

MEETING OF DIGBY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes from the Parish Council meeting held in the Digby War Memorial Hall on Wednesday 16th October 2019 at 7pm

PRESENT Parish Cllrs. James Bourne (JB) Chairman; Tracy Bourne (TB); Gerald Garton (GG); Colin Harvey (CH)
District Councillors Steve Clegg (SC) and Jim Clarke (JC)
County Councillor Rob Kendrick (RK)

PUBLIC FORUM

There was one member of the public in attendance, but they had come to listen and not to make any comments.

DISTRICT & COUNTY MATTERSDistrict Council Report

Jim Clark (JC) spoke of various events that have taken place within NKDC and reported there was to be a delay on decision at Cranwell on the possible closure of the road through Cranwell.

Steve Clegg (SC) reported the purple bin collection had now commenced. The Community Champion event has taken place promoting community spirit and was a very good evening.

JB commented on the poor information available from NKDC regarding obtaining sandbags during the recent bad weather. SC agreed to look into what had happened.

County Council Report

Rob Kendrick (RK) reported the blue badge scheme is being extended to cover mental illness.

Tourism is now a big industry in Lincolnshire.

He confirmed the flood alleviation scheme for Digby is still planned to commence in January. The Flood Officer has been out to Digby to view the recent flooding.

RK mentioned if you need to know about roadworks in the area they can be viewed on www.Roadworks.org

The Chairman asked about the recent news relating to Grantham Hospital. RK reported it is proposed to have an urgent treatment centre that may be increased to 24hrs cover, but it will not be a full A&E facility.

GG reported that the routine maintenance work carried out on The Beck, needs to be looked at, as the current work is not clearing the Beck properly.

JB informed the meeting about the removal of silt from the major dykes in the past, but this is now not being done by the Environmental Agency, the residents in the Fen are campaigning to get this silt dug out.

POLICE

A report from the Police confirmed there had been 3 incidents during September. There had been a report of anti-social behaviour and criminal damage at Fen Road and a barn fire off Church Street.

1. CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS. (19/148)

a) The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES and CO- OPTION (19/149)

a) Apologies.

Apologies were received and accepted from AR due to illness.

b) Co-option and Resignation.

There were no applications to fill the current vacancy.

Also it was with regret that the council accepted the resignation of John Fry. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should write and thank him for his service.

Action: The Clerk to notify NKDC of the vacancy

3. DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST & APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION (19/150)

a) Declarations of Interest.

There were none.

4. SIGNING OF THE MINUTES (19/151)

a) It was proposed by GG, seconded by CH and RESOLVED to accept the notes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 19th September 2019 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

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5. **PLANNING MATTERS (19/152)**

- a) Planning Applications Received
Nil received.
- b) Decision Notice.
Nil received.

6. **GENERAL PARISH MATTERS (19/153)**

- a) Greendyke Maintenance - Station Road to the Beck.
Philip Baumber had been instructed to cut the Greendykes by JB. GG has spoken to Witham Drainage Board to go and look at the area. The Environment agency has overall responsibility for the area, but it does not appear to have received any attention for some time.
- b) Councils Publication Policy.
The Clerk is still working on document, so it will be reviewed at next month's meeting.
Action: Agenda Item for next month
- c) Planting of Bulbs within the village boundary along the B1188.
A copy of the application form for the licence to plant has now been received. The criteria required to plant the bulbs is very strict, and beyond the ability of the parish council.
GG proposed not to carry out planting. This was seconded by TB and the majority agreed. JB abstained.
- d) Village Gateways Project.
Prices and plans for 4 different versions of the gateways had been sent to the councillors prior to the meeting for their consideration.
Due to the high cost of the project it was proposed by GG this item be shelved, seconded by TB. This was agreed by the majority. CH abstained.
- e) Asset Repairs - Wooden seat at Harrowby Close, and the Cross.
The Seat - The family that installed the seat at Harrowby Close have confirmed they will not repair it, so it can be removed. An item for the next Agenda to consider a replacement seat
The Cross- It was agreed there was nothing that could be done to the Cross for now. It was agreed GG and JB would make enquiries about how to proceed with any future maintenance.
The replacement bin for the bus shelter has been obtained and requires installing.
Action: Consider a replacement seat for next agenda. Clerk to arrange installation of bin.
- f) Dates for Parish Council Meetings in 2020
The clerk has booked the meetings for 2020. The council needs to confirm the dates for the April and Dec meetings due to public holidays. It was agreed to leave the April meeting as it is and the Dec meeting to be brought forward by one week. The new list of dates are printed under item 14.
Action: The Clerk to confirm dates with the Village Hall Booking clerk.
- g) Update on the closure of the Mary Gresswell Trust.
The wayleave has not arrived yet, so it was agreed to delay the closure.
- h) Hedges and Trees overhanging the Footpaths.
A letter has been produced and will be delivered to residents with vegetation overhanging the footpaths.
Action: GG and CH to deliver the letters.

7. **HIGHWAYS (19/154)**

- a) Potholes or Highways Problems.
A pothole has formed near the railway bridge some 50m on the southern side of the carriageway from bridge and is at least 4inches deep.
Action: The Clerk will report it to Highways
- b) Mobile Speed Indicator Device,
No information has yet been received from the users of the device.
Action: Add to next months agenda.

8. **THE VILLAGE HALL (19/155)**

- a) Village Hall Committee Meeting.

