

Minutes of the meeting of Deeping St James Parish Council held on **Thursday 24 June 2010 at 7.30pm at The Institute.**

Present: Councillors Barber, Baxter, Blessett, Coulson, Gamble, Helyar, Lindfors-Windsor, Pagella, Pearce, Stevens, Thompson, the Acting Clerk Steve Ashby and County Councillor Mike Exton.

**MINUTES**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Cllr Blessett was proposed as Chairman by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Gamble and this was agreed.

**28.11 To receive apologies for absence.**

Cllr Shinkins and Wallis – Work. Cllr Pelling - Unwell

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

Cllr Baxter declared that he knew some of the members of the Methodist Church who had applied for a grant.

**30.11 To adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 27 May 2010.**

This was proposed by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor, seconded by Cllr Pagella and agreed.

Enc 1

**31.11 To receive the Clerks Report.**

- The Clerk had an enforced absence with two unplanned trips to hospital in week of 4 June. He has continued to work but not yet back to full capacity. A further hospital appointment on 13 July and a further operation on 27 July under full anaesthetic so is unlikely to be available for the next meeting on 29 July. This also means that agendas for Cemetery Committee on 5 August will have to be sent out early so any items for the agenda are requested to be with the Clerk by 23 July.
- The operation has also affected planned leave in the first two weeks of August and the Clerk may now be in the office for some of this time.
- A complaint has been received about the overgrown footpath between Rycroft Avenue and The Parslins. This has been reported to LCC.
- The Play scheme has now been arranged for the first week of the Summer Holidays at the Deeping St James School as reported under correspondence.
- Community Team – continue to work weekly except on 1 June when supervisor unwell. They did some weeding of slabs at Manor Court Gardens but did not have proper tools. The Clerk has purchased two long handled patio weeders and brushes for their use and for Maintenance worker and these were used this week.
- They have also weeded some of the more overgrown graves in the old cemetery near the Children's play area, and litter picked other areas. Have been as low as 3-4 workers, but this week there were 10.
- Street wardens are continuing their patrols – reports being provided of any incidents but things are still fairly quiet.
- Maintenance Contractor – Jeff Hopper has been seriously ill with Pneumonia but he has been able to arrange for his son to cover the maintenance of the River Bank, Woody Heights and the Old Cemetery.
- A couple of calls received concerning the condition of the cemeteries but the maintenance work has now caught up and a little more work being done here by the community team.
- A visitor has gone through the burial records to search for her ancestors
- Two funerals have taken place and a further funeral is planned for next week.
- A quote was agreed by Cllr Pelling and Blessett and Stevens with a contractor to pave the Sense allotment and this has now been completed. Cllr Blessett reported that he has weeded the plot and Members approved £20.00 for more bark chippings for Cllr Blessett to lay on the plot. Cllr Blessett also reported that he had been engaging more with Sense. Cllr Coulson and Cllr Helyar offered some tools and Cllr Blessett offered a padlock for the shed which has been painted by Steve Fisk. It was also agreed to arrange for a formal sign to be erected at a cost of around £90.00 to say that this was the Sense Plot, donated by the Parish Council for the Sense community.
- 14 enquiries received about the Assistant to the Clerk post resulted in 13 applications being sent out and 6 applications received – covered later on the

agenda.

- All utility searches sent off to Royal mail so they could carry out move of Pouch boxes
- Maintenance worker has continued with his scheduled works including Cemetery maintenance, footpath maintenance and litter picking. He has also cleared out all 4 of the "cuts" in the riverbank roadside and has painted the Arch way at the scout hall. The broken dog bin at Low Locks has also been removed and this will be monitored to see if a replacement is needed as there is a waste bin very close by.
- Two allotment requests received

