

DEEPING ST JAMES PARISH COUNCIL

The Institute, 38 Church Street, Deeping St James, Peterborough PE6 8HD

e-mail: clerk@dsjpc.org.uk Tel/Fax: (01778) 343266 www.dsjpc.org.uk

Parish Clerk: Mrs Sheila Kostyrka M.I.L.C.M.

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

30th April 2009 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Baxter, Blessett (Chairman) Broughton, Dilks, Helyar, Lindfors-Windsor, Stevens, Wallis and the Clerk Mrs S Kostyrka.

Open Forum

An open forum was not held.

180. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Pelling and Barber (holiday) Cllrs Auger, Moore and Neal (personal) Cllrs Shinkins and Parr (work)

181. To receive declarations of interest, if any.

Cllr Baxter 190 Allotments, spouse of allotment holder.

Cllr Broughton 190 Allotments, spouse of allotment holder.

Cllr Stevens 188 Planning SO9/0802, applicant known to Councillor.

182. To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 26th March 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor seconded by Cllr Wallis and carried unanimously that the minutes are approved, and they were signed by the Chairman.

183. To receive the Clerks Report.

Youth & Community – MAGA installation 24.03.09 – 15.04.09

Throughout this period, the Clerk had constant contact with Cllrs Blessett and Shinkins regarding site visits and decision making. After the incident on the Woody Heights site that was reported at the last meeting, contact with the police was very difficult, and no feedback was received regardless of the number of enquiries. Wicksteed Leisure wanted reassurances that the man who was arrested and bailed would not return to the site before their contractors resumed work. The Clerk did not find them supportive, and did not see the project manager during the building period. Eventually, the Clerk contacted Inspector Stuart and had to leave voice mail and email messages as the Clerk was told there was no one else she could speak with. The Clerk sought the help of PCSO Clarke to find out what was going on, and Chris and PC Capp have continued to be very helpful regarding making enquiries and feeding back. When the man who was arrested appeared on site again and was intimidating the builders, they refused to continue working without security. At this time, A1 Security confirmed that they were no longer able to help us with the weekend patrolling due to sickness and an alternative security company had to be found immediately. The Security Division of Staff Development Solutions came highly recommended and was also recommended by PCC and their Director Lee Richards patrolled on site immediately prior to organising staff rotas. On the first day, the man who was arrested appeared on site again and was warned by security staff that his presence could be deemed as intimidating. Lee Richards also joined a meeting on 01.04.09 with PC Capp PCSO Clarke and Rob Hughes from SKDC CCTV Control for a discussion not only about the agreed patrolling, but also about the ongoing problems at Woody Heights. After the builders arrived on 30th March to discover vandalism to their building work, it was evident that night security would also have

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to be organised, and a security person and dog handler was arranged. Several complaints were also received from residents who had also contacted the police, and the Clerk also reported the crime that was logged by the PCSO. Adequate security arrangements were then in place. It was noted that youths were on site until 1.45am one Monday morning and also that the man who was arrested had reappeared on site on five separate occasions. A full security report is available on file. A telephone message was left by one of the residents on 6th April accusing the parish council of not doing the things they said they would do, and also saying there was drug dealing on the Woody Heights site. This was reported to the police, and was also logged and PCSO Clarke visited the complainant. On Wednesday 8th April, 14 days after the messages were left for Inspector Stuart asking for help, a telephone call was received at 5pm on the Clerks personal mobile telephone from Sergeant Crisp, based at Bourne, apologising as the Inspector had asked her to make contact a week previously. At this point, when essential security arrangements had already been put in place by the Parish Council, the problems were discussed at a Police Task Force meeting, and priority was made for surveillance. As previously requested SKDC also agreed to send the mobile CCTV until 9pm in the evenings, and although the Clerk told them there was now no point as other arrangements had been made, it still came. The building work was completed on 15th April. On Monday 20th the Clerk telephoned Wicksteed Leisure to confirm that she was not happy with the grass seeding on site and to enquire about the white lining. The Clerk also asked for a site meeting to discuss the snags. Kieran Kingsnorth confirmed that the white lining would be done that week, and that he would telephone me the following Monday to arrange a visit. The white lining has not been done, and the Clerk has not received a telephone call. Two information packs together with satisfaction statements for completion and return have been received. It was agreed to investigate bye-laws for Woody Heights and to arrange an official opening. The Chairman and Council members thanked the Clerk for her persistence during this difficult time.

Youth and Community

The Flying Saucer has also been installed, and on receipt of the completion certificate, the funds will be claimed from LCC. A seat and the Spring Motorbike have been installed in the Millennium Wood, and funds will be requested from SKDC. Two benches and two bins have also been installed at Woody Heights.

