

**MINUTES of a Meeting of DEEPING ST NICHOLAS PARISH COUNCIL held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7:00pm, in Deeping St Nicholas Primary School**

Present: Louise McGuinness, Deborah Croyle, Andy Croyle, David Strudwick, Rob Jarvis, Nicholas Watts, Sue Levitt and Paul Barrett.

Clerk: Mrs Harrison

District Cllr: Jim Astill

9 parishioners

In the Chair: L McGuinness

**69. 1. Chairman's welcome and Public Forum.**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the floor to the parishioners present.

A lady spoke regarding the Community Speed Watch.

- Herself and her friend, (also present), had attended the training and wanted to know how to join the local group.

They were asked to stay behind after the meeting, so that the Co-ordinator, Paul Barrett, could speak with them.

**70. 2. To receive and approve reasons for absence.**

Apologies from Owen McGuinness and County Cllr Nigel Pepper were approved.

- It was noted that Mr Hopkins had been absent for 6 months with no apologies submitted, therefore he is automatically disqualified and will lose his seat on the Parish Council.

**71. 3. To receive Declarations of Interest, in accordance with the Localism Act 2011.**

There were none.

**72. 4. To approve the Minutes of the previous Parish Council meeting.**

DS requested a consistency in measurements.

- The Chairman advised that she had attended the funeral of Barbara Camps, previous Clerk of the PC. SL proposed that the Minutes be approved.

DS seconded.

It was resolved to approve the Minutes and the Chairman to sign them as a true record.

**73. 5. Matters arising from the Minutes, (not included on this Agenda).**

There were none.

**74. 6. To receive the Clerk's report on matters outstanding.**

The report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

**Reduction in the speed limit in Hop Pole from 50 – 40mph: Update**

- Following the request from Cllr Pepper, Lincolnshire RSP are looking to undertake a traffic speed and volume survey on the A1175 at Hop Pole.
  - o The survey will take the form of a covert radar recording device installed to a lamp post or similar for a one-week period.

- Once the data has been captured a report will be prepared to also include the injury collisions over the preceding three-year period.
- This report will then be reviewed by the Highways Engineering Manager and Enforcement Delivery Manager to ascertain if this section of road falls within the criteria for enforcement using mobile or fixed digital or average camera technology along with other resources available to us that may be suitable for the area.
- Once the survey is complete a report will be generated and will be shared with the local parish council as well as the local police for their consideration.
- There is mobile camera enforcement within the 30mph limit at Deeping St Nicholas school as well as static camera a little to the south of Hop Hole within the 50mph limit.

It was pointed out that the static speed camera falls outside both the village and the district and in fact, is in South Kesteven.

- NW stated that the Police have no right to be in the gateway of Vine House Farm.
- LM advised that Cllr Pepper is aware of the static camera not being in the Parish and that SLC and LCC are both on board.

LM stated that she was pleased to see that there is a work order going in to look at reducing the speed limit from a 50 to a 40, as usually, these things can take years and we have been fortunate that this has been actioned within 6 months of the issue being raised.

#### **Community Speed Watch: Update**

- An additional handheld radar, clicker and signage kit have been purchased and received.

LM advised that the PC is devising a rota so that teams can go out weekly, or at least twice monthly as we have bad weather coming up. There will be a yearly rota with all the necessary risk assessments in place.

#### **Littleworth Playing Field: Update**

- Further quotes have not been sought due to the ultimate use of the field being yet unknown.
- It is likely that fencing will need to be a range of different heights and construction, depending on the use of the area.
  - Because of this, there has been no monies allocated to this project for the next financial year.

#### **Replacement Bus Shelter at Littleworth**

##### **Subsidence**

Following the recent RoSPA inspection, significant subsidence has been noticed around the bus shelter.

- The shelter is mounted on a concrete platform which is cracked and leaning back towards the fencing.
- 11.09.23 LCC (via Cllr Pepper), have confirmed that the land and the shelter are both the property of the Parish Council.

The Clerk advised members that since writing the report, she had spoken with the insurance provider and was informed that the subsidence is covered by the policy.

- Unfortunately, the issue with the play equipment at St Nicholas Park is not covered as the damage to the surface is considered to have happened over time.

