

Washingborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 6.00pm in the Community Centre small hall, Fen Road, Washingborough, Lincoln. LN4 1AB

Present:

- Cllr Mrs J Aspinall
- Cllr Mrs B Bland
- Cllr Mrs M Gibbons
- Cllr R Harrington
- Cllr Mrs L Hannam
- Cllr Mrs L Simons
- Cllr Mrs W Skelton
- Cllr G Peck
- Cllr Mrs R Whipp

In Attendance: Miss K Broddle (Clerk) and Mrs E Salter (Assistant Clerk)

Also Present: Cllr L Cawrey (LCC).

Members of the Public: Two.

60. It was resolved that the meeting be taken by Cllr Mrs Gibbons.

- a. Public Forum: None.
- b. Reports from LCC and NKDC – Reports had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Cawrey informed members of an open meeting with Lincolnshire County Council and the Environment Agency on Tuesday 28th November at 6.00pm at Washingborough Community Centre regarding the recent flooding and invited neighbouring villages to attend.

61. Localism Act 2011 requirements:

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from District Cllrs Carrington and Goodwin.

Declarations of Interest: None.

Applications for Dispensation: None.

62. Draft notes of the Extraordinary Parish Council meeting held on the 26th October 2023 were proposed, seconded and resolved for signature as the minutes.

63. Matters Raised at Public Forum: None.

64. Clerks Report (for information only).

- a. To note the resignation of Cllr Kent.
- b. To note the resignation of Cllr Clark and to thank him for the work he has undertaken for Council.
- c. To note that Cllr Mrs J Aspinall has stepped down from Vice Chairman.
- d. To note that the annual play area inspections have been carried out with no concerns.
- e. To note the rescheduled road closure to the B1190 regarding the strategic pipeline works carried out by Anglian Water, these works will now take place from the 15th – 26th January 2024.
- f. To note that an Archer speed survey has been undertaken on Church Hill.
- g. To note the comments sent to the Police and Crime Commissioner following the meeting facilitated by Potterhanworth Parish Council. These will be added to the Parish Council Engagement Session

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on the 7th December for the team to review.

- h. To thank local resident Candy Garner for her regular updates on social media regarding the closure of Lincoln Road railway bridge following the recent flooding.

65. To discuss and resolve the following items:

- a. The co-option of two members onto the Finance and General Purposes Committee. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllrs Peck and Mrs Hannam sit on the Committee.
- b. Priorities for the Police Priority Setting Meeting. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and resolved that the priorities are: a regular police presence in the village, better communication from the police on local crime and better investigation on reported crimes.
- c. Free Trees for Community Groups from Woodland Trust. It was proposed, seconded and resolved not to accept any trees at this time.
- d. To appoint a member to attend the next Witham Valley Access Project, on 28th November 2023 at 7pm and to note the minutes from their previous meeting held on 26th August 2023. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllr Harrington attend the next meeting and the minutes were noted.
- e. The proposed reduction in the speed limit to 40 mph, in parts on Fen Road. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to agree the proposal.
- f. The suggestion from Councillor Cawrey to consider the old footpath on Washingborough Road to be cut back as part of the Councillor Volunteer Scheme 2024. Following further information from Cllr Cawrey, it was agreed to take no action at this time.
- g. The NKDC public consultation on polling district and polling place review 2023. Members had no comment to make on the review.
- h. To consider replacing the remaining exterior lights to LEDs at the Community Centre due to them tripping the electric. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to replace the remaining lights.
- i. To agree a small working party regarding flooding issues and to receive further information regarding the recent flooding. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllrs Harrington, Peck & Mrs Skelton sit on the working party. Following a meeting with local land owners, a number of questions were raised for the IDB – it was proposed, seconded and resolved to send these questions to the IDB.

66. Planning Matters.

To resolve any comments on the following applications received.

