

DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

29th October 2009 at 7.30pm

MINUTES

Present

Cllrs: Barber, Baxter, Blessett, Dilks, Helyar, Lindfors Windsor, Pearce, Pelling, Shinkins, Stevens, Thompson, Wallis, PCSO Chris Clarke and the Clerk Mrs S Kostyrka.

Open Forum

An open forum was not held.

- 102.09 To receive apologies for absence.**
Cllrs Auger & Moore (work) County Councillor Mike Exton (personal). The Council asked for their good wishes to be conveyed to him. Apologies were received from PCSO Clarke who arrived at 7.40pm and Cllr Shinkins who arrived at 8.05pm. (both from work)
- 103.09 To receive declarations of interest, if any.**
112.09.2 Cllr Shinkins – Planning, known to applicant
113.09 Cllrs Pelling and Barber – Accounts, personal
- 104.09 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 24th September 2009.**
It was proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and all were in favour that the minutes were a true record and they were signed by the Chairman.
- 105.09 To receive the resignation from Kim Parr and resolve to declare a vacancy to co-opt a new member.**
The resignation was accepted and a letter of thanks is to be sent. The Clerk was asked to contact previous applicants who had shown an interest and to ensure a vacancy poster is also displayed at Linchfield Road.
- 106.09 To agree to appoint Cllr Chris Pearce as a representative for the Red Cross.**
This was unanimously agreed. Cllr Pearce invited members to attend the forthcoming fund raising event, and to participate in a first aid course which would be organised by the Training Officer, Liz Waterland.
- 107.09 To receive the Clerks Report.**
Community
Regular visits have been made to support the contractors during the upgrading at Manor Way. Unfortunately LCC will not give their permission for flagstones to be laid on the field path which will be slurried in the spring. The Council has received a complaint from a member of the public that cyclists are staying on the road and not using the part of the cycle path marked on the new pavement. The signs are still on display warning drivers of the new road layout, and LCC are now working with the Lincs Road Safety Partnership regarding their final audit. There have been several reports about fly tipping, enquiries about housing, a fired litter bin on the Thacker's Way open space, unsafe trees, and overhanging branches.
Allotments, Footpaths & Open Spaces
After complaints, emergency work has been carried out to remove dangerous

dead branches from a tree on the allotment site using a cherry picker. This was in consultation with the vice chairman and the committee chairman. Unfortunately, MDTC have been unable to financially support the additional works needed on the Sense plot without their own grant aid application being completed and submitted. Ten new allotment plots have been allocated, but there have been many problems regarding giving up plots, occupation and allocation. As previously discussed, the Council evicted a tenant whose plot had been divided and was being worked by two MD residents. Because of the difficult situation, the tenant was allocated another plot. The Council have now received a complaint from the said MD resident regarding how the Council manage their affairs. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak to the Town Clerk in response to this complaint. The probation workers have been planting out 5000 daffodil bulbs in the community, and will return to their work at the cemetery shortly. Cllr Baxter asked if he could have some bulbs for the Linchfield Road corner of the Spalding Road. Cllr Stevens asked for photographs to be taken of the planting, and for bulbs to be planted on the verge adjacent to the Deepings School. Cllr Pearce all suggested bulbs could be planted at High Locks.

Finance

The computer continues to be a problem and the old Zetnet account has allowed viruses through onto the PC with items that are restoring themselves after they have been removed. Very grateful thanks to Cllr Barber for his persistence & help with the ongoing problems. The web site is now safe and has been moved to the BT domain. The selection and staff interviews have also taken place this month which have also been very time consuming and the Council's sincere thanks go to Cllrs Baxter, Lindfors-Windsor, Blessett and Pelling for their personal commitment. The heating at the institute has at last been repaired.

Youth & Community

In partnership with LCC and Madcaps after various meetings a successful event took place today to mark the Parish Council's achievement with providing youth facilities in the village. The Council's grateful thanks to Paul Hanson and John Wills of the Youth Service for co-ordinating this event. A consultation also took place with the youths attending the event regarding possible future improvement of the skate park, which will be reported to the next Y&C Committee meeting. Things have moved on since the Council agreed to pay for the employment of a youth/out reach officer to enable to youth centre to be open for an additional evening every week. Paul Hanson has been engaging with the local youths when problems arise and now has over 50 new members. As the centre is now open every day and is being very well attended the Council have been asked if the funding provided can be used to employ an extra assistant at Paul's request. In conjunction with LCC Teenage Services within the funding allocation they will also be able to organise two activity events during the May & October half term breaks. This was agreed. Cllr Stevens asked that a proper advert be placed as they had previously been ineffective.