Members requested that the Clerk go ahead with the claim for the bus shelter.

- RJ stated that the recommendation from the PF & BS Committee would be to re-site the bus shelter into the layby.

New Defibrillator: Update

- 19.11.23 Government funding is available through the Department of Health and Social Care, with match funding of £750 for all applications. (Letter received from the Rt Hon Sir John Hayes MP)
- Some confusion as to whether there is a better place for it, i.e., New Road/Triangle area.
- 25.09.23 Request for new defibrillator for to be installed on Mr Jarvis' gates.

Although at the September meeting, it was proposed and seconded to install a defibrillator on RJ's property, it has been suggested that it would be better placed on New Road, near the Triangle.

- Cllr Pepper also forwarded details of this grant funding and an email was sent directly to the PC.

RJ recommended it be sited by the new book box on New Road and that the resident of a nearby property is happy to pay for the electricity.

**ACTION: RJ to provide details.**

The Passing Place signs, to replace the No Parking signs, are ready to go up on the gravelled area at the top of Campaign's Lane.

**75. 7. Accounts: -****a. To receive the Bank Reconciliation and Scribe reports from the RFO.**

The reports were received.

**b. To approve Invoices for Payment.**

DC proposed, AC seconded, and it was resolved to approve the following invoices for payment.

24 November 2023 (2023-2024)

**Deeping St Nicholas Parish Council  
PAYMENTS LIST**

Voucher	Code	Date	Description	Supplier	VAT Type	Net	VAT	Total
76	Community Speed Watch	23/10/2023	Hand Held Radar Gun	Laser Tech UK	S	279.00	55.80	334.80
76	Community Speed Watch	23/10/2023	Hand Held Radar Gun	Laser Tech UK	S	10.00	2.00	12.00
77	Room Hire	02/10/2023	Room Hire	Lincolnshire County Co	E	65.00		65.00
78	Grass Cutting - Playing Fields	28/09/2023	Grass Cutting	T N Sneath & Sons	S	781.00	156.20	937.20
79	Land Rent	10/10/2023	Land Rent	Savills (UK) Ltd	E	50.00		50.00
80	Land Rent	10/10/2023	Land Rent	Savills (UK) Ltd	E	963.00		963.00
81	Playground Inspection	12/10/2023	Playground Inspections	RoSPA Play Safety Limi	S	514.00	102.80	616.80
82	Salary	26/10/2023	Wages	Mrs A Harrison	X	735.37		735.37
83	Gifts/Prizes (With Receipt)	05/10/2023	Donation	Louise McGuinness	S	11.87	2.38	14.25
83	Donations (No Receipt)	05/10/2023	Donation	Louise McGuinness	Z	10.00		10.00
84	Community Speed Watch	30/10/2023	F1 Community Speed Watch Sign System	Protect Signs	S	36.52	7.30	43.82
84	Community Speed Watch	30/10/2023	F1 Community Speed Watch Sign System	Protect Signs	S	31.85	6.37	38.22
84	Community Speed Watch	30/10/2023	F1 Community Speed Watch Sign System	Protect Signs	S	10.06	2.01	12.07
84	Community Speed Watch	30/10/2023	F1 Community Speed Watch Sign System	Protect Signs	S	13.00	2.60	15.60
85	ICT	30/10/2023	Scribe License	Starboard Systems Lim	S	288.00	57.60	345.60
87	Grass Cutting - Playing Fields	20/11/2023	Grass Cutting	T N Sneath & Sons	S	203.00	40.60	243.60
89	Tree Works	14/11/2023	Tree Works	Country Land Services	S	1,550.00	310.00	1,860.00
90	Salary	23/11/2023	Wages	Mrs A Harrison	X	1,074.68		1,074.68
91	Printing Costs	23/11/2023	Village News	Classic Printers (Crowle	Z	650.00		650.00
<b>Total</b>						<b>9,263.35</b>	<b>745.66</b>	<b>10,009.01</b>

**76. 8. Finance Committee: -****a. To receive the Notes of the recent Finance Committee working party meeting.**

The notes from the meeting were received.

**b. Seek to approve recommendations from the meeting.**

Welcome Gates

Members were asked to agree the recommendation to increase the number of gates from 4 to 6 to incorporate the New Road entrance to the village.

