

GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 9th November 2021 at 7:30pm

in Greatford Village Hall

The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for coming.

Present:

Cllrs Phil Britton (Chair) , David Anderson (RFO), Gemma Taylor and Jason Halsey. County Councillor Ashley Baxter, District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Cllr Paul Morriss (Braceborough), Helen Britton (GPC CLerk), Kevin de Trafford, Ann Sumner, Alison Horton, Margaret Anderson, Greg Hooper, Ross Edgar, Elizabeth Edgar, Keith Busfield, Susannah Holloway, Elaine Hawkins, Stephen Hawkins, Lorna Stonestreet, Mike Stonestreet, Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Adelaide Bradbury, Bob Hogg, David Trawford, Ibis Channell, Geoff Radley, Carole Bettinson, Rod Campbell, Bridgett Everitt, Cheryl Foreman, Elizabeth Beckett, Tony Barker, Sue Barker, Bob French, Sarah Rodriguez, Richard McDermott.

21/22 - 20 Apologies for absence

Cllr Kelham Cooke, Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Lois Webb, Chris Granville-White, Martin Brebner, Majed Kebbeh.

21/22 - 21 Approval of Minutes from September 2021

Proposed by Cllr David Anderson, seconded by Cllr Gemma Taylor.

21/22 - 22 Matters arising

No matters arising.

21/22 - 23 Reports from County and District Councillors

District Councillor Kelham Cooke's report, sent by email and précised here:

Queen Elizabeth and Wyndham Parks in Grantham were awarded prestigious Green Flag Awards.

Planning permission granted for the St Martin's Park development on Barnack Road, Stamford. South Kesteven District Council is working with Burghley on a flagship project for this 14.7-hectare site, to include a designated commercial area, a range of residential properties (30% of which will be affordable housing), a mixed-use area, a retirement village, and areas of green and open space. Delivery of the St Martin's Park development is a key action within our Corporate Plan.

SKDC is keeping the Regulator for Social Housing up-to-date with our work through regular monthly meetings and SKDC has a Housing Improvement Plan and Sheltered Housing Improvement Action Plan. Our tenants are kept informed and a full tenant consultation exercise – The Big Listen – is being planned.

There have been a couple of recent changes within the Cabinet and I would like to extend my gratitude to Cllr Barry Dobson, who has stepped down from his roles as Deputy Leader of the Council. Cllr Adam Stokes, our Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, has been appointed Deputy Leader of the Council. My thanks also go to Cllr Dr Peter Moseley, who has taken the decision to resign from the Cabinet. Peter's responsibilities will be shared among other members of the Cabinet. The NHS Clinical Commissioning Group for Lincolnshire has launched a public consultation on the future of emergency care and acute beds at Grantham and District Hospital, as well as orthopaedic surgery and stroke services across Lincolnshire. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts on these services to help our local NHS services overcome the challenges of today and prepare for the challenges of the future. There is a very simple questionnaire which all local residents can complete, and public events are being held around the county to allow people to feed into this consultation. Full details about the consultation and how to get involved can be found on the Lincolnshire NHS website at: <https://www.lincolnshire.nhs.uk>

CCTV monitoring team has come in for praise from Lincolnshire Police, after assisting with the arrest of a man carrying a suspected firearm in Stamford. One of the county's Operational Firearms of the team: "In my experience of working with the 7 District Councils across the County, SKDC CCTV are by far the most proactive and effective Operators, and make a significant contribution to keeping local residents, businesses and visitors safe. Interaction between the Force Control Room (FCR), Local Officers and the CCTV Team is daily business but I'd like to record our appreciation for the efforts of all of your team." It is great to see our local police recognise the hard work and dedication of this crucial team and the efforts they are making to keep our streets safe 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

On 28th October, Stamford All Saints saw the election of Independent candidate, Richard Cleaver, while Grantham Arnoldfield went the way of Kaffy Rice-Oxley for the Conservatives. County Councillor Ashley Baxter reported that the area of land adjacent to The Doghouse has carried out the removal of a roadway that had been laid following action by the PC and Ashley's intervention.

District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew's report

Lincolnshire is experiencing a large number of solar farm applications with the latest one called 'the Mallard Pass Solar'. Stage One consultation is running between 04 November and 16 December 2021

Tuesday 23 November 2021 – 2pm to 6pm – Ryhall Village Hall, Church St, Ryhall,
Stamford PE9 4HR

Wednesday 24 November 2021 – 10am to 3pm – Stamford Town Hall, St Mary's Hill,
Stamford PE9 2DR

Thursday 25 November 2021 – 2pm to 8pm – Essendine Village Hall, Bourne Rd,
Essendine, Stamford PE9 4LQ

A community webinar event to take place on **Wednesday 17 November 2021** – 10am to 12pm,

Thursday 2 December 2021 – 6pm to 8pm

This will be discussed at the District Council and I welcome any comments.