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The minutes from the latest meeting have been distributed to the councillors and are displayed on the council's website.

- b) Date for work on trees on the boundary between the Village Hall and neighbour.
The work is confirmed to commence from 9th Jan. The neighbours have been informed.
- c) Permission for extra cuts for the village hall lawn.
The current contract for the grass cutting of the village hall lawn is complete. It was agreed a further 3 cuts can be carried out. Also all the vegetation overhanging the footpaths on the outside of the gardens boundary can be cut back.

Action: The Clerk to inform the gardener of the work required.

9. **DRAINAGE (19/156)**

- a) Updates from IDB or the Environment Agency.
There were no updates.
- b) Issued raised from the Latest Heavy Rainfalls.
These have been discussed during the District and County councillor's session

10. **PLAYING FIELD, PLAY AREAS AND VILLAGE GENERAL (19/157)**

- a) Monthly Inspection of Play Equipment.
GG provided a copy of the latest inspection. The infant swing seat is showing signs of aging, but is not unsafe.
- c) Work required from the Inspection of the Trees in the Playing Field.
The inspection has shown there are no urgent works needed to be carried out. There are 14 items of essential works recommended. Also it was recommended the Ash die back needs to be monitored on a yearly basis by the Parish Council.
It was proposed by GG, seconded by CH and all agreed the Clerk is to obtain prices for the essential works to be carried out.
Action: Clerk to obtain prices for work on the trees.
- d) Repairs to the wooden upright struts on Play Equipment.
It was agreed that as the wooden struts on the play equipment were not structural the council would monitor the situation and report at the monthly inspections.
- e) New Date for the Delivery of Play Bark.
It was agreed to wait for the delivery until weather improves and the field surface dries up.
- f) Repairs to the Dugout.
The Chairman agreed to check with the football club if they are able and willing to carry out the repairs to the dugout.

Action: JB to report at the next meeting.

11. **ALLOTMENTS (19/158)**

- a) Allotment Association meeting.
The Minutes from the last meeting have been distributed to the councillors.
- b) Refund of Rent to Allotment Holders Due to Flooding.
As there has been a lot of standing water on the allotment site after the recent heavy rain, it was discussed how the allotment holders may be compensated. It was agreed that working towards improving the drainage on the site would be more beneficial than reducing the rent for a year. JB will report the decision to the Allotment Association. JB will make enquiries on obtaining the levels of the field to help towards a future plan.
- c) Claim Unpaid Rent from the Previous Allotment Field Tenant.
This item was moved to the Closed Session.

12. **FINANCE (19/159)**

- a) Bank Balances and Approval of Bank Reconciliation.
The bank balances were reported as :-

PC General Account	22,095.21
Allotments Account	3,950.61
Mary Gresswell Trust Acc	5.45

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The bank reconciliation was approved.

b) Note Income Received.

The litter picking grant has been received and is included in the bank total.

Litter picking grant £136.08

c) Approval for the Following Payments.

It was proposed by GG, seconded by JB and RESOLVED the following payments would be made.

	<u>Invoice</u>	<u>VAT</u>	<u>Total</u>
Salaries/Expenses	596.50		596.50
MalcFirth – Parish Grass cutting	351.63	70.33	421.96
JMH - New noticeboard	305.00	61.00	366.00
NKDC Tree Inspection	137.50	27.50	165.00
NKDC Election costs	76.39		76.39
Select Electrical Services – Noticeboard fitting	23.00	4.60	27.60
Glasdon – replacement bin, bus shelter	117.59	23.51	142.10
K Hand – Grd maint at Village Hall gardens	256.00		256.00

d) Appointment of the Internal Auditor for 2019/20

Sue Weaver has kindly offered to carry out the internal audit. It was proposed by JB, seconded by TB and RESOLVED that Sue Weaver be officially approved as the parish councils internal auditor. An internal audit will be arranged to be carried out during October.

13. **CORRESPONDENCE (19/160)**

- a) LALC – Weekly newsletter. Distributed to all councillors
- b) LCC Planning Services – Notification of Adoption of the LCC Statement of Community Involvement.
The letter was distributed to councillor 20.9.19
- c) Community Lincs Newsletter Sept 19 – Distributed 20.9.19
- d) LCC Monthly Newsletter from our County Councillor. Distributed to all councillors 9.10.19
- e) Request for a wreath for Remembrance Day. GG stated he may not be able to obtain one from his regular source. The Clerk agreed to obtain a wreath and will deliver it to GG.

Action: Clerk to obtain a wreath.

14. **DATE OF FUTURE MEETINGS (19/161)**

Parish Council meetings for 2019

13th Nov and 18th Dec

Parish Council Meetings for 2020

15th Jan, 19th Feb, 18th Mar, 15th Apr, 20th May, 17th Jun, 15th Jul, 19th Aug, 16th Sep, 21st Oct, 18th Nov and 16th Dec

15. **ANY BUSINESS TO NOTE FOR THE NEXT AGENDA (19/162)**

Review Publication policy

Replacement Bench

B1188 Junction Ashby Road - County council – update.

16. **CLOSED SESSION** (for confidential items in accordance with the Public Bodies Act 1960) If required. **(19/163)**

It was RESOLVED the meeting go into closed session.

a. Claim Unpaid Rent from the Previous Allotment Field Tenant.

It was agreed to pursue the claim of the unpaid rent.

21.15hrs There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed