

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
31st July 2008 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Barber, Blessett (Chairman), Broughton, Dilks, Helyar, Lindfors-Windsor, Neal, Parr, Stevens, Wallis, and the Clerk, Mrs Sheila Kostyrka.

Open Forum

Mike Smith and Paul Stokes attended from SKDC, and left after item 42. PCSO Chris Clarke left the meeting for 20 minutes to attend to an incident and then left after reading his report.

AGENDA

- 39.08 To receive apologies for absence.**
Cllrs Pelling and Baxter (holiday), Augar and Shinkins (work)
- 40.08 To receive declarations of interest, if any.**
Cllr J Broughton 52.08 allotment tenant
- 41.08 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 31st July 2008 attached at Appendix 1 to this document.**
It was proposed by Cllr Barber, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and carried unanimously that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted and the Chairman duly signed them.
- 42.08 To receive a presentation from Mike Smith and Paul Stokes from SKDC on the Deepings Leisure Centre.**
It was stressed that we should concentrate on the future, and not past problems and then the SKDC Managers gave a full account of the current procurement and tender process and confirmed that a preferred (Leisure Connections) and reserve Leisure Contractor had now been chosen. Disappointment was expressed regarding Leisure Connections being chosen as the preferred contractor in view of their past performance. A Leisure Trust (Voluntary body) had now been formed consisting of three leisure experts and SKDC member Cllr Geoff Thompson who was unanimously voted on the board by the SKDC members. The fifth member of the trust would be appointed by the existing trust members and would be a member of the community. An advert would be placed shortly. It was hoped this would be a resident who lived in the south of the district to enable a fairer representation of views across the district. The Trust which will cover all Leisure Centres in the SK district will begin on 1st September. The line management structure and advantages of having a charitable trust and a local forum was explained. The preferred contractor was now operating and the new modern contract would be heavily based around performance with financial penalties if these were not achieved. The contract will be a 15 year licence, with a five year break out clause. Leisure Connections have had a restructure, additional staff has been brought in and training is underway. Investments of £200,000 have recently been made with improvements to the changing rooms and pool plant. Concerns were expressed about achieving local accountability and it was confirmed that Trust will be working with a local forum consisting of members of the community, schools and swimming club and parish councillors which has yet to be set up. Paul Stokes agreed to write to the council confirming these arrangements. Concerns about under usage of the leisure facility by

residents were expressed and it was confirmed that footfall would be one of the performance indicator measures and a complaints procedure which would be well advertised would be in place. It was agreed that Cllr Geoff Thompson would attend a future meeting in six months time. Cllr Blessett thanked the officers for attending and they left at 8.10pm.

43.08 To receive the Clerks Report.

Community

The maintenance operative has gone off sick with shingles. Complaints about overgrown hedges and shrubs encroaching onto the public highway have continued to flood in and have mostly been referred to LCC, together with concerns that part of Station Road was sinking, and also problems with cars blocking a drive in Church Street. SKDC were most helpful to a retired resident who was still paying 100% business rate on an empty building he is unable to sell, and thanks to the advice he received, is now able to claim some relief. Complaints about the overgrown riverbank continue to be received and our contractor has continued to mow the top of the bank every two weeks. The bank was eventually cut in the middle of July by the Environment Agency (EA) after many telephone calls, and the matter was referred to the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee for their consideration within this round of estimates. We also had a complaint about encroachment and fly tipping on the SK owned Manor Way Open Space and the Clerk attended with the SK officer to talk to the resident. The pumping station in Broadgate Lane was very overgrown and has now been cleared. We have also had a further complaint about a second green bin not being emptied and the resident was referred to SKDC. Cllr Blessett and the Clerk met with PC Capp to discuss ongoing community concerns at Linchfield Road and Manor Court. The Chairman and Clerk also had a meeting with Mark Jones (Community Safety and Partnership Manager) and Rob Hughes (CCTV Manager) from SKDC to improve the channels of communication. It was confirmed that a Neighbourhood Community Panel meeting should be held monthly, and our representative should feed back any concerns to the Police/PCSO, who in turn will contact the SKDC Anti-Social Behaviour Team for their support with any problems in the village. As we have not been notified about the meetings, the Clerk has asked for a list of meeting dates and previous minutes from the Police. The next Neighbourhood Panel Meeting will be on 27th October 2008 at 7pm at Joan Wyke Centre in Market Deeping. Manor Court project ongoing. The Youth Centre has been closed pending the installation of CCTV and Paul Hanson has been proactive in the community with the detached team in these problem areas. Sarah Bailey was unable to meet as planned on 28th July, but should be having a site meeting soon prior to considering the lighting issue.

