

# GREATFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Tuesday 4th January 2022 at 7:30pm in Greatford Village Hall**

Present

District Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew, Parish Councillors Phil Britton (Chair), Gemma Taylor (Vice Chair), Jason Halsey (responsible Financial Officer), Cllr Natalie Pretsell, Cllr Tony Barker, Elizabeth Ashby, Nigel Ashby, Keith Busfield, Ibis Channell, Elaine Hawkins, Susannah Holloway, Lois Webb, Helen Britton (Clerk).

## 2021/22 - 1 **Apologies for absence**

Leader of South Kesteven District Cllr Kelham Cooke, County Cllr Ashley Baxter, Bob French, Chris Granville-White, Alison Horton, Ali Pickering, Ann Sumner.

## 2021/22 - 2 **Approval of Minutes from 9th November 2021**

Proposed by Cllr Jason Halsey, seconded by Cllr Gemma Taylor.

## 2021/22 - 3 **Matters arising**

No matters arising.

## 2021/22 - 4 **Co-option of Councillor**

There were two candidates, Ibis Chanell and Tony Barker. Tony Barker was co-opted by the Councillors.

## 2021/22 - 5 **Reports from County and District Councillors**

### Report from District Cllr Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

Walk-in job centres held at Stamford Arts Centre on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> December was well attended with another one planned for Friday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022 between 9.30 – 2.30pm.

Councillors at SKDC were given the opportunity to have a presentation on the proposed Mallard Pass Solar Farm which falls within the boundary of the south of the county and Rutland. I also attended the Mallard Pass Action Group meeting held at Greatford Village Hall with my fellow district councillor Kelham Cooke which was well attended.

SKDC has set up a separate email address for residents to make their representation to both the developers, councillors and local authority. Email-Mallard.Pass@southkesteven.gov.uk.

This will remain the address for the duration of the application.

InvestSK is busy helping to support hospitality, leisure and accommodation businesses, in a one-off grant in recognition of the rise of the Omicron variant.

Funding to be made available in Financial Year 2021-2022 but can be used in Financial Year 21/22 only. Local Authorities will receive funding to be allocated in one-off grants to businesses.

Grants of up to £6,000 will be paid to businesses in England.

The scheme will close for applications on 28 February 2022 and all final payments must be made and dispersed to recipients by 31 March 2022.

At this present time Parish Councils do not have the authority to hold virtual meetings but if they wish to do so they can but they are not able to make any decisions/resolutions – as advised by SKDC Monitoring Officer. Finally, I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

### Report from Cllr Kelham Cooke

Welcome Back Fund We as a Council have been working hard to maximise the full £250,000 awarded to us through the Government's Welcome Back Fund, which is helping us provide improvements and promotional campaigns for boosting footfall on our high streets. Over the festive season, you will have seen the promotional banners and street performances, including the Bubble Elf stilt walker in Stamford, welcoming visitors and residents back to the high street for their local Christmas shopping. We have much more lined up for the next few months, including events and local improvements, which we will be announcing very shortly and we are working closely with our local businesses to ensure that this money really does benefit them. Of course, there is still much uncertainty regarding Omicron and the Government guidelines for staying safe in our communities, so we are continuing to work closely with the various government agencies to ensure we are promoting activities which support our local economy whilst also protecting our residents from the virus. Council Tax Consultation Ahead of the new financial year, SKDC are offering residents and businesses the chance to have their say on council tax proposals for 2022/23, with a two-week-long consultation commencing on Friday 14th January. The consultation asks for views on a proposal to increase the SKDC share of Council Tax by £5 for properties in Band D for the 2022/23 financial year. The increase for households in Bands A, B, and C would be less than £5, while those in Bands E, F, G, and H would see an average increase between £5- 10. The consultation will outline how SKDC funds its services and it will provide an update on our existing projects in priority areas, such as growth and the economy, housing, healthy and strong communities, the environment, and performance. In a challenging time for local authorities, we are naturally focused on safeguarding the quality of our services, while at the same time delivering on our ambitions for the future, and this involves utilising what we have, streamlining costs where possible, and attracting funding from other sources. Through increasing council tax for Band D properties by £5 alone, we will be able to generate around £250,000 of additional income in the next financial year. Of course, the majority of council tax receipts go to Lincolnshire County Council, as well as contributions to Lincolnshire Police, Fire and Rescue Service, and our local parishes. A decision will be made in early March on our element of Council Tax for 2022/23.

