

**Members**

Martin Davis - Chair  
 Rick Crooks - Councillor  
 Andrew Smith -Councillor

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on  
 Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Present            Cllr Martin Davis - Chair  
                       Cllr Andrew Smith  
                       Cllr Rick Crooks  
                       Clerk – Jenny Taylor

**1. Introduction and announcement from the chair**

The chair welcomed everyone. This is the last meeting until after the refurbishments have finished around May time. The meeting will be recorded for accuracy of minutes. Nine residents attended and the chair asked that any questions during the meeting be addressed through the Chair.

**2. Apologies for Absence.**

District Councillor Alexander Maughan was invited but has not responded.  
 SKDC Penny Milnes sent her apologies due to a family emergency that had just arisen that evening.

**3. Declaration of interest.** None**4. Open forum**

Cllr Crooks suggested that in support of the solidarity of the Ukrainian people, we purchase and raise a Ukrainian flag. It was agreed that we should mirror the protocol from when the Ukrainian flag is being raised on government buildings, with the exception of any other days we already have time-tabled for flags. A resident will send for a 5'x3' Ukrainian flag costing £6.89. This resident was thanked for her offer and the order will be invoiced for payment by the PC. The flag will be flown until another flag needs to go up. A resident suggested that we as a village support the initiative mentioned in the SK bulletin of 'no mowing in May'. The drop in the number of insects and creatures that rely on longer grass has led to this initiative, particularly the open areas, to encourage wild flower growth. The chair suggested that a 'NO MOWING IN MAY' sign be put up on each larger grass area, especially if we are being judged for the Best Kept Village Competition (BKVC). If the Council comes to mow the verges the signs would make it clear to follow our effort - the verges up the lanes could be only half or ¾ mowed with the back part near the hedge...or an area... left to grow longer. Householders are invited to join in.

**5. Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022 to be agreed and approved.**

This was proposed, seconded and carried, as a true and accurate record, and signed by the Chair.

**6. Councillor vacancies**

The PC advertised the positions for 14 days asking residents if they wished to raise a local election. There were no requests; the two positions were advertised as co-options. Joe Schaffarczyk (present) and Guy Pollard (unable to attend due to work) applied and their applications have been checked against the competency rules.

The Chair moved that both candidates be accepted for co-option. Seconded by Cllr Smith and unanimously agreed.

The Chair hereby declared that on completion of the acceptance form held by the Clerk, Mr Schaffarczyk to be co-opted as Cllr Schaffarczyk. Cllr Pollard will be posted his acceptance form to sign and return. Both Councillors will complete a form of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as detailed in the Localism Act of 2011. All copies of their application forms were then passed to the Clerk to destroy.

7. **Update by Cllr Penny Milnes for South Kesteven District Council** – absent

8. **Update by Cllr Alexander Maughan for Lincolnshire County Council** – absent

9. **Financial update (APPENDIX 1)**

9.1 Payment requiring approval - Planting has been agreed as £50. Gift for Children of Afghanistan Charity £50 in recognition of Ann Wise (leaving gift agreed)

9.2 Payments since last meeting LALC subscription for this year £72.93 (sent 24/02/22)

9.3 Current financial situation. (Appendix 1)

April 2021 brought forward £2686.49 + April 2021 SKDC precept £1300 = £4086.02 (inc £99.53 uncashed cheques)

Total expenditure 2021/2 £713.59      Balance = £3372.43

A spreadsheet has been devised and this will show the projected plan for the finances as ongoing. At the next meeting, all transactions will be updated for the year 2021/2 and a projected forecast for 2022/3 will be available. Precept for 2022/3 will be £1400.

10. **Community matters**

10.1 **Council Spend.**

Cllr Crooks asked whether other councillors felt that the LALC subscriptions were worthwhile.

Cllr Davis replied saying that it would not be possible to put forward any fees for training for clerks or councillors unless the membership is paid.

A resident offered some experience of good use of LALC when issues have come up that need clarifying. LALC has been an immensely helpful body in terms of small parish councils and has been used over the years, especially from a Clerk's point of view

Cllr Davis suggested that the PC should investigate courses available for new councillors, the clerk and refresher courses for present councillors, to approve the fees and book relevant courses.

Cllr Crooks then suggested that the PC could now set the budget for 2022/23. The spreadsheet shows a projected budget for the year and an updated rolling total at any time.

Future spending - Speed Awareness Committee, LALC training courses, renovation of telephone box, village sign.

BKVC award of £400, gold bin and certificate

The Campaign for Rural England provided signs before but this time the competition was run by SKDC. The prize is now a certificate, the gold bin and £400. Part of the £400 will be spent on a plaque outside the hall but the BKVC signs will be adapted, reversing 2012 to 2021 as discussed.

Council Spend on village sign – plaque for village hall – a sum around £100 is put aside for this. Options put forward are now:-

- £149 for painted aluminium one – not guaranteed that it won't fade in direct sunlight.
- £128 (A4 size), £110 (smaller size) stainless steel with scalloped border. Enter own text; will not fade
- £161 (A4 size) £138 (smaller) Stone engraved and painted.

Cllr Crooks moved to vote on the stainless steel plaque to match the one already there. Cllr Davis seconded and the vote was unanimously in favour.

Cllr Crooks moved that the PC should award another £50 from the £400 for village planting. This was seconded, voted and agreed so the planting budget has now been increased to £100. Due to the enormous increase in the price of plants and shrubs, Mrs Crooks asked if the PC would increase the grant for the planting under the hawthorn tree to be increased to £100 (from £50) to add to the £100 which is being donated by residents.

