

**Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting of Market Deeping  
held on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017  
at 7.00 pm at the Community Centre, Douglas Road, Market Deeping**

Present:           Councillor W Lester (Chairman)           Councillor R Broughton  
                  Councillor P Hanson                   Councillor Mrs P Redshaw  
                  Councillor D Shelton                   Councillor A Brookes  
                  Councillor Miss Moran                 Councillor Stephenson  
                  Councillor Mrs J Sked

Also in attendance was:

- District Councillor A. Baxter.
- District Councillor J. Stevens.

45 members of the public were in attendance.

Representatives from the following voluntary sector organisations were also in attendance with displays:

- Age Concern (The Deepings)
- R.A.O.B
- Carers Sitters
- Woodland Trust
- Deepings Heritage
- Market Deeping Scouts
- The Deeping's Mens Group

Also in attendance were:

- The Army Cadets (Market Deeping)
- L.I.V.E.S
- Save Our Signal Box representatives

**001. Chairman's Welcome**

The Chairman of Market Deeping Town Council Cllr Lester welcomed all to the meeting. Cllr Lester encouraged people to take the opportunity to look at the various displays from the voluntary sector, stating that they offer a great service to the community and there maybe information displayed that people will find helpful and useful.

Cllr Lester informed those present that this was a meeting of parishioners of Market Deeping, which is a legal requirement and is held yearly.

An agenda and an Annual Town Meeting report were made available to parishioners of Market Deeping.

Cllr Lester introduced the following to members of the audience:

Chairman of Amenities & Open Spaces: Cllr Broughton.

Chairman of Town Hall & Cemetery: Cllr Stephenson.

Chairman of Planning & Highways: Cllr Shelton.

**002. Minutes of a meeting held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016.**

Cllr Lester introduced this item to all those present and stated that the minutes from the last meeting will require a proposer and seconder in order for the minutes to be accepted as a true and accurate record. Cllr Mrs Sked said that she was present at the Annual Town Meeting last year, although her name did not appear on the list of

councillor attendee's. The Clerk will make the amendment to include her name. Proposed by Cllr Hanson, seconded by Cllr Mrs Sked, members of Market Deeping Town Council voted and unanimously RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 as a true and accurate record.

**003. Cllr Lester invited the individual chairs of committee's to present an update to parishioners.**

Amenities of Open Spaces - Cllr Broughton.

Cllr Broughton stated that in the Annual Town Meeting report there was an article which provided an update on the work that had been conducted across the towns open spaces in the past year. Cllr Broughton said that the town had a lot of land which is looked after by this council and that two Park Keepers are employed to ensure that the open spaces are highly maintained and cared for. He also reported that the council had recently received some free fruit trees from the Woodland Trust and that these had been planted and were being taken care of by the Park Keepers. Cllr Broughton informed those present that, subject to planning permission, a project will start at the end of May to improve the area around the pedestrian crossing on Godsey Lane / Glebe Field. Working in conjunction with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), the existing path will be widened, to do this the existing hedge will need to be removed and a new one will be planted in its place. Cllr Broughton said that he will grub out the old hedge so that the ground will be ready for LCC to complete the widening of the path.

Cllr Broughton updated people further and explained that the surface underneath the Pendulum swing sits on a clay bed which results in puddling in wet weather, and that he had recently seen a cushion type of surface elsewhere which might be more effective than the current surface underneath the swing. During the winter months the Park Keepers will be looking to improve the surface under the swing.

He also reported that the path from Oak Grove to the Cemetery has received a new topping, following concerns from residents who had struggled with buggies, walkers and wheelchairs. Early indications are that the new surface has made a substantial difference to the comfort of those using the path, however, this will be kept under review.

There have been spells of vandalism in the open spaces owned by the Council and as these become known about they are reported to 101, sadly there has been graffiti too and this is removed as soon as possible. Cllr Broughton asked for help from people of the town if they should see acts of vandalism to report these to 101.

