

**Minutes of the Deeping St James Annual Parish Meeting
held at
The Deepings School Conference Centre,
Park Road, Deeping St James
on
Tuesday 17 May 2016 at 7.30 pm**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Rt. Hon John Hayes MP, Deeping St James Parish Councillor Stuart Hall and Mike Ward, award nominees Nathan Cook, Hayley Cancea and Charlie Bennett.

2. Welcome by the Chairman of Deeping St James Parish Council

Cllr Steve Gilbert started by saying he was pleased to see a large number of members of the public and individual representing local organisations but especially pleased to announce the presence of six District Councillors – Councillors Steve Benn, Judy Stevens, Phil Dilks, Ashley Baxter, Bob Russell and Judy Smith also Chair of South Kesteven District Council) as well as the Mayor of Market Deeping, Councillor Wayne Lester, and Chairperson of Deeping Gate, Councillor Jane Hill and Lincolnshire Police Inspector Mike Burnett.

3. Approve the minutes of the 2015 Annual Parish Meeting

Councillor Judy Stevens proposed that the minutes were approved as a true record, seconded by Councillor Dilks, and agreed by those in attendance last year.

4. Annual report of the Parish Council

Deeping St James Parish Council Chairman, Councillor Steve Gilbert, advised that the Parish Council holds its full council meeting on the last Thursday of every month and this meeting is open to the public.

In the past year it has worked together with many of the organisations and adjoining councils present tonight in organising the dog show, the carols in the park, the clean-up for the Queen and the lighting of the beacon to commemorate the Queens 90th birthday as well as hosting three public right of way footpath walks with a buffet afterwards.

The Parish Council also financially supports the summer play scheme, The Deepings Youth Club, The Deepings Community Library and a community skip service for local residents as well as granting funding to a number of organisations to assist them in serving the community.

Throughout the year a number of issues are raised by parishioners, most common are inconsiderate parking and speeding, anti-social behaviour and planning concerns. None of these are enforceable by the parish council but it can put individuals in touch with the relevant organisation and offer support.

The Parish Council is responsible for the following - Allotments, Cemetery, the Skate Park, Bus Shelters, Street furniture and Waste bins.

All of the above costs and this money are collected via the Council tax precept for Deeping St James which has not increased dramatically over the last few years. Finance is also received from section 106 monies collected from developers when new builds take place Parish.

As well as all the above the Parish Council employs three Staff – a Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Maintenance Worker as well using contractual staff for some tasks.

In the future the intention is to maintain and improve the open spaces in the parish, re-new the skate park, support the building of a bridge of the River Welland enhancing footpath walks and to continue doing what it is already doing.

5. Musical interlude from The Mini G's (Linchfield Community Primary School Choir)

Two songs were performed by the Choir who accompanied on Guitar by the Choir Leader Richard Gombault.

6. Reports from organisations and community groups

- Linchfield Community Primary School

Head Teacher Andy Fawkes gave a presentation showing the journey of the school over the last 3 years. When he joined the Ofsted rating was 'needs improving' and only 56% of parents surveyed said they would recommend the School to others. There have been a number of changes including staffing Governors, re-introduction of CPD (staff have now achieved 30 recognised qualifications), curriculum enrichment and quality teaching and the re-establishment of links with the local community.

In the last 3 years the School has been awarded the arts mark, the international schools award (with a Botswana delegation visiting in 2015), digitally inclusive status, become the first Lincolnshire primary school to receive investors in pupils status, and has joined in partnership with First News and a local charity, Inspire Plus, for Sport and also received a number of Arts awards.

As well as this the whole School were number 1 in the iTunes charts with the single 'We are the young', and the choir and rock band have performed at the Lincolnshire School Proms 2016, the Royal Festival Hall and got to the third round of 'Britain's Got Talent'!

Funding for new classrooms has been obtained and the pupils have met George Osbourne, the Head of NASA and the oldest Man in Great Britain.

The pupils have also attended football matches at Wembley, tennis tournaments at Wembley and theatre performances of Matilda and Joseph. The recent street party held to commemorate the Queens 90th birthday was attended by over 1000 people.

The school role has increased by 5% and a parent/toddler group has started which will be followed by a pre-school due to start in September.

The Ofsted inspection which took place in November 2016 rated the School as 'good' and in the survey 92% of the parents said they would recommend the School to others.

The School want to be rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted and they will continue to strive towards that.

- 1Life Deeping Leisure Centre

Contract Manager, Tony Mabbot, gave a presentation reviewing the last year stating that football coaching had been introduced, the gym and squash courts had been refurbished, air conditioning had been installed, a pool inflatable had been introduced to family splash times the GP referral scheme had been improved and health walks had continued. The feedback received had been fantastic.

The main success had been the number of people through the doors – 320,000 in the last year. Over a1000 local children are being taught how to swim and there are now 610 fitness members, which is a 17% increase since the improvements.

The silver investor's in people award has been achieved and the Quest accreditation has been retained along with 4 national life guarding courses having been delivered.