DC Proposed

AC Seconded

It was resolved that a revised quote for 6 gates be requested.

**ACTION: Clerk**

Christmas Tree

NW has offered to donate a tree to be positioned on the triangular piece of grass at the entrance to Harrow Road.

It was agreed that a 20' tree would be too tall and that a 10-15' tree be ideal.

- Members thanked Mr James Mitchell for his kind offer to sponsor the Christmas tree.

The recommendation to purchase a straining kit and battery-operated lights for the tree was proposed by DS and seconded by DC.

It was resolved that the above items be purchased.

- The tree will be erected on the weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> of December.

**c. To agree a Budget and Precept for 2024/25.**

**LM read out the following from the Finance Committee notes: -**

£500 for the Friends of Littleworth Station.

£500 for the Gardening Club.

£300 for the Good Neighbour Scheme.

£300 for the Neighbourhood Watch.

£1,000 towards the Village Fete - an increase from £700 last year due to costs.

£500 towards the Tongue End Rewilding Project.

£300 towards Christmas lights, tree, etc.

£4,500 towards new play equipment, the rest to be covered by funding from the Windfarm. District Cllrs' Ward Budget donations and other grant funding.

£1,000 towards Bus Shelter maintenance, particularly Littleworth.

£150 towards Notice Board repairs/replacement.

£1,200 to cover insurance premium.

£2,500 to cover Highways Grass Cutting

£11,500 to cover staff costs, including NI and Tax contributions.

£4,000 to cover the cost of the Village News, (although this is claimed back through advertising and the surplus paid through the Windfarm).

£2,800 to cover the cost of Playing Fields grass cutting.

£600 to cover subscriptions to LALC, which include training and website maintenance.

£1,500 to cover Churchyard grass cutting, 3 cuts per year.

£150 to cover the cost of an internal audit.

£250 to cover the cost of an external audit.

£500 allocated to the Chairman's Budget.

**The total amount required to cover this Budget is £34,020**

Predicted income.

£3,500 for the Village News (advertising and Windfarm contribution)

£2,100 VAT126 claim back.

£500 Litter Grant (SHDC)

£468.45 LCC Highways contribution towards grass cutting.  
**£6,568.45**

The Precept for 2023/24 was £23,883.75 and if added to the above figure would give **£30,452.20**, leaving a deficit of **£3,567.80**.

To cover the budget for 2024/25 the Parish Council will need to raise the Precept to £27,471.00 which, when added to the £6,568.45 will give a total of **£34,039.45**.

A full discussion ensued, and members were concerned that a precept of £27,471 would leave no ‘wriggle room’ for unaccounted expenditure or increases.

The Chair recommended that the precept be raised to £30K to ensure all costs are covered.

DC Proposed

AC Seconded

It was resolved to Precept £30K for 2024-25

## 77. 9. Planning Matters and to receive the report of the Planning Committee.

### Planning Committee Report for meeting 27/11/23

As is customary the committee has not met since the last meeting and applications have been circulated by email to elicit committee member’s responses. I summarise below the applications received since just before the last meeting and the responses obtained.

Application no	Location	Reason	Response/s
H03-0798-23	Vine House Farm Main Road	Extension to Farm Shop (Cafe area) & internal alterations.	Now approved by SHDC
H03-0880-23	40 Haywain Drive	Erection of single storey extension to dwelling	No issues

Since submitting the above report, AC added that application H03-0880-23 has now been refused under ‘permitted development’ and will require full planning permission.

## 78. 10. Highways Matters: -

### a. Update on a speed limit reduction in Hop Pole.

This was covered under the Clerk’s report.

### b. Footpaths.

There was no update available.

- NW stated that from Willow Tree Farm to Policeman’s Corner has been sprayed with Roundup, probably done by LCC in preparation to their works next year.

### c. To receive the Community Speed Watch (CSW) report.

Covered earlier under Clerk’s Report.

## 79. 11. HR Committee: -

### a. To receive the Notes of the recent HR Committee working party meeting.

The notes were received.

**b. To seek to adopt the Grievance Policy and form.**

DC recommended that the PC adopt the Grievance Policy along with the associated form.

