

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

24th September 2009 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Auger, Baxter, Blessett, Dilks, Lindfors Windsor, Parr, Pearce, Shinkins, Stevens, Thompson, Wallis, PCSO Raechell Last and the Clerk Mrs S Kostyrka.

Open Forum

An open forum was not held.

77.09 To welcome and introduce Cllrs Pearce and Thompson and agree on Committee Membership.

The Chairman welcomed Cllrs Pearce and Thompson to their first Parish Council meeting. It was confirmed that Cllr Pearce would join the Cemetery and Youth & Community Committees. It was confirmed that the Declaration of Office and Code of Conduct had been signed and details would be sent to the monitoring officer at the district council.

78.09 To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs Barber, Pelling and Helyar (holiday) Moore (work) County Councillor Exton (personal) PCSO Chris Clarke (personal) Cllr Baxter arrived at 7.40pm

79.09 To receive declarations of interest, if any.

Item 90 Cllr Auger (personal) Manor Court – lives opposite open space. Cllr Auger made a request that he could make an apology to the Parish Council under this item.

Item 96 Cllr Thompson (personal) due to profession

Item 98 Cllr Dilks (prejudicial) known to one applicant

Item 98 Cllr Shinkins (prejudicial) known to two applicants

80.09 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th August 2009.

It was proposed by Cllr Auger, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and all were in favour that the minutes were a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.

81.09 To receive the Clerks Report.

Finance & General Purposes

The quarterly returns for the VAT recovery & HM Revenue & Customs had been made. Problems had continued for the most of the month regarding the new email/internet connection. The Clerk had installed a new modem. A new BT email account had now been established and arrangements made to transfer the website as previously agreed when Cllr Barber returned from holiday as the log in passwords were needed. It was confirmed that as much of the web site as was possible had been downloaded. It was agreed to set up a wireless connection to the internet to allow a second person to work on the laptop in the office if necessary. The interviews had been organised for the Assistant Clerk position and will take place on 5th October. A training programme had been written for the induction. Details will be discussed under item 98. The Chairman's Chain of Office had been received and this will be added to the insurance schedule.

Cemetery

The community team were continuing to work in the cemetery clearing the green waste and several skips had been used to remove the rubbish from site. Also weeding and generally tidying the area. The supervisor had retired, and it was hoped that temporary cover would be organised to allow the weekly visits to

continue. Two burials were taking place with month, and also two searches had been conducted for older reserved graves. Cllr Stevens reported that a chunk of memorial stone was sitting on the right hand side of the path near Church Walk. The Clerk had given first aid to the community team supervisor and this had been entered in the accident book in the normal way. It was noted that he had not been wearing PPE.

Community

The willow trees on the Spalding Road had been trimmed back, and the raciest graffiti has been painted over on the fence in Church Walk. The de-brief report on the Street Warden scheme had been received. Residents in the Manor Court area had been notified by letter of the forthcoming works.

Transport

The opening of the Spalding Road cycle path had been postponed pending additional signing of the new road lay out and alternative parking arrangements for the buses and parents to be made. The cycle racks for installation at Manor Court have been delivered.

Youth & Community

The Youth Centre was now open for three nights a week with a new club for people with disabilities taking place on a Friday evening. Paul Hanson has also been doing outreach work in the village and the Youth Centre now has another 50 members. The proposed Youth Worker was yet to be appointed. A meeting had been held with Madcaps and the arrangements discussed for 2010.

Allotments

The Allotment renewal letters had all been sent. The large bush on Hall Meadow Road that was obscuring the exit to the allotments had been trimmed back and the pot holes had been filled in. Urgent pruning of a tree with dead wood had also been organised. The establishment of Plot 32B for Sense was taking good shape. Cllr Shinkins thanked the Clerk for all the work she was doing.

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

The Zetnet email account had downloaded nearly 600 emails including an expression of interest from two other residents who wished to be considered for co-option. An explanation & apology had been sent.

Councillor & Chairman Training will be taking place on Tuesday 6th October at 6.30pm at Market Deeping Town Hall and it was confirmed that Cllrs Moore, Baxter Pearce and Thompson will be attending.

83.09 To receive a report from PCSO Raechell Last.

PCSO Last reported that there had been 80 reported ASB incidents in the last five months compared to 96 last year. It was confirmed that there had been no reported incidents at Manor Way but a resident had complained about noise over the last two weekends. Cllr Stevens reported this directly to Inspector Stewart who assured her that the police will be attending over future weekends. It was confirmed that the street warden scheme had finished at the end of August and these newly reported incidents confirmed its success. It was confirmed that the police would be working with different groups in the community during "Not in my Neighbourhood" week. Cllr Wallis asked when Alcohol Awareness Week was taking place. There will be a Halloween event on the John Eve field on 30.10.09. It was confirmed that the Friday night discos had been a success.

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

Cllr Auger reported that the free swimming event had been very successful across the district and time had even had to be rationed during very busy periods.

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

1. Letter to be passed onto LCC with additional council comments confirming that we are generally supportive of any speed reduction measures and specifically

favour the large yellow 30mph signs due to inadequate signage on this part of the Spalding Road.