Cemetery

Residents have again been troubled by stones being thrown, and the police were called. Arrangements have been made for the continued use of the Priory Church toilets by the Probation workers.

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

The Priory Church Hall is not available for our usual Annual Parish Meeting on a Thursday. Two other dates have been offered, Tuesday 11th or 25th May and 11th May was agreed. The Clerk was asked to check the standing orders.

The maintenance worker will now be working Monday, Tuesday and Friday mornings for a few hours, and Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, weather permitting. The United Charities had donated another £2000 towards benches

at Manor Court. Council will be aware that there has been a cheque raised this month for the Lincolnshire Police Authority as agreed at (Min 96.09) The Council had now received a final demand from the police threatening court action if funds were not received within seven days. The Clerk had made various enquiries regarding the reopening of the Deeping St James Railway Station and had consulted with Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council as suggested. A member of the Parish Council has been invited to attend the next Spalding and Peterborough Railway Forum on 29.01.10 for the current situation to be reported back to Council for consideration. Cllrs Helyar and Pelling agreed to attend.

109.09 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke.

There had been no more anti social behaviour problems on the open spaces. Two burglaries had been reported. PCSO Clark gave an overview of the forthcoming "Not in my neighbourhood week". Cllr Thompson would be meeting with PCSO Clarke (work permitting) on 6th November at 7pm at the police station to accompany him on his duty.

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

A report was not available. However, at this point, Cllr Stevens queried the legal requirement of Councillors attending meetings. The Chairman confirmed that this was six months unless Council had accepted apologies. Cllr Helyar commented that he did attend meetings.

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

3. Cllr Pearce would attend the LALC meeting on 07.11.09 if a space was still available.

4. Cllr Baxter would attend the Deeping Arts meeting on 09.11.09.

8. It was agreed to ask SKDC if the Council could install the benches at Thacker's Way. Cllr Baxter requested that they be put in the play area.

17. Cllrs Lindfors-Windsor and Baxter would attend the meeting at Stamford on 03.11.09.

19. Cllr Dilks would attend the service and lay the wreath on 01.11.09 and Cllr Pelling the closing service on 15.11.09.

112.09 To consider planning related issues:

Cllr Helyar did not participate in this part of the meeting.

1. To receive the recommendations from the meeting held on 22.10.09.

Cllr Stevens objected to the recommendations regarding the Design Statement and asked what else we were going to do to question the planning authority's decisions. A long discussion took place. It was then proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and all were in favour of accepting the recommendations. The minutes of the meeting are attached at **Appendix 2.**

2. To consider planning applications received since the meeting was called:

S09/2361	Mr & Mrs P Darnes 14 Curlew Walk, Deeping St James	Erection of first floor extension over existing garage APPROVED
S09/2392	Mr R Goodson Primrose Cottage Frognall	Erection of one and a half storey Extension APPROVED
S09/2409	Mr T Robinson Land off Stephens Way Deeping St James	Residential Development (7 dwellings) OBJECTION (*comments to follow)
S09/2422	Mr P Crowson 12 Swallow Walk Deeping St James	Erection of detached garage APPROVED
S09/2364	Mr & Mrs Farrell Priors Meadow Stowgate Deeping St James	Siting of a mobile home APPROVED

***Comments re S09/2409 above:**

Deeping St James Parish Council wish to object to this application on the following grounds:

1. The development will have a detrimental impact, adversely affecting the unspoilt nature of the area.
2. The development brings an unwelcome intrusion into the open countryside.
3. The Design & Access Statement is misleading. Paragraph 3.3 use refers only to the application site comprising a communal car parking area. It does not make mention of the fact that the larger part of the proposed application site comprises a paddock serving the "Tall Trees" Equestrian Centre. Moreover not one of the photographs in this statement depicts the paddock area. This is a serious oversight.
4. The parking situation in Stephens Way is already poor. The notionally similar number of car parking spaces will further exacerbate the situation, since the generously sized parking area will be replaced by tightly packed cramped bays. The eleven affordable homes to be built on the site immediately to the north of Stephens Way will also have an adverse impact on the overall parking and traffic situation on Stephens Way, and this factor should be born in mind when considering their further application.
5. This application seeks to build upon a Greenfield site. This area was bizarrely identified in the 1995 Local Plan as suitable for housing. SKDC has acknowledged that this Local Plan, soon to be replaced completely of course, is no longer in accord with regional and national policy. Therefore it should not be accorded any weight when determining this application.

