

**MINUTES**  
**Greatford Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Council Meeting**  
**May 21st 2024**

**Present:**

District Cllr Rosemary, Trollope- Bellew, District Cllr Vanessa Smith, Parish Cllr Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), Cllr Tony Barker, Cllr Jason Halsey (RFO), Cllr Natalie Pretsell ( acting as Clerk), Nigel Ashby, Rachel Barron-Clark, Cheryl Foreman, Jeremy Hockham, Kerry Hockham, Sue Holloway, Alison Horton, Lois Webb.

**2023/24 - 56 Opening of meeting**

**2023/24 - 57 Apologies**

Cllr Philip Britton, Helen Britton, Ibis Channell, Ann Sumner.

**2023/24 - 58 Election of Chair**

Cllr Philip Britton was proposed by Cllr Gemma Taylor; Cllr Tony Barker seconded.

**2023/24 - 59 Election of Vice Chair**

Cllr Gemma Taylor was proposed by Cllr Natalie Pretsell; Cllr Jason Halsey seconded.

**2023/24 - 60 Election of Responsible Financial Officer**

Cllr Jason Halsey was proposed by Cllr Tony Barker; Cllr Gemma Taylor seconded.

**2023/24 - 61 Declaration of pecuniary interest**

Nothing to declare from any of the Councillors.

**2023/24 - 62 Approval of Minutes of APM from May 2023**

Proposed by Cllr Natalie Pretsell, seconded by Cllr Jason Halsey

**2023/24 - 63 Approval of Minutes from March 2024**

Proposed by Cllr Tony Barker, seconded by Cllr Natalie Pretsell

**2023/24 - 64 Matters arising**

Question from the floor at this point about whether the presentation of the flooding should have been covered in more detail in the Parish Council Minutes to ensure parishioners have a detailed account. The flooding group have now had to issue a newsletter with detailed information and this duplicates and creates additional work for the group.

*Action:* to review Minutes taken to include more detail of discussion and information points with a report provided prior to the meeting.

## 2023/24 - 65 Reports from District Councillors

### **Report from District Councillor Vanessa Smith:**

Review of the SKDC Local Plan: The consultation on the Draft document has now closed. There will be another consultation later in the year when the Pre-submission document is complete (Regulation 19).

Emergency Planning meeting was held on Wednesday 1st May. It was coordinated by SKDC and LCC (Phil Swinton and Mark Garthwaite respectively) for representatives from nearby villages. Unfortunately, the event was poorly attended with only members of Uffington and Tallington PCs being present. Very useful information was shared. Key points: If a village or group of villages would like to put together a plan a group at least three key people are required. There is a template that can be completed and the LCC Resilience Team with then help finalise the document. LCC Resilience Team have a drone which has been used for mapping relevant areas. Once a plan is drawn up, residents can sign up to an SMS service for local alerts. A box with emergency supplies is given to the village for safe keeping to be ready for times of need. If someone would like to get involved with assisting in emergencies but a local emergency plan is not drawn up they can be trained up to be a 'Ready for Anything' volunteer.

Recent local elections: As well as the re-election of the Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire, SKDC also saw elections for the newly formed Grantham Parish Council.

Flooding: Section 19 report from LCC is due by August 2024. I have no further updates.

Anglian Water Pipeline: I have raised this matter with the enforcement team at SKDC as work seems to have stalled and other PCs have asked how long this will be for and whether the land could be restored in the meantime. AW have provided the following statement to SKDC: Work is still progressing, however as we've experienced the wettest winter on record and continue to be impacted by the exceptional circumstances that are affecting large infrastructure projects such as the continued impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, labour shortages, supply issues caused by the war in Ukraine there has been an impact on our delivery programme. As a business we remain 100% committed to delivering the entirety of the programme and all of the environmental obligations associated with it. However, because of the challenges we've faced and continue to face, we are rephasing some of the work planned in the region and are working through these options with the relevant stakeholders. The committed works will be completed but the programme is being re-jigged. Furthermore, the SKDC officer has provided the following additional comments: In terms of planning controls, while there is condition requiring the land to be reinstated, we do not have any control over the time period for the construction of the project.

Recycling: Following the roll out of the twin stream recycling earlier in the year, the contamination rate of the grey bin fell from around 30% to around 17%. The new paper and card bin was found to have a contamination rate of 1%. It has always been the council's intention to reject bins that were obviously contaminated at the kerbside. However, after abuse from the public these plans were put on hold in February. The council is now reintroducing this. Initially there will be a period of advisory tagging of contaminated bin, as before. This will run from 13th May. However, from 10th June rejections will re-start. The criteria will be more relaxed than previously. Data will continue to be collected and analysed to ensure resources including education and communication are targeted effectively with the hope that contamination can be minimised as much as is possible over the summer months. Telephone 01476 406544 or email [recycling@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@southkesteven.gov.uk) if you have any concerns.

