

# DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

26<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at 7.30pm

## MINUTES

### Present

**Cllrs: Barber, Baxter, Blessett, Dilks, Lindfors- Windsor, Moore, Pearce, Pelling, Stevens, Thompson, Wallis, Cllr Mike Exton, PCSO Chris Clarke, the Clerk Mrs S Kostyrka and Mr Steve Ashby Assistant Clerk (designate).**

Parish Council members met with Sharon Hawthorne SKDC and Rachel Fox Leisure Centre Manager at 7pm for a tour of the Leisure Centre.

### Open Forum

It was proposed by the Chairman and unanimously agreed to implement Standing Order 22d and amend the order of business to enable the Council to speak with the Leisure Centre Managers on their return in the open forum session.

**123.09 To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr Shinkins (work) Cllr Helyar did not attend. Cllr Moore gave apologies that she would have to leave at 9pm. Cllr Stevens arrived at 7.50pm (work) PCSO Chris Clarke left at 8.30pm

**124.09 To receive declarations of interest, if any.**

Cllrs Barber and Baxter Item 134.09.1 Accounts for Payment- Personal  
Cllrs Stevens and Wallis Item 133.09.1 Planning- Personal

**125.09 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2009.**

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

**126.09 To receive the resignation of Cllr Ray Auger and agree to declare a vacancy. To report on the progress of the Casual Vacancy already declared for a Parish Councillor and agree advertising.**

It was agreed that Cllr Ray Auger was owed a debt of gratitude for his loyal service to the community for over 30 years. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks inviting Cllr Auger to the Annual Parish Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010 for this to be officially acknowledged. The new vacancy would be declared, and the two vacancies would be posted in The Advertiser in January.

**127.09 To appoint Cllr Chris Pearce as a member of the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee**

It was proposed by Cllr Wallis, seconded by Cllr Blessett and unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Pearce as a committee member, and Cllr Barber asked for his name to be removed from the list as he stood down six months ago.

**128.09 To receive the Clerks Report. Community**

The Manor Court project is now complete and the fencing has been removed. The contractor has been asked to address two puddles on the newly paved area where the rain water is not draining away. The planting of spring bulbs and shrubs is complete in the raised bed spending only £200 of the £300 allocated. The bins and benches are on order and should be installed before

Christmas. The slabs have been returned to Branch Brothers for credit. Enquiries this month have included a boundary dispute in Crowson Way with concerns regarding the ownership of a large horse chestnut tree that needs pruning. The LCC Tree Officer is investigating the case. We have had three reports of fly tipping and a complaint about trading from a front garden. BT have made a contribution of £100 for spending in the community as a Thank you to us for supporting the adopt a kiosk campaign.

#### **Transport**

LCC are still waiting for the final audit report on the Spalding Road cycle path from the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership.

#### **Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces**

We continue to receive correspondence from the MD resident who was illegally occupying an allotment plot. It was unanimously agreed to respond by letter refusing to enter into any correspondence. We have had various plants and garden tools collected from the community for use by Sense. TNS Nurseries are also in the process of planting out sensory plants on Plot 32B. The Community Team have cleared 34 bags of leaves and continue to tidy the overgrown footpaths in the village.

#### **Youth & Community**

The second phase of the alterations to the skate park ramps will take place as soon as the weather allows. The youth assistant as the Youth Club has had their hours extended by 3 hours per week as agreed. The activity days for 2010 are still awaiting confirmation. The Clerk has asked the remaining funds to be rolled over and offset against next year's contribution. Our application to the Police for £300 for sports equipment has been successful and the Clerk will purchase the goods prior to reimbursement.

#### **Finance & General Purposes**

There is still a small problem with the computer which Brian is investigating. We have received a bill from a company called Breath, formally Zetnet, which the clerk has returned.

#### **Cemetery**

There has been one burial this month and various memorial requests.

**129.09**

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

Cllr Barber reported that the web site was now up and running and was being updated. Cllr Baxter confirmed that the Car Club survey should remain on it, and it was agreed that a page for DSJ in Bloom could be created and Cllr Stevens will send Cllr Barber the information.

**At 7.55pm, Standing Order 22d was implemented as the Leisure Centre Manager and SKDC Officer returned and were invited by the Chairman to speak to the Council in an open forum session.** It was confirmed that maintenance and upgrading was ongoing. The showers were soon to be upgraded, the hot water boiler replaced and the disabled changing room upgraded. Cllr Lindfors-Windsor agreed to meet with officers on 27.11.09 to give help and advice regarding disability access and requirements. New energy saving pool covers would be installed by February, a new pool side hoist and sling would be installed and various areas would be painted. Repairs were ongoing with the all weather pitch and lights and tennis court number 3 had also been repaired and was available for use. Cllr Stevens confirmed that she had not heard any further horror stories, and was pleased with the improvements. It was agreed that the blue shoe cover notice would be made more prominent, and shoe covers would be made available at all times. Cllr Stevens requested that the Leisure Centre participated in the DSJ in Bloom event which would be considered. Cllr Barber requested that the complaints book be rectified as he had made a complaint recently that had not been noted. It was confirmed that there was not going to be a Trust now and that SKDC had a one year contract with Leisure Connections to sort things out. Cllr Exton clarified that the Charity Commission had put a lot of obstacles in the way of the Trust and had refused Charity Status which had prevented various

financial/funding opportunities. The situation was now being considered. The communication structure was confirmed and meetings are held every two weeks with officers, a report is made to Councillors monthly and three forums are held annually. Cllr Stevens requested that a representative from the Parish Council be asked to attend the forum and that they are also advertised more widely. This was agreed. Cllr Pelling queried the availability of information on the web which would be investigated. Councillor Dilks thanked Sharon and Claire for meeting with us and providing the room and refreshments. Progress had really been made which was very welcome and we looked forward to long term stability and future success

