

**DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
29th May 2008 at 7.30pm**

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Auger, Barber, Baxter, Blessett, Broughton, Dilks, Lindfors-Windsor, Neal, Parr, Shinkins, Stevens, and Wallis

Open Forum

A Forum did not take place.

- 1/08 To elect a Chairman of the Council and receive the Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
Cllr Shinkins thanked Cllr Blessett for his support and hard work over the last two years. It was proposed by Cllr Shinkins, seconded by Cllr Dilks and agreed with one abstention to appoint Cllr Jim Blessett as Chairman. Cllr Blessett accepted to do a third and final year. The Declaration of Office was duly signed.
- 2/08 To elect a Vice-Chairman of the Council and receive the Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance of Office.**
It was proposed by Cllr Stevens that Cllr Baxter be appointed as vice-chair. It was then proposed by Cllr Barber that Cllr Pelling, who was absent, had confirmed that he would be happy to stand for a third term. Cllr Baxter then left the room whilst a vote was made by secret ballot. It was confirmed that Cllr Pelling be appointed as Vice Chairman having received the majority vote. This was referred to the June meeting to enable Cllr Pelling to accept the proposal and sign the Declaration of Office.
- 3/08 To appoint Representatives to Outside Bodies
Attached at Appendix 1 to this document.**
It was agreed that Cllr Shinkins would be replaced by Cllr Baxter as a representative to attend the Deepings Management Partnership meetings.
- 4/08 To review the Committee Structure and Appoint Committee Members
Attached at Appendix 1 to this document.**
Cllr Stevens asked to sit on the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee.
- 5/08 To review the Standing Orders and add, vary or revoke as necessary.
A copy of the amended Standing Orders is attached at Appendix 2 to this document.**
The Standing Orders were reviewed with the following amendments; Page 2 item 8, the reference to the Standing Order be amended from 43 to 42. Item 28a amended to current legislation to read "All Members must observe the Code of Conduct 2007 which was adopted by the Council on 30th August 2007 (Min 62/07), a copy of which is annexed to these Standing Orders."
- 6/08 To receive Apologies for Absence**
Cllrs Augar and Pelling (holiday) Cllr Walsham (personal)
Cllr Wallis arrived at 7.40pm with apologies
Cllr Helyar did not attend
- 7/08 Members declaration of Interest for items on the agenda**
None
- 8/08 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th April 2008.**
It was proposed by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor, seconded by Cllr Parr and carried unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted and the Chairman duly signed the minutes.
- 9/08 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke (Five minutes.)**
A few garage breaks-ins had been reported and members advised to be vigilant. It was confirmed that PCSO Clarke would be attending the allotment gardens at Hall Meadow Road over the forthcoming weekend to security mark equipment and to give help and advice. Work experience students from Deepings School had recently been on work placements with PCSO Clarke.

10/08

To receive the Clerks Report.

Cemetery

I have visited the Community Team to thank them for their work and they have now finished working in the old cemetery, but have agreed to return to continue with the maintenance and also to re set the kerb stones. A thank you letter has also been sent. Another way of thanking the individual participants was considered and **It was agreed that Certificates of Appreciation would be offered to the Probation Service to give to participants who had worked well in the community.** The levelling of the graves and grass seeding is nearly completed. The Contractor is continuing to do an excellent job with the mowing and treating of weeds in the old cemetery, although the grass is growing very quickly due to the weather conditions. The boundary fence has now been trimmed as requested, and the notice board has been cleaned. A site meeting has recently taken place with a SKDC officer to discuss the ongoing maintenance requirements in the cemetery field area. The maintenance operative has visited the resident who complained about shredding blowing into his garden to clear the remaining debris.

Allotments, Footpaths & Open Spaces

The contractor has cut the grass at the Millennium Wood and the allotments.

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The Accountant has attended, and the end of year accounts is currently being prepared. The Internal Audit is nearly complete, and the internal auditor will report to the F&GP Committee at their meeting on 19th June prior to making their recommendations to Council. The Assets Register has been updated and agrees with the new insurance schedule.

