

Draft minutes – Stubton Parish Council - 7.00 Monday 16th Dec 2024

Open Forum

Residents were invited to raise issues during a 15-minute period.

A resident raised the issue of the regular closure of the railway crossing at Claypole. Other residents agreed that this has been an issue several times. It was requested that there should be advanced warning with clear signage of any closure times to avoid unnecessary detours for vehicles crossing the line. Failure to give prior warning of closure could have serious problems, especially in times of emergency.

A resident spoke about the closure of the footpath off the Old Coach Road, across the railway towards Claypole on Hough Lane and said he had emailed the contact on the closure board to ask several questions. Answers were given resulting that this would almost certainly be a permanent closure of this crossing and LCC have plans to negotiate a footpath to join footpath 15 along the railway and then over the brick bridge (footpath No.2). Considerations concerning time for pedestrian etc to cross the line of the sight line for oncoming trains. Dangers have been monitored by Network Rail. Cllr Maughan has been investigating this problem having had requests from Claypole PC and he confirmed that the temporary closure was extended by the Secretary of State. Ongoing talks by Andy Savage (Footpath Officer) with landowners and Network Rail are trying to agree a sensible diversion. Closure is due to safety reasons. The Westborough crossing will stay open. Residents were concerned that restricted byway 7 along the Coach Road was regularly ploughed leaving it impossible to walk along. In conclusion, the Council will discuss footpaths at the next meeting with the help of interested residents.

A resident updated the Council as to the progress of CATTs and the aim to purchase further SID signs to monitor and control speed through the village however, the search for funding is proving difficult. The link with the Parish Council as a sub committee was apparently causing a problem so CATTs intends to form an unincorporated association which would make them more likely to get grant funding. The cost of two SIDs with batteries and charger would be £5647.

A resident mentioned the increase of Dyson lorries from Fenton Road through the village at 5.30am suggested the possible request for funding from this landowner whose vehicles depend on village roads.

UPDATE ON LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL [*Cllr Alex Maughan*] – see *Appendix 1*

UPDATE ON SOUTH KESTIVEN DISTRICT COUNCIL [*Councillor Penny Milnes*] – see *Appendix 2*

Opening of Formal Parish Council Meeting (Chairperson's Remarks)

Agenda

1.0 Apologies for Absence - Cllr Jackie Britten-Crooks due to illness, Cllr Mia Watkins resignation.

2.0 Correspondence – Cllr Taylor had received an email from a resident concerning the accessibility of restricted byway No 9. Advice from the Countryside Officer, Andy Savage, confirmed that this was not a Parish Council matter.

3.0 Conflicts - *Disclosures of Interest – None*

4.0 Minutes of Last Meetings

Motion: To adopt the draft minutes as a true record of the previous meeting of 23rd September 2024 Proposed: Cllr Taylor; Seconded: Cllr Kirk

5.0 Clerk's report on any matters outstanding from the last meeting.

Roads – The meeting with Cllr Maughan went well and the damage repairs have been completed. However, these have yet to prove secure and are starting to show potential potholes in the near future. Cllr Maughan promised to have another look at the section of road from the Alpaca farm to the corner of Doddington Lane which seems to have most problems. He assured the Council that the top-dressing planned for next year should level off any further uneven surfaces.

The Neighbourhood Plan update will be further put on hold until more details about the finalisation of the Local Plan are provided. Cllr Milnes suggested that the New Year might be a good time to start to view some of the sections such as Design.

Biodiversity, though still a possible avenue, was not taken any further after investigation did not reveal any space for this. Similarly the Community Orchard funding.

Funding for the village sign is very limited now but the Council will endeavour to pursue this regardless.

6.0 Finance – items paid since last meeting and balance carried forward. Ukraine flags (2) £9.18.

7.0 Precept 2025-6 – January 17th form review deadline – Cllr Taylor suggested that the review is completed with the request to increase the precept by just 5% to make sure that the village availability for expenditure on insurance and such as the Neighbourhood Plan is brought in line with costs. This was unanimously agreed by the Councillors. The precept would then be £1617 from £1450, an increase of 5%.

Motion to request an increase of 5% in the Precept review – January 17th

Proposed: Cllr Taylor ; Seconded: Cllr Kirk

8.0 Update and progress on residents' priorities

8.1 Feedback from the CATTs group

Motion: To lend financial support to the CATTs group

Following the intention of CATTS to form an unincorporated association this support would then be considered following their formal application for Parish Council donation.

9.0 Village planting and decorations and for calendared celebrations

9.1 Village Poppies for Remembrance Day – Cllr Taylor was unsure where the poppies had gone from the gates. These were put up by Councillors to honour armed forces members who have died in the line of duty but had been removed by two residents and kept. Cllr Taylor suggested that further poppies should be purchased by the Council to put up on the bus shelter and church gates.

9.2 Lights for Christmas – those up in the village at the moment are the property of residents and the Stubton Hub. The Council should enhance the Christmas lights and purchase these for next year to replace the very pale ones on the bus shelter.

9.3 Seasonal planting – winter bulbs and thinking ahead to spring.

Motion: To purchase decorations for the village to celebrate occasions

Proposed: Cllr Taylor; Seconded: Cllr Mitchell

Date and time of next meeting as agreed previously – **7.00pm 17th March 2025**

Meeting moved into closed session to discuss employment issues.

The meeting that followed agreed there should be an EOM on Friday 20th December 2024 at 5.45pm.