Deepings Leisure Consultation Another upcoming consultation will be on the proposed refurbishment of the Deepings Leisure Centre, which we hope to reopen as soon as possible whilst ensuring that the facility meets the needs of an active community. SKDC recently approved plans for a comprehensive £10.7m refurbishment of the leisure centre, preferring this option over more minor modifications to the centre. Our plan is to embark on a full remodelling, which will include reconfiguring the swimming pool, sports hall, and squash courts, as well as expanding gym capacity and delivering new studios and changing facilities. The upcoming consultation will allow residents from across the south of the District to feed into the proposals, ensuring that the revamped facility is shaped around the needs of its users and that our residents have a modern space to engage in sports and social activities. Many sports groups rely on the Deepings Leisure Centre for their regular classes and it is important that these vital community groups are listened to before changes get underway. The date of this consultation will be announced in the coming months. Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant SKDC is set to receive £1.3m in funding from the Government to support businesses in the hospitality and leisure sectors impacted by the Omicron variant. Businesses such as restaurants, hotels, and cinemas will be able to apply for one-off grants of up to £6,000 per premises following a difficult Christmas period for the

industry amidst understandable concern over Omicron. We will also be receiving a top-up of over £250,000 to the COVID support grants distributed by our partners InvestSK, to help businesses who continue to be impacted by the pandemic. InvestSK has helped distribute over £51m in support grants to over 3,000 businesses since the start of the pandemic, and they will continue to help businesses access the grants available to them.

Cllr Ashley Baxter emailed to say that he will be responding to those who have contacted him regarding the Mallard Pass Solar Farm proposal in due course.

#### **2021/22 - 6 Financial matters**

Cllr Jason Halsey (RFO) reported that the current account balance on 32/12/2012 was £7937.98. Since the last report £463.32 has been received from SKDC for the Community Cleaner Grant. A total of £470 has been paid, which includes: £50 for grass cutting the playing field, £260 for the clerks fees, £40 for Church Yard cutting and £120 for the Defibrillator Emergency Telephone Number. Known expenditure still to come before the financial year end includes: Clerks fees, Hedge cutting and CPRE subs.

#### **2021/22 - 7 Planning matters**

Application No: S21/2237 Applicant: Mr P Baker

Proposal: Listed building consent for the alterations and conversion to host and curtilage listed buildings (amendments to consent S20/2182)

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

App Type: Listed Building Consent

Application No: S21/2288 Applicant: Mrs Lauren Allen

Proposal: Removal of Willow tree

Location: Watersmeet, Greatford Gardens, Greatford, Lincolnshire, PE9 4PX

TPO No.

App Type: Tree Preservation Order

Application No: S21/2175 Applicant: Mr and Mrs J Johnson

Proposal: Demolition of detached garden building. Proposed single storey rear and first floor side extension and detached wooden gazebo

Location: Water Side , 11 Greatford Gardens, Greatford, PE9 4PX,

App Type: Householder

Application No: S21/2410 Applicant: Everitt

Proposal: Ash (T1) - reduce in height by 4-5m and reduce sides by 1.5 - 2m due to the tree hanging heavy towards neighbours property.

Location: 1 Greatford Gardens, Greatford, PE9 4PX,

App Type: Tree Preservation Order

Application No: S21/2474 Applicant: Mr Philip Bridger

Proposal: T1 - Sycamore, current height is 9m, reduce in height to previous pollard points, at approx 2.5m.

Location: The Gardeners Cottage , Main Street, Greatford, PE9 4QA,

App Type: Trees in CA - Section 211 Notice

Application No: S21/2376 Applicant: Mr A Parrott  
Proposal: Section 73 application to remove condition 3 (agricultural occupancy) from SK/36/1706/87/2948 (Erection of Two dwelling houses in connection with Garden Centre and Nursery Garden, Fletland Mill, King Street, Greatford)  
Location: Fleetlore House , King Street, Baston, PE6 9NY,  
App Type: Full Planning Permission

Application No: S21/2413 Applicant: Mr Andrew Parrott  
Proposal: Portal frame building to be used as storage for garden centre and Christmas products. The building will be in our Goods In / warehouse storage area. The building will have fork lift access through a roller shutter. It will also have a standard door.  
Location: Waterside Garden Centre , King Street, Baston, Peterborough, PE6 9NY  
App Type: Full Planning Permission

The Councillors had no objections to all of the above planning applications.