Proposed by DC

Seconded by SL

It was resolved that the Grievance Policy and form be adopted by the Parish Council.

**ACTION: Clerk to file and add to website.**

**c. To seek to adopt the Display Screen and Home Working risk assessments.**

DC explained that these two documents would be predominantly for the Clerk to complete.

Proposed by AC

Seconded by DS

It was resolved that these assessments be adopted by the PC.

**ACTION: Clerk to carry out the risk assessments.**

**80. 12. Playing Fields and Bus Shelters Committee: -**

- a. To receive the notes of the recent PF & BS Committee working party meeting.

The notes had been circulated prior to the meeting and were duly received.

- RJ added that following the recent RoSPA inspection, some equipment has been decommissioned so he has requested quotes from 3 suppliers.

Following a meeting at the Littleworth bus stop with the Chair, there will be a committee meeting organised to discuss what is happening there.

**b. To seek to approve the installation of a multi-use play area, community orchard and a cost-of-living garden at Littleworth.**

RJ stated that he is seeking approval to turn the area into an orchard, a cost-of-living garden where children and members of the public can sow seeds and reap the benefits of it and a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area), with funding from the National Lottery and various other organisations.

- The MUGA, would measure approximately 20 x 10 meters and cost Circa £140-£150K. It would be setup for 5-a-side, netball, basketball, tennis, etc.
- There has also been a request for a skate park, so when the pitch is not being used for other sports, wooden ramps can be put down.

RJ advised that he has spoken with a gentleman, Tim Wall Leisure, (recommended through a contact at Peterborough City Council), who guarantees he can gain funding from 3 different organisations.

- To initiate the funding process, the PC would be required to pay £1,855.25, (paid in 3 instalments).
- The 3 District Councillors have offered to donate £1K each towards pieces of equipment and funding is available from the National Lottery and other places.

LM recommended that the Committee look further into this project.

RJ Proposed and NW seconded.

It was resolved that the PF&BS Committee look further into this project.

**c. Request for a new dog waste bin at Hop Pole playing field.**

After discussion, it was resolved not to request a bin for this area as it would not get emptied by SHDC.

**81. 13. To receive an update from the Good Neighbour Scheme.**

- RJ advised members that the Chatter Natter table in VHF is being well attended, with 20 members of the public at the last meeting.

- There was £21 in the donation tin, with £10 being donated by LIVES.
- A further £250 has been offered to the scheme from the 3 District Councillors and there will be a coconut shy at the village fete next year.

RJ thanked the PC for their continued support and advised that the next Chatter Natter table will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, with Vanessa from Tonic Health and local Firemen in attendance.

**82. 14. To receive an update regarding South Lincs Connected (SLC).**

LM advised that the Greater Lincolnshire Devolution will happen in 2025 with more information to come.

- Information on Call Connect to promote it through the village, with the £2 bus fare cap extended.

It was raised however, that the Call Connect service will not cross boundaries.

**83. 15. To receive an update from the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.**

RJ reported that the areas covered by the NWS were still crime free.

There have been reports of 3 suspicious vehicles, suspected drugs related, which have been reported to the Police.

**84. 16. To receive an update from the Gardening Club.**

PB reported that the group has been very busy working on the Triangle.

- NW brought 20 tons of mulch for the planting of flowers and spring bulbs.
- Looking to re-compost some of the existing tubs and replace others.
- Next year the long grass around the bases will need to be cut back and untidy areas tackled.
- There is a new planter on the Main Road, measuring 1meter cubed with yellow, Hi-Viz and the group is looking to replace all existing planters with these.

**85. 17. To receive an update from the Friends of Littleworth Station.**

LM advised that there will be a meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> of December to formalise the Committee and appoint trustees and a constitution.

- Looking to apply for funding next year but require Charity status beforehand.
- The accountant from the Village Hall Committee has put us in touch with a third party who is applying for Charity status.

**86. 18. Correspondence.**

Brochure received from Elancity regarding interactive speeding signs.

- Passed to PB.

**87. 19. Agenda items for the next meeting, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024.**

- 1) Funding
- 2) Bus Shelter Cleaners
- 3) Funding for existing Defibrillators x3

“In Committee”

- 4) North Sea Camp (NSC)

Meeting ended at 20:08