Donation of £50 to Children of Afghanistan Charity in recognition of the work of Ann Wise who has recently retired as parish councillor of Stubton.

### **10.2 Update from Community Speed Sub-committee (APPENDIX 2)**

On behalf of the Speed Awareness Group, Mrs Smith presented a paper in précis form, the full version having been provided to the PC to be attached to their minutes. She outlined the aims of the Group and their ideas on the way forward and on funding options. Significantly she reported that in order to apply for funding from the SKDC Community Fund they would need, amongst other things, to become an autonomous group and not be a sub-committee of the PC, something that the PC would need to rule on. She also sought permission for their Chair to write to SKDC to highlight and clarify some other issues around traffic in the village. She was asked by Cllr Davies to ensure that the proposed wheelie bin stickers do not contravene any SKDC rules on signage. She also further explained, after a question from a resident, that each option had been carefully considered and chosen because of its value For money versus the effect it is likely to have in reducing speeding. The PC was asked to support the Committee both in terms of direct funding, fund-raising and support of the proposed options. The current estimate for the total funding required is in the region of £3350, although this may change as options are still being explored.

Cllr Crooks, having praised the high quality of the comprehensive report provided, moved the motion that the Speed Awareness Group become an autonomous group and that an initial grant of £110 be given. Both motions were seconded by Cllr Davis and agreed unanimously.

### **10.3. Update on renovation of telephone box housing the defibrillator**

Cllr Davis has been in touch with the contractor who gave the middle quote of £400. No reply yet so waiting to confirm the date to start.

### **10.4. Queen's Platinum Jubilee Update - Cllr Smith on the Hub Jubilee Committee's plans.**

Cllr Smith is acting as liaison between the PC and the village Hall Hub who are arranging the Jubilee Street Party and he has no voting rights in their decision making.

The Platinum Jubilee street Party will be on 5<sup>th</sup> June 13.00-15.00 - St Martin's Close will be cordoned off for safety. The day will mirror the Queen's party which is on the same day...not a money making exercise. Around 90 residents will be catered for.

£2 ticket entry fee (children free). The Loyal toast to Her Majesty will be provided by the Hub.

Residents and family staying will be welcome at the event. The supply of alcohol consumed in the street is permissible since this will be a small event and alcohol will be provided but not sold. The Hall will be closed for bar sales but open for toilet facilities and bad weather venues. Music will stop by 23.00. A raffle is permitted providing the prize fund is less than £500. The bar may be open on Saturday with the concert in London on the big screen. Garden games to entertain all, especially children, a quiz and music, a Treasure Hunt on the Saturday in The Garth grounds, the ukulele group, a church service at some time during the weekend and sharing with other villages are all possibilities.

Catering - Chris Hudson wanted to thank the village for the support he has been given and will provide a hog roast freely which he will cook and carve. He has requested that a donation box be circulated during the event for voluntary sums to be donated to the Air Ambulance Charity.

Volunteers will make cakes etc to supplement the hog roast committee also discussed the Queen's planting project during 2022, to plant trees throughout the country and the commonwealth. More details will be decided at the Next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 19.00.

#### **10.5 Village Sign - survey was distributed to all households (APPENDIX 3)**

29 surveys were returned of 75 delivered – (still being returned)

Preferred position of sign – The Green area

Signs preferred = carved metal – 28%

Cllr Davis suggested this should be an agenda item for the next PC meeting with full costing, design and position. Suggested that there should be a wildflower planted border under the sign.

A final date for submission of the surveys will be posted on the notice board.

There is an ongoing grant available to fund the village sign.

#### **10.6 Update to the 'Stubton Neighbourhood Plan(SNP)' - from original NP Steering Group -Hugh Wilson (APPENDIX 4 - ADDENDUM)/(APPENDIX 5- JAKE HORTON REPLY)**

In August 2021, Mr Wilson supplied an addendum to the SNP because of the new Local Plan especially with regards the proposals to do with housing. Originally the addendum this was approved by the planning officer Jake Horton but has now been refused.

Mr Wilson noted that, if the PC feels that SP2/3/4 affect this village, there has to be a new team to completely review the current Neighbourhood Plan since the four existing members of the team are resigning. He warned that any change to the Plan could lead to extra expense -a village referendum which the PC would have to pay for as if it were an election.

Cllr Crooks moved that the PC agrees the SNP will be left without amendment. Seconded by Cllr Davis and unanimously agreed. The amendment will not be followed up, but will still be legally binding, sitting alongside the SKDC Local Plan.

The PC is very grateful to the SNP committee, Hugh Wilson, Brian Birkenhead, Gary Senior and Rob Thornton for persevering with this very difficult task.

Mr Wilson will respond to Jake Horton telling him the decision of the PC.

#### **10.7 Traffic flows on Doddington Lane – impact of Distribution Centre**

In August 2018, SKDC approved a storing and distribution centre on Cleansey . Sept 2020 the application was revised to be approved as a conversion of an agricultural building.

The volume of HGV traffic on Doddington Lane has significantly increased.

Cllr Crooks would like the sanction of the PC to undertake another traffic surveillance to try and identify the nature of the extra traffic.

This is a particular problem when HGVs seem to be delivering and collecting between 8.00-9.00. This is the same time as Littlegates children are arriving at the nursery. This could become a bigger problem since the roads are very narrow for heavy HGV traffic.

Cllr Crooks moved that the traffic survey should be carried out to ensure the safety of walkers, cyclists, horses....seconded by Cllr Davis and unanimously agreed

Littlegates nursery needs to be made aware of safety when they take the children walking on the Littlegates Lane.

#### **11. Date and time of next meeting.**

The next meeting will be advised at the end of April 2022