John Wills from LCC Youth has contacted the Parish Council regarding the provision of additional funding for evening Youth Activities. John has asked if we would support him holding extra activities at the Deepings School on a Monday evening as they would like to form a better link with the school, and introduce students to the Youth projects through the school. It is also possible for a detachment team to encourage youths in the community to attend. Cllr Dilks commented that Lincolnshire had the lowest % per head for youth provision, and although he thought more support should be given, he was very pleased that the Parish Council were addressing the short fall locally. It was unanimously agreed to ask John Wills to move on with the proposed project providing it ran throughout the summer and that a detachment team was used to encourage use of all the available summer activities. A full programme was requested.

The Clerk met with the head teacher at DSJPS on 31.03.09 to agree the classroom facility available at the school for the summer Play scheme. Sue Bell, who runs the scheme, has said that it will not be the same as Market Deeping's this year as she does not have enough funding. She is also unable to fund the cost of the school facilities out of the extended school projects money as first thought. Further funding will be considered for 2010.

Community

There has been a spate of fly tipping in the village, which has all been reported to SKDC including dumping of tyres, an old carpet, a bag of rubbish in Church Street, a chair, cushions and dumped wood. The tyres have been there for sometime, and the original

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complainant has now complained to the Environment Agency.

The flood lights on the astra- turf at the leisure centre have also been reported to SKDC as they have been left on later. This was denied, and it was confirmed that they should not be on after 10pm. The police have asked the Parish Council to include this area in our weekend patrolling surveillance due to ongoing vandalism, and this was unanimously agreed. The SKDC Ranger has called in twice regarding the improved condition of the dog problems in Wade Park Road. The Mobile Police Station did not attend at the end of March, so was unable to position itself at Manor Court.

Complaints have been received about the shanks bin not being in the Millennium Wood, and the maintenance man has been asked to make sure it is returned after collection. Ian Prentice called into the office and the Waste Transfer Notes have been completed for the skip facility.

Finance & General Purposes

The Clerk has been working under difficult conditions for weeks whilst decorators continue to paint the building inside and out. Electric sanders have been used to rub down the paintwork which has made telephone conversations and concentration very difficult. The Clerk eventually asked the decorators not to work on her office windows and doors whilst she was in the office as the disruption was unacceptable.

The annual audit has been called a month earlier than expected resulting in additional working hours of preparation to enable the deadlines to be met. The accounts and annual return have been confirmed as correct by the accountant. The new book keepers have visited the office twice and the new arrangements are being established. All computer systems have been backed up. The internal audit is now complete and will be reported to the Finance committee on 7th May by the Internal Auditor.

Allotments & Open Spaces

The Licence to Occupy was sent to the AA and the letter copied to all tenants.

Footpath 10 has been reported to the enforcement officer again with photographs. A resident telephoned to thank the PC for the mowing of the river bank. LCC have contributed £645 towards the annual cost.

The Chairman and the Clerk had met on site at the allotments with representatives from Sense to discuss the proposals for half of plot 32 to be made available to the wider community. The organisation was appraised of the history of the plot, and was delighted to have the opportunity to have an allotment garden. It was unanimously agreed that a grant aid application would be accepted for £500 to enable site preparation which would include the levelling of the site and building of raised beds. A small shed would be purchased, and an appeal would be made in the next Newsletter for garden tools. The Clerk was asked to write to the AA to confirm these arrangements, and write to all tenants to tell them about the arrangements and to ask for help and also request donations of tools.

Transport

The local Coach Companies have been in touch and have agreed to keep the timetables up to date. Consideration is being given to additional bus shelter requirements. Two enquiries to SKDC regarding the law about advertising on bus shelters have been ignored. The Area Highways Engineer will be attending the next committee meeting on 7th May to discuss the proposals for the Spalding Road Cycle Path.

Cemetery

A new probation team is working in the cemetery under the supervision of Andy Anderson. Maurice has organised the delivery of sand and cement and they have started on a long term project to reinstate the kerb stones in the old cemetery. They were delighted and very thankful to the council for their support with grant aid and hope to attend most weeks. The Clerk was asked to offer them certificates of satisfaction again.

A seat has been installed in the cemetery, and a picnic table in the cemetery playground.

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One of the residents in Priory Close is leaving green waste from the hedge in the open space. A rubbish pile is building up in the corner again, and SKDC have been requested to ask their contractor to mow into the corners of the field to avoid this happening. The cemetery tap was found vandalised/broken and has been repaired. Three funerals have taken place this month. The area Manager and local Manager from co-op funerals have queried our fees, and this was referred to a future meeting. Two enquiries have been made by residents regarding "double plots" and this will be discussed at the cemetery meeting on 7th May.

