

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 31st May 23

at 7:30pm in Greatford Church

Present

Cllr Vanessa Smith, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cllr Phil Britton, Cllr Tony Barker, Cllr Jason Halsey (Responsible Financial Officer/ RFO), Nigel Ashby, Lois Webb, Helen Britton (Clerk to GPC).

2023/24 - 01 Apologies for absence

Cllr Gemma Taylor, Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Chris Granville-White.

2023/24 - 02 Approval of Minutes from APM May 23

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

2023/24 - 03 Approval of Minutes from APCM May 23

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

2023/24 - 04 Finances: Section 1 of the Annual Audit

Returns

Cllr Jason Halsey presented Section 1 of the Annual Audit Returns for the year ended 31st March 2023, stating that members of Greatford Parish Council acknowledge responsibility for ensuring a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31st March 2023. With thanks to James Everitt, the Accounting Statements were externally audited on 23rd May 2023.

2023/24 - 05 Finances: Section 2 of the Annual Audit

Returns

Cllr Jason Halsey presented the Parish Council Accounts for 2022/23 as set out in Section 2 of the Annual Audit Returns for the year ended 31st March 2023. Gross income was £5241 (Precept £3900, total other receipts £1341). Expenditure was £11051 (including the summer playscheme which was funded by a Lottery Grant which was paid in during the previous financial year, grass-cutting to the Playing Field and churchyard, hedge-cutting, mole and rabbit-control, clerk's fees, play-equipment inspection and renovation, insurance).

2023/24 - 06 Certificate of Exemption

Cllr Jason Halsey presented the AGAR Certificate of Exemption Form 2 to be completed by smaller authorities where the gross income or gross expenditure did not exceed £25000 in the year of account ended 31st March 2023, and that wish to certify themselves as exempt from a limited assurance review under Section 9 of the Local Audit (Smaller Authorities) Regulations 2015.

2023/24 - 07 New Lincolnshire Neighbourhood Policing model

An email to the Parish Council from Superintendent Patrick Coates of Lincolnshire Police, with information that each parish council is invited to a twice-yearly meeting with senior officers from Lincolnshire Police. There will be a meeting for the East Area of the county, covering the districts of East Lindsey, Boston and South Holland, and a meeting for the West Area covering the districts of West Lindsey, Lincoln, North Kesteven and South Kesteven.

The meetings will provide a briefing on policing activity over the previous six months, an overview of crime and anti-social behaviour statistics, and future plans. It will also be an opportunity for parishes to put questions to senior officers. The meetings will be chaired by the Area Superintendents, held online via Teams, and the first will be held in December 2023. Cllr Tony Barker has offered to attend these meetings.

2023/24 - 08 Lottery funding & Summer play scheme

With particular thanks to Cllr Gemma Taylor, the National Lottery Community Fund has awarded Greatford Parish Council a grant of £4975 so that a summer playscheme can be run for the children and grandchildren of Greatford parishioners, and those from neighbouring parishes, if places are left over. The scheme is for primary-aged children and will run for 2 weeks: week commencing 31st July and week commencing 7th August, Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm, with 25 spaces each day. Further details about how to book places will be published very soon.

2023/24 -09 Flood wardens report

With thanks to Chris Granville-White (Greatford Flood Warden) and Cllr Jason Halsey (Deputy Flood Warden), the following report was received: through the winter and continuing Spring, the river level has remained well within limits - although slightly low recently. The Greatford Sluice and Cut have operated normally on the few occasions necessary. However, although the river level has been low during the late Spring, the Cut has had more water than usual for this time of year. This may be caused by the western gate leaking during recent weeks, perhaps because of debris below water level.

The EA Ops Field Team will be checking this before the end of the week, together with a check that the sluice gate has been reset upwards from 1 April by 100mm to the normal 'Summer' setting.

As reported for the January PC, during the most recent contact with the EA 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 immediately upstream of Greatford); and to reinstate the riverbank at Greatford Hall - 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.

I have recently drafted for the Mallard Pass Action Group (MPAG), an extensive Flood Risk Paper about the existing flood risk to Greatford and surrounding villages. This includes photo inputs from Essendine and Banthorpe, and of the occasional flooding within Braceborough and the fields near Wilsthorpe. The main implication on the local flood risk, if the Mallard Pass solar site is approved, would be the extensive compaction of the ground from vehicles and machinery during the two-year construction of the site, followed by up to forty years of operation. This compaction of the land would reduce the ability of the soil to absorb and drain excess water, which would increase water run-off into the local rivers. These are the West Glen for Carlby, Essendine, Banthorpe Lodge, Shillingthorpe and Greatford; and to the south of Wilsthorpe (after merging with the East Glen), I have also applied to speak on this topic at a suitable Open Floor Hearing chaired by the Government's Planning Inspectorate which is assessing the Mallard Pass proposal.

Parishioners may receive Chris's regular reports by email. Please advise the Clerk if you would like to be added.

2023/24 - 10 Any other business

There have been 6 Speed Watch campaigns so far in 2023. The recent two campaigns resulted in 8 letters being sent out to speeding offenders. Useful data about many gravel HGVs was captured on these occasions, as well.

The play equipment on the Playing Fields will have its annual inspection by Wicksteed in the near future.

The meeting closed at 7:50pm. The next meeting is on July 4th '23 in Greatford Village Hall.