It is strongly urged that this application is considered by the Development Control Committee, and Councillors Auger and Helyar have been asked to make representations accordingly.

3. To receive a letter from SKDC regarding the Public Consultation Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document and to make any further comments by 04.12.09.

Cllr Blessett confirmed that the plan contained the possible sites, not the preferred sites that had been identified by the Parish Council. This would be an agenda item for the next planning meeting on 19th November enabling the committee to report back to Council prior to the final deadline on the 4th December for the public consultation.

113.09 To consider financial matters:

1. To approve Accounts for Payment as per the schedule attached at Appendix 3.

It was proposed by Cllr Barber, seconded by Cllr Pelling and agreed that the bills be paid.

2. To consider and agree the annual donation for the Royal British Legion wreath.

It was proposed by Cllr Pelling, seconded by Cllr Helyar and agreed to donate £50.

114.09 1. To receive a report from members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 8th October and to agree the recommendations made therein as attached at Appendix 4.

It was then proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations contained therein.

2. To report on the recent interviews and agree the recommendations to appoint an Assistant Clerk (Private & Confidential report, F&GP 16/09).

It was proposed by Cllr Pelling, seconded by Cllr Shinkins and all were in favour of appointing the Assistant Clerk under the terms and conditions agreed as soon as possible.

115.09 To receive and agree any further budget requests for consideration for the 2010-11 precept setting meeting.

It was agreed that the next Finance & General Purposes meeting would take place on Thursday 19th November at 7.30pm.

Cllr Baxter proposed that we do something with the Thacker's Way Open Space, but did not know what. The process for budget setting was reconfirmed. It was then agreed to call an additional Allotments Footpath and Open Spaces Committee meeting before the precept meeting to consider his proposals and budgets.

It was confirmed that the Telephone Kiosk proposals will be in the budget.

116.09 To report on the Manor Court project.

Cllr Blessett reported that Phase one was now completed, and the fencing will stay on site until the grass has grown. The working party is to reconvene when the bins and benches arrive to decide on the best location. It was proposed by Cllr Wallis, seconded by Cllr Barber and unanimously agreed to return the left over slabs to Branch brothers for credit. The contractor is to be asked to store a reserve supply for future replacement use. It was then proposed and unanimously agreed to spend £300 on shrubs to enable the raised flower bed to be planted out by Lovedale Gardens. Cllr Baxter asked if the Catholic Church side of the site could be attended to as it needed pruning, and asked when the staircase was going to be blocked in. This had already been done, and the Clerk was asked to investigate. Cllr Stevens suggested that this item and Thacker's Way should be discussed at the open spaces committee. Cllr Stevens then asked who was on that committee and could we plan a meeting? The Clerk suggested that we organised a meeting date afterwards and the Chairman moved the meeting on.

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

Cllr Pelling confirmed that the Clerk had written a draft communication plan that had been circulated to the working party for discussion at a meeting on 23.07.09. Cllrs Stevens and Wallis had not attended, and another meeting had to be organised. Cllr Stevens was aggrieved that she had not been included, and said that this sort of thing is not professional and we can't have one policy for one thing, and a different policy for something else. Cllr Wallis apologised if there was an omission and an email had not been received, but there was a lot more on the agenda to discuss. Cllr Stevens then interjected and referred back to the previous allotment discussions (Min 107.9) and said that she was

opposed to Clerks having a quiet word, and that we should go to LALC. Cllr Dilks said that he was chairing this meeting and that this Council is professional, and there was nothing wrong with Clerks having a quiet word if it stopped the matter escalating. Cllr Stevens said that the Council needed to be more professional in the way our business was run, and that there are other things as well, but perhaps we need to have another meeting to discuss it. Cllr Dilks said that he took objection to being told we were unprofessional.

118.09 To report on the recycling issues.

Cllr Dilks confirmed that he had met with Mr Prentice and it was then proposed by Cllr Blessett and unanimously agreed to write again to the County Council to confirm the current situation.

119.09 To update the Council on the Car Clubs project.

It was agreed that Cllr Baxter would prepare a proposal with budgets, and this would be prepared for F&GP to discuss on 19.11.09 prior to making their recommendations to Council on 26.11.09.