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

The United Charities have provided a photograph of the bench they would like matched for installation on their open space in memory of a local person. They paid £500 for the existing bench, but would be happy with a similar one. It was agreed not to take this forward at this time as funds had not been included in the precept, and they would be asked to approach the Council again in November for further consideration in 2010 if necessary. It was noted that the road naming requests for the Ampy site at Frognall had been accepted by the developer. SKDC were approached regarding Deeping St James in Bloom. They are happy to clean any required areas the day before as they do in Market Deeping, but are unable to help with anything else.

Sarah Bailey will be absent from SKDC for a year, so it was unanimously agreed that the project will now be completed by the PC without any further delays and as soon as the file was retrieved, a working party would meet for further discussion. Cllr Auger has consulted with SKDC, and has been unable to trace the landlords of Manor shops.

Our enquiry to SKDC in January regarding the district council's decision not to dispose of dog waste has still not been answered.

Emergency Planning is ongoing.

MDTC did agree to joint promotion of the parish walks at another meeting, but the posters and ad had already been changed. It is hoped that we can work together next year.

Cllr Barber will be constructing the Insect Tower in the next few weeks.

It was agreed that Cllr Blessett would visit Pode Hole on 2nd July 2009 as only one space was available.

185. To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke.

PCSO Clarke updated the Parish Council regarding issues relating to the man who was arrested. Enquiries were now complete, and it was hoped that a conditional ASBO will be possible banning him from visiting DSJ and MD. Concerns about bail conditions not being a consideration of the original arrest were expressed. Operation RABAD was explained as discussed within the police support under item 183. It was confirmed that within the new policing pledge, officer response to enquiries is now 48 hours. A further road rage incident was reported in Linchfield Road. There was a reduction in burglaries, with six reported in the last month. PC Clarke gave apologies for not being able to attend the APM, but confirmed he had prepared leaflets and handouts. The Chairman thanked Chris for his support and feedback throughout the recent problems.

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

As Cllr Auger was not at the meeting, the Clerk was asked to formally write to him and request that a report on the severance package of the former Chief Executive which is rumoured to be £105,000.00 be made public under The Freedom of Information Act as a secret meeting was held at SKDC.

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187. To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting as attached at Appendix 1.

Item 5 – It was unanimously agreed to include the cleaning of the telephone box within the bus shelter schedule for £10 a clean.

Item 7 – Cllr Blessett agreed to respond to PCC on the Minerals and Waste Development Plan.

Item 8 – Cllr Blessett proposed that Recycling be an Agenda Item for the May meeting.

Item 23 – Cllr Baxter had attended the meeting and gave an overview. Cllr Auger had confirmed that he was taking a proposal to Cabinet regarding adopting the Sustainable Communities Act to enable the Parish Council to use it too. This was unanimously agreed.

Item 28 – Completion of the Planning Survey was referred to the Planning Committee.

The recommendations for all other correspondence were agreed.

188. To consider planning related issues:

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held Thursday 23rd April 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Dilks and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein. The Minutes are attached at Appendix 2 to this document.

1. To consider planning applications received: No additional plans had been received.

189. To consider financial matters:

1. To receive the minutes of the Finance 7 General Purposes Committee held on 9th April and to agree the recommendation made therein as attached at Appendix 3.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Helyar and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein.

2. To approve Accounts for Payment as per the schedule attached at Appendix 4.

Cllr Baxter proposed and it was unanimously agreed that the Clerk be instructed to withhold payment on the Wicksteed Leisure Invoices until the Project Manager had visited the site as requested to attend to the snags. The site was not in an acceptable condition and the white lining was incomplete. It was then proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and unanimously agreed that the accounts be paid.

3. To approve the finance for additional signage at Woody Heights.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Dilks and unanimously agreed to spend up to £325.00 for "Prohibited after 10pm" signs at Woody Heights. Two signs would be installed, one on the existing posts, and one on the half pipe. The measurements are to be confirmed and three quotes obtained.

4. To consider and approve the costs for security at Woody Heights during the build period.

It was proposed by Cllr Blessett and agreed unanimously that an extraordinary meeting of the Council be called as soon as possible and Inspector Stuart be asked to attend regarding the report at 183, the lack of police response to anti-social behaviour, the protection of the public and additional costs incurred to the Parish Council for having to deal with these Police matters.

It was proposed by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor, seconded by Cllr Dilks and unanimously agreed to pay £4190.60 for the additional security at Woody Heights. It was proposed by Cllr Baxter that these unexpected costs to be taken from the Police Grant due to the lack of Police

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response and support and this was unanimously agreed. Further discussion would take place with the Inspector.