- a. 23/1267/FUL Land adjacent to Fen Road, Washingborough. Proposed residential development for 118 dwellings with construction of associated garages and various site works including the excavation of an attenuation pond. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to send the following comments:
 - Drainage - This land has never been farmed in any way due to the poor drainage and natural springs in this area. The change in the climate and following recent storms has enhanced the problem of accumulative water in this area, leading to flooding directly opposite the planned site. The Parish Council would expect at the very least full & thorough investigation into the means of dispersing of excess water without it causing further problems in this area.
 - Schools - It appears that no contact has been made with Washingborough Academy on School Lane with regard to primary school places, however the school in our neighbour village of Heighington has been approached. The Parish Council would expect the Washingborough Academy should be consulted on this application.
 - Doctors - The Parish Council are concerned that the increase in patient capacity and the availability of appointments at Washingborough Family practice.
 - Washingborough Parish Council strongly oppose any building on this site.

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- b. 23/1299/TCA 3 Oakhill, Washingborough. T1 Ash – full crown reduction by approximately 2m in height and approximately 1.5m spread with a diameter not to exceed 75mm. Crown lift garden and pub side to 3m to allow easy access to the areas. T2 Horse Chestnut – selective pruning of a bough limb over the neighbor's garden by approximately 4m to a secondary union. Council had no comment to make on this application.
67. To note the decisions from NKDC, on the following applications received.
- a. 23/0923/HOUS 124 Granson Way – approved.
 - b. 23/0813/HOUS 14 The Orchard – approved.
 - c. 23/0806/FUL Storage land, Five Mile Business Park, Blackthorn Way – approved.
68. Financial Matters.
- a. The payment schedule for November 2023 was proposed, seconded and resolved and the salaries were noted.
 - b. The accounts and budgets for October 2023 were noted.
 - c. The Unity Trust bank statement for October 2023 was noted and signed.
 - d. It was noted that the 2023/24 NJC pay award agreement is to be back dated to April 1st 2023 and paid to all employees.
 - e. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept the quotation from Electromec to fit a towbar to the groundman's new vehicle at a cost of £530.00 + VAT.
 - f. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to accept the quotation of £895.00 + VAT from JKBS for the fitting of a composite exterior bar door as part of the ongoing upgrade to the Community Centre.
 - g. To authorise replacing a bulb in the MUGA flood lights. Following a report from Selmec it was proposed, seconded and resolved to wait until the spring due to the ground conditions.
68. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllr Harrington facilitates the December Full Parish Council meeting.

69. Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it was proposed, seconded and resolved to move into closed session for the following item:

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.22pm.

Signature.....

Date.....

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SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS: November 2023			Amount
Petty Cash			
			£ -
Current Account			
15-Nov-23	NKDC	NDR (CC)	£ 380.00
15-Nov-23	NKDC	NDR (P)	£ 358.00
15-Nov-23	XLN	Telephone & Broadband	£ 96.85
15-Nov-23	Citron	Sanitary Disposal	£ 75.29
15-Nov-23	Glendale	Chapel Park/Ferry Lane Grass	£ 133.63
15-Nov-23	Total Energies	Electric (CC)	£ 257.14
15-Nov-23	Total Energies	Electric (CC)	£ 295.38
15-Nov-23	LALC	Training (NS)	£ 30.00
15-Nov-23	MKM	Sand	£ 56.10
15-Nov-23	Wave	Water Bill	£ 137.80
15-Nov-23	Selmec	Emergency Lighting Work	£ 1,432.03
15-Nov-23	Selmec	Replacement Light	£ 165.60
15-Nov-23	Espo	Salt Tablets	£ 69.30
15-Nov-23	Espo	Strip Lighting & Starter Switches	£ 216.12
			£ 3,703.24
Salaries etc.			£ 13,197.33
Total expenditure: November 2023			£ 16,900.57

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NKDC Report October / November 2023 Reece, Carola and Ian

Climate action reaffirmed in North Kesteven

The policies and plans set out by North Kesteven District Council in active response to climate change have been re-affirmed by councillors as they signal their clear intent to support residents to both greater environmental and financial sustainability.

Through Members' unanimous support of a motion brought to the Council for consideration at their meeting on Thursday, October 12, councillors reaffirmed that the policies set by the administration over recent years, in relation to sustainability and carbon net zero 2030 targets, remain their priority.

These include an aim for the Council's operations to be carbon net-zero by 2030, to continue supporting the District in becoming carbon net-zero within the same timescale and the adoption, promotion and participation in a range of initiatives that progress that ambition.

