

DRAFT MINUTES

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 7:30pm

Present

Parish Councillors Philip Britton, Gemma Taylor, Tony Barker, Jason Halsey, and Natalie Pretsell. District Councillors Rosemary Trollope- Bellew and Vanessa Smith.

Helen Britton (Clerk), Elizabeth Ashby, Fr Aran Beesley, Bridget Everett, James Everett, Lois Webb, Rod Campbell, Alison Horton, Steph O' Flaherty, Kerry Hockham, Jeremy Hockham, James Scott, Liam O'Flaherty, Kevin de Trafford, Richard Barron Clark, Nigel Burt.

2023/24 - 43 Apologies for absence

Elaine Hawkins, Ann Sumner,, Ibis Channell, Nigel Ashby, Ross Edgar, Elizabeth Edgar.

2023/24 - 44 Approval of Minutes from 14th November 2023

Proposed by Cllr Natalie Pretsell, seconded by Cllr Tony Barker.

2023/24 - 45 Matters arising

To be discussed in subsequent items.

2023/24 - 46 Reports from District Councillors

From Cllr Vanessa Smith, on behalf of the District Councillors.

GENERAL POINTS:

Budget: SKDC full council has approved a 3% rise in SKDC's element of the Council Tax for the next financial year.

Review of the SKDC Local Plan: The Local Plan for the District has had to be reviewed due to certain aspects of need and site allocation. As part of this it has become clear that more sites are needed for the delivery of the required quota of housing across the district (701 per year until 2041 - previously 650 per year). The local plan can be viewed online. A public consultation runs until 25th April
<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/draft-local-plan-consultation>

Flooding: LCC will be conducting their investigations over the next few months. There are still ongoing issues at Tallington but this seems to be related to blocked surface drains. SKDC will be reviewing its response to the flooding caused by Storm Henk at a joint Rural and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on Monday 18th March.

Mini-orchard funding: Up to £1,500 available for parish councils and community groups to apply to create a mini-orchard to celebrate the King's coronation.
<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/news/2024/coronation-orchards-bloom-across-south-kesteven#:~:text=New%20mini%2Dorchards%20will%20be,to%20celebrate%20the%20King%27s%20Coronation.>

Corporate Plan: SKDC has recently published its latest Corporate Plan which can be found here:
<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-02/South%20Kesteven%20District%20Council%20Corporate%20Plan%20-%202024%20to%202027.pdf>

SK Funding Day: Information for community groups on the various pots of money available, such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund, SK Community fund, LotterySK and how to apply. Future dates: 21 Mar - Bourne.

St Martin's Park Stamford: A debate was held regarding the future of this site at SKDC Full Council in February. Various options were discussed and further information on this is expected soon.

SKDC Parking Charges: These have been reviewed. There is a proposed small increase in the daily parking charge for Stamford as well as the introduction of an overnight and Sunday parking charge capped at £3. No changes are proposed for SKDC parking charges in Market Deeping or Bourne. A public consultation on this is due soon.

Recycling: Purple lidded bins should now be used for paper and card with all other mixed dry recycling suitable for kerbside collection (as per leaflet) being put into the grey bin. From 5th February the plan had been to reject bins which were found to be contaminated with the wrong items. However, during the first two days of this stage of the rollout program around 20% of bins were rejected for reasons of contamination and council staff became subject to an unacceptable level of verbal abuse from members of the public. Rejected bins have since been collected and the council has decided to embark on an extended period of advisory tagging. Further details on the SKDC website. Telephone 01476 406544 if you have any issues (SK purple lidded bins dedicated phone number)

To view any SKDC active consultations go to:
<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/have-your-say/current-consultations>

2023/24 - 47 Financial matters

The account balance is reconciled with the bank statements up to and including 26th January 2024 and the February '24 bank statement is awaited. Since the last meeting, payments have been made for Playing Field hedge-cutting (£120.00), village security (£240.00), new defibrillator pads (£164.40), parish insurance (£447.64), moles on the Playing Field (£55.00), the defibrillator annual fee (£120.00), replacement tree posts and guards for the Playing Field (£100.65), Survey Monkey fee for the Parish flood survey for the Flood Group/PC (£75.00), and Clerks fees (£260.00). The balance is £8580.45. There are no major expenditure items pending.

Please note that the wrong sequence of cheque books had been started. It is proposed to revert back to the correct sequence of cheque books immediately to avoid confusion in future account reconciliation.