190. 1. To receive the minutes of the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee held on 9th April and to agree the recommendation made therein as attached at Appendix 5.

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

191. To consider and agree the arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 14th May 2009 at 7pm in the Priory Church Hall.

Cllr Stevens gave an overview of the forthcoming Make a Difference Awards and the Salvers that had been purchased. It was agreed that all nominations and nominators would be invited to the meeting. Presentations would be made by our MP. The Agenda is attached at Appendix 6 to this report.

192. To discuss police support and anti-social behaviour in the village.

It had already been agreed at 189.4 that an extraordinary meeting of the Council be called as soon as possible and Inspector Stuart be asked to attend regarding the report at 183, the lack of police response to anti-social behaviour, the protection of the public and additional costs incurred to the Parish Council for having to deal with these Police matters.

193. To discuss the Rose and Sweet Pea Show. (Cllr Stevens)

It was agreed unanimously to spend £100 on a banner for the Parish Council stall. Cllr Stevens had organised Engraved Cups for the prizes for the Best Grown Vegetable, and the most Unusually Planted Container. Cllr Stevens would man half of the stand to promote Deeping St James in Bloom. Cllrs Lindfors-Windsor and Wallis agreed to man the Parish Council side of the stand and the display boards had already been updated. It was proposed by Cllr Dilks and agreed that a board would be provided with a variety of post it notes and pens and the public would be encouraged to write what they like/dislike about the village, and what they would like to see/not see etc.

194. To consider summer holiday activities. (Cllr Stevens)

Cllr Stevens proposed and it was unanimously agreed that a list of Summer Holiday Activities be compiled to be promoted in our newsletter and on our web site to keep the young people occupied. It was suggested that a bus could even be hired to give lifts to the Showcase Cinema as transport was difficult. Suggestions included the police cinema, library, rugby club, church events. Cllr Lindfors-Windsor offered to help Cllr Stevens compile a list.

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

1. To report on the progress of the Making a Difference initiative. (Cllr Stevens)

The Clerk will send out a press release saying that we have asked the community and 12 people have been nominated for our Making a Difference awards that will be presented by our MP on May 14th.

2. To report back on attendance on the Community Empowerment Conference attended on 3rd and 30th March.

Deferred to next meeting as Cllr Neal was not at the meeting.

3. To report back on the Sustainable Communities Act Public Meeting of 2nd April.

Discussed at Item 23.

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4. To report back on attendance at the Deepings Friendship Club for the Disabled AGM on 24th April. (Cllr Lindfors-Windsor)

Cllr Lindfors-Windsor reported that 25 people had attended the AGM who all found the club very worth while.

5. To report back on the Deepings Neighbour Policing meeting held on 27th April. (Cllr Wallis)

Cllr Wallis reported back on the content of the meeting, and confirmed that he had apprised the group of the ongoing problems at Woody Heights. A MD Councillor had suggested that these were vigilante tactics, but this was shot down by PC Capp who was very supportive of the Parish Councils decision to seek additional support, and that we were working in partnership with the local Police. A vigorous discussion followed, and a request made that Cllr Lindfors-Windsor give a talk to the Benedict Court Neighbourhood Group on the subject. PC Capp confirmed that he had met the security patrol staff and had a very high regard for their professionalism, and that the staff were engaging with the community. The majority of the DSJ youngsters were praised for their excellent behaviour and it was especially noted how much the MAGA was welcomed and was being used. The three items that were taken forward by the Police from this meeting were Parking problems, especially on junctions, Littering, and Anti-social behaviour.

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

Cllr Stevens informed the Council of the financial burden on the local Exotic Pet Refuge and had suggested that a grant application be made for financial support. Cllr Baxter suggested that attendance could be made at the forthcoming Teddy Bears picnic.

Cllr Baxter asked if the Thackers Way Open Space be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Clerk had two late items of correspondence and Cllr Blessett agreed to complete and return the Recycling survey to SKDC. Cllr Parr will be asked if she can attend the Carers Sitter Service AGM on 19th May 2009.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 7th May 2009 Transport Committee Meeting 6pm in the Clerk's Office at the Institute.

Thursday 7th May 2009 Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting 6.30pm in the Clerk's Office at the Institute to receive the report of the Internal Auditor and make recommendations to Council for approval of the annual return.

Thursday 7th May 2009 Cemetery Committee Meeting 7.15pm on site at the cemetery for the annual inspection.

Thursday 14th May 2009 Annual Parish Meeting at 7pm at the Priory Church Hall

Thursday 21st May 2009 Planning Committee Meeting 6.30pm in the Clerk's Office at the Institute.

Thursday 30th April 2009 Annual General Meeting of the Council at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room at The Institute.

The meeting finished at 9.50pm