Heights by acknowledging the grants obtained from LCC and SKDC for the new Youth Shelter. Members to be invited for presentation. Officers from the Anti-Social Behaviour and Enforcement sections of SKDC would attend and PPE would be provided for the litter pick. Cllr Baxter would organise a group from Open Door to attend for the photo call. Cllr Shinkins will approach Rotary/local businesses for possible funding and consider entertainment. It was agreed that an amount of £50 would be allocated for refreshments and Cllr Shinkins will organise this. Cllr Blessett would identify areas to litter pick. Local groups would be contacted to participate throughout the week to cover the whole village. All Councillors were asked to attend and support this initiative and to encourage as many people as possible to help with the litter picking initiative, and to take a Pride in our Community.

5. To consider the content of the Autumn Newsletter for distribution week 13.09.07.

Cllr Pelling agreed to type set the articles to enable the deadline for distribution to be met. The following articles were agreed.

- "Pride in our Community" Campaign (see appendix 6)
 - Welcome to our new Councillors with photographs
 - Success with Funding for the Youth Shelter (see appendix 6 for presentation & photo call arrangements 23.08.07)
 - Report and photo on Annual Walks
 - Article asking for residents to be more considerate when parking (Min 40/07)
 - Millennium Wood & photo of sign
 - Look out for "Guide to Greener Motoring" leaflet
 - Leaving your car at home (Cllr Pelling)
 - Re-run of "Where is your child tonight?" (Cllr Shinkins)
 - Article about BB guns
 - New Skip facility at Deepings Recycling Centre
- Cycle Racks at Bus Shelters to be postponed to the new newsletter.

62/07 To Adopt The Local Authorities Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 and to sign the Register of Interests Form.

It was unanimously agreed "To adopt the Model Code of Conduct Order 2007 including paragraph 12(2) and the ten general principles relating to standards in local government".

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

Cllr Parr confirmed that she would be visiting Linchfield School regarding the vacancy for a Governor.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 6th September 2007 6.30 Allotment Precept Committee Meeting at The Institute

Thursday 6th September 2007 7.15 Youth & Community Precept Committee Meeting at The Institute

Thursday 20th September 2007 7.00 Planning Committee in the Parish Office

Thursday 27th September 2007 7.30 Council Meeting at The Institute

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm

Signed Cllr Jim Blessett
27th September 2007