3. Referred to Planning Committee.

12. LALC AGM & conference at Horncastle College on 07.11.09 – attendance to be confirmed.

13. SKDC Town & Parishes Conference -attendance to be agreed.

19. NALC Pay settlement referred to F&GP.

Two late receipts of correspondence were reported:

1. SKDC Housing Strategy Consultation 01.10.09 1-6pm Guildhall, Grantham.

Cllr Stevens proposed that a letter was sent to the monitoring officer at SKDC to complain that so many events are held during the working day which prevents most working Councillors from attending. This was unanimously agreed.

2. An invitation had been received from the Church Hall Generation Committee inviting two Councillors to attend the completion of the recent works event on Tuesday 27th October at 7pm. It was agreed that Cllrs Phil Dilks and Jim Blessett would attend.

86.09 To consider planning related issues:

1. To consider planning applications received:

SO9/1986	Mrs J Harrison 3 Orchard Close Deeping St James	Increase ridge height and insertion of dormer window to front elevation and single storey rear extension. APPROVAL RECOMMENDED.
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87.09 To consider financial matters:

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

It was proposed by Cllr Shinkins, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and agreed that the bills be paid. A copy is attached at **Appendix 2** to this report.

2. To consider applications received for Grants.

No applications for grants had been received quarter. £1,800 remains in the budget for the December & March meetings. However, it was proposed by Cllr Stevens, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and unanimously agreed that the shortfall of £232.82 for the summer play scheme be funded from the Grant Aid budget.

88.09 To receive a report from members of the Youth and Community Committee held on 10th September and to agree the recommendations made therein as attached at Appendix 3.

As there was not a quorum, a working party was held and Cllr Parr gave the report and recommendations to the Council for agreement.

It was proposed by Cllr Dilks, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and it was recommended to Council that the shortfall of £232.82 be paid from the Grant Aid budget. Further concerns were expressed regarding LCC not employing a youth worker. It was agreed that LCC be asked to spend a proportion of the money on a suitable external advert. This would be included in the newsletter. It was agreed that the celebration of the completion of Woody Heights would be held on Thursday 29th October with a graffiti artist and five-a-side activities which was being arranged in partnership with LCC Youth. It was agreed that up to £500 would come from the unspent Youth budget, including the paint if the Youth Shelter is to be repainted. A full programme would be circulated and members were asked to give this their full support. Cllr Stevens asked for details for the newsletter. It was clarified that the pathway at Woody Heights would be from the gate to the skate park for emergency access. It was also agreed that a budget of £26,750 would be considered for 2010-2011.

89.09 To receive the minutes of the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee held on 17th September and to agree the recommendation made therein as attached at Appendix 4.

As there was not a quorum, a working party was held and Cllr Blessett gave the report and recommendations to the Council for agreement.

It was proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein, and it was recommended to Council that permission be given to the AA to build raised flower beds (6-9inches) on plot 32A, to sow wild flower seeds around the boundaries of the field and to install a hand washing facility in the clubroom by connecting to the water supply and digging a soak away. These items would be funded by AA. It was agreed that a contribution of up to £200 would be made to lay a hedge on the north boundary and fill the gaps with dog roses. The cost of the extra subscription for public liability to cover Sense (£52.50 2009 prices) would be paid by the Council. It was agreed that the building of the ramp for people with disabilities could be a good community project, and it was suggested that the AA contacted the Lions or Rotary Club to see if they could help with the project. It was agreed that the Deeping St James in Bloom initiative be considered under special projects when a plan and budget was available.

Cllr Lindfors-Windsor expressed her disappointment that members had not been able to attend meetings. Cllr Stevens thought that the meetings were too early which prevented some working members attending.

90.09 To report on the Manor Court project.

Cllr Blessett reported that the project was progressing well and confirmed that there had been no known problems with anti social behaviour or vandalism on site. It was confirmed that the United Charities had already promised £2000 towards the project, and would now consider up to £2000 for benches and plaques. It was then proposed by Cllr Wallis, seconded by Cllr Stevens and unanimously agreed that the working party meet again to reconsider the style of bench required at Manor Court. Cllr Blessett agreed to organise the meeting as soon as possible.

Cllr Auger then told the Council that a complaint has been made to the Standards Board regarding his interest not being declared for matters connected with Manor Court. Cllr Auger told the Council that it had been determined that he should consider making a formal public apology. Cllr Auger then formally publicly apologised to the Parish Council for not declaring an interest in Manor Court. He told the Council that the second determination was that he would meet with the Chairman of the Standards Board to consider the implications of the 2007 Code of Conduct document with regard to dual hated members. The Chairman then thanked Cllr Auger and the apology was unanimously accepted.

91.00 To report and agree the recommendations of the Communication Plan Working Party. (Cllrs Pelling, Stevens and Wallis)

This meeting was deferred and the Clerk was asked to organise a meeting via email.

PCSO Last left at 9.05pm.

