

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
26th June 2008 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

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

Open Forum

A member of the public attended the meeting to talk to the council about the increasing anti social behaviour on the Linchfield Road area, especially at weekends in warmer weather when youths are camping out and partying until the early hours. Disappointment was expressed regarding the lack of response and support from the police, and the support of the council was requested in helping to control the problem that was becoming unbearable for neighbours. It was noted that this area has always been a hot spot for anti social behaviour prior to the installation of the facilities at Woody Heights. Paul Hanson attended from the Youth Centre, and left the meeting after item 29.

AGENDA

22.08 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Dilks & Stevens (work) Cllr Parr (holiday) Cllrs Neal and Helyar did not attend

23.08 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

Cllrs Shinkins and Barber Min 32.2 SO8/0667/25 known to applicant

Cllrs Shinkins and Pelling Min 33.1 Accounts for payment

Cllr Auger Min 32 Planning and 36 Manor Court

24.08 To receive the Vice-Chairman's Declaration of Acceptance to Office.

Cllr Pelling, who was absent from the May meeting, confirmed that he would be happy to stand for a third term as Vice Chairman and the Declaration of Office was duly signed.

25.08 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29th May 2008 attached at Appendix 1 to this document.

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

Enc 1

26.08 To inform the Council of the death of former Councillor Derek Abel.

Cllr Blessett gave a short overview regarding the exceptional term of over 30 years that Derek Abel had spent on the Parish Council, and his community involvement. It was agreed in principle to contact the United Charities regarding the river frontage open space they are developing to ask for consideration to be given to acknowledging the services he has given to the community within this area.

27.08 To receive the Clerks Report.

I have taken nine days holiday since the last meeting, and consequently have therefore received many emails and letters regarding problems in the community, most of which have been included in correspondence. Enquiries have been received from Bourne Town Council who has used our Standing Orders as a bench mark for setting up a new system, and Stamford Town Council have enquired about our financial arrangements for maintenance and repairs at our skate park in preparation to establish their own.

Community

Due to the weather combination of sun and rain, once again this year everything is growing very quickly and the maintenance worker is working hard when the weather allows keeping on top of the mowing, pruning and strimming. Funds are currently

still outstanding for the insurance claim for the repairs to the Thacker's Way bus shelter. Residents have been referred to the responsible authority regarding a request for pink bags, and also the decision to only empty one green bin. We have also had a request for our business list

Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces

I have been inundated with requests for allotment plots, and the waiting list has now increased to 34. Only 14 of these are DSJ residents. I have also received calls from people to re-confirm that they are still on the waiting list. There are several overgrown plots in Hall Meadow Road and I have asked the AA to let us know their concerns prior to another inspection. The Millennium Wood continues to be cut in a figure of eight by the contractor. The neighbour at number 101 Spalding Road has complained to SKDC about rats and has asked that the original cutting regime is returned to. The River Bank has also been cut regularly, and the grass part of the allotment roadway has also been mowed.

Cemetery

The whole area has been inspected and the Probation Service has been approached regarding returning to remove the weeds from the graves again and to help re lay the pathway where a few of the flag stones have lifted again since they were repaired last year. I have also suggested the idea of certificates of achievement to the probation service and am waiting their response. One of the small trees in the old cemetery has died and a quote for its removal and disposal in the autumn has been requested. There have been three funerals this month. I have met to discuss the grass/hedge cutting contract with Lynn Leconte from SKDC after having many complaints from residents in Priory Close regarding lack of the hedge cutting. The hedge will be cut and topped once a year at the finish of the bird nesting season in August/September.

Transport

As you will no doubt know an arson attack on one of the bus shelters in Broadgate and the electricity sub station took place a few weeks ago. Cllr Blessett and I have met with PC Capp to discuss the outcome of the investigations. Our new insurers have agreed that they are liable and the approval of a new shelter pending the receipt of the insurance money is a separate agenda item.

Youth and Community

The funds from the Big Lottery Fund for the additional skate park equipment have now been received. As discussed, a second bid needs to be submitted to WREN by 19th July, and the outcome will be known in September.

A meeting will take place with Sue Bell on Monday regarding the forthcoming play scheme at Linchfield School.

Sharon Hawthorne from SKDC has been to see me regarding the vandalism of the new fences in the skate park area and is fully supportive of the CCTV programme, as are the police. Cllr Blessett will be arranging a CCTV working party shortly to review the situation.

Finance

The bank balances at the end of May agree and the Internal Audit is now complete. The Accountant has agreed the figures and the annual return is due to be agreed by the council this evening.

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

It was agreed that due to the number of enquiries received from the public, in future, a notice would be placed on any vandalised equipment notifying the public that the Parish Council are aware, repairs are in hand, and asking for any information to be passed on to the Parish Clerk or the Police.

29.08 To receive a presentation from Paul Hanson, LCC Youth Services.

Paul Hanson gave an overview of the services provided in the village by the Youth Service. It was confirmed that the Youth Centre is currently open three evening per week and additional financial support of £2,500 would enable an additional youth worker to be employed for six hours a week a year to enable the centre to be open for four evening per week. This was unanimously agreed and this item was referred to the Youth and Community Committee. Mr Hanson confirmed that he would notify the local detached team about the ongoing problems at the Linchfield Road site, and he left the meeting at 8.20pm.

30.08 To receive a report from Cllr Auger on SKDC issues.

Cllr Auger informed the Parish Council that the Drinking in Public Places Order was now in force and notices were being displayed. The Deepings Forum has been postponed. There have been some teething problems and delays in the new arrangements for issuing Bus Passes by the appointed company. Cllr Auger confirmed that SKDC had not chosen to extend the bus pass scheme at this time, and that this would be reviewed at a later date. The Leisure Contract had gone out to tender and two companies were now being evaluated.

