

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7:30pm

in Greatford Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Phil Britton (Chair), Cllr Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), Cllr Jason Halsey (Responsible Financial Officer), Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Cllr Tony Barker. LCC Cllr Ashley Baxter, SKDC Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cllr Vanessa Smith. Helen Britton (Clerk). Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Bob French, Sue Holloway, Paul Hudson, Lois Webb.

2023/24 - 10 Apologies for absence

None received.

2023/24 - 11 Approval of Minutes from 4th July 2023

These were proposed by Cllr Gemma Taylor and seconded by Cllr Natalie Pretsell.

2023/24 - 12 Update on Mallard Pass Solar Farm NSIP

Sue Holloway, Chair of Mallard Pass Action Group, reported that the hearings for this application take place over 3 days from 29/9/23. The Planning Inspector has been listening to the objections raised by Greatford and other affected villages. During a site visit, MPAG, Alicia Kearns MP, the Inspector and other representatives visited 'sensitive residential receptors' which includes 19 properties. Sue urged as many Parish Council representatives from the affected area as possible to be present at the hearings.

Further donations are urgently needed to provide legal support during the hearings.

Following the hearings, recommendations by the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Claire Countinho MP, will be announced around February 2024, and the final outcome announced around mid-May.

The negative impact of traffic is a major issue - the route and distance that 400 workers and all the associated operations traffic will affect Greatford and the villages around. As Rutland CC (the County more largely affected) has no Highways Councillor, MPAG and Greatford Parish Council are concerned how the routing can be enforced.

The deadline to send petition letters to Alicia Kearns MP is extended to January 2024 and Greatford parishioners are urged to submit them. Gareth Davies MP is unable to represent Greatford due to his current parliamentary role.

Cllr Phil Britton and everyone present thanked Sue for her unstinting efforts in support of Greatford's objection to the application.

2023/24 - 13 Matters arising

A Road Consultation Visit was organised through Dan Adams, LCC Local Highways Manager, and took place at the beginning of July. Phil thanked Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew for suggesting the meeting. It was very effective, with additional hazard measures being introduced to the village. These include speed signage, hazard lines and speed limit signs on the road. The old fingerpost has also been taken away for repair. Highways advised that it is not possible to install village entry gates and repeater signs.

2023/24 - 14 Reports from District Councillors

Report from County Councillor, Cllr Ashley Baxter

- A decision about the future of the currently closed Deepings Leisure Centre should be announced by December '23.
- An additional purple bin will be rolled out for cardboard and paper recycling in early 2024.
- Everyone is invited to the SKDC Cabinet Meeting at Deepings Community Centre on 25/9/23 at 1-2pm.
- Grants for adaptations for the disabled are available through SKDC.
- Parishioners are urged to use Fix My Street to report any problems.

Report from Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

The Leader of SKDC will do a 'walk-around' of the Ward with Cllr Rosemary and with Cllr Vanessa, and items are to be communicated to Rosemary before the end of the month.

Report from South Kesteven District Councillor, Cllr Vanessa Smith

- SKDC purchase of Langtoft housing for refugees: 12 new homes have been purchased in Langtoft by SKDC for Ukrainian and Afghan refugees, using a central Government grant which was ringfenced for the housing of Afghan and Ukrainian refugees who are already here legally. The houses will revert to social council housing in a few years' time
- Ward Walk: Cllr Trollope-Bellew and I have very recently arranged a ward walk with Cllr Cleaver (Leader of the Council) around Casewick Ward. This will be 10-2pm on Friday 29th September. We will need to cover all of the Parishes within the ward. If there is anything within Greatford that you would like us to specifically draw his attention to then please let us know (particularly District Council matters)
- UK Shared Prosperity fund: First board meeting since the May elections took place during the first week of August. Less than £5k is now an officer delegated decision. More than £5k goes to the Board.
- SKDC have put aside £300k to fund Green initiatives as part of the Climate change fund. Please get in touch if there are any Green initiatives you would like to see the Council take forward.
- SK Today - this is now online only for households.
<http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=2321> There are some hard copies available in the Deeping library.

