

Minutes of the Great Staughton Parish Council Meeting
held on 18 January 2024 – 7.30pm

Present: R Jewell (BJ) N Yates (NY) Mumford (WM). H Glanville (HG) L Goody (LG) J Duberly (JD) David Moore (DM) Ian Gardener (IG) J Russel – Clerk

1. **Apologies for absence** – Stephen Cawley (SC), H Hopperton (HH), G Brittain (GB)
2. **Declarations of Interest** – JD – agenda item 12
3. **Resident's Forum** – no one attended
4. **Reports from District and County Councillors** -
Ian Gardner – he has spoken to Dan Wiggs the new footpath officer and he is still working on this issue. He has over 400 case so is very busy. CCC are proposing a council tax increase and the budget consultation is ongoing. The Fire Authority want a 3% increase. The Combined Authority mayor is proposing a £12 increase to his precept for bus transport. The weed spraying is set to be reintroduced shortly. The Fire Authority are proposing to close Kimbolton Fire station. The Parish Council in Kimbolton have asked for a meeting with the Fire Authority and this will be in Mandeville Hall. IG will notify us of the date when it has been arranged so that someone from the PC can attend.
5. **Minutes of the meeting held on 09 November 2023** – approved.
6. **Matters arising:**
 - a. Blocked footpath (40) near 5 Acres Salvage yard – see above
 - b. Gigaclear – still no response. Remove from agenda and ask the broadband champion to progress.
7. **Attendance at other meetings** – BJ attended the Cambs Acre 100-year Celebration of how the organisation has helped parish councils and rural communities over the years. BJ also attended the HDC Climate Conversation. This looked at thermal imaging cameras that are used to identify heat loss from properties. NY attended the Life Magazine AGM. The magazine is much more financially secure since changing to a quarterly magazine. She expressed her thanks to Rob for all of his hard work on the magazine.
8. **Highways**
 - a. 23/24 LHi Bid – this matter has been ongoing for a while now and we have still not seen the project details. There is due to be an MVAS sign on the entrance to the village. IG will chase.

- b. Current LHI bid 24/25 – the PC had agreed to fund the road markings but it has proved impossible to split the work and pay in advance so the bid now includes the road marking as well. This will delay matters but at least we have the 20mph scheme that will hopefully be introduced shortly.
- c. Blocked highway in Perry – carried forward. WM forgot to attend the meeting with IG and Karen Safewell the LHO. IG will see if he can rearrange.
- d. 20mph speed limit – the plans have all been approved now. We are unsure when the work will start though.
- e. Flooding Cage Lane gullies – this has improved slightly. IG confirmed that it is still on the works list to look at the defective drain.

9. Planning

- a. Staughton Moor planning enforcement – IG believes that this is now going ahead.
- b. 21/01016/FUL – Little America, Moor Road – 8 business units – still pending
- c. Wyboston Garden Village/developments in Beds near A1 – ongoing.
- d. 22/01813/FUL Land East and West of Little Staughton Solar Farm – comments submitted re Rights of Way
- e. 23/02437/HHFUL 43 The Highway – Removal of Conservatory Roof – no comments or objections.

10. Cashbook – approved.

Current account £25806.86

Business account £21795.40

Expenditure:

£

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| M&D Flooring | 871.10 |
| Arthur Ibbett | 116.00 |
| Phil Yates | 142.75 |
| Bradgate | 259.20 |
| M&D Flooring | 871.10 |
| J Russel | 1,108.30 |
| Red Shoes | 46.80 |
| HMRC | 289.22 |
| Phil Yates | 72.00 |
| J Russel | 508.32 |

11. Correspondence - none received

12. Neighbourhood Plan – BJ reported that if the flood risk that has been identified by the Environment Assessment is serious then it may override the two choices that have been made by the community. The Doctors surgery is looking more positive. They are looking the prospect of a rural surgery. They are looking at funding and to see how that could be achieved. A new version of the Neighbourhood Plan will be coming out in the next month.

13. Ideas for use of CIL funding and National Power Grant – some of the suggestions were for electric charging points and a new footpath. You can apply for up to £10,000 for the NP Grant and the CIL grant is open ended.

14. Reports from:

- a. Village Hall Committee – they met last night. Phil Yates is stepping down as chair 12 months from now i.e. January 2025.
- b. Playing Field Committee -.The order for the new play equipment has been placed with Wicksteed and there is a 12-week lead time.
- c. Speed Watch – no report but DM is having trouble changing the battery. It was agreed to look into buying another solar panel.

15. Parish Matters - NY reported that the litter pick will take place on 23 March at 9am. She will purchase more litter pickers. BJ reported that he had received some complaints about trees on The Highway. BJ has looked at the trees and did not consider there to be any issues but it will be kept under review.

16. East Park Energy Solar Farm – JD reported on the meeting that took place on 14 November 2023 in Hail Weston. This was attended by the local Parish Councils and Nigel Vinney and Ian Fletcher. It was a fairly acrimonious meeting. The EIA will take a year so there is unlikely to be much to consider before then. Lots of local people have very strong objections to this project and lobby groups are being set up.

17. Meeting dates for 2024 – 14 March, Parish Assembly 25 April, AGM 16 May, 4 July, 12 September, 7 November

Meeting closed at 9.06 pm

25/4/2024