

DRAFT MINUTES

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 30th March 2021 at 8pm

Welcome from the Acting Chair, Phil Britton

Present:

County and District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Parish Councillors David Anderson, Gemma Taylor, Phil Britton, Helen Britton (Clerk)

Members of the public: Rick Andrews, Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Bob French, Chris Granville- White (Flood Warden), Jason Halsey, Elaine Hawkins, Alison Horton, Natalie Pretsell, Mike Stonestreet (Deputy Flood Warden), Sam Taylor and Lois Webb.

20/21 - 54 Apologies for absence

District Cllr Kelham Cooke, Dani Wheeler, Martin Brebner.

20/21 - 55 Approval of Minutes (from Jan. '21)

Proposed by Phil Britton, seconded by Gemma Taylor.

20/21 - 56 Matters arising from last meeting

- A children's summer holiday sports - Clerk making arrangements with Finding Fitness.
- New basketball hoop installed at the playing field.
- Lincolnshire flood response main phone number has been emailed to all and appeared in Towers & Spires village magazine.
- New website up and running, and will be where Minutes, Agenda, News and other information is found in future.
- Footpath between Main Street and West Glen river - Acting Chair responded to a letter from Mr Wells and Mr Novakovic that the Parish Council, on behalf of parishioners, wishes to see it remain open and that LCC Community Access officers have responsibility for it.
- Cllr Jon Workman resigned as Chair shortly following the last meeting.
- Cllr Ibis Channell was disqualified by electoral services for non-attendance at meetings.

20/21 - 57 Co-option of Councillors

Four parishioners put their names forward for co-option: Dani Wheeler, Ibis Channell, Jason Halsey and Natalie Pretsell. In line with guidance from Electoral Services, Jason Halsey and Natalie Pretsell were voted to be co-opted onto the Parish Council by the Parish Councillors. They were welcomed by the Acting Chair.

20/21 - 58 Reports from County and District Councillors

From County and District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew:

LCC

Schools are using regular lateral flow tests at home, additional funding has been agreed from LCC. Professor Jonathan Van Tam visited Boston Vaccination Centre on 19th March and took part in a Q&A session. LCC is seeking views from residents on plans to make walking and cycling easier, the survey finishes on 16th May. To submit your ideas and pinpoint the area on a map go to www.widenmypath.com LCC has £105,500 to invest in new routes from joining up cycle paths to widening them. There are a number of points on the A15 around Baston and a couple on the Uffington to Stamford, but the more people who are involved the better. The County Council have invested £500,000 to strengthen tourism in Lincolnshire. South Kesteven had been heavily involved in helping to create a new website –www.visitlincolnshire.com I have again reported the missing finger post at the junction of King Street and Baston Road and at last work has been actioned. The gravel extraction application by Aston Estates will go to committee in June after the elections.

SKDC

We had another T-Break meeting this month for businesses at SK Businesses who rely on visitors have told us that people are keen to book something different and interested in staying in Britain, we just have to make sure they want to stay in Lincolnshire. We are looking at gradually opening our arts venues, and work on the roof at Stamford Arts Centre is hoped to be completed in May. We are now looking at painting the ballroom and windows along with re-figuring part of the downstairs to accommodate Customer Services, café and box office. Unfortunately we have had to cancel the Mid-Lent Fair for the second year running with agreement of the Showman's Guild. Street markets will be opening up to normal in April after being restricted due to Lock Down.

District Councillor Kelham Cooke

As the UK continues to lead Europe with its Covid-19 vaccination programme it's fair to say that the light at the end of the tunnel is now shining a little bit brighter and, as things stand, there is cause for cautious optimism. We do, of course, remain alert to any potential setbacks and I cannot stress enough how important it is for people to book their appointment for a jab when invited to do so. There is no doubt the pandemic has brought about significant hardship and challenges across every aspect of our lives, but it has also brought about change and creativity – some delivered at break-neck speed. Many businesses and organisations, including South Kesteven District Council, have had to make brave decisions to survive and enact them within days and weeks, rather than months and years.

Over the last year, SKDC has radically changed the way it works and delivers key services. Face to face services have been reinvented for a virtual age and new services, such as our Community Hub and business grants, have been set up with speed to support both residents and businesses

The need for collaboration has never been greater and I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the vital work of parish councils and community organisations in helping their communities overcome the challenges they have faced. I am sure that this heightened sense of community will continue even when the new normal is established.

Register to vote

Anyone not registered to vote is urged to do so to ensure they can have their say in local elections taking place on 6th May. The registration deadline is 19th April. The deadline for postal vote registration is 5pm on 20th April and the proxy vote deadline is 5pm on April 27th.

In addition to Lincolnshire County Council elections there are by-elections for the Glen Ward of SKDC (one vacancy); Corby Glen Parish Council (two vacancies); Pointon and Sempringham Parish Council (five vacancies) and St George's Ward of Stamford Town Council (one vacancy) plus a number of Neighbourhood Plan Referendums.

Please encourage residents to register so they can exercise their democratic right. For more information on voter registration, or if you are available to help with staffing on the day, email

Recycling centres fully open

From Monday 8th March, Lincolnshire County Council's Household Waste Recycling Centres are allowing residents to take recycling, garden waste and general waste on any opening day.

To manage the number of people on-site and to prevent queues, the booking system will remain, so residents will still need to visit or call 01522 782070, to book their time slot.

Vans and larger trailers will still need to have a permit to access the sites, which can be accessed via the same webpage.