Deepings Leisure Centre is moving forward and it is hoped that a decision will be made before the end of the year. Cllr Dobson has helped to secure alternative premises for the Deeping Swimming Club at Stamford, Bourne Leisure Centres and Stamford Endowed School. A stunning new War Horse memorial features a WW1 soldier leading a horse surrounded by purple poppies, which are an accepted symbol for an animal lost in combat, has been unveiled at one of our parks in Grantham. This art work was donated by Roll & Scroll Metal Fabricators and highlights the historical military significance of Wyndham Park and reinforces the reasons why the park has been awarded the Green Heritage Award for the second year running.

21/22 - 24 Financial matters

Cllr David Anderson announced his retirement from the Council and as the Responsible Financial Officer and have the following report.

The cashbook balance on 7th September was £8004.86 as reported at the last meeting. Since then there have been no receipts and just two small payments including grass cutting £50, leaving a cashbook balance on 23rd October of £7944.66.

For the rest of the year we should receive the second instalment of the Community Cleaner Grant and will pay for clerks fees, hedge cutting and the Heartbeat phone link.

I forecast a year end balance of £7341 plus £785 in the Business Account.

I have prepared a budget for next year which recognises a much lower VAT receipt and a similar level of regular costs. I have included £1500 for major projects which should now be a regular feature.

The funds at the end of next year are budgeted as £7462 in the Current Account and £785 in the Business Account. Copies of the budget are available.

Cllr Phil Britton, Chair, thanked David for all that he has done. Phil proposed Cllr Jason Halsey as the new RFO, and this was seconded by Cllr David Anderson.

21/22 - 25 Planning matters

NO OBJECTIONS FROM THE P.C.

Application No: S21/1822

Proposal: Section 73 application to vary condition 2 (Approved Plan) of planning

approval S20/2181 (Conversion of existing buildings to form 3No. holiday let units and erection of building (Previously consented and commenced for the use as a swimming pool building under reference S07/1380) to form 2(no) holiday let units) to include amendments in footprint of 'The Lodge', raise wall of 'The Stables', rebuild and partially rebuild walls on 'The Stables' and replace windows for 'The Cottage'

Location: Fletland Mill House , King Street, Baston, PE6 9NS,

App Type: Full Planning Permission

NO OBJECTIONS FROM THE P.C.

Application No: S21/1977

Proposal: Erection of two storey front and side extensions, alterations to the design and roof of the dwelling, erection of single storey rear extension. Erection of detached garden room.

Location: Ash Lodge , Carlby Road, Greatford, PE9 4PR,

NO OBJECTIONS FROM THE P.C.

Application No: S21/2092 Proposal: Two large trees on the driveway - crown raise to 3m and reduce back overhanging branches.

Location: 2 Fitzwilliams Court, Greatford, PE9 4QQ,

21/22 - 26 **Flood wardens report**

Cllr Jason Halsey, Deputy Flood Warden, gave a report. This report was submitted, with thanks, by Chris Granville-White, Greatford's Flood Warden.

Since the September PC meeting, Environment Agency engineers have visited Greatford twice for survey work, which is most encouraging – despite the lack of funding this year to carry out physical flood risk-reduction work.

On 20 Sep Colin Richardson (EA engineer in Henry Hammond's team) visited Greatford to walk the ground with Jason Halsey and Chris Granville-White, Flood Warden. It had been some years since Colin was last at Greatford when he had been involved with work at the Greatford Sluice. We met up at Shillingthorpe with landowner Martin Trollope-Bellew to look at the lie of the land, and in particular the driveway as a follow-up to Martin's suggestion that raising the driveway could provide a useful barrier to the progress of floodwater in the lower area of Shillingthorpe Park flowing towards Greatford.

From Shillingthorpe, we walked along the north side of the river to A (on the map below).

Thence after a look at the small watercourse around Greatford Gardens, continued along the south side of the river at the Steadings from the Greatford Sluice to Shillingthorpe.

During Oct the Greatford Hall gardeners removed from the river a fallen tree from earlier in the year. Despite the very strong wind squall a few days ago which decimated some trees locally, there are no fallen trees reported along the river between Shillingthorpe and Greatford.

Greatford Sluice Datums and Shillingthorpe Gauge Station

I am awaiting confirmation that the sluice datums have been adjusted down by 10cm for the winter months from 1 Nov. Also, whether the instrument box sides have been raised at the Shillingthorpe gauge station which had let floodwater in and 'drowned' the readings above the Flood Warning level during the flooding last Christmas Eve and again on 29 Jan.