### 2021/22 - 8 **Update on Mallard Pass Solar Farm NSIP**

Susannah Holloway explained that since the last PC meeting, the Mallard Pass Action Group(MPAG) has been formed and has canvassed parishioners to ensure that they know the details of the proposal and has emailed a newsletter to those who expressed an interest to receive it. There has been coverage in the Stamford Mercury, on local BBC television news, The Village Diary magazine and in Towers & Spires. The NSIP proposal will come back to the public in the spring 2022 and the MPAG intends to submit a Freedom of Information request to the Planning Inspectorate prior to that. The MPAG is forming into sub-teams to continue their action. Keith Busfield emphasised that , as well as Parish Councils, it behoves the individual to write to the local and national press, politicians at all levels and to communicate via social media to express their objections. The MPAG are due to be meeting Gareth Davies MP (Grantham and Stamford) and Alicia Kearns MP (Rutland) in January. MPAG will work with other action groups who have solar farms proposed near them so as to raise the scale of the number of proposals and the loss to agriculture as a national issue. The recording of the second webinar, which had included robust debate, has been 'lost' by the developers, raising scepticism of the company's integrity further. Drone surveys of the site are currently being carried out.

Parishioners are encouraged to contact the MPAG and get on their emailing list at [mallardpassactiongroup@gmail.com](mailto:mallardpassactiongroup@gmail.com) and to subscribe to the national Planning Inspectorate updates page at

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/mallard-pass-solar-project/#>

The Chair, Phil Britton, thanked Keith and Susannah for their update.

### 2021/22 - 9 **Flood wardens report**

#### Flood Warden Update for PC meeting 4 Jan 2022

Jason Halsey (Deputy Flood Warden) gave an overview of the situation since the Nov PC meeting.

#### Overview

In early Dec the Greatford Sluice datum had been reset 100mm lower as a trial for the winter months. Despite rain during the Christmas period and a soggy catchment, resulting for a few days with a Flood Alert for the East and West Glens, this adjustment seems to have helped the

river level at Greatford remain low through Dec. This was a welcome relief after the flooding a year ago.

#### EA Maintenance work

Maintenance work was due to be carried on 9/10 December at the Shillingthorpe Gauging Station to enable any higher river levels to be recorded, but there was no confirmation whether this had been carried out. Although survey work was carried out during Oct along the Greatford Hall riverbank, the EA has no funding available this financial year for remedial riverbank restoration.

#### Proposed Mallard Pass commercial 2170 Acre solar site

There is concern that if this commercial venture in the local area of the Lincolnshire/Rutland border area were to be given Government approval later this year, this site would be likely to increase the flood risk to Greatford.

The Councillors remarked about how fortunate is Greatford to have such an excellent Flood Warden as Chris and thanked him for all that he does.

#### **2021/22 - 10 Review the 2018 Parish Plan**

Cllr Natalie Pretsell raised a discussion about revisiting items from the 2018 Parish Plan. It was agreed that a new survey would be organised for 2023.

#### **2021/22 - 11 Speeding campaign**

Cllr Jason Halsey gave an update: a list of volunteers is being compiled and he is awaiting a date for the equipment to be available. The campaign is to provide Community Speedwatch with data so that the appropriate effective measures can be put in place.

#### **2021/22 - 12 Activity holiday clubs for children**

Cllr Gemma Taylor has liaised with the Village Hall Management Committee and Finding Fitness, and the process has begun to apply for a Lottery Fund to cover all the costs of potentially 3 weeks of Clubs (1 at Easter, 2 in Summer). There has been an excellent response from over 40 families who would be interested.

#### **2021/22 - 13 Litter pick**

The next village litter pick will be on Saturday 12th March 2022.

#### **2021/22 - 14 Any other business**

Cllr Gemma Taylor will liaise with the VHMC about events for the Queen's Jubilee in June. There was an appetite for a community event, something with fun and games as in previous Jubilee years.

The Chair thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

***The next meeting will be on 22nd March 2022***