- Council in the Community Events: This is an opportunity for residents to speak to officers (as opposed to Councillors) in the community. The last one was held at the Bourne Corn Exchange in August Residents could discuss issues including housing, environmental health, cost of living.
- Housing Register: Those on the Housing Register with SKDC will have to reapply; the council is moving into a Choice based letting system in due course.
- SK Funding workshops: There was a workshop held in Deeping in July. Information was provided to community groups on the various pots of money available, such as UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and how to apply. Further sessions will be held: 21 Sept - Stamford, 18 Jan- Grantham, 21 Mar - Bourne. The next session which is being held in Stamford is 6-8pm, 21 Sept, at the Corn Exchange (details circulated with booking link in earlier email).
- Consultation on Community Strategy: Community groups and residents are being asked for their views on how SKDC can best support and develop the communities they serve. <http://bit.ly/OurPeopleOurPlace>

2023/24 - 15 Financial matters

Due to ongoing issues at Natwest Bank, no parish council accounts statements have been received since December. A letter has just been received confirming that statements should now be received, and so a reconciliation of the accounts should be possible by the next meeting.

2023/24 - 16 Planning matters

The Parish Council had no comments to make on and permission has been granted by SKDC.

Application No: S23/1020

Applicant: Mr Colin Lunn

Proposal: Provision of 30 x solar panel assembly.

Location: 3 Fitzwilliams Court, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4QQ,

App Type: Householder

2023/24 - 17 Flood wardens report

From Chris Granville-White, Greatford Flood Warden

During the summer, the West Glen river level through Greatford has remained very low, which has highlighted again the disparity of water flow through the Fitzwilliams Sluice at Greatford Mill and the flow through Greatford Hall land which rejoins the main river by the footbridge along the church path. This has resulted in the flow through the Fitzwilliams Sluice becoming stagnant with an unhealthy situation for the variety of fish and invertebrates.

On 30 Aug, Katie Field from the East Mercia Rivers Trust came to Greatford to take river samples together with Ross Edgar to compare the river quality in these two flows. There is a disparity of flow between the moving flow from under the footbridge, and the stagnant situation from the millpond.

Autumn Watercourse Clearing

Before October ends,, there is a need to clear summer growth from the dry watercourse around Greatford Gardens, with much to clear this year with a combination of landowners, commercial gardeners and volunteers.

Cllr Tony Barker asked that the datum be returned to its winter setting, and Cllr Jason Halsey will action.

Cllr Phil Britton reported that Chris has been doing a great job with responding to the Mallard Pass NSIP on behalf of the villagers, and thanked him for his work.

2023/24 - 18 Playscheme report

Sixty five children registered over the 2 weeks this year. An average of 22 children attended daily. OneTouch Football provided the playscheme and it was funded through a Lottery Grant secured by Greatford Parish Council. Lots of very positive feedback was received, and it is very much the intention of the Parish Council to seek to run it again in summer '24. Cllr Gemma Taylor was thanked for leading the organisation of this successful Parish Council project.

2023/24 - 19 Play equipment inspection

10 items are a very low risk, 21 items a low risk, and 1 item a moderate risk (the timber of the swing has a number of splits), and has been described by Wicksteed as being a 'moderate risk (12)' overall. The Parish Council, led by Cllr Jason, will respond to each item of the inspection, seeking to mend or replace as necessary. This will involve working out costs and raising funds through grants and donations. Thank you to Bob French for ongoing repairs and keeping the equipment clear of weeds.

2023/24 - 20 Any other business

The Greatford Parish Council insurance renewal quote of £447.64 was agreed.

Cllr Tony will investigate joining the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

A Speedwatch Campaign will be organised for September.

At the request of villagers at a previous meeting and as discussed, the Parish Council will approach LCC about siting a bench in place of the Best Kept Village plaques, which would be relocated.

Elizabeth Ashby thanked Sue Holloway for all that she has done, and asked about a fundraising event for MPAG but time is too short and so direct donations amounting to around £3000 are needed urgently.

Bob French asked that the Parish Council thank LCC Highways/Dan Adams for responding favourably to the PCs suggestions about traffic measures.

The meeting closed at 9pm

The next meeting is on 14th November.