

DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Market Deeping held on Thursday 25th April 2013 at 7pm in the Green School, Market Deeping

Present: Councillor R C Howard Councillor M E Bossingham
Councillor Miss X Collins Councillor P Cosham
Councillor R J Broughton Councillor W Lester
Councillor Mrs P Redshaw Councillor A J Baxter
Councillor R Stephenson

26 members of the public and Brian Thornthwaite, Chairman of the Deepings Mens Group were also present. PCSO's James Capp and Michelle Laughton joined the meeting at 8.30pm

001. Chairman's Welcome

Cllr Howard welcomed all to the meeting.

002. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on Wednesday 9th May 2012

It was resolved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2012 as a true and correct record, and they were signed accordingly.

003. Market Deeping Town Council's Annual Report 2012/2013

Annual Reports were read through in the following order:-

Mayor's Annual Report - Cllr Howard
Amenities and Open Spaces Committee – Cllr Broughton
Planning and Highways Committee – Cllr Mrs Redshaw
Town Hall and Cemetery – Cllr Stephenson

Also included in the report were the Market Deeping Town Council Event Diary for 2012/2013, a summary of Town Council expenditure for 2012/13 and a list of the grants paid out in 2012/2013. There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 2012.

004. Future Purchase of Cemetery Land

The Chair advised the meeting that the burials section of our cemetery is becoming full and with an average of 7-10 burials a year, we need to think about what will happen when the cemetery is full. Every year the Town Council sets aside money, specifically for the purchase of new cemetery land, but land is very expensive and scarce and there is no land available to purchase near the Church or near the centre of town. Residents were invited to put their ideas forward and the options discussed included:

- Buying more cemetery land – where would it be? Land on the outskirts of town? Agricultural land? Land behind Tescos? The showground?
- Asking new developers to set aside land for a cemetery?
- Buying land on the edge of town and planting it as woodland now so that it is ready for 'green' burials in the future?
- Approaching the Church to consider re-use of the medieval cemetery? An example of where this has been done is the Church cemetery in Ketton.
- Once the cemetery is full, not accept any more burials in the town and only offer the interment or scattering of cremated remains? (This is a growing trend nationally and in other countries)
- Use part of the Glebe Field (the area next to the new cemetery, currently used as open space) for cemetery land?
- Use the Rectory Paddock (on Church Street) as cemetery land?

After discussion it was concluded that Council resolved in 1997 not to use Rectory Paddock for cemetery land at any time in the future and residents felt strongly that it should remain 'open and free for the enjoyment of all, in perpetuity', as promised. The residents present at the meeting voted unanimously not to use any part of the towns other existing open spaces for cemetery land. However, some residents felt that there should be the option of burial for residents and of those, some did not support the idea of a cemetery on the edge of town. However, it was agreed that our town is growing and land that is on the edge of town today will be inside the town in years to come. The Chair thanked everyone for their input, which will help the Town Council in future discussions about the purchase of new cemetery land.

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005. Discussions on the Future Development of the Town

The Chair invited discussion and questions on future development of the town:

Q1. How much influence does the Council have over developments such as the Persimmon site on Godsey Lane; it appears that new housing is being built when there is no demand for new houses from within the town, and that it is solely for people who wish to move into the town?

Response: The need to build new houses is governed by the Site Allocation process at District Council level. The statistics indicate that by 2021 Market Deeping will need 500 more new houses. Phase 1 of the Persimmon Development is selling; Phase 2 is under construction, and Phase 3 only has outline planning permission at the moment.

Q2. Has any suggestion been made on how the infrastructure needs of the town will be met for all of these additional residents?

Response: South Kesteven District Council does not permit new development unless they feel that the infrastructure can cope. The Town Council always raises the issue of schools, medical facilities and access and road networks whenever a new development is in the application stage.

Q3. As the proposed new shops on the Co-op and Witts site were turned down, what is the Town Council's view on attracting new business and enterprise to the area?

Response: The Council would welcome new businesses and retail facilities to the town, however, on this occasion there was considerable objection from neighbouring residents and the Council supported them. The hope is that the developer will reconsider the siting of the units and present a more acceptable proposal.

Q4. Under the new Localism Act isn't there supposed to be an analysis of what the town needs in terms of development?

Response: Yes, it is important that residents come to Planning meetings and have their say on proposals and planning applications; residents can opt to write a Neighbourhood Plan by working with the Council.

006. Open Forum and Questions

The following questions were put to the council:

Q.1 Has the flooding on Hardwicke Gardens been addressed?

Response: We are advised that LCC is working closely with Persimmon to address this.

Q2. There are many dangerous potholes. When will the road surfaces be repaired on Hardwicke Gardens and Godsey Lane?

Response: LCC has not yet adopted the Hardwicke Gardens road but there are junction improvements planned this year, which will include road surfacing. LCC has contracted a local mobile team to respond to emergency repairs within 24 hours of them being reported, so please do report dangerous potholes to LCC.

Q3. Why has the Persimmon development been allowed access on Godsey Lane when Outgang Road would have been a more sensible solution?

Response: LCC and SKDC deemed that the junction onto Godsey Lane would be sufficient to support 300 households.

Q4. Why is the Glebe Field strimmed right up to the hedgerow? Would it not be better to leave long grass at the edges to support wildlife as it used to do?

Response: The grass was allowed to grow long and nettles to grow to surround the sapling trees that were planted. This was in order to act as a deterrent to vandals. It was always the intention to trim the grass around the trees once they had grown sufficiently.

Q5. Our local MP has stopped giving updates on travellers sites – is there any news for Market Deeping?

Response: There are no plans to have a travellers' site in Market Deeping. The government target for sites was met by other areas.

Finally, residents gave thanks to the Council for the expansion of the pond; for supporting objections to the proposed traffic lights on Godsey Lane and for supporting objections to the New River Retail development.

As there were no further questions, and there being no other business, Cllr Howard thanked all for attending, including the representatives from local groups and the Neighbourhood Police Team, and the meeting closed 8.40pm.