

Washingborough Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 13th December 2023 at 6.00pm in the Community Centre small hall, Fen Road Washingborough, Lincoln. LN4 1AB

Present:

- Cllr R Harrington (facilitator)
- Cllr Mrs B Bland
- Cllr Mrs L Hannam
- Cllr Mrs W Skelton
- Cllr Mrs R Whipp

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

Also Present: Cllr L Cawrey (LCC) & Cllrs Carrington and Goodwin (NKDC).

Members of the Public: Two members of the public were present.

- a. Public Forum: None.
- b. Reports from LCC and NKDC – the report for LCC was circulated prior to the meeting and no questions asked. NKDC – Cllr Harrington advised that there was nothing to report apart from the waste collections days.

70. Localism Act 2011 requirements:

Apologies and reason for absence were received and resolved from Cllr Mrs J Aspinall, Cllr Mrs M Gibbons, Cllr Mrs L Simons and Cllr G Peck.

Declarations of interest: None.

Applications for dispensation: None.

71. Draft notes of the Parish Council meeting held on 15th November 2023 were proposed, seconded and resolved as the minutes.

72. Matters raised at Public Forum: None.

73. Clerks Report (for information only).

- a. To note that Council's Insurers (BHIB) have integrated with CLEAR Insurance group.
- b. To advise that both the Bowls and Tennis clubs would like to thank the Council for not increasing their costs for the 2024/25 financial year and both clubs are in agreement to the extension of the Service Level Agreement date and do not wish to discuss any further.
- c. NKDC would like to advise that the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SDP) has been adopted by the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and that the Energy Statement Guidance & Template have been updated.

74. To discuss and resolve the following:

- a. The re-signing of the Civility & Respect Pledge: It was proposed, seconded and resolved for Cllr Harrington to re-sign the pledge.
- b. The extension of the Coffee Mornings currently being held in the Community Centre: it was proposed, seconded and resolved to continue with the coffee mornings until March 2024. The dates for 2024 will be 11th & 25th January, 8th & 22nd February, 7th & 21st March.
- c. Report from the public meeting with LCC, NKDC, IDB & EA regarding storm Babet: approximately 70 people attended the meeting, as far as possible all questions were answered. Topics included – information of the run up to storm Babet; road closures & communication. LCC fulfilled their statutory obligations (e.g. road closure signs). It was agreed that many lessons had been learned and an enquiry by LCC is being undertaken.

- d. The setting up of a Flood Emergency Plan. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the Flooding working party look into having an appropriate plan for future incidents.
- e. To agree that the flooding issues working party are allowed to work with North Kesteven District Council's enquiry into the recent flooding, as and if requested. It was noted that this enquiry is being undertaken by LCC not NKDC. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the flood working party are authorised to work with LCC, should this be requested by LCC.
- f. To update the community via the Sheepwash Times with the list of questions Council sent to the IDB. It was proposed, seconded and resolved to include the questions, sent to the IDB in the February edition of Sheepwash Times and also to include the answers from the IDB that had been received.
- g. Projects for 2024/25. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that the project for 2024 will be the fitting of window dressings in the main hall of the Community Centre.
- h. To consider a speaker for the 2024 Annual Parish Meeting (6th March 2024). It was proposed, seconded and resolved to make enquiries into having a talk on Alzheimer's/Dementia.
- i. A meeting with Anglian Water regarding the possible new sewer pipe, which could cross Parish Council property. It was proposed, seconded and resolved for Cllrs Harrington, Hannam, Skelton and Whipp to meet with the Anglian Water representative.
- j. Following correspondence from Cllr Cawrey, to consider double yellow lines on a stretch of Main Road. It was proposed, seconded and resolved for this to be an item for Cllr Cawrey's ward walk, due in the new year and for Cllr Cawrey to update the resident who has requested this.

75. Planning Matters.

To resolve any comments on the following applications received. None.

76. The decisions from NKDC, on the following applications received were noted by Councillors.

- a. 23/0958/FUL: 30 Canterbury Drive. Conversion of garage to a beauty salon - approved.
- b. 23/0835/FUL: Cloudside Stud, Fen Road. Temporary siting of mobile home (retrospective) – refused.
- c. 23/1153/HOUS: 5 Ravenwood. Erection of detached garage with solar panels to roof – approved.

77. Financial Matters.

- a. The payment schedule for December 2023 was proposed, seconded and resolved and the salaries payments were noted.
- b. The accounts and budgets for November 2023 were noted.
- c. The Unity Trust bank statement for November 2023 was noted and signed.
- d. The quote for 5x replacement LED exterior lighting from Selmec, costing £1,295, was proposed, seconded and resolved.

78. It was proposed, seconded and resolved that Cllr Mrs L Hannam facilitates the January Full Parish Council meeting.

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

80. Staffing Matters

- a. The advert, for the cleaning post was proposed, seconded and resolved and will be advertised from 1st – 20th January 2024 and interviews held on 1st February 2024.
- b. The recommendations following the recent job evaluations undertaken, on the advice of the Internal Auditor, by the Staffing Panel, were proposed, seconded and resolved.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.20pm