31.08 To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 2 to this document.

Enc 2

It was confirmed that the CCTV working party would shortly be meeting for further discussion. (Cllrs Blesset, Pelling, Shinkins, Wallis and Helyar)
A member of the public entered at 8.45pm and stayed for an hour.

32.08 To consider planning related issues:

1. To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 19th June and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein attached at Appendix 3 to this document.

Enc 3

The minutes were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

2. To consider planning applications received since:

SO8/0701/25

SO8/0667/25

SO8/0636/25

SO8/0679/25

SO8/0721/25

Deeping St James Church Hall Trust

Mr Goodson
21 Locks Close

Mr D Rodgers
11 Thacker's Way

Mr J Shuttleworth
145 Eastgate

Mr Willmott
91 Hereward Way
Erection of Porch and internal alterations
APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Erection of two storey extension to dwelling

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Erection of single storey extension to dwelling

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

Erection of Two dwellings

REFUSAL RECOMMENDED due to back land development, intensification of the site and altering the street scene in this area.

Erection of single storey side extension to dwelling

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

33.08 To consider financial matters:

1. To approve Accounts for Payment as per the attached schedule attached at Appendix 4 to this document.

Enc 4

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

34.08 To receive the following reports and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein:

1. To receive the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 19th June 2008 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 5 to this document.

Enc 5

Cllr Pelling gave a full report of the meeting. It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations of the committee members present, and the Annual Return was accepted. (Min 08/08).

Cllr Shinkins assured the Council that a great improvement had been made in all matters that had been raised in last years appraisals, and it was then accepted that staff matters had been deferred pending further consideration. (09/08).

The Council unanimously agreed that the F&GP Committee would continue to receive reports and make their recommendations to Council as in the past, as it would be of no extra benefit for full reports to be reported at full Council. It was made quite clear that all Councillors were able to join the F&GP Committee, or attend any of the committee meetings together with members of the public or the press if they wished to do so.

It was then agreed that it would not be necessary for copies of the minutes to be made available at the library. It was agreed that it would be highlighted within our publicity that the minutes are available to view on the website, on the notice board outside the parish office, or by making an appointment to visit the parish office or by requesting an electronic copy. It was proposed by Cllr Baxter, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and all were in favour that a notice to this effect would be sent to the library, and the amended Publications Scheme was duly unanimously accepted. (Min 10/08)

2. To complete and sign the Annual Return for submission to Clement Keys within the required timetables.

It was proposed by Cllr Wallis, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and unanimously agreed that the Annual Return be accepted, and it was duly signed by the Chairman.

3. To consider Grant Applications.

It was confirmed that up to £1000 was in the budget for quarterly distribution at this meeting. Four applications had been received, and it was unanimously agreed to donate £50 to the Deepings Friendship Club for the Disabled. The membership figures would be clarified, and the club invited to submit another application. The Deepings Club for the Visually Impaired was awarded £150.00. The Deepings Community Centre was awarded £800 and would also be asked to resubmit at a later date due to the monies being fully allocated. Although the Council fully

supported the Make Deeping Green Campaign, concerns were expressed regarding spending public money on an already much promoted reusable shopping bag item. The Council agreed to support this project in every other way, but were unable to award any monies at this time.

4. To agree the repair/replacement of the Broadgate Lane bus shelter prior to insurance settlement.

It was proposed by Cllr Pelling, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and carried that the bus shelter be repaired or replaced subject to the insurance companies agreement at the earliest opportunity.

35.08 To report on a Casual Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.

The election notice was displayed on 16th June in accordance with the regulations. It was proposed by Cllr Augar, seconded by Cllr Pelling and carried unanimously that the council proceed with advertising a co-option in the newsletter and displaying notices. The Clerk was asked to write to Janine Walsham expressing the thanks of the Council for the work she had done during her year of office.

36.08 To report on the Manor Court Project.

It was proposed by Cllr Pelling, seconded by Cllr Shinkins with the majority in agreement that modified scheme, with less planting and without the bench is more practical and this would now be taken forward by Sarah Walker for tendering.

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

1. To report back on attendance at The Deepings Arts Festival.

Cllr Blessett reported that it had been an excellent community event with many local youngsters participating and experiencing in the performing and visual arts.

2. To report on the Footpaths Working Party minutes.

A copy of the minutes is still outstanding from Deeping Gate PC.

3. To report on Parish Walk 24.06.08

Cllr Blessett confirmed that Cllr Helyar had led the walk with 24 people and three dogs. The weather was very good and the refreshments provided at the Rose were well received. It was noted that there is slight subsidence on part of footpath 10, and the Clerk would report this concern to LCC.

4. To report on the Peterborough Core Strategy (Cllr Blessett)

Cllr Blessett gave a short report on the core strategy and members were encouraged to read the excellent document which had references to the footpath network and the green wheel.

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

The Clerk reported on the temporary road closures at Deeping St James level crossing.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 3rd July 2008 6.30pm Finance and General Purposes Committee

Thursday 10th July 2008 7.00pm Parish Walk led by Cllr Neal

Thursday 17th July 2008 6.00pm Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee

Thursday 17th July 2008 6.45pm Youth & Community Committee

Wednesday 23rd July 2008 Parish Walk led by Cllr Baxter

Thursday 24th July 2008 7pm Planning Committee

Thursday 31st July 2008 7.30 Council Meeting in the Meeting Room

The meeting finished at 10pm