120.09 To report and agree the proposals and budget for Deeping St James in Bloom.

Cllr Stevens said she had circulated a detailed paper at the last meeting, and gave an overview of the proposed forthcoming events and budget planned by the working party. Planned events include presentations in the Priory Church Hall on 17.11.09 "Mostly Green & White – a beginners guide to Snowdrops" and 12.01.10 "DSJ in Bloom". Snowdrops would be planted in the Church Yard by the Ladies Fellowship. The Rose & Sweet Pea Show on 26.06.10 will celebrate gardening in Deeping St James and include a booklet. Apple Day will be on 24th October 2010 and David Hopkins from Heritage Lincs will identify apples. Tiered Planters will be placed at Manor Court, Ryecroft and Crowson Way shops and meeting will be held with local traders. It was agreed by Council that it would be better to hire the containers in the first year, to monitor the initiative. Cllr Lindfors-Windsor commented that Cllr Stevens was doing too much and enquired how much community interest for this initiative there was for the event. It was then confirmed by Cllr Stevens that the Church Ladies Fellowship, the cubs and scouts, Deepings Heritage, the Flower Clubs, the Rose & Sweet Pea Show participants were all interested. Cllr Stevens clarified that the working party hoped to do this for three years before passing onto another group of people to organise. Cllr Pelling asked who was involved and it was clarified that Cllrs Baxley, Neal and Stevens had originally sat on a steering group, and this was not a Council run event. The proposed budget of £3000 for the initiative would be considered by the F&GP Committee during the precept setting meeting.

121.09 To discuss the gating of Manor Court.

Cllr Stevens expressed her concerns about the anti-social behaviour at Manor house Court and that the area should be gated. It was confirmed that the flats were owned by Hanover Housing, part of SKDC. Cllr Shinkins was most concerned that this would make any access in the small hours very difficult. Cllr Thompson thought that their concerns should be discussed with the Community Safety Partnership who would look at the problems and make suggestions. Cllr Blessett commented that the youths did not congregate in the bin area since the caretaker had been using a strong mixture of Jayes Fluid!

At this point, it was proposed by Cllr Wallis and carried that Standing Order 1d be implemented to extend the duration of the meeting to conclude business. This was agreed.

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

1. To report on the Councillor training in Market Deeping on 06.10.09 (Cllrs Moore and Pearce)

Cllr Pearce thought the training had been very worthwhile for a new Councillor.

2. To report on the Deepings Management Partnership meeting on 12.10.09 (Cllrs Baxter & Blessett)

Cllr Baxter gave an overview of the meeting and confirmed that Neil Cuttell had now left, and this was now being managed by an Economic Development Officer from Grantham who was trying to make the criteria fit the SKDC requirements. It was noted that Stamford has a dedicated Town Centre Manager, and the Deepings now had someone inflicted upon them who was unable to fulfill the required role. Cllr Baxter commented that the whole meeting had been a shambles

3. To report on the DSJ in Bloom event 22.10.09 (Cllr Stevens)

The event was well attended with 33 people.

It was agreed to extend the meeting to 10.15pm to conclude business.

4. To report on attendance at the Church Hall celebration on 27.10.09 (Cllrs Dilks & Blessett)

It was reported that the new facilities were excellent. It was a good celebration and the Parish Council had been officially thanked for their donation of £10,000.00.

5. To consider the request for support regarding the relocation of the Ministry of Sound Dance Studio and possible change of use (Cllr Blessett)

It was confirmed that the resident would like some support and Cllr Baxter would advise her to speak with the planning authority at South Kesteven District Council. The Parish Council would be happy to support the proposal.

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

Cllr Baxter commented that when he had made comments to the MD Clerk, he had been advised by the Chairman to go through the Clerk.

Cllr Stevens asked members to display Snowdrop posters.

Cllr Dilks said that it was important all members attended the Leisure Centre at 6.55pm for the tour, especially as a lot had been said about the Leisure Centre in the past.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Tuesday 3rd November 2009 7pm Finance & General Purposes in the Clerks Office

Thursday 19th November 2009 Planning 7pm in the Clerks Office

Thursday 26th November 2009 Council meeting at Deepings Leisure Centre – meet in reception at 6.55pm for 7pm tour of facility followed by Council at 7.30pm in the committee room.

The meeting finished at 10.12pm