Cllr Broughton asked if there were any questions. A resident spoke and said she had submitted a question to the Council regarding the state of Cherry Tree Park which is located off Church Street which is owned and managed by District Council. Cherry Tree Park is a children's play area that is in poor condition with only a small amount of play equipment that are in desperate need of a clean up. The area is messy and overgrown with graffiti. A poll had been run by the resident and initial responses were that people would like to see the area improved. Cllr Lester responded and said that he was aware of the concerns of the park and of feedback which was posted on Face book. He went on to say that we (Market Deeping Town Council) were saddened by the state of the park and that District Council had been asked to tidy it up, and that he had already spoken to District Councillors who represent the Deepings to raise this issue with District Council to see if there is anything that could be done, and maybe this would mean going into Consultation with the residents of Market Deeping to see if it was their wish to take over this park. Cllr Lester continued and said that looking at ideas and improvements for the area was something that we (Market Deeping Town Council) would be supportive of. Cllr Stevens stated that a similar situation had occurred in Deeping St James with Jubilee Park and a 'Friends of Jubilee' Park group was set up and this proved very useful to give a bit more clout for improvements. Cllr Baxter asked members of Market Deeping Town Council panel, what was their feelings about Market Deeping Town Council taken over Greensland as well as Cherry Tree Park and how would the Council feel? Cllr Lester replied that the Council would need to look at this and assess the impact on staffing and costs to the rate payers of Market Deeping. A resident said that she had asked District Council to install a gate at Greenslands, and said that others had asked too, no gate had been installed and concerns were raised about safety and a dog has been hit by a car. Cllr Broughton stated that he could make a gate. Permission would be required from District Council to install it. It was agreed for this to be an

agenda item at the next Amenities & Open Spaces meeting (due end of May 2017). Cllr Broughton asked if there were any more questions. There were no more questions.

#### Planning & Highways – Cllr Shelton.

Cllr Shelton referred to the Annual Town Meeting report and said that he would like to talk to residents about four items. Before giving an update on the four areas Cllr Shelton gave a brief overview of the different Councils and a brief description of what each is responsible for, for example;

- County Council – Adult Social Care, Education, Highways etc.
- District Council – Council Tax, Housing, Planning etc.
- Market Deeping Town Council – Own a lot of land and maintains this land as well as two Cemeteries.
- Deeping St James Parish Council – The nearest and closest council to Market Deeping Town Council.

Cllr Shelton informed residents that planning is controlled from District Council level, and as part of their responsibilities plans are made for development including houses and commercial property. District Council make plans in advance for the future number of houses.

Cllr Shelton gave the following updates on the following four points.

#### 1. Local Plan.

Last drafted by District Council in 2014 and is a plan that goes through until 2035 for the Deepings area [Note from the Clerk: *Definition of Local Plan – Set up by District Council and decides what will happen in the local area for development and infrastructure until 2036*] Cllr Shelton stated that District Council are starting the next Local Plan because circumstances have changed which now requires another Local Plan to be drafted. An engagement process had been started and one was held in the town. The content of the Local Plan is important as this links into the Neighbourhood Plan (more details will be given in a moment). There will be a second and final draft of the Local Plan and this will be available for all on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2017, this was due to have been presented in June, however, will be presented in July due to restrictions of Purdah due to the General Election. The July meeting will be a vital opportunity to provide valuable feedback.

#### 2. Neighbourhood Plan.

Cllr Shelton stated that the development of the Neighbourhood Plan was on schedule and has existed for 12 months. He explained that in the Neighbourhood Plan there are a series of topic's for example; housing, education, healthcare etc. and further stated that the part of the Neighbourhood Plan that becomes law relates to 'Site Allocation' [Note from the Clerk: *Definition of Site Allocation. Site Allocation will detail development of residential and commercial properties and where these are to be located*]. Cllr Shelton informed residents that a referendum will be held with the local residents once the Neighbourhood Plan is completed. Cllr Shelton referred back to a poll that was conducted in 2016 with residents across the Deepings, there was a 20% return rate on a questionnaire that was sent to all households. The vast majority of responses identified the same areas as the Local Plan for development in the Deepings. One area is the north east quarter to the west of Linchfield Road, Deeping St James which borders Market Deeping. There is a proposal for developing the site with 150 houses. Residents have been given the opportunity to comment from a Consultation exercise that was held recently, which was hosted by an agent regarding this proposal. Cllr Shelton stated that it was vital that the Neighbourhood Plan is able to input to proposed plans in this area to ensure that the topics in the Neighbourhood Plan are met. This will mean that Market Deeping and Deeping St James will put pressure on any proposals to ensure that the plans meet the needs of the North West quarter.

