

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 7th September 2021

at 7:30pm in Greatford Village Hall

Welcome from the Chair

Present

Cllrs Philip Britton (Chair), Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), David Anderson (RFO), Jason Halsey and Natalie Pretsell. DCllr Rosemary Trollope Bellew.

Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Helen Britton (Clerk to GPC), Elaine Hawins, Stephen Hawkins, Alison Horton, Ann Sumner, Mike Stonestreet, Lois Webb.

21/22 - 12 Apologies for absence

CCllr Ashley Baxter, DCllr Kelham Cooke, Dani Wheeler, Bob French, Ibis Channell, Chris Granville White (Flood Warden)

21/22 - 13 Approval of Minutes from July 2021

Proposed by Cllr David Anderson and seconded by Cllr Jason Halsey.

21/22 - 14 Matters arising

Lighting disturbance from cement works, King Street - the Clerk emailed Breedon, CEMEX and TARMAC. All responded. Breedon and CEMEX have low level lighting which is not on during the summer months, tall trees to shield the view and light-sensors. Details of exact timings needed by TARMAC to respond further.

Planning applications and trees - an arboriculturalist is consulted whenever a planning application involves trees. Detailed information was provided by Cllr Cooke and is available from the Clerk and online.

Overgrown footpath no.8 - LCC have agreed to mow.

21/22 - 15 Reports from County and District Councillors

Cllr Rosemary Trollope Bellew gave a report which included an update about events at The Meres in Grantham and champing (church camping). Rosemary had attended a meeting in July '21 with the Environment Agency regarding mitigating flooding in Greatford; her suggestion of heightening the driveway at Shillingthorpe was met with a negative response.

Rosemary explained how the efficiency of Stamford Arts Centre is under review as the current spend (11% of the Council's budget) is not sustainable in the current economic climate. She emphasised that she would not see the closure of SAC 'on her watch'. Deeping Leisure Centre is in need of extensive repair, which involves negotiation with LCC about the freehold and a structural survey ahead of planning and carrying out the necessary repairs; it could be 1 -2 years before it is reopened. The Chair thanked Rosemary for her report.

The Chair gave a precis of Cllr Cooke's report which included the withdrawal from Afghanistan, Stamford Diversity Festival, SKDC Community Fund, SKDC Community Awards, Arts and culture, progress on new housing, and green bins.

The report ended with a tribute to Cllr Mike Exton. Councillor Mike Exton, whose passing has left a huge hole in the Stamford community. In addition to being a South Kesteven councillor for 16 years and Chairman in 2008-9, Mike was a former Mayor of Stamford (2003-4), a serving Stamford Town Councillor and a former Lincolnshire County Councillor. Mike was all things a councillor should be - passionate about public service, always available and willing to help. He was a true Stamfordian and will be sorely missed.

21/22 - 16 Financial matters

Responsible Financial Officer, Cllr David Anderson gave an update.

The cashbook balance on the 4th July was £9251.07 as reported at the last meeting. Since then there have been no receipts, whilst payments amounted to £1246.21. The main items included are £190 for grass cutting, £530 for the clerks fees, £355 Insurance, £54 for defibrillator pads and £50 for the mole catcher. This leaves a cash book balance of £8004.86 as at 7th September.

David projects a year end current account balance of circa £7400 and £786 in the Business Account making circa £8190 in total. This is way above the budget of £7456, mainly due to the Greatford School fund donation towards the play equipment.

The Chair thanked David for his report.

21/22 - 17 Planning matters

Application No: S21/1562

Proposal: Remove spruce tree

Location: Bumble Bee Cottage Main Street

Greatford Lincolnshire PE9 4QA

Decision/Date: Work Allowed 7th September 2021

Category A PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER: PL/0085/20

DEVELOPMENT: TO EXTRACT AND PROCESS SAND AND GRAVEL AND TO PROGRESSIVELY RESTORE THE SITE TO A MIXTURE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND, NATURE CONSERVATION AREA AND AN AGRICULTURAL WATER RESERVOIR

LOCATION: LAND AT KING STREET, GREATFORD

Cllr Gemma Taylor gave a presentation on behalf of the Parish Council in objection to this application at the planning committee meeting. It had been discussed and deferred to this second meeting in July '21. Permission was granted, subject to King Street being widened for some parts of it and for the bunds to be higher. The Parish Council has yet to receive decision notification of the outcome and any recommendations.

Cllrs Natalie Pretsell and Philip Britton thanked Gemma. The Parish Council will approach Cllr Ashley Baxter, Gareth Davies MP and Cllr Robert Reid to share their ongoing serious concerns about road safety and having a weight-limit through Greatford.

21/22 - 18 Flood wardens report

Cllr Jason Halsey (Deputy Flood Warden) gave an overview of the situation following the flooding last winter

On 7 Jul, an online meeting was held with the Environment Agency (EA), led by Cllr Kelham Cooke. This focussed on the EA intention to reinstate the c200m and c20m section of eroded riverbank downstream from Shillingthorpe which overflow from Flood Alert height, However, the EA has insufficient funding for any reinstatement work of the riverbank this year.

From end Oct to end Mar, the EA plans a trial of lowering the Greatford sluice gates opening heights by 100mm, to divert earlier any excess river water into the Welland.

Meanwhile, a meeting is being arranged with an EA engineer, to assess the relative importance of work which may be needed along sections of the riverbank to reduce the flood risk.

A fallen tree from April is still in the river by Greatford Hall land. Their gardeners have undertaken to drag this from the river before end Sep, together with a length of a yellow plastic which might get caught in the mechanism at Greatford Sluice. A recently fallen tree across the river from the Steadings bank will soon be cleared away by arrangement of the landowners on each side.

Autumn clearing of the small watercourse around Greatford Gardens, and on the east side of Carlby Road through the Old Rectory stables area and alongside Meadowcourt, is progressing well for completion during Sep

River Warden Check of River Health and Water Quality

On 1 Sep the Greatford and Wilsthorpe River Wardens carried out a periodic survey by the river bridge in Greatford. Greatford and Wilsthorpe are now twinned for river warden activities to check the river quality in the West and East Glens, before the two rivers merge near Wilsthorpe. The results were sent to the Freshwater Watch (European watch) set up in 2012 with the backing of governments and water authorities. The Welland River Trust can access the results and pass the findings to relevant parties, which monitor and compare with other surveys.

The Chair thanked Jason and the Flood Warden, Chris Granville White for their report.

20/21 - 19 **Any other business**

Speeding

Cllr Jason Halsey is awaiting equipment to begin a targeted campaign.

Verges

Maps showing responsibility for mowing verges were shared at the meeting. A few sections are the responsibility of LCC, who mow three times per year, whilst the vast majority is in the hands of 'other/ third party'. LCC can mow more of the verges for a fee but it was agreed to continue as it is.

Towers and Spires

Cllr David Anderson suggested putting a message in the next edition to say that 'the playing field project' is complete and to thank everyone involved and who donated.

Picnic in the Park

The meeting closed with a reminder of the village get-together to be held on the Playing Fields, Saturday 11th September '21 in the afternoon. There will be singers, a bouncy-castle, and the Village Hall Management Committee have organised cakes and refreshments in the Village Hall.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting and it closed at 8:30pm

Date of next meeting - 9th November 2021