In the last year alone, this has seen:

- A further eight award-winning Council houses built to the highly-efficient Passivhaus standard.
- Commitment of £27m to retro fit 900 Council homes with the worst energy efficiency ratings, a quarter of all stock.
- New CO₂-sy Homes build standards to ensure all new Council houses are net-zero in use.
- Installation of 195 more PV solar panels on the Sleaford Council building, saving over 14 tonnes CO₂ per year and reducing 21% electricity usage from grid.
- Solar PV fitted to 79 Council houses.
- Introduction of electric vehicles within the waste fleet.
- Establishing the trailblazing Central Lincolnshire Local Plan to promote a carbon net-zero future for North Kesteven, West Lindsey and Lincoln and promote biodiversity protection and enhancement.
- Opportunity for 300 businesses to improve their sustainability measures.
- Providing an award-winning programme of energy efficiency improvements to local private homes, saving energy and money for residents.

The Council's plans and strategies are aligned to UN Sustainable Development Goals for 2030 – a global to-do list delivered locally.

Billinghay Rural By-Election

An election has been called for the Billinghay Rural Ward following the death of Councillor Gill Ogden. If contested, the election will take place on Thursday 14 December.

First units complete at Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park

Work to build 15 units at Sleaford Moor Enterprise Park is now complete, moving the development even closer to welcoming in the first businesses to call it home.

The units are built across plots one and three, which together make up phase one. They have smart-looking dark cladding on the outside, while being bright and airy inside with high roofs and ample space.

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They're all designed to meet business needs now and in future, by providing flexible space to grow and in reducing energy use through features including EV charging points, solar panels, and even skylights within the plot one units.

In plot one there are nine units ranging from 1,313 sq ft to 2,066 sq ft – these benefit from solar panels, energy efficient insulation and electric vehicle charging points. Plot three contains six slightly larger grow-on business units from 3,369 sq ft to 5,123 sq ft and these have solar panels, EV charging points and more.

Parish Publications

The Communications team would value any information Members can give for any local/ Parish magazines or websites that may be useful in sharing information – particularly at this time relating to changes to bin collection dates over Christmas. It is also useful to maintain a regular review.

If you have any intelligence to pass on that would be appreciated.

- Magazine or website name
- Any contact details – email or phone number – for contacting the editor
- Any information relating to deadlines and frequency

If you can send a note to [HERE](#) we will update our information.

Flourishing scale - have your say

As you know, our vision as a Council is of 'A District of Flourishing Communities' and in order to ensure we understand what that means at an individual and community level – in order to shape and best-direct our services, resources and responses – we undertake a periodic review.

Through the easy-to-complete Flourishing Scale we aim to pinpoint areas that are thriving, but also where the people and places of greatest need are – so that the right support can be provided. Whatever the need is, it's important that we know where it is and who is affected so that we can focus our support.

We would appreciate it if you could share awareness of this consultation within your communities, encouraging people to answer the ten simple statements on behalf of themselves and their communities (which could mean anything from a club, group or street to their entire neighbourhood, village or town)

It can be found online [HERE](#) or download the form and **post back Freepost to North Kesteven District Council [HERE](#)**. Responses by Friday 17 November please.

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County Councillor Report

Storm Babet

The widespread flooding caused by Storm Babet on 19 October 2023, caused Washingborough Road to be closed, at the railway bridge, till 10 November 2023. This caused residents in Washingborough and surrounding villages serious traffic grief. For example, the Heighington Road and Hall Drive junctions with the B1188 at Canwick had anything up to 30 vehicles queuing to get out at peak times, as well as huge increase in traffic volumes in Canwick, Heighington and Branston throughout the day.

While Lincolnshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority, the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) did not give the county council the power to order the Environment Agency to pump the section of the river at Washingborough any faster. In fact, far from giving Lincolnshire County Council control over all assets and systems, in reality, the 2010 Act gives the county council very few powers to enforce coordination. That means the county council have to work cooperatively with a range of partners including the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board and landowners during flooding events such as recently experienced.