Finance

The bank balances agreed with the accounts at the end of June. The quarterly VAT return and tax and national insurance returns has been submitted for the April-June period. The insurance claims for both bus stops have now been received.

Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces

Four tenants have given up their plots and these have been reallocated. We unfortunately had a problem with a tenant who was on the wrong half of the allotment plot and therefore a new tenant dug up their produce whilst trying to clear the plot. Reported problems with the lighting at The Cross, which has now been repaired and the lights are on all day and off at night, so the engineer has had to be called out again!

Cemetery

There have been three burials this month, and four requests for new memorials. Cllr Barber and the Clerk visited a resident regarding the Sequoiadendron Gigantea in the old cemetery which was overhanging into her garden, and it has been agreed with Mr Crooks for routine maintenance regarding pruning part of the overhanging branch. The hedge has now been cut, and as yet, we have not had any more fly tipping. Probation Team will be back in the village next week and a priority will be to clear the green waste

which has once again built up at the back of the cemetery. Unfortunately a complaint was received from a resident whose fence was being banged when waste was being thrown on the tip and the person responsible has spoken to the resident and apologised.

Youth & Community

The Clerk contacted the original companies regarding re-quoting due to price increases, and the finances were re-worked with the help of Mike Owen. The second bid for £35,402.20 for the smaller Multi Activity Games Area was submitted on time to WREN and has been acknowledged. If successful, the council will act as third party funders and contribute £3,965.00. An equal amount of sponsorship has been promised by the United Charities. The bid to LCC Capital Grants for £4,669.00 for the "Flying Saucer" has been submitted as agreed. If successful, LCC can award up to £2334.50 and SKDC up to £758.00, making the cost to the council £1576.00. The outcome for both of these bids will be known in September. The post has been snapped off the kissing gate and a quote for the repair is pending. Cllrs Shinkins, Parr and the Clerk attended a photcall at the Deepings School in their school uniforms to thank the youngsters for raising £280.00 towards the multi activity sports centre.

Playscheme

A meeting was held with Stjohn Burchett at Linchfield who agreed to waive the hire fee under the extended schools programme. A further meeting was then held with the caretaker and a full risk assessment undertaken. There are still a few spaces available for the Play Scheme at Linchfield School and an ad has been placed in the Village Advertiser. (11th – 22nd August 9.30-12.00) A Press call will take place at Linchfield School on Wednesday 13th August at 9.30am, and as many Councillors as possible can attend with representatives from SKDC who will once again be providing some funding.

Transport

Rev Warrick has now completed the bus stop audit which will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

SKDC Planning have advised us that we need to contact the Heritage Protection Operations Department regarding listing a red telephone box.

PCSO Chris Clarke had agreed to display more Drinking in Public Places Order Notices in hotspot areas in the village.

45.08 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke

The PCSO returned at 8.35pm to give the following report. PCSO Chris Clarke had agreed to display more Drinking in Public Places Order Notices in hotspot areas in the village, and it was agreed that they should also be placed at Woody Heights and in the Cemetery. A free summer cinema has been organised during August. The ongoing problems with anti social behaviour at Manor Way shops and police actions were discussed. It was confirmed that the main trouble makers were from the village, were 16-17 and were causing problems mainly on Friday and Saturday nights. The situation at Linchfield Road had improved. It was confirmed that PCSO Clarke was now the only PCSO in the village. It was suggested that the council write to the Inspector, and this item will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

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

Cllr Auger had given apologies and told the Clark that the green bins roll out had been successful with 7000 bins being distributed. Cllr Barber expressed concerns that several residents were still waiting for a bin to be delivered.

47.08 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.

Item 5. Cllr Barber agreed to look at the SKDC Draft Market Service Review CD and report back to the Council at the next meeting. Items 6, 8, and 9 Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust Roadside Verges and River Bank Mowing were referred to the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee. Item 11 Cllrs Lindfors Windsor or Neal agreed to attend forthcoming Neighbour Group meetings. Item 18 Local works, is an Agenda Item for the next meeting.

48.08 To consider planning related issues:

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 24th July and resolve upon the recommendations contained therein. Attached at Appendix 3 to this document.

Cllr Blessett had contacted SKDC and the applicant MD regarding application **SO8/0747/25** to obtain more information. As it was now confirmed that this would be discussed at the Development Control Committee on 02.09.08 a full discussion took place. Cllr Blessett circulated a paper containing the main elements of the outline application and this was considered at length by the council. It was then proposed by Cllr Stevens and agreed unanimously with one abstention that

“We have to **object** because all elements of this application have to be approved for this to go forward. It is over intensification of this green field site. The area designated as an arts centre should be designated as a Public Open Space. A revised application with the other elements which also incorporated a public open space would therefore be looked upon very favourably.”

