

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 9th January at 7:30pm

in Greatford Village Hall

Present

County Cllr Ashley Baxter, District Cllr Vanessa Smith, Parish Cllr Philip Britton (Chair), Cllr Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Cllr Jason Halsey, Cllr Tony Barker. Helen Britton (Clerk to GPC).

Jonathan Allen, Gemma Anderson, Katie Anderson, Richard Anderson, Ellie Andrews, Rick Andrews, Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Sue Barker, Rachel Barron-Clark, Richard Barron-Clark, Fr Aran Beasley, Steve Bunning, Tony Butcher, Ibis Channell, Jim Coulam, Stephen Dean, Alex Doust, Maggie Doust, Paul Doust, Ross Dykes, Elizabeth Edgar, Ross Edgar, Peter Essex, Sheran Essex, Bridget Everett, James Everett, Steph O'Flaherty, Cheryl Foreman, Keith Foreman, Bob French, Gillian Getty, Kate Gilbert, Mark Gilbert, Susan Halsey, Elaine Hawkins, Stephen Hawkins, Kerry Hockham, Jeremy Hockham, Greg Hooper, Alison Horton, Paul Hudson, Chris Ireland, Anna Ireland, Lyn Jevons, James Keys, Gareth Large, Kate Large, Richard McDermott, Hannah Penson, Nick Porteous, Rachael Porteous, Donna Radley, Geoff Radley, Sarah Rodriguez, Jamie Scott, Steve Smith, Lorna Stonestreet, Jo Teesdale, Nick Teesdale, Dan Teesdale, Kevin de Trafford, Lois Webb, Malcolm Wells, Popsy Wells, Danny Wheeler, Chris White, Diana White, Jon Workman.

2023/24 - 31 Apologies for absence

District Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew.

2023/24 - 32 Approval of Minutes from 14th November 2023

Proposed by Cllr Philip Britton and seconded by Cllr Tony Barker.

2023/24 - 33 Matters arising

The Deeping Leisure Centre will be mentioned in a later item.

2023/24 - 34 Reports from District Councillors

Report from Cllr Vanessa Smith.

Flooding: My deepest sympathies to all those affected by recent events, and I will do what I can to support the community at this time. Although SKDC is not the Flood Authority, as this is LCC, the staff from SKDC have supported the village and money has been made available to pay for porta-loos, skips and street cleaning. National government funding has also been made available

for affected households to apply for, likely via LCC. I recognise that there is a need for some answers here, as lessons need to be learnt to prevent recent events from recurring. This will require input from a number of organisations including the Environment Agency, Anglia Water and LCC. The response to flooding will be reviewed at the SKDC Rural Overview and Scrutiny committee.

Recycling: Purple lidded bins have now been delivered. They should be used for paper and card with immediate effect. If paper and card is put into the grey bin the bin these will initially be just tagged as 'contaminated' for information purposes. However, from 5th February, any bin that is found to be contaminated will not be collected. Side waste will also be rejected.

Local Devolution: The plans for Greater Lincolnshire Devolution with Mayoral control will be discussed by SKDC full council this week.

Deeping Leisure Centre: A decision by SKDC full council on whether they will give the financial support to the community group is expected this week.

2023/24 - 35 Financial matters

The VAT refund of £1,097 has been received. The Clerk's fees have been paid (£260). The balance of the account is £9080.77

2023/24 - 36 Precept for 2024

The Parish will apply for a Parish Precept of £3935. This was proposed by Cllr Jason Halsey, and seconded by Cllr Tony Barker. No additional money for Deeping Leisure Centre will be added to the Precept application.

2023/24 - 37 Planning matters

The Parish Councillors have looked at every planning consultation in detail and Cllr Tony Barker outlined the Parish Council's response to each.

DECISION NOTED

Application No: S23/1425

Date Received: 1st August 2023

Applicant: Mr & Mr Kebbeh

Proposal: Removal 1 Yew tree, reduce 1 Beech tree (limited to 2m down in height and proportionately in width by 1-1.5m in from the tips).

Location: 7 Greatford Gardens Greatford

Lincolnshire PE9 4PX

Decision/Date Work Allowed 6th December 2023

NO OBJECTION

Application No: S23/2080

Applicant: Hockham

Proposal: Section 211 notice in relation to Hornbeam (red) reduce by approx. 2.5m and 1.5m in width proportionately.