Sadly, if the flooding under the railway bridge were a matter for Lincolnshire County Council, the road would have been opened as soon as the water could have been pumped out, but that wasn't the case, either in the county council's capacity as the Lead Local Flood Authority or as the Highway Authority.

As local people appreciate, the rain that falls on Washingborough, and groundwater, drains largely to the fields to the north of the village, and, as everyone in the village also knows, these were extensively flooded all the way eastwards to the Heighington parish boundary. The Environment Agency had control over the rate at which this flood water was pumped out and, until it was pumped out, the water under the bridge could not be drained.

Unfortunately for Washingborough, the Environment Agency had to drain the area very slowly because it feared that a faster rate would cause a breach in weakened banks further down the Witham, with particular care needed at Fiskerton which experienced dozens of flooded homes.

It is my understanding that, when the water levels in the Canwick/ Washingborough sector dropped significantly, the decision was taken to pump out the flooded water under the bridge on 9 – 10 November. However, it was noted that, although the water table had dropped sufficiently for the pumping out to be effective, the water level under the bridge wasn't dropping. This is when it was discovered that there was another problem, on adjacent farmland, that had been undetected due to the high water levels. This is when Lincolnshire Highways and the Internal Drainage Board intervened to help the riparian owner to repair the damage that allowed the flood water on the road to drain away.

It would be premature to say too much at this point as the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee is meeting on 27 November to discuss to the impacts of Storm Babet. I have asked the committee chairman if I can attend, both in my capacity as the Executive Councillor for Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning, but also as the division member for Washingborough.

At the scrutiny committee, I am intending to ask questions on emergency responses, but also the length of time it took to clear Washingborough Road and the decision-making process leading up to that point. I

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know the inquiry will look at both the high-level issues and the detail, and, given that flooding and water management involve a whole range of bodies, members will also be looking at how each performed, and how well they all worked together. Every possible lesson which *can* be learned *will* be learned and affected communities will have access to findings and decisions.

I have also invited officers from the Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Highways and the Internal Drainage Board to attend a public meeting in Washingborough Community Centre at 6pm on 28 November so that people in Washingborough can put their questions directly to these agencies. I thank the clerks for their support in helping to facilitate this meeting. Social media posts will be put out during the coming days to let people in Washingborough know.

What must be remembered is that, across Lincolnshire, more than 1,000 properties were affected by flooding caused by Storm Babet, with over 500 homes having been inundated. Sadly, we recognise a pattern emerging here, which many link to climate change. We must also remember the major weather incidents in 2019, 2013 and 2007. Worryingly, more frequent and more intense weather events, with more serious consequences, are predicted. So, while we will never eradicate flooding, we should be able to significantly reduce its impacts on our residents and businesses by making sure our systems, preparation and funding are ready for that unpredictable future.

To that end, I invited Dr Caroline Johnson MP to visit Washingborough Road on 31 October so she could see for herself the disruption that Storm Babet caused for residents in Washingborough and for her to consider how she may influence the development of national policy. I also appealed to Dr Johnson to write to the Environment Agency, the Internal Drainage Board and Network Rail (which owns the railway bridge and some of the land adjacent), which she did. To date, I am aware that she only received a reply from Network Rail.

I also took the opportunity to show Dr Johnson the state of the footpath along Washingborough Road, on the Lincoln-side of the roundabout, so she could appreciate the efforts I am making to get a resolution along that section.

It is worth noting here that Cllr Carrington also invited Dr Johnson to visit Heighington, where she spoke to residents who had been flooded.

The Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee inquiry will be wide-ranging and thorough, and I promise that we will be as critical of ourselves as of anyone else. Please be assured that county councillors and officers are doing what we can to get national government on side to help make the changes we need to ensure that our communities are protected as much as they can be.

Finally, picking up on the point that many people made about traffic lights on Canwick Hill to allow traffic to turn right towards Lincoln, it was tried during the eastern bypass road works, when Washingborough Road was closed to allow the construction of the roundabout. But the Canwick Hill traffic lights had to be removed within a couple of days as it caused huge tailbacks in both directions on the B1188, causing particular difficulties for HGVs having to perform hill starts.

I am happy to answer any questions on this matter or any others that arise during the meeting.

Thank you.

Lindsey Cawrey
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