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

- Bev's Signs were burgled and therefore unable to provide new sign at Woody Heights – agreed a new sign with Alastair Etchells of Sign Up for a similar price as reported under correspondence..
- Graffiti – This has now been painted over at Low Locks by the Environment Agency. The Graffitied No Dogs sign at Woody Heights has been removed and a quote received (under correspondence) for a replacement sign, the door to the rectory has been painted over and other graffiti removed from the Church Wall.
- The bench has been put on the vacant plinth on the riverbank by John Parsonage of Lovedale Gardens
- Agenda items for Deepings Forum sent to SKDC and these have been included on the Agenda which arrived on 22/6/2010
- Mentors for the new councillors have been allocated as follows – Cllr Baxter as Mentor for Cllr Pagella, Cllr Pelling as mentor for Cllr Coulson and Cllr Stevens as mentor for Cllr Gamble.
- The use of land between Back Lane and Stephens Way has been reported to SKDC Planning but with no response. It was also raised with the Business Rates office to see whether its usage attracted business rates. This seems to be the case and it is being reported to the Valuation Office Agency of HMRC to see if it should have a rateable value.
- Email of support has been sent for the proposed pharmacy at Rycroft Avenue

**33.11 To receive a report from PCSO Chris Clarke. (five minutes)**

PCSO Clarke was absent but he sent the following report:-  
All updates from 01/06/10 - 23/06/10

- 1 burglary in the Market Deeping area
- Update on 3 priorities: Anti social behaviour – no major incidents reported to police I was called to the leisure centre re youths not leaving the astro-turf I arrived moved them on all known no issues. Also reports of some vehicles in leisure centre car park hanging around playing music loud. Speeding – mobile speed sign placed all over Market Deeping & Deeping St James, officers have been out with ANPR and I and will be contacting LRSP for full speeding details with the camera vans. Parking to close to junctions – 5 tickets issued so far (we are after more)
- The Deeping Show – we joined and had our own section we passed out advice and freebies. All went really well and positive feedback has been received.
- Deeping St James in Bloom – The Police Station has made an effort with 2 hanging baskets and a flower bed (also assisted Councillor Stevens with Rycroft Ave pavement clean)

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

Cllr Mike Exton reported on the proposed School Safety Zone at the Deepings School. A discussion took place and Cllr Exton undertook to raise at LCC that the Zone should include Spalding Road as this is where speeding is a problem. A list of LCC councillors was provided by Cllr Exton.

The SKDC VAT windfall was considered by them at the last full council meeting and it was agreed that Parish Councils should approach Local Members to take any proposals forward.

On being asked by Cllr Baxter, Cllr Exton said that the issue of Free Swimming after the withdrawal of Government funding was still under consideration

**35.11 Standing Orders - To decide the changes from Council of 27 May 2010 (see**

**the Acting Clerks accompanying letter)**

This point was considered along with item 43.11

It was felt that contrary to the acting Clerk's view, Standing Orders could only be proposed for change at the Annual Meeting not at any other meeting but the process of standing adjourned until the next meeting as raised by the Acting Clerk was accepted.

After being proposed by Cllr Baxter and seconded by Cllr Gamble, the items raised at the meeting of 27 May 2010 were all agreed with the exception of changing the day of Council meetings which had been withdrawn in writing by Cllr Pelling.

**36.11 To decide the leader for the Parish Walk on Tuesday 27 July (deferred from Council of 27 May 2010)**

This was agreed to be Cllr Gamble with Cllr Blessett

**37.11 To discuss the Dial –A-Ride bus scheme (Cllr Shinkins)deferred from Council on 27 May 2010**

Cllr Shinkins was not present but the Acting Clerk reported details had just been received from LCC of a new Call Connect Service which was launching on 5 July 2010 which included Deeping St James. Posters had been requested to advertise the scheme.

**38.11 To receive and agree the Council's response to correspondence received since the last meeting..**

Enc 2

Item 4 – Dog Control Orders – Cllr Coulson agreed to comment on behalf of the Council

Item 7 – A link to the Council's website for the Deeping Men's Group was agreed.

Item 13 – Minerals & waste Strategies – Cllr Blessett agreed to comment on behalf of the Council

Item 18 – Emergency and Flood Planning – It was agreed to set up a Working party to look at this and to have reported back by the October meeting. the working party to comprise – Cllr Pearce, Lindfors-Windsor, Gamble, Pagella and Helyar

Item 35 – Playscheme – it was agreed that the £360 contribution from SKDC should not be used to reduce the Parish council's contribution but should be used to purchase additional equipment.

Item 37 – CPRE AGM – it was agreed that Cllr Stevens and Pagella should attend.

