

MINUTES

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 14th January 2025

7:30pm in Greatford Village Hall

Present

Cazz Anders, Gemma Anderson, Richard Anderson, Nigel Ashby, Elizabeth Ashby, Kate Armstrong, Stephen Armstrong, Sue Barker, Cllr Tony Barker, Richard Barron Clark, Rachel Barron Clark, Cllr Ashley Baxter (County) Cllr Phil Britton, Helen Britton (Clerk), Jim Coulam, Ibis Channell, Jean Cross, Terry Cross, Geoff Cooper, Alex Doust, Maggie Doust, Paul Doust, Ross Dykes, Ross Edgar (Deputy Flood Warden), James Everitt, Bridget Everitt, Bob French, Grant French, Chester Gilbert, Chloe Gilbert, Elaine Hawkins, Steve Hawkins, Kerry Hockham, Jeremy Hockham, Robert Hogg, Heather Hooper, Alison Horton, Paul Hudson, Jason Johnson, Majed Kebbeh, Derrick Lygo, Richard McDermott (Deputy Flood Warden), Paul Morriss, Steph O'Flaherty, Nick Porteous, Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Cllr Vanessa Smith (SKDC), Lorna Stonestreet, Cllr Gemma Taylor, Sam Taylor, Georgie Teesdale, Nick Teesdale, Jo Teesdale, Jackie Thorburn, Neil Thorburn, Terry Townsend, Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew (SKDC), Bo Turner, Lois Webb, Jon Workman.

2024/25 -36 **Apologies for absence**

Cllr Jason Halsey (Flood Warden and Responsible Financial Officer), Caroline Nathan, Mark Imray, Mareia Imray, Geoff Radley, Donna Radley, Cheryl Foreman, Keith Foreman, Rachael Porteus, Sheran Essex, Steve Rigby, David Bryars, Sue Bryars.

2024/25 - 37 **Approval of Minutes from 12.11.24**

Proposed by Cllr Natalie Pretsell and seconded by Cllr Gemma Taylor. The Minutes were approved.

2024/25 - 38 **Matters arising**

The matters arising from the previous meeting were covered in the agenda.

2024/25 - 39 **Reports from District Councillors**

Report on District Matters from Cllr Vanessa Smith

Local Flooding: SKDC has worked to support residents. My thoughts are with all those affected. I would like to see our County Councillor take a lead on this as LCC are the Lead Local Flood Authority.

Community Funding Workshop: SKDC is holding another workshop for community groups on 23 Jan 2025, 6-8pm in Stamford. Free event but tickets will need to be booked. (GPC CLerk attending)

Lincolnshire Devolution: Major restructure of local government. Lots of uncertainty at present. Mayoral elections due in May.

Greatford Quarry: Recent application to vary Condition 13. Essentially, whilst the landowner was given three years in which to commence the work they have not done so until now and as the necessary preliminary road improvements to King Street are going to take two years to complete they will run out of time to get the work done as their planning consent expires in July 2025. Had they got on with work from the start this would not have been a problem, but with only six months remaining on their planning consent they have approached the council to find out whether they can commence work without first making the road improvements that had been deemed necessary. The road improvements will still be necessary in order to remove the aggregate from the site, so therefore argue there is no increased risk to road users. I have asked whether highway impact can be fully reviewed in light of this and have been told this is not possible. It has always seemed illogical to me that the condition was for road widening from the quarry entrance to the Stowe crossroads, and not all the way down to West Deeping which is the mandated access route. The road is already an accident blackspot. To allow this variation of condition will essentially allow the clock to stop ticking on the site meaning that by the time work is commenced it could be based on road traffic assessments that are more than a decade out of date. I have asked Cllr Baxter for his support on this as well. (GPC has Objected.)

2024/25 - 40 **Financial matters**

The Parish Council funds remain healthy. The cash book balance reconciles with the latest held bank statement up to December 5th. The balance is £10198.10. Outstanding cheques total £95 Unclaimed VAT refund stands at £193.30 for the current year.

2024/25 - 41 **Precept setting**

To procure extra funds for flood resilience for the village it was proposed that the Parish Precept increase by 10% to £4360. This was formally proposed by Cllr Phil Britton and seconded by Cllr Tony Barker.

2024/25 - 42 **Planning matters**

Application No: S24/1972 Applicant: Stonemill Estates Ltd

Proposal: Proposed 2-storey side extension to dwelling, and detached double garage; following demolition of existing garage

Location: 16 Stowe Road, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PS,

App Type: Householder

(GPC had no comments to make.)

BT Payphone kiosk removal or adoption. The phone line will be cut off either way. Chair asked for a show of hands and it was agreed that the Parish Council would seek to adopt the payphone kiosk rather than see it locked up.
(Awaiting outcome)

Application No: S24/1548

Date Received: 7th October 2024

Applicant: Mr & Mrs Gilbert Proposal: Proposed removal of existing conservatory and proposed single storey side extension.

Location: Julyas House Carlby Road Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4PR Decision/Date: 19th December 2024

(Parish Council Objected with comments about the proximity of the boundary to the neighbouring property)

Application No: S24/1478

Date Received: 21st October 2024

Applicant: Mrs Rosslyn Coulam

Proposal: Erection of a new garden shed approximately 6 x 4.8m.

Location: Bumble Bee Cottage Main Street

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4QA

Decision/Date 3rd January 2025

PL/0127/24 To vary condition 13 of planning permission S20/1351 to allow the mineral development to commence but restricting the exportation of any minerals from the site until works have been carried out to widen King Street, Greatford
The PC will respond to LCC in Objection.