Autumn Watercourse Clearing

My thanks to everyone who carried out their own riparian watercourse clearing around Greatford Gardens and to the east of Carlby Road during Sep and early Oct.

Floodline folders, with useful advice on flood risk protection, were made available at the meeting.

20/21 - 27 Any other business

- Vacancy for new parish Councillor - to be advertised and co-opted in January '22.
- Theatre production of 'Oldilocks' at the Village Hall on 5.12.21. See information on posters and in Towers & Spires.
- Litter pick - to be arranged for Spring '22. Bob French encouraged all villagers to stop and pick bits of litter to keep it at bay.
- Gravel extraction planning application update - in legal consultation stage.
- Speeding - speed guns now available to be borrowed and used for a new campaign. Volunteers are being sought for the campaign to collect data and discourage speeding cars. Police can issue warnings to those speeding.
- Potholes - raised by Rod Campbell. Cllr Natalie Pretsell is to monitor and report these. Cllr Ashley Baxter reported them on Fix My Street and will discuss them with the Highways Officer.
- Moles - mole catcher to be called again. Actioned.
- Phone box - raised Nigel Ashby. The Parish Council have decided that it is better for it to remain unadopted as it is a link for the HeartBeat defibrillator and BT are liable for its upkeep. BT would be obliged to apply for planning permission for its removal and it is Listed.
- Defibrillator - David Trawford is organising a training update for the registered users. Anyone can use it in an emergency.
- Cars on the pavement - Ibis Channell raised a complaint about cars being parked on the pavement near the Village Hall. Cars should have all wheels on the road when parked.
- Lights at King Street Industrial Estate - Ibis Channell is concerned about the bright lights. KSIE will be approached about this. Actioned.
- Recycling - Ibis Channell raised that she is concerned that parishioners would not know what items can be recycled. Information is available. The Clerk has put information on the noticeboard.

- **Main AOB item** - Mallard Pass Solar Farm consultation.
The project would deliver electricity for the National Grid for the equivalent of 92000 homes and it is proposed to be sited adjacent to Greatford and in parishes including

Carlby, Ryhall, Braceborough, Essendine, Uffington and parts of Rutland, across 2175 acres (or 1400 football pitches).

Cllr Jason Halsey had attended a consultation for Parish Councillors and outlined the project.

The Chair asked for a show of hands: 15 opposed, 7 undecided, 2 in favour. There was a lengthy discussion with most parishioners voicing their objection to the project and their serious concerns, including the scale (9 times larger than any other solar farm in the UK), loss of wildlife, unsightly fences and glass panels, an increase in traffic during construction and afterwards, water run-off leading to flooding, agricultural land being used in a way which is counter to the national need for food to be grown, risks to health, and risks associated with the process of manufacturing solar panels. Parishioners suggested that brownfield sites and ex-MOD sites should be explored in preference to the greenfield sites proposed. As a flood risk area, parishioners discussed their fears for the consequences regarding increased flooding in Greatford.

From Braceborough, Keith Busfield and Susannah Holloway explained the process and that, as a nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP), the application will be determined by The Secretary of State, and that District and County Councillors will be bypassed meaning that individuals must respond if they object by 16th December. Information has been given to householders and is available online. There are exhibitions in Ryhall 23 Nov; Stamford 24 Nov; Essendine 25 November, and webinars 17 Nov and 2 Dec. See [Have your say — Mallard Pass Solar Farm](#) To attend you have to prebook. They urged parishioners to attend and then to write to Gareth Davies MP. Cllr Colin Davie, [Executive Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning](#), objects to the proposal.

After Mr Busfield's presentation, County Councillor Ashley Baxter addressed the meeting. He reported that he had spoken to representatives of Mallard Pass in order to understand the project and its impact on the area. He reiterated that the scheme will be decided by the Secretary of State rather than local councillors. He also explained that the UK is facing various problems with energy supply including availability of electricity and gas as well as the impending consequences of climate change. He reported that there were no simple solutions and other parts of Lincolnshire were facing applications for nuclear waste disposal as well as the extraction of oil and gas. Cllr Baxter responded to a number of questions from parishioners in the room and stated that based on the current available information he was not opposed to the scheme. He urged parishioners to attend the exhibition events and to contact him about the proposals if they so wished.

Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew is concerned that the project is too large and wants more information. She has offered to take questions from parishioners.

A meeting is to be organised by those who feel concerned to further discuss the project, following the exhibitions, on December 2nd at Greatford Village Hall at 7:30pm. (This is not a Greatford Parish Council meeting.)

The Chair, Phil Britton, thanked everyone for attending the meeting and the meeting closed at 9:30 pm.

The next meeting will be on 4th January 2022.