The emphasis is on community engagement with 281 people attending the health walks and 66 clients being referred by a GP and supported back to health. Also all primary schools have been given the opportunity to nominate a pupil for a term of free lessons. Attendance at the family discos was also good (100 people at the Halloween one and 400 at the New Year's Eve one) Investment in the team of 50 employees, who are mostly local and the majority are young, has also continued. In the last year there have been 10

completed NVQ's 3 apprenticeships, attendance on customer service training, ASA swimming courses and FA coaching courses. Also the team of the month award has been introduced and 2 long service awards have been presented.

The next steps are to work closely with Badminton England and England Squash and to introduce school scholarships – schemes to improve child health and fitness.

Life do want to get involved in community events more so if there is something they can help with please get in touch.

All staff have been tasked with the job of coming up with ideas to get out of the four walls for example taking exercise classes to the residential care homes.

Communication is important and is improving with the use of texts, emails and online contact being promoted.

Customer user forums are held regularly – the next is at 6.30pm on Thursday 28 May 2016.

- Youngsters from the skate park improvement working party
Tom Hutchins, Sam Young and Charlie Musgrove spoke about the need for a new skate park as the current one was installed in 2003 and given a 10-year lifespan and now needed replacing as it was a shadow of its former self – slippery, rusty and some parts broken. Quotations of £80,000 plus had been obtained for a concrete park which would be better than the current one as the noise and maintenance would be reduced. The current skate park has been and still is very popular meaning you often have to wait your turn and a new facility which was safe and fun was needed. A concrete park would offer this, meaning parents would know that their kids were happy and safe. The working party had spoken to several skate park providers and with a little more fund raising hoped to reach the target. The trio thanked those present for giving them the current skate park and asked for their support in providing a new one.
- Deepings First – the neighbourhood plan working party
David Shelton, Chair of the joint neighbourhood plan working party Deepings First explained that advice from South Kesteven District Council suggested that it would be impossible for Deeping St James and Market Deeping to have separate neighbourhood plans as they were co-joined by many services and facilities hence the joint working party.
In the past planning cascaded down from the Government to County to District then Parish Council could comment but that was it. In 2011 legislation came into force that allowed parishes to form a neighbourhood plan to support the District Council's Local Plan and state what the community vision was for the area regarding housing and infrastructure.
The neighbourhood plan working party, Deepings First, includes representatives from Deeping St James Parish Council, Market Deeping Town Council and other stakeholders including members of the public.
Three months ago the area was designated, so the next task is to consult all the residents. In the next six weeks each household will receive a questionnaire to obtain the residents comments. This questionnaire will also be available to complete at community events and via social media. Within the next year a plan will be formed and put to the District Council who will consult the public to ask if they are in agreement with the plan prior to it being adopted. Deepings First are working towards a completion date of September 2017.
The public's input is important so please provide it because if the local residents do not put a neighbourhood plan into place the District Council and those above them will make the decisions.

7. Presentation of awards

a. Making a difference awards - celebrating the people of Deeping St James who most make a difference

1. Young Person (under 19) – 7 nominations had been received
Morgan Underwood
Nathan Cook
Imogen Norris
Hayley Cancea
Chay Dumett
Charlie Bennett
Jovi Atkinson
2. Citizen – 11 nominations had been received
Michelle Allott
Cindy Lee
Carol Precey
Joy Baxter
Judy Stevens
Rachel Eyre
Georgina Kane
Julie Howell
Alison Buttery
Ted Fisk
Marion Brown
3. Organisation – 4 nominations had been received
Deepings Mens Group
The Friends of Deepings Library
Chicks 4 Charity
The Methodist Church Lunch Box Group
4. In the course of doing their job – 5 nominations had been received
Revd. Ann Bossingham
Kate Marshall
Lisa Goodchild
Kate Carr
Sarah Young

Each nominee received a certificate and the overall winners received a trophy. These were presented to those who were in attendance by local Farmer and Conservationist Nicholas Watts, MBE.

b. Special awards

A certificate was presented to the Widow of the late and much respected John Fisher.

The certificate for Bob and Maggie Clack who retired from the Post Office last year would be hand delivered.

Nicholas Watts congratulated all those who had received the awards and said that he started making a difference in the late 1970's when he commenced surveys on his own farm which by 1992 showed a steep decline in birdlife which prompted him to start feeding them to encourage them to visit. He has continued his surveys and not only has the birdlife increased but the insects and this is encouraged by farming organically, diversifying crops, generating own power and holding open days. In 2008 he won the tender based on the way he farms to

provide bird feed to members of The Wildlife Trust and 5% of every order is donated to the Trust.

8. **Raffle and vote of thanks**

The raffle was drawn.

The Chairman of South Kesteven District Council Councillor Judy Smith said what a wonderful evening it had been showing the how the community shines out in this ward. She said she was delighted to have been invited to Deeping St James to see and hear of the work of the parish council and the community. It was vibrant and inspirational and must be a wonderful place to live work and play. She concluded by wishing everyone success in the years ahead.

Councillor Gilbert thanked everybody for attending especially those making a difference concluding by saying we must support each other to continue to do this.

Gifts were presented to Councillor Judy Smith, Margaret Flegg, Nicholas Watts and Inspector Mike Burnett.

Homemade refreshments were served by Margaret Flegg.