#### 3. Footpath 4.

Cllr Shelton explained that Footpath 4 ran from the south of Tesco's right across to Linchfield Road, Deeping St James. When a developer submitted their plans for this area this footpath was already in existence and the footpath was to remain the same. Subsequently, the footpath is not in the place it is supposed to be. Cllr Shelton advised that this is not a situation to "scream legalities" at anyone, but moreover to find a way that Councils (Market Deeping, Parish of Deeping St James, District and County Council's) can work together to find a solution. A resident stated that a notice that had been displayed by District Council on a lamp post and was difficult to read. Cllr Shelton said that we (Market Deeping Town Council) does not want to spend a fortune on legal costs, and said that the Council has started looking at it (Footpath 4) and hopes that everyone would give a

bit. Cllr Lester stated that Footpath 4 was supposed to have had an open vista and that members of Market Deeping Town Council had noticed this and had brought this to the attention of the developer. A local resident stated that in addition to Footpath 4 the public open spaces in the same vicinity have not been completed as per the original plans. Cllr Lester acknowledged and said that this Council had also tried to contact the developer to receive an update as well as an update regarding the allotments. A local resident stated that in this vicinity the developer is refusing to tarmac the roads, because they (the developer) has first refusal on a piece of land nearby and that they won't tarmac the road until they have the piece of land. Cllr Brookes said that he had spoken with the developer who has advised that they will tarmac once Anglian Water have completed their work. A resident replied that there are a great deal of markings on the road, and a ground worker had informed them that they do not have permission to complete the work (tarmac). A resident referred to Windsor Gardens / Jubilee Drive and raised concerns that a joint vehicle / pedestrian access was dangerous. Cllr Lester replied and said that he understood the concerns and that the Council was fighting to make the area as straight as possible.

#### 4. Amenity Cutting.

Cllr Shelton gave an overview of events relating to cutting of the grass verges. Initially Market Deeping Town Council and Deeping St James Parish Council were advised that Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) were withdrawing their service to cut the grass verges, and that this would take effect from the financial period 2017/18 (April 2017). Market Deeping Town Council and Deeping St James Parish Council joined forces and ran a consultation exercise with residents of both the town and parish councils. Residents responded and the overwhelming was a positive response for the local councils to pick up the responsibility for the cutting of the verges, with a small increase in residents precept charges. Recently contact was made by LCC who advised that due to contractual obligations LCC will continue contract arrangements until next year. Therefore, any complaints about the cutting of the verges should be directed to LCC. This Council has earmarked and ring-fenced its funds from this year to pay for the service next year.

Cllr Shelton asked if there were any more questions. There were no more questions.

#### Town Hall & Cemetery – Cllr Stephenson.

Cllr Stephenson explained that part of his remit was to look after the maintenance of the Town Hall and updated residents on improvements that had been made. Cllr Lester added that the outside of the Town Hall will shortly be painted (currently waiting planning permission to proceed).

Cllr Stephenson's other remit concerns the old and new Cemeteries, which are owned by the Council and located off Church Street, Market Deeping. Cllr Stephenson updated residents on a recent issue that had occurred with the ground at the new Cemetery concerning the water table and advised that it was no longer possible to have double depth graves, due to the height of the water table. He went to say that there is plenty of room for the interment of ashes, or scattering of ashes. Cllr Baxter stated that three years ago Cllr Stephenson has informed people at this meeting that the Council would run out of land for burials. Cllr Stephenson replied and said that following a piece of work that had been completed regarding the longevity of the Cemetery, several pieces of analysis had been conducted and a series of recommendations made, one of which was to cease reservation of grave spaces. The Council changed its policy and processes to take on board the recommendations. Cllr Stephenson informed the meeting that this Council continues to plan for a new Cemetery for the future. He also updated residents with improvements that have been made in The Spinney, specifically regarding the scattering of ashes. The Spinney is a place that has been transformed into a tranquil area which looks stunning. Three volunteers assist and help with the maintenance and care of The Paddock, this area has long grass for wild flowers and insects and is a superb area. A Song Thrush was seen there recently along with its fledgling's. Two Herons were seen recently eating frog spawn out of the pond. The swift tower has 21 swift boxes and its hoped these will be used this year by the swifts, and last year a deer was seen in The Paddock. Cllr Stephenson said that he must thank dog owners for keeping their dogs on leads when in the vicinity of the Cemeteries, as well as The Spinney, Paddock and pond areas. He also thanked the Park Keepers, Jamie and Peter for doing a fabulous job and for all of the work they do, as well as the clerks Julie and Candace, as without them nothing would get done. For Keith and Mike our volunteers who give their time for free, and he also invited anyone who would like to, to come along on