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS: December 2023			Amount
Petty Cash			
13-Dec-23	Cllr Peck	Travel	£ 5.40
13-Dec-23	S Hall	Mower Gasket	£ 23.99
13-Dec-23	J Holroyd	Eye Wash	£ 5.35
13-Dec-23	Pitstop	Petrol	£ 45.07
13-Dec-23	S Hall	Ride-on Parts	£ 54.98
			£ 134.79
Current Account			
13-Dec-23	NKDC	NDR (CC)	£ 380.00
13-Dec-23	NKDC	NDR (P)	£ 358.00
13-Dec-23	XLN	Telephone & Broadband	£ 96.85
13-Dec-23	PWLB	Pavilion Loan	£ 9,507.68
13-Dec-23	ESPO	Gas CC (Oct)	£ 703.07
13-Dec-23	ESPO	Gas P (Oct)	£ 185.92
13-Dec-23	Total Energies	Electric (CC)	£ 396.09
13-Dec-23	Electromec	Towbar	£ 636.00
13-Dec-23	Origin	White Line Marker	£ 332.16
13-Dec-23	Cathedral Leasing	Sanitary Disposal	£ 93.60
13-Dec-23	Sharp Shine	Window Cleaning	£ 39.00
13-Dec-23	NKDC	Annual Premises Licence (CC)	£ 180.00
13-Dec-23	Chantry Agricultural	Tractor Parts	£ 459.02
			£ 13,367.39
Salaries etc.			£ 8,614.01
Total expenditure: December 2023			£ 22,116.19

Washingborough Parish Council Meeting

13 December 2023

County Councillor Report

Storm Babet Flooding Meeting

The flooding caused by Storm Babet on 19 October 2023, caused Washingborough Road to be closed, at the railway bridge, for some three weeks. This caused major disruption for residents in Washingborough and surrounding villages. The wider flooding also resulted in legitimate questions to be raised over the response of public bodies.

To answer questions from residents in Washingborough I organised a public meeting in Washingborough Community Centre on the evening of 28 November. I want to thank everyone who attended the meeting, including our neighbours in Heighington who expressed legitimate concerns over the siting and sustainability of the school.

There was a robust and lively range of views put to the panel during the three-hour meeting and I thank everyone who put their questions to us. I have also been contacted by people in person and via email since the event and I thank you for your support and further comments.

While the event was primarily set up to deal with what caused the flooding and prolonged closure of the B1190 in Washingborough, panel members gave an overview of the nature and severity of Storm Babet, each agency's responsibility and response, and what has been learned.

There will never be full agreement between those who make the decisions in situations like this and those who were affected by them, but it is important that questions are answered in full view of the public, which is why I organised the meeting.

Even though the meeting is over, the response to Storm Babet isn't a closed matter and - as we have heard - there will be an inquiry at the county council which will encompass all those public and private bodies which had responsibility for public safety, rescue and utilities etc during and after the storm. The date of this inquiry hasn't been set yet, but I encourage everyone to keep a look out for it. I know that public interest will remain high and while not everyone will be able to attend in person, I am sure there will be a live stream (no pun intended 🤔). Ahead of that, please do contact me, or Cllr Carrington, via our county council email addresses if you want to put a question to the inquiry.

I especially want to thank the panel members who represented the Environment Agency, Witham First Internal Drainage Board, Lincolnshire Highways and Lincolnshire County Council's Flood and Water Management team.

I also want to thank Cllr Ian Carrington who was there to field questions from neighbours in Heighington and was able to provide further information on planning. Thank you to Washingborough Parish Council for the use of the Community Centre and to Julie for setting out the chairs and tables beforehand. I think we had over 70 people attending which was quite an achievement on a particularly cold November evening.

Finally, as we all know, the earth's climate is changing, and we must be prepared for more adverse weather conditions - this is a personal as well as public responsibility. Please visit <https://www.lincolnshireresilienceforum.org> for information on how to update your emergency plan. The site also has emergency contact information and details of multi-agency responsibilities. I have been contacted by a few people who would like to support Washingborough in updating its community plan and, while it is not the role of your county councillor to take the lead on emergency planning at parish level, I do commit myself to supporting the parish council, and wider community, in your plan's further development.

Washingborough Road Footpath

As members know, I have been campaigning for the hedges bordering the footpath along Washingborough Road to be cut back for a number of years. I have received a notification from Highways officers that they have contacted the

responsible landowners with a request that they cut the hedges, along the northern side of Washingborough Road roughly between the bowling alley and the bypass roundabout, and to inform them of enforcement procedures. As no response has been received to date, it has been decided that it will be more cost- and time-efficient for Highways to undertake the work to flail the hedges. I understand that this has now been initiated. Highways are also exploring the spraying of weeds along the footway surface as there are, understandably, environmental constraints around doing so.

The vegetation is too well established for removal of surface weeds by hand, so Highways will have a better idea of how to proceed when the hedges have been cut back and the environmental requirements have been identified before they decide what options are available.

A further feasibility study is being considered to look at the existing highway layout and widths (for any possible resurfacing of the footpath), compared to those required for current design standards for safe pedestrian/cycle provision and road use. This will give an indication of design and build costs, and potential pedestrian and traffic volumes to inform an initial feel for a cost/benefit ratio. If the funding is approved at Capital Steering Group for the feasibility study, it is likely that this can be progressed through the first half of next year.

Once the hedge flail has progressed, Highways will let me know when that's been completed and what the next steps are.

Double Yellow Line Request

I have been contacted by a resident requesting my support for Lincolnshire Highways to consider double yellow lines on Main Road to aid visibility for traffic exiting the veterinary practice and to aid traffic movements along that stretch of the road. In order for me to take this forward, community support has to be demonstrated, so I have requested that the parish council considers this matter. I am happy to see that the item is on the December 2023 agenda. This is likely to be a contentious consideration, and I will decide my course of action on this once the community has been consulted.