- 130.09 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke.**  
PCSO Clarke confirmed that PCSO Dobson had returned to work after long term sickness. The "Not in my neighbourhood Campaign" had been well received and alcohol had been confiscated from under age drinkers. The local police now had three vehicles including a caged van. There had been one burglary and one report of anti social behaviour in the last month.
- 131.09 To receive a report from District/County Councillors present. (five minutes)**  
Cllr Exton reported that the Deepings School had just had their OFSTED inspection and were hoping for a good report. It was confirmed that the AGM of the DMP meeting at the community centre would be on the 12.01.10. Cllr Stevens asked Cllr Exton to ask SKDC to redress the balance of youth activities across the district by providing activities for older children in Deeping St James in 2010.
- 132.09 To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting as attached at Appendix 1.** **Enc 1**  
Item 9 Cllr Blessett will respond to the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy on behalf of the Council.
- 133.09 To consider planning related issues:** **Enc 2**  
**1. To receive the recommendations from the meeting held on 19.11.09.**  
The Parish Council considered the recommendations made by the Planning Committee. It was agreed to OBJECT to application SO9/2574 on the grounds of the material being used for the conservatory. Cllr Stevens confirmed that a number of concerns had been expressed by residents. The Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document suggested site consultation was presented by Cllr Blessett and agreed. It was then proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Pelling and all were in favour of accepting the recommendations. The minutes of the meeting are attached at **Appendix 2.**
- 134.09 To consider financial matters:**  
**1. To approve Accounts for Payment as per the schedule attached at Appendix 3.** **Enc 3**  
It was proposed by Cllr Pelling, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and agreed that the bills be paid.
- 135.09 1. To receive a report from members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> November and to agree the recommendations made therein. As per the schedule at Appendix 4** **Enc 4**  
Cllr Pelling presented the final precept recommendations and ran through the suggested cutbacks and the reasons for them. Concerns were expressed with the recommendation of £93,144 being higher than the projected figure of £87,000. After lengthy discussion it was agreed to add £1000 to the cemetery budget (this had already been reduced by £1000 at committee level) and to postpone the laying of the pathway at Woody Heights, thus making an additional saving of £4000. It was then proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by

Cllr Pelling and agreed by seven votes to two that the precept for 2010-11 is set at £89,144.00. Cllr Pelling requested that in future, committees could prepare an essential list of budget requirements, and desirable list which would help with future precept setting.

- 136.09 To receive the minutes of the Allotments, Footpaths, and Open Spaces Committee held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2009** Enc 5  
The minutes were noted.

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

**1. To report on attendance at the Neighbourhood Panel meeting on 02.11.09 (Cllr Wallis)**

Cllr Wallis was unable to attend.

**2. To report on attendance at the Parish Forum meeting on 03.11.09. (Cllrs Baxter & Lindfors-Windsor)**

Cllr Baxter reported that it had been a very good meeting which had focused on the Planning Law and how decisions were made. The absolute letter of the law was followed in each case. It was confirmed that the site allocations are an important part of the building process.

**3. To report on attendance at the "Not in my Neighbourhood week" environment day on 04.11.09 (Cllr Pelling)**

Cllr Pelling confirmed that he had joined the PCSO's and staff from SKDC for about three hours to litter pick in Deeping St James, and the group had actually found very little litter within the village. It was agreed that the litter picking regime was going well.

**4. To report on attendance at the LALC AGM on 07.11.09 (Cllr Pearce)**

Cllr Pearce had enjoyed the AGM and a paper containing the content of the day was circulated. Cllr Stevens asked about the Emergency Planning, and Cllr Baxter will look for the CD.

**5. To report on attendance at the Deepings Arts meeting on 09.11.09 (Cllr Baxter)**

Cllr Baxter had not attended the meeting but reported that the festival will take place on 8<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> May 2010. The proposed arts centre will be an agenda item for the new year to clarify the situation.

**6. To report on the opening & closing ceremonies at Remembrance Gardens on 01.11.09 and 15.11.09 (Cllrs Dilks and Pelling)**

Cllr Dilks had attended the opening ceremony and Cllr Pelling the closing ceremony and reported that both events had been well attended and suitably dignified.

**7. To report on attendance at the DSJ in Bloom Snowdrops event on 17.11.09 (Cllr Stevens)**

Cllr Stevens reported that it had been a good event attended by 42 people, which was all good PR for next year. The Church Ladies Fellowship had raised the funds for the snowdrops and the AA and Rotary would help with bulb planting preparation for the event on 2<sup>nd</sup> February which included a supper which everyone was invited to.

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

It was reported that John Lawrence was standing down in the new year and the DMP were looking for a new chair who could get involved in the running of the organisation.

Cllr Stevens requested that the Scene be approached regarding “The Mayor of the Deepings”.

Cllr Stevens requested items for the newsletter in December.

The Community Team will be planting bulbs on 1<sup>st</sup> December and Cllr Barber offered to help

It was agreed that the following Councillors would attend the various events at the Deepings School:

30.11.09 – Christmas Concert – Cllr Stevens

09.12.09 – Thanks – Cllr Dilks

14.12.09 – Concert - Cllr Barber

16.12.09 – Presentation -Cllrs Dilks & Baxter

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 Planning 7pm in the Clerks Office**

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2009 Council meeting at 7.30pm in the meeting room at The Institute.**

**The meeting finished at 9.50pm**