a Thursday morning to volunteer at meet at a bench in the Cemetery. Cllr Stephenson asked if there were any questions. There were no questions.

Cllr Lester addressed the meeting and said “as you can see our Chairman are passionate about what they do, representing yourselves in the community”. He continued and stated that other members of the Council are also passionate about the service provided. Cllr Lester referred the residents to a section in the Annual Report regarding the finances and informed people that the details shown were 'draft' as the year end had not been completed at the time of compiling the report. Year end had been completed during the day on the 5/5/17 (the date of this meeting) and the accounts will be updated, and informed residents that the councils finances are audited frequently during the year, and assured residents that the Council is doing its very best with the public purse. He went to advise that the Council also funds a number of local and good causes through giving of a Grant Aid (a list of where Grant Aid had been given in 2016/17 is included in the Annual Report). Cllr Lester asked if anyone had any questions. There were no questions. Cllr Lester introduced the next item on the agenda (see 004).

#### **004. Talk on the Deeping St James signal box.**

Richard Brader and Angela attended the meeting on behalf of the “Save Our Signal Box”. Angela addressed the audience, and advised that they are a group that have registered themselves as a charity to help save the signal box and complete construction and repairs required. There is a face book page to give information to those who wish to find out more. Currently the group understands that it will be able to use land which is opposite Grassmere Farm. This land is being purchased by United Charities who have agreed that the signal box can be located on the land. New College Stamford is providing assistance with the construction work including brickwork and wood work. Manor roofing will provide ridge and roof tiles free of charge. An ex railway worker has expressed an interest to work on the project. The National Railway Museum has donated an original stove to go into the signal box. Grassmere is helping to provide storage on the farm. The project is in need of a qualified Project Manager and if anyone is interested for them to contact the charity and let them know. Angela explained that there will be a public open meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2017 at The Goat at Frognall, at this meeting more information will be given including launch day for the signal box.

#### **005. Mayor's Charities cheque presentation.**

Cllr Lester presented certificates to the following organisations who he had been fund raising for since May 2016.

1. To a representative from the Market Deeping Army Cadets.
2. To a representative from Deepings Men's Group.

Cllr Lester thanked both organisations for all the good work they do in the community and wished each of them well for the future.

#### **006. Open Forum and Questions**

The following questions were put to the council:

- 1) Re: Street Lights. A safety issue was raised concerning the turning out of street lights at night. Cllr Lester responded and acknowledged that a lot of people had complained, and said that in Cambridgeshire the level of complaints meant that the decision to turn off the lights at night had been reversed. A resident said he was concerned of trip hazards once the lights are out, as well as issues relating to concerns with pavements and roads. Cllr Lester urged the resident to contact Lincolnshire County Council (Highways) to raise concerns.
- 2) Re: Pot Holes. Linked to the above residents also raised concerns regarding pot holes in the town. Cllr Lester agreed and encouraged people to report to Lincolnshire County Council (Highways) who are the responsible authority, or call in at the Town Hall and the clerks can signpost people to the right council.
- 3) Re: Footpaths. A resident said that the footpaths in the Deepings leave a lot to be desired, and that new footpaths are not being adopted. Cllr Lester encouraged residents to make contact with County Council to raise their concerns.

Cllr Lester asked if there were any other questions. There were no questions.

As there were no further questions, and there being no other business, Cllr Lester thanked all for attending, including the representatives from local groups, and encouraged residents to visit the stands of those attending from the voluntary sector. The formal meeting closed at 8.10pm and many residents took the opportunity to visit