Item 38 – Village Duck race 5 September 2010 – this was approved

Item 39 – Bench Sign – the cost of £104 was approved.

Item 40 – No Dogs sign for Woody Heights – the cost of £45.00 was approved.

**39.11 To consider planning related issues:**

**1. To receive the recommendations from the meeting held on 17 June 2010**

Enc 3

These were approved. Comments concerning the School safety zone had been discussed with Cllr Exton earlier in the meeting but it was agreed to write to LCC with the Council's comments and to request the removal of the temporary "New Cycle Lane" signs.

**2. To consider plans received since:**

**a. Mr M McCormack, 14 Cowslip Drive, Deeping St James – Two Storey Side extension.**

This was approved

**b. Baxter & King, 111-113 Spalding Road, Deeping St James - Erection of a business sign**

This was approved

**3. Condition of play area at Churchfields off Spalding Road, Deeping St James (Cllr Stevens)**

Photographs of the site were circulated and it was felt that the area was more akin to a "Pen" than a play area. The original plans were quite extensive and a play area required under Section 106 agreement was provided but it was only at a basic/minimal level. It was agreed to write to Larkfleet, enclosing photographs, and to make comments as outlined by Cllr Stevens.

- Landscaping was discussed at length. It was felt that landscaping schemes were often included on planning applications but were not carried through.
- It was agreed that landscaping would be included on the next Planning and Transport Committee Agenda.
- Cllr Blessett also reported on the application by Mr Ash which had been refused by SKDC on appeal. It was reported that the planning inspector had supported SKDC as the scale was "too large for the conservation area"

**40.11 To consider financial matters:**

**a. To approve Accounts for Payment as per the schedule at Enclosure 4.**

This was proposed by Cllr Gamble and seconded by Cllr Pagella and agreed.

Enc 4

**b. To receive a report from the Clerk and approve the Annual Accounting Statement for 2009/10 and agree points 1-9 under the Annual Governance Statement for 2009/10**

Enc 5

Approval of the annual accounts and governance statement was proposed by Cllr Blessett, seconded by Cllr Lindfors-Windsor and agreed.

**c. To consider applications received for Grants**

Enc 6

These were discussed (Cllr Baxter declaring a personal interest as he knew some of the members of the Methodist Church) and after being proposed by Cllr Barber and seconded by Cllr Gamble the following was agreed:-

Deepings Friendship Club - £50.00

Lions Club - £500

Deepings Methodist Church - £500

Priory Church Social Committee – Nil

Deepings School – Nil

Disappointment was expressed that the Friendship Club had only one member in Deeping St James and that this should be advertised more widely and could be included in the Council's newsletter as more members in Deeping St James would probably lead to a higher grant. Additionally disappointment was expressed that the Deeping carnival did not take in any part of Deeping St James and that had it done so it may have received a higher grant.

41.11

**To receive and consider minutes of committees, reports from advisory committees, members reports from external bodies, members reports of meetings, seminars and training attended on the Council's behalf**

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

- Judging of the unusual container will take place on 25 June – there are over 70 entries all around the village (including Market Deeping and elsewhere)
- Prizes will be reviewed for next year.
- The in bloom judging allows up to 100 points for community involvement and 100 for publicity
- The Lions have cleared an area on Spalding Road and it was agreed they could borrow the Council's lawnmower to tidy up before judging
- Rotary club have cleared Low Locks and planted on Broadgate Lane
- There are still problems with the barrier baskets which are at least now in place – Cllr Stevens will follow this up with Plantscape but they will be left in place until after the judging
- The pavement at Rycroft has been cleared of Chewing gum but the tarmac surface was also removed and needs to be re-surfaced.
- Some slabs at Manor Way have cracked and will be replaced
- The Church Hall Car park will be re-gravelled next week – this is being paid for by contributions from donors including Larkfleet Homes, Malcolm Goodson, Graham Charity, Grasmere Farm, Garford Farm Machinery and the United Charities. Bardo (East Midlands) are providing the gravel at cost and Neil Parmenter is carrying out the work on 29 and 30 June.
- Items outstanding are then Phone Kiosk information boards and the Photo Book.
- There may be an overspend on plants.
- The Soiree to launch the History of Gardening is on 25/6/10

Cllr Blessett expressed his thanks to Cllr Stevens for driving the project forward, for her hard work and determination so that all in Deeping St James will reap the benefit.

