

# **GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**Tuesday 22nd March 2022**

**at 7:30pm in Greatford Village Hall**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors Tony Barker, Phil Britton (Chair), Jason Halsey (Responsible Financial Officer), Natalie Pretsell, Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair); SKDC Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Leader SKDC Cllr Kelham Cooke; Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Elizabeth Edgar, Bridget Everitt, Bob French, Susannah Holloway, Alison Horton, Donna Radley, Geoff Radley, Lorna Stonestreet, Ann Sumner, Lois Webb.

**2021/22 - 23 Apologies for absence**

County Cllr Ashley Baxter, Helen Britton (Clerk), Ibis Channell, Chris GW (Greatford Flood Warden).

**2021/22 - 24 Update about the NSIP Mallard Pass Solar Farm (MPSF)**

Susannah Holloway, Mallard Pass Action Group, gave an update.

On 18.3.22, the National Planning Inspectorate (PI) responded to the huge MPSF scoping request document of 900 pages). In summary, MPSF is trying to get away with scoping out a lot of environmental protection work and intends to submit a full application in December 2022. The PI picked up on lots of consultee issues raised by parishioners, local authorities etc. MPSF needs to review this before proceeding to the next stage.

At that stage, there will be a draft Statement of Community Consultation regarding MPSF's proposals, to ascertain the format of how the public and parishioners wish the next public consultation to be carried, e.g. events, advertising, information provided. There will be 28 days for communities to respond and then MPSF put the events together.

The Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR ) will then be released and will need responding to. Teams of parishioners will then deliver leaflets with information and paper petitions for signing. Alicia Kearns MP (Rutland) will take the response, on behalf of our county, to the House of Commons.

Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG) will need more responses to the next process than the 941 previously. April – June will be key in regards to timescales and consultation periods for public engagement.

*Action:* Review document. Greatford village leads (Lorna Stonestreet and Lois Webb) to get feedback from residents. E.g. should there be an exhibition event etc. Give feedback to MPAG and Greatford Parish Council. MPAG will send to Lincolnshire County Council, Rutland County Council and Alicia Kearns MP and Gareth Davies MP. The MPAG link to be shared to parishioners by the Clerk.

## **2021/22 - 25 Approval of Minutes from 4th January 2022**

Proposed by Cllr Gemma Taylor.

Seconded by Cllr Jason Halsey.

## **2021/22 - 26 Matters arising**

Four parishioners took part in the recent litter pick and thanks was shared to Bob French for organising and to those who came. More flytipping has taken place; a lorry's worth, Greatford-side of the level crossing. It is noted that an afternoon time would be better for parishioners.

## **2021/22 - 27 Reports from County and District Councillors**

*Report from SKDC Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew*

If you are looking for help in funding events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee you may be able to receive help via SKDC Community events fund, you can apply for money between £500 to £5,000, the closing date is 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Contact email – [communityfund@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:communityfund@southkesteven.gov.uk)

SKDC received £253,000 from the Governments Welcome Back fund to be used to encourage people back into our town centres, part of that money was spent on an outdoor Folk Festival held at Grantham Market Place which involved local and national bands and a very successful Bourne in Lights which involved interactive light games and lit up some prominent buildings in the town.

A number of villages are looking to hold a parish litter-pick, bags, pickers and jackets can be obtained via SKDC who will collect the rubbish from designated places. Congratulations to residents of Greatford for another job well done.

Finally tickets for Deepings Literary Festival are on sale either via their social media account or Stamford Arts Centre. This successful event is funded by SKDC but organised by Cllr Judy Stevens and her team. It runs from the 28<sup>th</sup> April to 1<sup>st</sup> May '22 at various venues around the Deepings area. This year sees the return of Deepings meets Barnsley with Milly Johnson and Jack Noble plus Jackie Weaver from Handforth Parish Council fame.

*Report from Leader SKDC Kelham Cooke*

### *Budget*

SKDC enters a new financial year with the goal of protecting the high quality of our services in spite of the challenging financial times faced by all local authorities. We are streamlining costs and ensuring value for money, whilst capping reductions in council tax, to prevent local residents from sharing the burdens of these challenges in a world of rising living costs. While practising fiscal prudence, we are still making it possible to expand our initiatives for dealing with homeless, climate change, and mental health. Our commitment remains to provide high quality housing across South Kesteven, both affordable private and social housing, and we are making

funds available for any improvements that may be required to social houses to meet our tenants needs.

