

# DEEPING ST. JAMES PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

28<sup>th</sup> January 2010 at 7.30pm

## MINUTES

### Present

**Cllrs: Barber, Baxter (arrived 7.35), Blessett, Dilks, Helyar, Pearce, Shinkins, Stevens (arrived 7.40), Thompson, Wallis (arrived 7.50), PC Jim Capp, Cllr Exton (Lincs CC) and the Asst. Clerk Mr S Ashby.**

### Open Forum

**153.10 To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies given by the Clerk Mrs S Kostyrka (personal) Cllr Lindfors-Windsor (personal) Cllr Pelling (Council Meeting) and Cllr Moore (resigned)

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

Cllr Shinkins declared personal interest as applicant known for planning applications SO9/2885, SO9/2409, S10/0036, S10/0059 and the Planning Appeal of T Hicks

Cllr Barber declared personal interest as applicant known for planning application S10/0036

**155.10 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

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

**156.10 To receive the Clerks Report.**

The office has been very quiet over the Christmas/New Year period, and throughout the snowy conditions. The Clerk was able to get into work most days, and worked from home on two days when heavy snow had been forecast.

#### **Planning**

At the request of Cllr Stevens, concerns were expressed to the Enforcement Officer regarding the condition of the Boathouse, which is being investigated. It was also requested for the criteria for affordable homes to be confirmed, and the 2006 report has been requested and received from SKDC. More information on the SKDC Cross Border Choice on Lettings with PCC was also requested. These will be agenda items for the February Planning Meeting.

#### **Community**

The maintenance operative was absent for three days during which time the probation team undertook the litter picking duties across the village. Cllr Barber was thanked for collecting and organising the planting of trees provided by LCC.

#### **Youth & Community**

It was reported that the Clerk had been in communication with Paul Hanson LCC and Phil Jordon from SKDC and a meeting was called at the Youth Centre on 20.01.10 attended by Cllr Shinkins, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk to discuss the Fair play Football initiative. Police representatives and Youth Officers attended from Bourne and Stamford. This initiative will commence on 19.02.10 at the Astro turf at the Leisure Centre for 8 weeks between 8-10pm. The PC will support this event with offering the sports equipment sponsored by the police as prizes. The Clerk has asked Cllr Baxter to approach the Open Door Church to see if they can help with mentoring. (email 04.01.10)

#### **Cemetery**

We have had the burial of a two year old child, and one interment this month.

The Clerk & Assistant Clerk met with the Probation Service supervisor and caretaker of the Priory Church Hall regarding the recent problems that had led to use of the facility being withdrawn. After a full discussion and agreement of how the facility was to be used, use of the toilets and kitchen has now re-commenced.

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

Cllr Stevens had requested that invitations be sent out in the name of the Chairman for the Snowdrop Supper at the Priory Church Hall to be held on 02.02.10. Cllr Stevens will give a full report for agreement by the Council at item 166.3. The Allotment Association have had their AGM and there is a change of committee. Jon Cox has taken over as Chairman, Tony Jackson as Treasurer and we have split the job of membership secretary with Hilary Gentle and Alan Bulmer will be the main secretary.

#### **Transport**

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

The Assistant Clerk, Mr Steve Ashby started work on 18.01.10 and is currently working 15 hours a week as agreed. As requested, investigations were ongoing regarding introducing a retirement policy, and this would be an agenda item for the next meeting on 11.02.10. The Clerk had spoken with ACAS, LALC, and two companies who provided an employment law and personnel service. Branch Brothers have now credited our account with £1140.58 (inc VAT) for the returned flag stones at Manor Court.

A discussion followed concerning the fair play football which was seen to be positive progress but that the Council needed to push for more initiatives for lighter nights and summer.

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

The Communication Plan and the Emergency Plan are ongoing.

Cllr Blessett reported on the installation of the bins and benches at Manor Court, and the location of the SKDC recycling bin which had been placed without notice. It had been thought to relocate the SKDC bin to Ryecroft Ave but it will probably just be repositioned at Manor Court once the new benches and bins have been installed on Monday 1/2/2010.

A discussion then took place about the new planters outside the shops on Ryecroft Ave where there are already 4 different types of litter bins. Cllr Stevens and Cllr Dilks will discuss siting of planters and bins with the businesses at Ryecroft Ave.

Cllr Shinkins suggested re-siting the SKDC bin to the Skate park at Woody Heights as there are no litter bins there.

#### **158.10 To receive a report from PC Jim Capp. (five minutes)**

It was reported that DSJ had been very quiet since Xmas with no burglaries although there had been a break in at the Rose P.H. in Frognall and at a stables and minor anti-social incidents at the Leisure Centre.

Their new priorities for DSJ are Anti Social behaviour, Speeding and Parking at Junctions.

In the area there had been a couple of spare wheel thefts from land rovers, the police had carried out a cannabis raid in MD seizing 80 plants. Test purchases of alcohol by under 18s had resulted in one failure in DSJ and the issue of an £80.00 fixed penalty.

The Lound murder had featured on Crime watch the previous night, if anyone had any ideas or names could they be passed on to the police.

PC Capp provided a copy of the Policing Pledge from Lincolnshire Police (this is held in the Parish Office).

Cllr Stevens raised the issue of road safety at the snowdrop planting on 2/2/2010 – PC Capp undertook to pass this on.

**159.10 To receive a report from District/County Councillors present. (five minutes)**

Cllr Exton reported that both County and District were going through the budget scrutiny process at the moment with an expected 2-2.5% increase which would be in line with Government targets.