92.09 To report on the Spalding Road Cycle Path project and consider and agree the way forward.

Cllr Dilks gave an overview of the Spalding Road Cycle Path project and confirmed that the issues for the delay were signing and coloured tarmac which had now been laid. The new road markings were being monitored together with the parent and bus parking problems. It was confirmed that the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership would look at the scheme again, and if parking persisted, a waiting order in the area may have to be considered. It was confirmed that the PCSO's would also advise parents/cars not to park across the cycle path. Cllr Wallis said that the Parish Council should be very proud that the cycle path had been installed as it would contribute to the safety of everyone in the village. Cllr Shinkins asked that the traffic problems on the Linchfield Road be raised again with LCC, and a request make that everyone parks in the school car park and does not block the road.

- 93.09 To report on the recycling issues. (Cllr Dilks)**
Deferred.
- 94.09 To update the Council on the Car Clubs project.**
Cllr Baxter circulated a paper updating the Council on the proposed scheme. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that the scheme would be re-costed, and a plan would be brought back to the Council for further consideration.
- 95.09 To report on the Design Statement proposals and consider the way forward.**
The Clerk was asked to confirm the current situation.
- 96.09 To consider and agree the request for £10,000 PCSO contribution to Lincolnshire Police Authority**
Cllr Stevens proposed that we debate our possible contribution for the next financial year at a later date which was agreed. Cllrs Auger, Blessett and Baxter voiced their concerns that we were still only one of three parishes in Lincolnshire making this contribution. Cllr Stevens then proposed that the unbudgeted funds spent on security at Woody Heights due to the failure of the police to control the situation be deducted from this fund before paying the requested amount. It was noted that it was the failure of the police and not the PCSO's that had caused this situation. Cllr Baxter asked for it to be noted that we should not be paying 1p extra towards this service that nearly all other parishes pay no extra contribution towards. Cllr Blessett then seconded this motion and it was then put to the vote by a show of hands. There were 7 in favour, 1 against and two abstentions. The motion was then carried that the cost of security guards during the installation of the MAGA would be deducted prior to paying the Invoice that had been received from the Police Authority for £10,000.
- 97.09 To consider the re-opening of Deeping St James Railway Station.**
Cllr Shinkins proposed that now the works on the railway line were complete we should again write to the Strategic Railway Authority to confirm the current situation and request that consideration be given to re-opening the station at Deeping St James. This was seconded by Cllr Auger and unanimously agreed.
- 98.09 To confirm the interview arrangements for the Assistant Clerk vacancy.**
The interview arrangements were discussed and concerns were raised that some of the applicants were known to Councillors, who had therefore declared an interest. Cllrs Dilks and Shinkins had stood down from the interview panel for this reason. Cllr Stevens was challenged by Cllr Shinkins regarding a declaration of interest, but Cllr Stevens was adamant that she should be part of the interview panel. Cllr Shinkins asked Cllr Blessett if he would be prepared to be part of the interview panel, and he agreed. It was then proposed by Cllr Stevens that Cllr Pelling, Blessett and Cllr Stevens form the interview panel, and the Clerk meets the applicants and conducts the test, as the Clerk had not been involved in previous interviews. The Clerk commented that was properly because the Clerk had been leaving, not employing an assistant.
At this point, it was proposed by Cllr Dilks and carried that Standing Order 1d be implemented to extend the duration of the meeting to conclude business. This was agreed.
It was then proposed by Cllr Blessett and seconded by Cllr Shinkins that the interview panel consist of Cllrs Pelling, Blessett and the Clerk and it was put to the vote by a show of hands with 7 in favour and two against. The motion was carried. Cllr Lindfors-Windsor agreed to meet and greet and help with the computer test.
- 99.09 To report on the arrangements for Deeping St James in Bloom.**
Cllr Stevens circulated a paper giving the situation so far and an update and this is attached at **Appendix 5**. Cllr Stevens said that she was doing everything

herself and also had a full time job. Cllr Stevens commented that the Clerk had been no help to her at all. Cllr Stevens confirmed that she would put a budget together for consideration by the Council.

100.09 To consider permission and the fee for placing a double flat stone tablet of a double (joining) ashes plot in the cemetery not previous considered by Council.

It was proposed by Cllr Auger and unanimously agreed to allow a double stone tablet to be placed on a double(joining) ashes plot up to 36" wide, by 18" depth and 4" high at a cost of £112.50.

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

1. To report on the Planning System Overview Seminar on 15th September 2009. (Cllr Blessett)

This item was referred to the Planning Committee.

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

Cllr Stevens reported that she had been contacted by a representative of the Discovery Channel who wanted to make a promotional video of Deeping St James and Bourne. A contribution of £2000 was needed, and it was therefore agreed that although we would like to express an interest in this project, we were unable to support it financially and it was suggested that they contact the DMP.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Thursday 8th October 2009 7pm Finance & General Purposes in the Clerks Office

Thursday 22nd October 2009 Planning 7pm in the Clerks Office

Thursday 29th October 2009 OPEN DAY AT WOODY HEIGHTS

7.30pm Council

The meeting finished at 10.15pm