### *By-Election Results*

Last week, by-elections took place in both the Aveland and Isaac Newton Wards, and I was delighted to welcome our newest councillors, Richard Dixon-Warren and Ben Green respectively. Both were excellent candidates who brought energy, passion, and local knowledge to their campaigns and will, no doubt, bring the same to their new roles in SKDC. Not only do we have enthusiastic new councillors but we also see an end to the period of purdah, which will allow myself and my colleagues to more clearly spread the word about the important months ahead for the Council.

### *Festivals Update*

We have a wide range of events and activities across the district in the months ahead, starting with the Grantham Folk Festival on 19th March featuring folk artists from all over the country. Later that evening, we will see the Bourne in Lights events in which North Street will be illuminated with exhibits, projections, and live performances. On 26th March, Grantham will also be hosting a youth festival, with a temporary skate park, street art, music and entertainment to give our younger residents a great day out. Finally, the Deepings Literary Festival is taking place between 27th April-1 st May and will have sessions from a variety of accomplished novelists about the process of writing. Many of these events were funded by the Welcome Back Fund, which has continued to help our high streets recover from the impact of the COVID lockdown by supporting residents' return to our public spaces.

### *Stamford Arts Centre*

My colleague and Cabinet Member for Culture and Visitor Economy, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, wrote recently in the Mercury to allay unwarranted fears within our community about the future of our local Arts Centre. As Cllr Trollope-Bellew pointed out, an independent review highlighted the fact that 11 percent of SKDC's total expenditure was being spent on arts and festivals, which is sadly unsustainably high. Despite the reduction in numbers attending shows since the start of the COVID pandemic, we remain committed to the arts in general and our Arts Centre in particular. There have been changes to the staffing of the Arts Centre and there will be changes to box office services, however, there will still be services for booking tickets in-person and over the phone. There is a wide variety of shows planned for the Spring season and there will be much more to come in the future as we ensure an exciting and sustainable arts centre.

### *InvestSK*

We have made the decision to bring our economic growth company, InvestSK, back in-house to relieve the administrative burdens on the team and to help bring about a more integrated approach to economic growth in the Council. The InvestSK team have done amazing work, proving essential in helping the Council support local businesses to navigate the COVID pandemic and access government grants. By creating a more joined-up approach, we will be putting economic growth at the centre of what we do to help deliver a thriving local economy for our residents and businesses.

Cllr Cooke also reported that St Martin's Park has full planning permission and demolition starts in April '22, followed by purchasing commercial space, residential units, retirement, and housing. Regarding the situation in Ukraine, meetings are to be held between county leaders and the Home Office about a response. 170 Afghan refugees are currently in the district and

moved to different locations. SKDC will work with community groups and charities to provide Ukraine support as required.

County Cllr Ashley Baxter encouraged parishioners to contact him regarding any matters at a County level.

## 2021/22 - 28 Financial matters

Cllr Jason Halsey, Responsible Financial Officer, reported on the finances as the year end approaches. The cashook for the accounts balance with the bank statements. A Community Speed Watch cost £560 was not originally budgeted for, making it an extra cost but this will enable Greatford parishioners to carry out as many campaigns as want moving forward.

Action:

Approaching an internal auditor to verify the internal audit (AGAR) in May.

## 2021/22 - 29 Planning matters

### **Application No: S22/0472**

Applicant: Webb (no objection from GPC)

Proposal: T1,T3,T6, T10, T12, T14 - Fell, T2 - Reduce crown by 2-2.5m, T4 - Reduce by 10m, T5 - Reduce crown by 2-2.5m and shape, T7, T8 - Reduce crown by 1.5-2m, T9 - Reduce by from house by 2m, T11 - Reduce to 3m and remove limb growing towards river, T13 - Reduce crown by 1.5-2m.

Location: 1 Crown Cottages, Belmesthorpe Road, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PP

App Type: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice

### **Application No: S22/0288**

Applicant: Mr & Mrs P Baker (no objection from GPC)

Proposal: Extension to holiday cottage known as The Lodge, to form first floor balcony.

Location: Fletland Mill , King Street, Baston, PE6 9NS,

App Type: Householder

### **Application No: S22/0131/LBC /HANNAH/PC1** (no objection from GPC)

Applicant: Mrs Rosslyn Coulam

Proposal: Replace structural timbers in cart shed due to wet rot - report attached.

Location: Bumble Bee Barn, Main Street, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4QA

App Type: Listed Building Consent

## 2021/22 - 30 Flood wardens report

Cllr Jason Halsey (Deputy Flood Warden) reported that there has been no feedback yet from the Environment Agency on the levels and data they took to reinstate the bank on the Greatford Hall side, and also that Chris GW, Greatford Flood Warden, is feeding lots of information into the Mallard Pass response. gave an overview of the situation.