Location: 15 Greatford Gardens, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PX,
App Type: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice

DECISION NOTED

Application No: S23/2079

Date Received: 13th November 2023

Applicant: Thorburn

Proposal: Section 211 notice in relation to Maple (red) reduce tree by 1.5m and crown raise to 3m. Maple x2 (blue) reduce by approx.2.5m and crown raise to 3m.

Location: The Old Barn Main Street

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4QA

Decision/Date: Work Allowed 14th December 2023

REFUSAL DECISION NOTED

Application No. S23/2171

Proposal: Emergency removal of Ash tree.

Location: 7 Greatford Gardens, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PX,

I refer to your application under Section 198(6) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) England Regulations 2012 – 5 day notice.

The Council's Consultant Arboriculturalist has assessed the proposal and does not consider the tree to be in a dead or dangerous condition and, as a result, the proposal to carry out the works OR removal of the tree(s) under Section 198(6) and Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation) England Regulations 2012 – 5 day notice is not acceptable.

NO OBJECTION (Jason Halsey was not involved in the decision process).

Application No: S23/2188

Applicant: Mr Jason Halsey

Proposal: Section 211 notice in relation to 3 Hornbeams, identified as T1, T2 and T3.

Originally planted as boundary hedge have been allowed to grow out of control whilst the remainder of the hornbeams have been maintained as a boundary hedge. Tree surgeon recommends height reduced to 5ft or 1,5m allowing remainder to be further maintained as a hedge. T1 and T3 are beginning to lean over roadway and garage respectively, T3 branches now touching garage. T1, T2 and T3 all have insufficient clearance to property. All 3 to be maintained as boundary hedge, therefore, no replanting is proposed.

Location: The Robins , 5 Greatford Gardens, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PX

App Type: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice

DECISION NOTED

Application No: S23/2015

Date Received: 1st November 2023

Applicant: Mr Marek Michalowski

Proposal: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice in relation to T 1- ash tree - Fell.

Location: Meadow Court Carlby Road

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4PR

Decision/Date: Work Allowed 14th December 2023

DECISION NOTED

Application No: S23/1869

Date Received: 10th October 2023

Applicant: Mr Dean

Proposal: Lime (T1) - Remove lowest limb on road side to lift crown over footpath to get more clearance to the path, clean crown by 15%. Lime (T2) - Clean crown by 15%. Lime (T3) - Clean crown by 15%. All works to allow more light and make trees for aesthetically pleasing.

Location: The Doghouse Main Street

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4QA

Decision/Date Work Allowed 14th December 2023

NO OBJECTION - WORK ALLOWED

Application No: S23/2035

Applicant: Mr McDermott

Proposal: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice in relation to the following: Beech (T1) - Reduce crown by 2m in height and side to suit, 0.5 - 1m. Corkscrew willow (T2) - Reduce back to the boundary as it is over hanging the neighbours.

Location: 8 Main Street, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4QA,

App Type: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice

NO OBJECTION

Application No: S23/2245

Applicant: Mr Marek Michalowski

Proposal: Section 211 notice in relation to the following: T1- Ash Tree - Pollard; T2 - Indian Bean Tree - 1 Metre Crown Reduction; T3 - Liquid Amber Tree - 1.5 Metre Crown Reduction

Location: 8 Greatford Gardens, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PX,

App Type: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice

2023/24 - 38 Traffic update

Cllr Phil Britton reported that the antique fingerpost in Greatford T-junction is mended, and that the fingerpost and give-way sign at the junction of Barholm Road/ Greatford Road have been reported on FixMyStreet.

2023/24 - 38 Play equipment

Cllr Phil Britton reported that although the play equipment on the Playing Field has passed its annual check it needs some refurbishment. The formulation of a plan and timeline for refurbishment has been deferred due to the recent flooding.

2023/24 - 40 Defibrillator

Kate Large, the parish defibrillator team leader, explained that in the event of a medical emergency 999 should be dialled and, secondary to that, the VETS number called to activate localised village support. The phone number is 01778 252 911.