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

2. To consider planning applications received since:

SO8/0847/25

11 Burchnall Close

Deeping St James

Erection of two storey side extension

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

49.08 To consider financial matters:

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

Cllr Barber proposed that the accounts be paid; this was seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and agreed unanimously.

2. To approve an advance of funds to the Deeping St James Parish Council Play scheme organiser prior to the presentation of accounts.

It was proposed by Cllr Dilks, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and carried to approve an advance of funds of £2,000.00 to be paid to Madcaps to enable bills to be paid prior to the final presentation of the accounts.

50.08 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 3rd July 2008 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 5 to this document.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and to accept a 3% cost of living rise for the maintenance operative, and to set the forthcoming appraisal dates. The Financial Regulations, Policy Documents and Terms of Reference

had been reviewed, and the recommendations were agreed, The minutes were then approved unanimously.

2. To receive the minutes of the Allotments Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee held on 17th July 2008 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 6 to this document.

It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and It was agreed that quotes would be obtained for the river bank grass cutting for the next meeting. Cllr Helyar would be obtaining a quote to move the container to the corner of the allotment site as per the recommendation of the Enforcement Officer, and the previous agreement of council. It was noted that the Allotment Association Chairman had been in contact with Cllr Helyar and had threatened legal action if the container was moved. Cllr Broughton commented that we had given permission for a hut to be put on site and it was noted that a large container was not a hut. It was agreed to ask tenants within the forthcoming renewal that if they were finding their allotment plot difficult to cultivate, they would consider retaining half a plot to allow the other half to be allocated to a resident on the long waiting list. Cllr Neal asked that the half plots be number A and B to avoid any confusion in the future. The minutes of the meeting were then approved unanimously.

3. To receive the minutes of the Youth and Community Committee held on 17th July 2008 as per the attached schedule at Appendix 7 to this document

It was unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein and to give further consideration to reducing the height of the earth bund to improve vision and to consider CCTV on site and signing. Cllr Dilks requested that signing included “do not walk your dogs on this site or on the sports ground”. The recommendation for a Young Citizen Award was approved in principle and Cllr Stevens asked if this could be an agenda item for the next meeting to set up a working party to extend and explore this further. It was also suggested that Cllr Baxter be asked to chair the working party. The minutes of the meeting were then approved unanimously.

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

It has been confirmed by the Election Officer Malcolm Hall that a bye election will not be called in the parish and the vacancy can therefore be filled by co-option. Due to the delay of the Parish Newsletter, It was agreed to put an article in the Deepings Advertiser, inviting interested residents to contact the Clerk.

52.08 To receive the CCTV Working Party report. (Cllr Blessett)

In view of the time, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

53.08 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 Rose & Sweet Pea Show on 28th June 2008.

Cllr Lindfors-Windsor reported that the event was well attended, but we need to draw more attention to our stand. It was agreed that Cllr Barber would provide a 4 meter by 4 meter stall, and it was suggest that Mrs Abel be contacted regarding a bunting type banner with “DSJPC – Serving the Heart of your Community”. It was agreed to advertise and organise The Rose and Sweet Pea Show earlier next year.

2. To report on the Footpaths Working Party on 8th July 2008.

Cllrs Neal and Parr reported on their attendance at the meeting which was very positive in the aspiration to join up the footpath network in the area. A representative from Deepings Heritage was attending the next meeting. It was confirmed that the foot path leading to Low Locks was in LCC ownership. It was unanimously agreed to pay £50 to the working party to help with admin costs. The next meeting was on 12th August 2008.

3. To report on attendance of the Age Concern AGM on 8th July 2008. Cllr Lindfors-Windsor reported on the AGM and confirmed that the group would continue to organise outing in the minibus, Sunday teas, speakers and home visits.

4. To report on Parish Walk 23.07.08.

Cllr Neal was thanked for leading the walk and gave a short report. The footpaths at Linchfield were very overgrown and were impassable. Therefore, the walkers were guided along the river from low to high locks. The Clerk confirmed that she would put this in her report to LCC.

5. To report on the Community Centre Ceremony on 23.07.08.

Cllr Blessett had attended the Investors in People Ceremony and reported that it was well attended with our MP making an excellent speech of congratulations.

6. To report back on the opening of the John Eve Field on 31.07.08

Due to work commitments, Councillors had been unable to attend. The Clerk had sent apologies.

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

Cllr Neal reported that she had attended the Community Panel Meeting which she found very depressing and concerns had also been expressed about the Manor Way Lighting.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 14th August 2008 6.00pm Cemetery Committee ESTIMATES

Thursday 14th August 2008 6.30pm Transport Committee ESTIMATES

Thursday 21st August 2008 7pm Planning Committee

Thursday 28th August 2008 7.30 Council Meeting in the Meeting Room

The meeting finished at 10pm