Cllr Tony Barker said that excellent research had been done on the scheme and the flood risk in Suffolk, and that this should be brought to the attention of Mallard Pass.

*Report from Chris GW, Flood Warden.*

### Overview

With mostly dry winter weather, the height of the river has been low. But unusually heavy rain on 16 Mar raised the river level dramatically for the next day, causing extensive overflow from the West Glen upstream of Greatford into fields between Essendine and Carlby.

### Maintenance Work

As a trial precaution, the Greatford Sluice was adjusted down in Dec to open 100mm below the normal river height for excess water to be diverted earlier to River Welland. But with no EA funding available this financial year, other work is on hold.

### Proposed Mallard Pass commercial solar site

With concern about this massive commercial proposal in the local area, contact has been made with the EA and LCC to assess and attempt to minimise the potential flood risk to Greatford.

## 2021/22 - 13 Speeding campaign

Cllr Jason Halsey reported that the CSW Greatford Group (CSWGG) has been set up with Jason as co-ordinator and Gemma, administrator (sends off data to Lincolnshire Police). Equipment has been purchased by GPC. All volunteers will be covered by Parish Council indemnity insurance and must have completed the training. 11 volunteers attended online training online and people can be added in the future. Each campaign will require 3 people. The CSWGG has submitted for approval the locations, following a group walk around the village. Lincolnshire Police visit to inspect and approve, and then the campaigns can commence. The campaign will gather a lot of data through these exercises; there is no historic data to base this on so starting from scratch.

During a campaign, details will be passed to Police and offenders will receive letters. The CSWGG would welcome villagers to come forward if issues persist so they can target that area. If seen to have a serious problem, the Police will follow this up.

It was agreed to relocate the speeding light (SID) along Main Street.

**Action:** Broken finger post at the Main Street/ Carlby Road T-junction to be reported by the Clerk.

## 2021/22 - 32 Activity holiday clubs for children

Cllr Gemma Taylor reported that GPC has been successful with getting lottery funding. The scheme comprises sports, drama, and team building, is free of charge, has <20 spaces per day, for children of primary school age to 13 and is bookable in advance. It will run for 3 weeks in the summer holidays '22, on alternate weeks (beginning 25.07.22) from 9:30 - 3:30pm, and is based outside on the Playing Field (village hall is poor weather). It will be opened to Greatford firstly then for other local children. Part of the grant goes towards equipment that GPC will keep. The Village Hall is booked.

*Action:* advertise in Town and Spires newsletter first for local children then let other local villages know.

## 2021/22 - 33 Any other business

### Defibrillator

*Action:* Defibrillator battery out of date and to be replaced.

*Action:* Approach David Trawford regarding a defibrillator training session – Braceborough and Wilsthorpe also interested.

### Ukrainian Refugees

Unable to use the hall to home people for accommodation but can be used as a Hub for anyone hosting. Greatford's travel links and limited facilities could move us down the list compared to other more equipped villages. Elizabeth Edgar raised community sponsorship and advised working with larger organisations to support, e.g. St Olga's Ukrainian Church in Peterborough. It would be useful to know who in the village is interested in the hosting scheme, support etc. A Facebook group has been set up trying to connect people looking to sponsor refugees, Connect bus. Lincolnshire Resilience Forum links in with government and monitoring changes in local facilities e.g. school spaces etc to be able to help where to sign post refugees appropriately.

Elizabeth Ashby raised about fundraising for Ukraine and the PC will consider what might be done.

*Action:* Clerk to email parishioners to collate hosting information and for it to be passed on via Elizabeth Edgar. Email poster from St Olgas. Hard copy to be acquired for noticeboard.

**Playground annual inspection** *Action:* Last inspection 25.5.21. Clerk has arranged inspection with Wicksteed. – 25.05.21, made enquiries for next inspection.

**Grass cutting at playing field** by PJ Huddlestone – increase in price £55 per cut. Quotation accepted.

**Wildflower area** *Action:* Nigel to move rope barriers due to extension of area. .

**HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee** – lunch, picnic, activities, big village photo – to be discussed at a meeting on 27.4.22.

**Anglia Water pump** at 10 Greatford Gardens to get water into the church. – Nigel Ashby (PCC) explained that Anglia Water insists the pipe needs to be buried under the waterbed of the West Glen so it needs to be dammed. Pump will run for one evening (22.3.22)

The Ukrainian flag is up to show solidarity.

**The meeting closed at 9:30pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 17th May 2022.**