2023/24 - 48 Planning matters

No objection from the Parish Council

Application No: S23/2188

Date Received: 28th November 2023

Applicant: Mr Jason Halsey

Proposal: Notice to reduce height of 3 x Hornbeams (T1, T2 and T3) to 5ft or 1.5m. All three to be maintained as boundary hedge.

Location: The Robins 5 Greatford Gardens

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4PX

Decision/Date Work Allowed 14th February 2024

No objection from the Parish Council
Application No: S24/0209
Applicant: Mrs Anna Ireland
Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension
Location: Willow Croft , Baston Road, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4QA
App Type: Householder

2023/24 - 49 Speeding and traffic

On 29th January '23, a Speedwatch campaign was conducted but there were no offending vehicles. The Speedwatch campaign needs more volunteers. This involves a one hour online course beforehand. Following an email from Ross Edgar, the Chair explained that the digital speed sign is still up and operational. The Parish Council had met a Highways Manager from Lincolnshire County Council in July 2023 to explore all the legally available options to mitigate speeding through the village. The hazard lines have since been extended but a camera is not allowed. Baston Parish Council has proposed a by-law for a 7.5 tn weight limit but this has yet to be approved by the Secretary of State. (See the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, 5th September 2023, 2023/24 - 13 Matters arising.)

2023/24 - 50 Play equipment

Cllr Gemma Taylor explained the Parish Council will apply for grants from the Prosperity Fund and that there is £600 set aside in the Parish budget to pay to refurbish the play equipment. The Parish Council will make a plan of action when time allows.

2023/24 - 51 Summer Playscheme funding

The Parish Council intends that play scheme will run for two weeks in the summer and Cllr Gemma will be applying for a Lottery Grant to fund this as last year.

2023/24 - 52 Defibrillator update

Information about the VETS system is posted on the Parish noticeboard, the defibrillator cabinet door and the Village Hall notice board. Thanks to Kate Large for leading the team of volunteers.

2023/24 - 53 Appointment of new Parish Flood Warden

Cllr Phil Britton thanked Chris Granville White for his years of committed and diligent service as the Parish Flood Warden. Jason Halsey is to be the new Parish Flood Warden, as proposed by Cllr Tony Barker and seconded by Rod Campbell. Deputies will be recruited from the flood group in due course.

2023/24 - 54 Flood Wardens update

Detailed reports were given by members of the recently formed Flood Group which first met on the 24th January 2024.

Jeremy Hockham reported that Group One is investigating what happened during the January flooding

and will take a collaborative approach with the stakeholders: the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, the MPs and local Councils. Evidence in the form of maps, photos, timelines, graphs and general accounts are being collated. LCC has agreed that this evidence can contribute to the Section 19 investigation that will take place.

Kevin de Trafford, representing Group Two, added that a conciliatory tone will be taken during the Section 19 Investigation and that the group will pose their questions, including those relating to the solar farm planning application. Cllr Tony Barker encouraged all parishioners to respond to the survey sent out by Greatford Parish Council as this data will highlight the seriousness of what happened.

The Greatford Parish Councillors met Gareth Davies MP in February to share the concerns of parishioners. Gareth Davies has written to the Environment Agency to reiterate the key concerns. He will speak to the Secretary of State, Clare Coutinho, but that he is not able to ask questions in the House. The Parish Councillors have also met Alicia Kearns MP within days of the flooding and met the SKDC CEO, Karen Bradford, to the concerns of the parishioners.

Cllr Jason Halsey, on behalf of Group Three, presented ideas about future flood resilience measures. The full presentation is available on request.

Rod Campbell thanked everyone involved in the flood groups and the Parish Council for their responses since the flooding.

Vicky Jones and Brett Rycroft-Jones, Flood Resilience Programme Coordinators from LCC are arranging to visit the Parish to visit affected homes and speak directly to parishioners as well as to the Parish Council.

2023/24 - 55 Any other business

Greatford Parish Councillors and adjacent Councillors will meet to form a group that can respond collectively to planning applications for quarries in the area.

Cazz Anders has approached the Parish Council to organise thinning the PC-owned prunus trees outside her house. This will be actioned.

On May 25th Greatford Mill will be open as part of the National Gardens Scheme charity. All are welcome.

The Village Hall Committee will be providing a Hog Roast for all village residents at 1pm on Sunday 23rd June. No charge! (but voluntary donations) Villagers should bring their own liquid refreshments and other picnic food.

The meeting closed at 8:50pm.

The next meeting is on 14th May 2024 (Annual Parish Meeting & followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting) starting at 7pm.