**2. To receive the Minutes and recommendations of the Cemetery Committee held on 17 June 2010 (Cllr Barber)**

Enc 7

Cllr Barber presented the minutes and proposed the recommendations of the Cemetery Committee. These were agreed.

Cllr Barber also advised that 3 of the young trees planted earlier this year had died but as there was £250 budgeted for planting additional established shrubs would be bought.

**3. To report on attendance at The MD Civic Service 13/06/2010(Cllr Dilks)**

Cllr Dilks was not present.

**4. To report on attendance at the Deeping Agricultural Show**

It was reported that Cllr Dilks had been well looked after at the event along with the Mayor of Market Deeping.

**5. To report on the Parish Walk at the Nature Reserve on 10/6/2010**

It was reported that 20 people had attended and that refreshments provided by The Goat were good. A request was made to look at the steps under the railway as they seemed dangerous.

**6. To report on the Deepings Management Partnership Meeting 8/6/2010 (Cllr Baxter)**

Minutes from the March meeting had been circulated to all. The partnership was now a community interest Company. An energy event has been approved in principle and more involvement from other community groups is being sought.

42.11

To:-

**a. receive details on applications for the post of Asst. To The Clerk,**

These were circulated.

**b. agree the shortlist,**

A shortlist of 4 was agreed.

**c. confirm the arrangements for interview,**

There would be a short IT test and a face to face interview at a date to be decided by the panel.

**d. select the interview panel, and,**

This was decided as Cllrs Pelling, Barber and Pearce with the Acting Clerk administering the test.

**e. delegate authority to make an appointment to the interview panel**

This was agreed unanimously.

43.11

**Standing Orders – To consider amendments to Standing Order 15 to include the following items when setting the Agenda**

**a. To receive a report by the Neighbourhood Policing Team (Maximum 5 minutes)**

**b. To receive a report from District / County Councillors present (Maximum 5 minutes)**

**c. To consider forthcoming Press releases**

These items were discussed along with agenda item 35.11 and, after being proposed by Cllr Pearce and seconded by Cllr Gamble it was agreed that (a) and (b) should now be dealt with within the Open Forum and for this to be then reconsidered as part of the annual review of standing orders in May 2011.

Press releases were not felt to be required.

44.11

**To consider the latest position concerning the allocation of SKDC VAT windfall (from item 12.11 on 27/05/2010)**

This had been explained earlier by Cllr Exton and would be discussed at the next Deepings Forum on 5 July 2010

45.11

**To confirm the arrangements for the Rose and Sweet Pea Show on 26 June 2010**

Cllrs Barber and Helyar would erect the canopy, boards and banner early morning. Cllrs Pelling, Baxter and Barber would man the stand whilst Cllr Stevens was in the Church.

46.11

**To consider forthcoming Press Releases.**

None

47.11

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

SKDC Budget Consultation- 28/6/2010 – to be attended by Cllrs Baxter, Pearce and Thompson

Deepings Local Forum on 5 July 7.00 pm at Baston.

Cllr Barber reported that Church Walk was overgrown and could this be reported to LCC.

A thank you card had been received from Sheila Kostyrka the former Parish Clerk.

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**Thursday 1/7/2010 6.30 pm - Allotments, Footpaths & Open Spaces – Site Meeting at the Allotments**

**Saturday 3/7/2010 - Deepings Carnival**

**Wednesday 7/7/2010 6.30 pm – Parish Walk, Frognall**

**Thursday 8/7/2010 6.30 pm – Youth and Community – Site Meeting at Woody Heights, Skate Park**

**Thursday 15/7/2010 7.00 pm – Finance & General Purposes Committee**

**Thursday 22/7/2010 7.00 pm – Planning & Transport Committee**

**Sunday 25/7/2010 3.00 pm - Teddy Bears Picnic, Nature Reserve**  
**Tuesday 27/7/2010 7.00 pm – Parish Walk, Woody Heights**  
**Thursday 29/7/2010 7.30 pm – Full Council**