

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 17th January 2023

7:30pm in Greatford Village Hall

Present:

District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Parish Councillors Phil Britton (Chair) , Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), Jason Halsey (Responsible Financial Officer), Natalie Pretsell, Tony Barker. Helen Britton (Clerk). Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Rod Campbell, Ibis Channell, Bob French, Sue Holloway, Alison Horton, Lois Webb.

2023/24 - 1 Planning matters

The meeting ran in a different order to the published agenda as two people giving important reports needed to leave to report at other meetings held on the same night.

Sue Holloway, from Mallard Pass Action Group, gave an update about the NSIP Mallard Pass Solar Farm application for 2105 acres of solar farm, including in the parish of Greatford.

Residents are encouraged to register as an interested Party by the 2nd of March 2023 in order to take part in subsequent meetings. Information about how to do this is in a leaflet delivered to households. More details can be found on the Mallard pass Action Group website and in Towers and Spires. The Parish Council has made a donation to the Action Group which is grateful for the donations of parishioners. Further donations are requested to make up for a £1,500 shortfall so that a 'landscape and visual report' may be professionally prepared and the services of a barrister called upon. The response from Greatford Parish Council will focus on the issues of flooding and soil compaction. Chris Granville-White was acknowledged for his hard work as Greatford's flood warden.

District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew gave a report. She is supportive of the objection of Greatford Parish Council to the Mallard Pass NSIP. Councillor Trollope-Bellew highlighted that SKDC Community Grant monies are available to parish councils for community projects.

2023/24 - 2 Apologies for absence

Cllr Kelham Cooke (Leader of SKDC), Elaine Hawkins, Ann Sumner.

2023/24 - 3 Approval of Minutes from November 2022

Proposed by Cllr Jason Halsey, seconded by Cllr Tony Barker.

2023/24 - 3 Matters arising

Cllr Phil Britton Has written to the leader of SKDC about the closure of the Deepings Leisure Centre.

An oak tree has been planted to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee as part of the Queen's Green Canopy. The litter picking and defibrillator path clearance were postponed due to bad weather. Cllr Phil Britton will clear the path. A new date for the litter picking will be published in due course.

A planning application for a licence at the premises on Stow Road was granted. The Parish Council had put in an objection.

2023/24 - 4 Reports from County and District Councillors

The Clerk gave a summary of the report received from the leader of SKDC, Kelham Cooke. The report was published on the notice board.

2023/24 - 5 Financial matters

Cllr Jason Halsey, the Responsible Financial Officer, reported that the cashbooks for the Parish Current and Business accounts balance and that details are available. The VAT refund for the year ending 2022 is due to arrive.

2023/24 - 6 Planning matters,

Cllr Phil Britton sent a response to the consultation on Minerals and Waste Plan which proposes many sites in the vicinity of Greatford.

2023/24 - 7 Flood wardens report

During the most recent contact with the EA visiting Greatford during November, it was acknowledged that there is a continuing need to reinstate the northern riverbank between Shillingthorpe and Greatford (which leads to flooding in the large field alongside the river upstream of Point A on the map above); and to reinstate the riverbank at Greatford Hall (between A and the Greatford Sluice) - which is the route for overflowing river water to flood the old watercress beds and thence towards Greatford Gardens. However, there is still no maintenance funding available for this restoration work.

Although there have been some periods of heavy rain during recent weeks, the Greatford Sluice has maintained the river level with good accuracy. With the sluice setting now being lowered by 100m during the winter months from 1 Nov to 31 Mar, this seems to be providing a useful safety

margin. Meanwhile, there is sufficient flow during the winter through the Fitzwilliams sluice at Greatford Mill to maintain the quality of the water for the fish and invertebrates in the millpond below the sluice. The height of the river at Shillingthorpe can be checked any time on this link, which also displays a graph: <https://check-for-flooding.service.gov.uk/station/6027>

Fitzwilliams Sluice at Greatford Mill

Nothing further has been heard from the EA about the future design and maintenance of this sluice since a team of eight consultants inspected the Fitzwilliams Sluice during Nov, to advise on how it might be modified or upgraded to continue into the future.

2023/24 - 8 Defibrillator

Chris Granville-White reported that three existing volunteers have been replaced by new volunteers who are already trained through their work and this has been coordinated with the Community Heartbeat Organisation (which provides the Village Emergency Telephone System (VETS) call-out system).

There will be refresher training for continuing volunteers and qualifying training for the new ones. Dr Majed Kebbeh is looking for someone new to do as the previous trainer is no longer available. Map diagrams will be provided for new volunteers with the location of all properties in Greatford. The PIR light is serviceable again, thanks to Nigel Ashby. Cllr Jason Halsey added more volunteers would be welcome.

2023/24 - 9 Kings Coronation - May '23

The Clerk reported that, at the time of the meeting, there had been no official communication about plans for the King's Coronation in May. The Village Hall Committee will head up a community event; a meeting about this on 7th February at 7pm in the village hall and all are welcome to attend. The Parish Council aims to purchase a commemorative bench with a plaque and site it in the village. Lois Webb will look into bell-ringing.

2023/24 - 9 Any other business

Cllr Phil Britton reported that the rabbit-catcher has been taking (humane) action on the playing field and adjoining fields. Rod Campbell reported that the fingerpost at the junction of Carlby Road/ Main Street is in the process of being repaired and re-sited.

Martin Brebner, who has moved away from Greatford, and Ibis Channell (current resident), have passed on a collection of documents on the subject of Greatford's history to Greatford Parish Council. This comprises photographs and prose 'copy' of historical recollections and memories of the village recounted by eight residents which took place at a meeting in the pub with Ibis Channell and Martin Brebner. Photographs of the eight residents were also taken. They have asked that this archive be collated, digitised, communicated to others and kept safely for posterity. Cllr Natalie Pretsell has taken on responsibility for this.

Cllr Natalie Pretsell is organising the printing and framing of the Jubilee village photograph.

Since the last meeting, there have been a number of Community Speedwatch campaigns with the purpose of educating people as they drive through Greatford. Cllr Jason Halsey reported that 32 letters have been issued by the police.

Cllr Gemma Taylor reported that the Parish Council is seeking a new provider for the summer holiday children's play scheme and when one has been found, the Parish Council will apply for a Lottery Grant to fund it.

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m. The next meeting is on 28th March 2023 at 7:30 p.m.