Youth & Community Committee

The recently erected fence to the rear of the skate park has caused the remaining fencing on the other boundary to be vandalised within a few days to allow access through to the rugby field. This item is referred to committee... A meeting has been held with Paul Hanson from the Youth Centre who will be happy to attend our July meeting. It has been confirmed that the centre could be open another evening a week if an additional £2,500 per year for an extra member of staff could be found. A site meeting was also held with a representative from WREN regarding our funding application for a MAGA. Stamford Council has asked to visit Woody Heights. The new skate ramps have now been installed and a press call has taken place. We have not yet had confirmation from Linchfield School regarding the proposed play scheme, and a governor has now been approached to help with a prompt response. Cllr Shinkins confirmed that this could be because they are waiting for the new letting rates.

Transport

The damaged Thacker's Way bus shelter was repaired last week, and the money is still outstanding from the insurance company. LCC have confirmed that the cycle/foot path on the Spalding Road has now been approved, and the preliminary designs will start shortly. Trails with the reactive Road Signs will now take place for another year prior to any final decision being made by LCC regarding implementing them across Lincolnshire.

Community

The fence has now been installed between the bowls club and Charities Orchard opposite the footpath leading to Millfield Road. Mr Alan called into the office to thank the council for their support and commented that he has noticed a difference already as the children no longer congregated outside his house and in the alleyway. It was reported that the fence in the Spalding Road has also been vandalised. The Community Boards have now all been updated and were on display at the Annual Meeting. The outstanding minutes on the website have now been posted. Reports and enquiries from residents and Councillors this month have included a complaint about the untidy riverbank, several complaints and visits from residents about the damaged bus shelter, a report of a fallen tree and also a vandalised fence and an enquiry about a bus pass. A resident also tripped over on the pavement and was referred to the highways authority. Several complaints have been received about over grown footpaths, and overgrown shrubs and hedges and these have been redirected to the correct authority. The Environment Agency has confirmed that the riverbank will be cut and have agreed to our additional cuts which have now commenced. A meeting has been held with Sarah Bailey from SKDC regarding the Manor Court refurbishment. Thank you letters have all been sent to the speakers who attended the Annual Parish Meeting. A get well card has been sent to Steve Anthony. The sponsorship for the meeting has not been claimed as the shop is now closed. Further enquiries have been made with Persimmon Homes regarding the planting of trees on the frontage on Spalding Road, and our request for additional trees. They are still waiting for a response from SKDC and Mr Crooks agreed to check with the Planning Manager. The dyke in the Spalding Road will be cleared of rubbish as agreed as soon as the stinging nettles die down to allow access.

11/08

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

Cllr Auger will be asked to report on relevant SK issues at the June meeting, and SKDC officers will be reporting on the Leisure Centre.

12/08

To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 3 to this report.

13//08

To consider planning related issues:

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 22nd May and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein:

Attached at Appendix 4 to this report.

Cllr Blessett gave an overview of the meeting and the tour with Mr Crooks. The Council were very concerned to hear that sycamore trees to the rear of the Waterton Arms in the conservation area had been unlawfully felled and were assured that investigations were in hand with the principal authority. In the circumstances, it was unanimously agreed that refreshments should be provided elsewhere after the forthcoming parish walks. It was confirmed that the Oak in the Priory Church car park was A Prince of Wales Oak. It was then unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein and to confirm that the Council writes to a SKDC councillor to request the decision be made at committee level on a case by case basis. It was unanimously agreed to object to application SO8/0553/25 due to the concerns about the ancient Yew Tree, and to write to all the members of the Development Control Committee requesting that they ask for the decision to be considered at committee level.

14/08 To consider financial matters:

1. To approve Accounts for Payment as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 5 to this document.

It was proposed by Cllr Shinkins, seconded by Cllr Barber and carried that the account be paid.

2. To consider the insurance comparison quotes and approve payment.

Attached at Appendix 6 to this report.

It was proposed by Cllr Dilks, seconded by Cllr Broughton and carried that we insure through Came and Company through Norwich Union for a three year period as they have given the most competitive quote. It was noted that the additional skate park equipment needs to be added to the Insurance Schedule.

