

# MINUTES

## GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

4th July 2023

### **Present:**

Cllr Vanessa Smith (SKDC), Cllr Ashley Baxter (LCC), Cllr Phil Britton (Chair), Cllr Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), Cllr Jason Halsey (Responsible Financial Officer, Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Nigel Ashby, Helen Britton (Clerk), Ibis Channell, Bob French, Alison Horton, Lois Webb.

### **2023/24 - 10 Apologies for absence**

Cllr Tony Barker

### **2023/24 - 11 Approval of Minutes from 31st May 2023**

Proposed by Cllr Gemma Taylor, seconded by Cllr Jason Halsey.

### **2023/24 - 12 Matters arising**

The summer playscheme is now full.

A visit to Greatford by Daniel Adams (LCC Local Highways Manager) has been arranged for the week commencing 10th July and he will meet with representatives from the Parish Council and Cllr Ashley Baxter to discuss concerns about traffic through Greatford.

The parish council has looked into Neighbourhood Plans vs Parish Plans. Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew and Cllr Vanessa Smith have each offered their knowledge. Cllr Ashley Baxter said that a parish council would need to consider if any benefits are proportionate to the very large ongoing workload involved. Cllr Jason Halsey pointed out that Greatford already has the additional protection to future planning by being a Conservation Village. Nigel Ashby, a previous Chairman, added that the workload is formidable and that Greatford is already classed as an 'unsustainable village' in the Local Plan. Questions for a survey for a revised Parish Plan will be drawn up ready for the next meeting.

### **2023/24 - 13 Reports from District Councillors**

Cllr Ashley Baxter - SKDC Cabinet member for Finance and a County Councillor - reported that Lincolnshire County will not be able to run Deepings Leisure Centre (nor will SKDC) and so LCC will be asking groups to tender to run it. A decision will then be made whether to accept one of the tenders or to demolish it.

From September, an additional bin will be provided for paper and card waste, separating it from other grey bin recycling waste.

SKDC were represented at a meeting with Mallard Pass Ltd and currently object to the planning application on the grounds of lack of information, especially regarding use of farmland, and the large scale.

Cllr Vanessa Smith reported that there is an information event about local groups and fundraising; Cllr Natalie Pretsell is attending. Nominations for the SK Community Award are to be received by 24th August; the categories are Inspirational Young Person, Business and the Community, Lifetime Community Champion, Health and Wellbeing, The Neil Smith Beyond the Call of Duty Award and another new award for best Urban Space, recognising urban improvement projects. The Community in Bloom category replaces the Best Kept Village competition. Details are online.

SKDC will be asking parish councils to comment on their Climate Action Strategy.

Two new officers have been appointed to provide advice about benefits and coping with the increased costs of living.

### **2023/24 - 14 Financial matters**

There have been no bank statements since the last meeting so no up-to-date information is available, such as receipt of the VAT return and receipt of the Lottery Grant. The balance on 31st March '23 is £7350.

### **2023/24 - 15 Planning matters**

The Parish Council has received no planning matters to discuss.

### **2023/24 - 16 Update on Mallard Pass Solar Farm NSIP**

The parish council submitted a 23-page written representation, focusing on flooding, loss of BMV land, and effects on local amenity. Cllr Tony Barker and Cllr Phil Britton spoke, on behalf of Greatford, at the preliminary open-floor hearing in May.

Cllr Tony Barker reported, via email, that he attended the SKDC planning meeting held on 15th June which was held for the Committee to consider the draft Local Impact Report and written representations to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in respect of the Mallard Pass application.

In the allocated slot, he suggested that the Local Impact Report should place more emphasis on increased flood risk to Greatford in line with Local Plan policy. It was agreed that some adjustment should be made to the report to give equal weight to flood risk in comparison to other concerns. Unfortunately however, flood risk was not referred to in the final conclusion. It was agreed that SKDC should oppose the proposal. During the meeting the planning officer did remind members that the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council have the main responsibility for flood risk. Continued lobbying will be required.

Cllr Tony Barker thanked Phil for his efforts in preparing GPC's written representations, an excellent piece of work challenging the shortcomings of Mallard Pass's proposals in respect of flood risk. Cllr Phil Britton responded by thanking the other members of the

Mallard Pass Action Group, Tony Orvis and Helen Woolley and Sue Holloway, for all their efforts in making a compelling case for the Planning Inspectorate to refuse the application.

### **2023/24 - 17 Flood wardens report**

The Environment Agency has reported that the Greatford Sluice upstream retention level will be adjusted this week, raising it by 100mm. The Field Team will clean the gauge board when they next visit. Their annual weed cutting downstream of Greatford starts in the field behind Glen House and continues beyond the footbridge down to Wilsthorpe; it is scheduled for August.

The project to remove the accumulated gravels for approx. 50m downstream of Greatford Sluice, to be undertaken in 2024/ 2025.

The EA is trying to find out whether the sluice gate needs new seals and whether this has been programmed yet.

### **2023/24 - 18 Any other business**

On 23rd July, classic cars will be passing through Greatford from 10am near the Stow Road turn.

Compiling the 'Greatford memories' publication will take place in the winter, led by Ibis Channell and Cllr Natalie Pretsell.

Bob French suggested that a sign be put on the sports equipment box at the playing field reminding people to put back the equipment after use.

The overgrown weeds along Carlby Road have been cleared. Cllr Ashley Baxter urged parishioners to use Fix My Street to report matters to LCC for action.

The play equipment has received its annual inspection and the report is awaited.

The parish council continues to budget for mowing the grass in the churchyard.

**The meeting closed at 8:35pm. The next meeting is on 12th September '23.**