2023/24 - 41 Flood wardens report

Chris Granville White, Greatford Flood Warden, gave a summary of the history of the West Glen river through Greatford. At some date before 1798 (the oldest map he had seen), the river had been diverted to flow across the front of Greatford Hall and power the watermill, from its natural path to the rear (presumably the mostly dry old riverbed still visible parallel to the public right-of-way footpath of the Macmillan Way through the woods.

In 1956 a flood relief channel, the Greatford Cut, and the associated Greatford sluice were constructed, to divert excess water from the West Glen to the Welland, to reduce the flood risk to Greatford..

Following serious flooding on 27 Jan 2013, Chris became the Greatford Flood Warden. During the following months a solution for a flood storage scheme was designed by Paul Hunt (then an official in the Environment Agency). This would occupy most of a large field between Greatford and Shillingthorpe to become a vast water storage area during flooding. Then, as the river level returned to normal, the stored water would return to the river under control through fixed vortices as conditions improved. However, this solution was not considered by the authorities to be affordable on the basis of the cost-benefit ratio, for the number of properties at risk of flooding. However, as is evident from the recent very serious flooding during Jan 2024, there are in reality many more properties at risk. It is therefore essential for the EA to revisit this plan for implementation.

The flooding on the 2nd January and 3rd January 2024, following Storm Henk, was as extensive as that seen in a photo from 1912, before the Greatford Cut was constructed. The river rose to 1.18 metres, the level for Flood Alerts, then to 1.32 metres, the level for Flood Warnings, and then up to 1.67 metres, the highest level ever recorded. At that point, the gauge ceased to function.

Chris urged everyone present to revisit the flood alleviation plans and to come together to persuade the Environment Agency to fund the scheme. Everyone at the meeting broke into spontaneous applause in a sign of their appreciation of Chris's action and communication over the years. Cllr Phil Britton expressed appreciation on behalf of the Parish Council and the entire parish for all that Chris has done as Flood Warden over the past ten years.

Richard McDermott thanked Chris and asked, whether the sluice worked and why there was room for water in Greatford Cut at the time of the flooding. He questioned why flood warnings

were not given out to the majority of those affected. Furthermore those people are unable to sign up for flood alerts and flood warnings. Greg Hooper asked whether there had been an initial response from the Environment Agency which there had not. Other parishioners expressed concerns about how to make homes flood resilient, how to source grants from SKDC and how to seek reinsurance following the flooding. Parishioners are also concerned about security in the village as a number of properties will be vacant over the coming months. A Freedom of Information application was suggested and another parishioner had already actioned that. There are 20 days for a response to be received. It was reported that a parishioner has information regarding downstream of the West Glen river, and that the flood relief land at Crowland Common is underused. All the sand and bags stored at the Playing Field were used up during the flooding and parishioners have asked for further sandbags. The Clerk will inquire about pulp bags available from the Fire Service.

Cllr Jason Halsey reported that when he, as Deputy Flood Warden, and Chris met the Environment Agency at Shillingthorpe in 2019, the offer of the land for flood relief by Martin Trollope-Bellew was still in place. The action group could seek to find if this is still the case.

Cllr Tony Barker expressed the initial response of the Parish Council which is firstly to establish the facts about what happened on 2nd and 3rd January 2024, what happened to the environment agency's flood management plan, and to form a group within Greatford and the local area to challenge the Environment Agency and Lincolnshire County Council, which is the Lead Local Flood Authority. Alicia Kearns MP visited the village on the 4th January to see the extent of the flood damage and is keen to be involved with future flood prevention. Names of parishioners who are willing to form an action group were collated during the meeting. The action group will meet at the earliest opportunity and engage the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, the local District and County Councillors, and the local MPs, Alicia Kearns MP and Gareth Davies MP.

2023/24 - 42 Any other business

Cllr Ashley Baxter reported that he is on the Drainage Committee of Lincolnshire County Council and will report the incursion to the County Council and the Internal Drainage Board. He wants to meet the Parish Councillors at the earliest opportunity.

Donna Radley announced that a group of parishioners are inviting everyone for lunch and an opportunity to meet together on the 12th and 13th of January in the Village Hall.

Alison Horton, of the Greatford Village Hall Management Committee, reminded villagers that there will be a Live and Local event in the Village Hall on the 26th January. Tickets are available online.

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

The next meeting will be on 5th March 2024.