15/08 To receive the following reports and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein:

1. To receive the minutes of the Cemetery Committee held on 1st May 2008 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 7 to this document.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and to write to all the residents whose homes surround the cemetery to tell them of the recent work, and request that they help in reporting any fly tipping or anti social behaviour. Cllr Barber volunteered to deliver the letters by hand.

2. To receive the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 8th May 2008 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 8 to this document.

The Minutes were accepted by the council.

16/08 To agree the alterations made to the WREN application, and 3rd party funding.

On his recent visit, the representative from WREN queried the administration and contingency costs that had been included in the bid and suggested that these be removed. It was also suggested that the Parish Council should be the third party funder, and that the United Charities donate money for the project. It was confirmed that if successful, WREN would invoice the Parish Council 10% of the project cost as a third party funder, prior to the monies being released. It was therefore proposed retrospectively by Cllr Blessett and unanimously agreed to agree with these conditions.

17/08 To agree arrangements for the Rose and Sweet pea Show on 28th June 2008.

Cllrs Lindfors-Windsor, Barber and Stevens agreed to attend the show and display the notice boards. Slap Wraps, 30mph in DSJ stickers and low energy light bulbs would be available for visitors.

18/08 To consider the content and distribution of the Summer Newsletter.

It was agreed to include the following items in the Summer Newsletter:

Voluntary Car Scheme (Cllr Pelling Min 160/08.27)

Village Conservation Area, and regulations regarding tree surgery and pruning/topping.

Play Scheme

Too Young to Die Campaign

Additional Skate Park equipment

Appeal for vandalism to the fence at Woody Heights

Application to WREN for MAGA

Insurance claim for vandalised bus shelter

Report on the Annual Parish Meeting

Deepings Recycling Centre

United Charities

19/08 To consider the following matters in the order upon which notice of resolution or recommendation has been given:

20/08

1. To receive a report from Cllr Lindfors-Windsor on the Deepings Friendship Club for the Disabled AGM attended on 25.04.08.

It was reported that Mrs Lesley Thomas is now the Chairman and she gave a good report on the activities over the last year.

2. To receive a report from Cllr Parr on the Voluntary Service workshop attended on 28.04.08.

It was reported that the event was not well attended by either voluntary groups or volunteers although it had been well promoted.

3. To receive a report from Cllr Blessett on the Footpaths working group attended on 06.05.08.

It was reported that it had been a useful meeting and it was hoped to link up local footpaths. The next meeting was on 11th June at 7pm at the village hall in Peakirk and Councillors Neal, Broughton and Parr had agreed to attend with footpath maps.

4. To receive a report from Cllr Blessett on the DMP meeting attended on 12.05.08.

It was reported that John Lawrence was Chair of the DMP, and that John Slater had been appointed as the S106 officer, which was a temporary post. Future projects included the suggestions of showing a blockbuster film at the community centre, improving The Precincts and Manor Court and to continue with the Make Deepings Green campaign.

5. To receive a report from Cllrs Blessett and Barber on the Longhurst Homes opening attended on 14.05.08.

It was reported that the event had been well attended and included a tour of the new houses which were well built.

6. To receive a report from Cllrs Dilks and Baxter on the Tennis Club Opening attended on 18.05.08.

It was reported that the event was also well attended and the councillors were very impressed with the newly refurbished courts and other facilities.

7. To receive a report from Cllr Lindfors-Windsor on the Neighbourhood Group meeting on 20.05.08.

It was reported that two recommendations had been nominated by the group which were the refurbishment of the snooker table at the Open Door, and also to install a bench in the village.

21/08

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

The Parish Clerk will be on Annual leave from 1st – 16th June inclusive. Cllr Blessett will be Acting Clerk in her absence.

Cllr Shinkins gave apologies for 19.06.08

Cllrs Parr and Dilks gave apologies for 26.06.08

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 19th June 2008 6.15pm Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting in the Clerk's Office

Thursday 19th June 2008 7.00pm Planning Committee meeting in the Clerk's Office

Tuesday 24th June 2008 Annual Parish Walk from The Rose in Frognall at 7pm with Bryan Helyar

Thursday 26th June 2008 7.30 Parish Council Meeting in the Meeting Room

The meeting ended at 21.50hours.

Signed Cllr Jim Blessett

Chairman

26th June 2008