Budget setting

The budget setting process this year has been immensely difficult as we continue to deal with the pandemic, and the pressure that it has put on our communities and businesses, and on the services we continue to deliver.

SKDC has agreed a £5 Council Tax increase for Band D properties in 2021-22, That is for the whole year and is equivalent to less than 42 p a month. Of course, the final total will also include parish precepts and contributions to Lincolnshire County Council and the county police and fire services.

Support for business SKDC's economic growth and regeneration company, InvestSK, has launched two new discretionary schemes to support local businesses affected by national lockdown measures.

The schemes have been developed based on insight from businesses impacted by Covid restrictions and are targeted to support specific sectors that haven't been mandated to close but supply those which have. The two schemes support:

Main supply chain firms to businesses instructed to close, such as event management companies, corporate caterers and breweries. Despite not being mandated to close they have had their main income taken away due to closure of the industries they supply.

Businesses reliant on providing domestic services, education, travel and holiday services. These businesses have effectively been unable to operate.

20/21 - 59 Financial matters

Cllr David Anderson (Responsible Financial Officer) summarised the cash position since the last meeting as follows:

The Current Account balance at the end of January was £8358.

Since then two grants of £500 have been received from SKDC for the playing field project.

£4506 has been paid out, comprising £120 for hedge cutting, £500 in clerks fees, £3506 on the playing field project, £300 for the new website and £80 for our LALC membership.

This leaves a year end balance of £4851, compared to £7006 at the start of the year.

20/21 - 60 Planning matters

An application has been received - S21/0547. None present could see any reason to object.

Category A Planning application PL/0082/20 is going to Committee on Monday 7th June. Following a meeting with Gareth Davies MP and emails from GPC to Cllr Richard Davies there has been no response to our further queries and concerns. Phil Britton noted that the consultation papers stated, on 12/9/20, that HGV traffic is to be prohibited from roads such as those through Greatford whereas, on 7/2/21 this changed to controlling traffic only through a Section 106 Agreement. This is the main objection; that HGV traffic will increase and the Section 106 not enforced.

ACTION: to agree who will attend on 7/6/21 and how to present the objections of GPC and the majority of parishioners.

20/21 - 61 Flood Wardens update

Chris Granville-White's update provided an overview of the situation following the flooding in Greatford on 24th December '20 and 29th January '21.

Overview

Following the Jan PC, Chris drafted a paper for the PC to send to the Lincs Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) with responsibility for managing the flood risk. The PC sent off this paper on 16 Feb, but had not received an acknowledgement of receipt.

In parallel, SKDC Cllr Kelham Cooke wrote to the EA which led to a meeting with the EA Asset Performance Leader Henry Hammond, with a focus on reinstating the river bank near Shillingthorpe where the river floods at Flood Alert. A follow-on meeting will be held on 7 Jul to review a plan for potential reinstatement work if affordable.

In addition, during winter 2021/2 the EA will carry out a trial for the main Greatford Sluice and the Fitzwilliams' Sluice at Greatford Mill to open at a river height c10cm lower than the normal settings. This will make spare river volume available for use during approaching flood conditions and discharge excess water earlier into the Greatford Cut to flow into the Welland.

The Clerk advised that there is the offer of 100 bags and a tonne of sand for the village. Adequate storage would be required. Those present were keen to accept the offer.

ACTION

Deputy Flood Warden, Mike Stonestreet, will investigate storage opportunities. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

20/21 - 62 Speeding in the village

Cllr Gemma Taylor is seeking to borrow a 'speed gun', so far, with no response from LCC Speedwatch. Recording speeds could be useful data along with a survey of quarry HGV traffic. Speed sticker signs were discussed and will be located in more places around the village.

ACTION

Cllr Trollope-Bellew will support getting a response from LCC.
Clerk and Lois Webb to look for any spare speed sticker signs.

20/21 - 63 Playing Field Project update

The slide, kindly donated by Ross Dykes, has been installed by a team of parishioners and with the assistance of Dave from D1 Excavations with his digger. The slide inspection is due at the end of May '21 after which it may be used. 20 tonnes of topsoil from British Sugar has been used to begin levelling the playing field. Another 10t is to be delivered. The lectern is due to be installed this month.

The overall costs to the PC of the project have been £2400. £1950 has been received in grants and £880 in donations.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the project by way of grants, donations, sharing their equipment and, especially to those who have given their time. Acting Chair, Phil Britton, thanked Cllr David Anderson for leading the project and Lois Webb added her thanks.

20/21 - 61 AOB

Saturday 17th April has been suggested as a date for a village litter-pick. Along with many parishioners, Bob French continues to check on litter around. Chris GW recommended the effectiveness of emailing a photo to SKDC Community Services when large piles are found.

In conjunction with the discussion regarding village sandbags, the advice to have a Village Emergency Plan will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Clerk wished to acknowledge the service of Ibis Channell and invited others to share their thanks. Cllr David Anderson said how valuable Ibis' knowledge and dedication has been. Lois Webb reiterated this appreciation and told those present how Ibis had been on the Parish Council since its inception (1975) and how passionate Ibis is about the village of Greatford. Lois also thanked out-going Chair, Jon Workman, for all that he had done and this was echoed by those present.

Cllr David Anderson announced that he is to retire as a Parish Councillor and as the Responsible Financial Officer following the meeting in October '21.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of next meeting - **11th May 2021** by zoom.

- The **Annual Parish Meeting** at **7:30pm** (summary reports of the year)
- Immediately followed by the **Annual Parish Council Meeting**