The Community Committee at LCC and Lincolnshire Police had incorporated a joint Crime and disorder panel to meet quarterly

The Police now have 10 pledges as referred to by PC Capp, the police precept is not yet known.

The District budget is basically a standstill budget @ 2-2.5% which is below the government recommended target.

**160.10 To consider and agree Committee Membership (Cllr Blessett)**

It was proposed by Cllr Shinkins and seconded by Cllr Barber and then agreed that Cllr Blessett, as Committee Chairman of Planning, and the Allotments, Footpaths and Open Spaces Committee would re-join the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

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

Enc 1

1. Lincolnshire Credit Union – The scheme was endorsed by the Council and it was requested that this be forwarded to the United Charities for leaflets/information to be displayed in the meeting room and community centre. It was agreed that the credit union could be invited to give a short presentation at the annual parish meeting and an article included in the next newsletter.

2. Rutland Country Council – as it had been confirmed by RCC that no-one from the Deepings attended the college the council would not respond

6. LCC Winter Gritting – Cllr Stevens raised the issue of estate roads not being gritted by LCC and a discussion took place on this issue and the usage of salt/grit bins by the community. It was decided to write to LCC to get advice on the use and location of salt bins which could be passed on to the community, and to ask for more bins and more gritting.

10. Councillor Training – It was agreed to reserve two places on each of the dates.

11. LALC Consultation - Agreed

23. Police Authority Update – all had seen this.

24. Deepings School Youth Group – Contact the school and invite a grant application for the next meeting



It was proposed by Cllr Blessett seconded by Cllr Shinkins and agreed that the bills be paid.

**164.10 To consider and appoint the candidates for co-option to the Parish Council.**

The Electoral Registration Officer confirmed that an election was not requested for either vacancy. Two people had shown an interest, and the letters were distributed.

A lengthy discussion took place concerning the high turnover of co-opted members and whether there should be a formal selection policy and procedure in place before making a decision.

It was proposed by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Blessett and Wallis that the next Finance and General Purposes Committee on 11 February 2010 would decide the process to then be agreed at next full council on 25 February 2010. And that the decision to co-opt would be deferred from tonight's meeting to then co-opt at the meeting of 25 March 2010.

When put to the vote this was carried 5 for and 4 against.

It was also agreed that Ashley Baxter would circulate a draft procedure to start the process off and that the recommended policy and procedure would be circulated in advance of the next full council meeting.

**165.10 To consider forthcoming Press Releases.**

None were raised.

Cllr Dilks reported that he had spoken with the Stamford Mercury recently concerning Deeping St James railway station.

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

**1. To report on the Neighbour Police Meeting held on 11.01.10 (Cllr Wallis)**

It was reported that it had been a very quiet period for the police but that the item of Anti Social Behaviour had been left on the agenda for future meetings at the insistence of the Police. A full update of policing matters had been provided earlier in the meeting by PC Capp.

**2. To report on the Deepings Forum meeting held on 12.01.10 (Cllr Baxter)**

It was reported that there had been 5 attendees and Cllr Baxter had circulated notes separately. The SKDC council tax for 2010/11 had been discussed and it had been stated to be one of the lowest in the country but an increase of around 2-2.5% was needed to stand still as other income was falling.

The Management Partnership met on Tuesday and is looking at its role. New River Retail have bought the Rainbow development in Market Deeping and the partnership is trying to meet with them to find out their proposals especially regarding the market.

The Partnership has a proportion of unallocated funds which it is trying to resolve by allocations to the community centre, Lions Carnival for 2010, the arts festival for 2010 and the set up costs of a Community Interest Company. They have approx £500 remaining and Cllr Baxter had suggested Manor Court as a suitable

use.

The Council agreed that the Clerk would contact the Partnership with a request for funding to replace the moneys withdrawn by SKDC for the Manor Court planting scheme.

For 2010 the Partnership has to bid for new money – the carnival may not fit the set criteria though – as part of a 3 year plan. Cllr Baxter will raise the issue of a car club. Any applications for funding need to be in before the end of the financial year.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to request funding for Deeping St James in Bloom – to include planters at the corner of Bridge Street / Horsegate near Terry Wright's and the Funeral Directors.

Cllr Baxter will try to draft a letter for the Clerk to send.

The next meeting of the partnership is February 9 2010.

### **3. To report and update members on the DSJ in Bloom initiative and events. (Cllr Stevens)**

Cllr Stevens reported on preparations for the Snowdrop supper. Due to the weather snowdrops were late in growing this year so the majority will be planted separately by the Rotary club on 20/2/10. SKDC will be advised not to mow until the foliage has died back.

Approval was sought for expenditure on entry to the East Midlands in Bloom competition @ £20.00, expenses for a speaker @ £30.00, Hall Hire and Soup and Rolls @ approx £50.00. This was agreed. The application for East Midlands in Bloom was passed to the Clerk to arrange payment.

Arrangements for planters at Ryecroft Avenue, and consultation with shop keepers was discussed

The Institute is booked for Max Winslow to talk about the Apple Day in Stamford on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and a talk in the Church Hall on May 25<sup>th</sup> - by PM images

Cllr Stevens is trying to arrange a School and Pub Garden display.

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

Cllr Baxter advised that due to family commitments he may be late for meetings over the next year or so.

#### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2010 Snowdrop Planting & Supper**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Transport Committee 6.30pm**

**Finance & General Purposes Committee 7pm**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Planning Committee 7pm**

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 Council 7.30pm**