To view any SKDC active consultations go to:

<https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/your-council-and-democracy/have-your-say/current> There is currently a consultation running on the SKDC Economic Development Strategy (Closes 9th June 2024)

New Quarry Action Group 'Coalition' Meeting. I attended this on 9.4.24. Representatives from West Deeping, Bourne, Langtoft, Baston, Barholm and Stowe. Agreed this area is negatively affected by the cumulative impact of quarrying. Suggestion made to ask LCC to widen their designated 'search area' for South Lincolnshire to include land north of Bourne. Possibly for all affected Parishes to write to this effect, ideally before County's Minerals and Waste Plan is finalised. I have since discussed this with County Cllr Baxter who is happy to support.

Thetford Farm Quarry Application: I am not aware of any updates.

Mallard Pass: The decision by the SoS has been postponed and is now due by 13th June.

SKDC facebook team are asking for all tourism venues, local community groups and businesses who are planning events in South Kesteven over the summer (June to September) to get in touch so that they can help promote events in the District

SKToday: Now digital <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/sktoday>

Funding: 1. UKSPF: Funding still available, particularly for Green Space interventions <https://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/UKSPF> 2. Mini Orchard fund is still available

Cllr Vanessa Smith explained that drones are available to map locations and can see where was most affected by the floods. People can sign up to an SMS system for villages. As a village, Greatford can set and circulate an Emergency Plan. Cllr Vanessa is awaiting the officer's report and will forward on to the PC. Mark Garthwaite is the LCC lead. He gave a talk at Baston about it.

Cllr Tony Barker reported that the Parish Council met with Karen Bradford, CEO of SKDC, following the flood and agreed at that meeting Greatford PC would sign up for the Emergency Planning but have not heard anything further.

Discussed whether bin collections can take uncontaminated sideways rubbish but feedback was there are cameras on the lorry and they cannot as will get into trouble. Question whether Bourne tip are now turning away plastic recycling / putting it into landfill bins.

Quarry group – Cllr Tony Barker reported that Parish Council has raised objections to new quarries being developed.

Cllr Tony Barker reviewed the Local Plan which has some significant proposals for new housing in Thurlby, Baston and Langtoft and asked for any indication on timelines for decisions on those sites. Cllr Vanessa Smith responded that the Local Plan runs until 2041 and That housing is expected to be delivered within that time but unknown when. Approval of Local Plan, Regulation 19 will be end of this year then sign of end of next year. Langtoft raised concerns around flooding and flood risk assessment being old in the last consultation – this is being updated.

*Action:* Flood group to take forward – request to attend future meetings with Mark Garthwaite

## 2023/24 - 66 Financial matters

The end of year balance is £8539.81 with no outstanding cheques or bills waiting to be claimed. This includes a VAT reclaim of £146.30 this year. Major refurbishment of play equipment coming up which was delayed due to the flooding. This will be costed out next year. Accounts have not been audited yet but will be shortly and then the annual return will be completed and will require an additional meeting in June for this. Also potential expenditure for children's Summer Play Scheme.

## 2023/24 - 67 Planning matters

**Application No: S24/0359** – The PC raised no objection but there is some concern that the report did not specify any potential danger as an issue as the branch overhangs a public footpath. Consent has been granted to remove.

**Action: Parish Council to write to the applicant for an update.**

**Application No: S22/1089** – consent given.

**Application No: S23/2080** – approved.

**Application No: S23/0209** – conditionally approved

**Application No: S24/0586** – the Parish Council made a Comment on this, due to the nature of this being in a prominent, visual location as entry to the village, requesting that any alterations are in keeping regarding height and that hedging is included.

**Application No: S24/0727** – no objection

## 2023/24 - 68 Speeding and traffic matters

No speed watch campaigns have taken place since the last meeting. Anyone interested in completing the training and joining are welcome to. Will try and hold another in June however many of the trained residents are out of the village due to flooding. Annual report

received from LCC about village reports put in so far was welcomed but minimal training/new initiatives advertised.

**Action: Cllr Jason Halsey to put another request out**

The speed sign around – most effective places are in Main Street. East End – branch growing over obscuring the bracket so need to remove this. Discussed purchasing more however they are over £2k each. No funding currently available

## 2023/24 - 69 Play equipment funding

No update.

Summer Playscheme – not successful in the funding application for this year's scheme. In talks with the provider and whether it could run directly via families and if any potential to have it part funded.