2024/25 - 43 **Flood Warden update and Flood Response presentation**

The Flood Warden is Cllr Jason Halsey, and the Deputy Flood Wardens are Richard McDermott and Ross Edgar. Richard gave a presentation of their initial assessment of the flooding events of Monday 6th January 2025.

This is a brief summary (the full presentation was made available to those at the meeting):

- Groundwater levels have remained very high since Autumn 2023,
- Height of the flooding was lower than that in 2024,
- The flood was due to high levels of rainfall in the catchment area, falling onto frozen and snow covered ground followed by rapid thawing and runoff,
- The Cut was flowing well and the sluice leading into The Cut was fully open.
- River-water flowed into the roadside ditch on the Belmesthorpe road which over-topped and flowed down Main Street, flooding properties along Main Street,
- Other areas to the north of the village were flooded by runoff and river water over topping the bank and flowing through the old cress beds,
- Water entered some properties but fewer were affected than in the last flood of 03/01/24.
- The LCC highway drains were dysfunctional, culverts blocked, and ditches unable to remove the volume of water from Main Street.,
- Flood wardens met the Environment Agency on 8.1.25 to discuss the latest flood information gleaned from the events of 06/01/2025 and agree some actions to help the flood situation in the village.

Many parishioners contributed their personal experiences, observations and their ideas about what action to take to prevent floods happening in the future.

The Flood Wardens assessment report set out actions:

- 1) To demand that flood resilience is built into the Mallard Pass Solar Farm scheme at the detailed design stage (that can be influenced by LCC. *Action: Cllr Ashley Baxter.*
- 2) To inspect all gauges upstream and in Greatford. *Action: the Environment Agency.*
- 3) To create more capacity in The Cut for directing water that way. *Action: the Environment Agency.*
- 4) The Environment Agency to liaise with the landowners and the Parish Council about the Fitzwilliam Sluice. *Action: Landowner and GPC.*
- 5) Clear ditches. *Action: Local landowners.*
- 6) For the stretch of riverbank at Greatford Hall, identified in the 2024 Section 19 Report, to be repaired. *Action: landowner at Greatford Hall and Environment Agency.*
- 7) Block the culvert from Greatford Hall leading into the roadside ditches to prevent over-topping. *Action: landowner at Greatford Hall and the Environment Agency..*
- 8) For Lincolnshire County Council to ensure that all their drains function. *Action: Parishioners, Flood Wardens, Cllr Ashley Baxter.*
- 9) Clear River Glen downstream. *Action: Environment Agency, Flood Wardens and Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).*
- 10) Clear drain behind the properties northeast of Main Street. *Action: Parishioners/ landowners and LLFA.*
- 11) Work with local landowners to slow the flow of the river into the village. *Action: Flood Wardens, Environment Agency and landowners.*
- 12) Landowners to clear Meadows. *Action: Flood Wardens, Environment Agency and landowners.*
- 13) Fight for control of the river upstream. *Action: Flood Wardens, Environment Agency and landowners.*
- 14) Explore being in an IDB. *Action: Flood Wardens/ PC / Environment Agency.*
- 15) Contact the Association of Drainage Authorities. *Action: Flood Wardens/ PC.*
- 16) Attend Community Emergency Response Plan meeting. *Action: PC and two parishioners.*
- 17) Create Community Emergency Response Plan. *Action: PC and committee of parishioners..*
- 18) Explore option of keeping signs and cones in village in readiness to stop traffic entering flood water and causing further damage to property. *Action: PC.*
- 19) Purchase stand bags storage. *Action: PC.*
- 20) Keep sandbags in the village, undercover, in suitable locations. *Action: PC.*
- 21) Support individual parishioners with clearing and maintaining their Waterways, and with liaising with the Environment Agency for expertise on how to do this correctly and safely. *Action: Parishioners, Flood Wardens/ PC.*

Richard McDermott closed by saying that, as well as continuing to work together as a Parish Council/ Flood Group on this matter, it behoves individuals to do what they can for themselves and for the village community. Those present showed their appreciation to the Flood Wardens and to Richard McDermott for giving such a thorough presentation so soon after the flooding event. Cllr Phil Britton and Cllr Tony Baxter added their thanks.

Cllr Ashley Baxter was present and contacting LCC directly regarding the blocked drains as the presentation was being given.

Updates on the actions of LCC, the Flood Group, the Parish Council and individual parishioners will be given in due course and at the next Parish Council meeting.

2024/25 - 44 Village Hall entrance

The Village Hall Management Committee plans to improve the safety of the access to the Village Hall. The land is owned by the Parish Council and supports the scheme.

2024/25 - 45 Greatford Community Emergency Resilience Plan (CERP)

Ten parishioners have offered to form a committee to lead the writing of a CERP. Cllr Tony Barker, Alison and Geoff, will attend an event to support putting together a CERP on 20.1.25. Following that, the Clerk will organise the first meeting date.

2024/25 - 46 Any other business

GDPR

The Parish Council will register with the Information Commissioner's Office for data protection. Any parishioners wishing to use data held by the Parish Council/ Flood Group, will need to contact the Clerk so that the original provider of the information can be approached first.

The Village Hall Management Committee has organised a Hog Roast for 22nd June '25, and two Live and Local events on the 8th March and 19th April.

Lorna thanked the Parish Councillors, Flood Wardens and Flood Group for all that they do for the village.

The meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

The next meeting will be on 1st April 2025 at 7:30pm.