## 2023/24 - 70 Flood Wardens update

Thanks to Ross Edgar and Richard McDermott for stepping forward to become Greatford Deputy Flood Wardens, supporting Cllr Jason Halsey.

Wider Flood Action Group – circulated a comprehensive report about what the group have been doing to date. A number of successful meetings with the Environment Agency and still working with them to identify the actual cause. Have looked upstream, now focusing on downstream and what caused the water to back up into Greatford. Will be asking specific questions of agencies about what they were doing here on the night of the flood.

1904 map had evidence of a drain from the middle of Main Street moving out to the north that would have carried water. Drain no longer there / could be blocked / collapsed.

So far the group have been able to give assistance to the Section 19 Investigation team with photographs, timings – they will use this in their investigation going forward.

Start date for interviews 22 July with villagers affected (anyone who registered their house was flooded on the LCC website should get an invitation to be spoken with). Offered use of Village Hall as a base. Further details to follow.

Will arrange further meetings before schools break up for the summer to ensure attendance from key partners – have it in the village to be able to show them the site but will focus on looking at what was happening downstream. T

## 2023/24 - 71 Mallard Pass Solar Farm update

The date of the decision has been postponed to 13th June (*Note, the final decision is now delayed beyond the General Election on July 4th 2024*). Prior to this date, the Secretary of State had raised some questions on the scheme. Action Group used this as a segway to raise other concerns. Applicant answered these unexpectedly. The Mallard Pass Action Group were not surprised about the delay; a huge solar farm in Cambridgeshire has been delayed 4 times since last September, including the day before the deadline. The Secretary

of State for Energy released a written ministerial statement about a clear direction of change in policy and guidance and could not then consent to Mallard Pass as contradictory. The statement is giving better protection to land, addressing cumulative impact, looking to improve the soil survey work (as been completing their own and not independent) and addressing solar on rooftop and brown land. More of a focus on food security now. There have been a number of solar debates in parliament over last two years. More MPs across country seeing constituents affected by solar farms (over 30 in the pipeline, we were 5<sup>th</sup> at the time of this starting) Countryside for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) working hard – rooftop solar campaign. UK Warehouse Association pushing the Government hard to deliver some of the targets by putting them on their rooftops. Government set up a workforce over the last 6 months working with facilitators on planning. Solar Taskforce report – now been temp delayed because of Sec State's recent statement Focus also on farmers and impact on them – lost winter wheat, not been able to drill spring crops, poorer harvest – impacts self-sufficiency and how do we maintain our own food production. Geo-politics and effect on future food security. Lots of competing demands for the land and initiatives around the use of the land

Active month through April/May – debates in the House of Commons, Alicia Kearns working hard across the board to lobby.

Sue Holloway (MPAG) is now part of a national group – UK Solar Alliance – have 125 member groups – trying to lobby change in policy. Look to deliver solar in a better way. Department of Energy reps engaging in conversations and building a voice. Have multiple experts in the group – barristers, professors, technical people.

Rishi has been spending time with NFU, Farm to Fork summit – trying to show support to farmers and drive some new initiatives.

Need to be aware of potential change in government and possible shift in focus.

When have debates – struggle to find Labour MPs who hold rural constituencies and have interest in the topic.

Making a point of going out to Labour MPs to broker conversation with them on the matter. Greatford flooding impact on Mallard Pass? Storm Henk happened when examination had finished (November 2023) and would not accept further information. Greatford PC and the Mallard Pass spent much time on the sharing of information and concerns.

Nothing else that can be done at this time.

Thanks to Alicia Kearns MP for what she has supported with so far.

## 2023/24 - 72 Any other business

A framed photograph of HM King Charles III has been sent to the Parish Council for display – agreed to be displayed under the coronation flag.

Cllr Jason Halsey attended West Deeping Quarries Liaison Meeting – meeting focused on planning requests which do not have longer than 2 years left in them. Potential for new plant to be built. Lot of restoration work completed on the quarries to date. They also promised to store three pallets worth of sandbags for the village and will deliver to the village for free.

Breedons have provided the church with a heavy duty strimmer on wheels and some bits of safety kit.

The PC have been requested to buy a couple of hay rakes for the churchyard. Agreed to put the cost in the budget for next year (£100 for two) Action: **Rakes to be bought by Nigel Ashby and the PC invoiced.**

Lois Webb thanked the Parish Council, the flood groups, and Sue Holloway for working so hard on behalf of Greatford Parish in objection to the Mallard Pass Solar Farm application.

Meeting closed at 9.05pm

Date of next meeting – 25th June 2024