

At the meeting of Fiskerton Parish Council held on Monday, 29th July, 2013 there were:

PRESENT

Councillors C. Scott (Chairman), Miss A. Chesman, S. Canner, B. Patchett and R. Wall. In attendance were District Councillor C. Darcel, the Clerk and eight members of the public. Also in attendance were Dr. Julie Rankin, Kirsty McLaughlin and Duncan Blom from Lark Energy.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A. Cooke, Councillor Mrs. M. Howard and County Councillor I. Fleetwood.

The Agenda was amended as follows:

5. LARK ENERGY - POTENTIAL SITE FOR SOLAR FARM

Dr. Julie Rankin, Operations and Performance Director at Lark Energy spoke at length on the pre-consultation pre-planning procedures for the proposed Solar Power Farm on Fiskerton airfield, following which she answered questions. Next steps are consulting Reepham and Cherry Willingham Parish Councils and discussions with WLDC Planning officers, following which will be a Public Consultation - an exhibition to be staged in Fiskerton village hall. She and her colleagues then left the meeting.

2. OPEN SESSION

Since the last meeting there had been many complaints about the lack of hedges overhanging pavements being cut back and the Clerk had had to contact several villagers. One villager complained that she couldn't reach the top of her fence neither could she afford to cut her fence. The Clerk was asked to contact Acis. Another resident felt that the plants overhanging the footpath were not his responsibility - District Councillor Darcel offered to check with the Land Registry. It was AGREED that maintaining hedges/trees are the responsibility of the owners of each property.

The public footpath across the field from Corn Close is completely blocked by overgrown hedging on both sides - the Clerk to contact LCC Footpaths.

The hedges on either side of the junction of Orchard Road/Lincoln Road need cutting back - the Clerk to contact property owners.

3. POLICE CONSTABLE'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that there were few incidents in the last month - main concerns were minor accidents and a cow stuck in a ditch.

4. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No Declarations of Interest were made.

6. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of last meeting, previously circulated, were taken as read and signed as a true record.

7. MATTERS FROM THE PREVIOUS AGENDA NOT ON THIS AGENDA

2 - Stile at Five Mile Bridge. A kissing gate has been installed.

6 - Condition of river bank. Both Witham Third IDB and the Environment Agency are sure that remedial works have been undertaken and they are working together to ensure that the bank levels are to the original standard.

12 - Storage container plans at airfield. The planning application has been amended so that the container would be 50 metres away from the war memorial. It was AGREED that the Clerk should contact WLDC Planning, asking if the container could be situated 200 metres away - as well as showing respect, this would then be on good ground and hidden by an existing bush.

13 - Library provision. It is still planned that Fiskerton would have a Tier 4 mobile service of one hour per month.

14 - Fence on open space, Holmfield. WLDC Planning report that the issue of maintenance of the fence is not an issue which can be controlled by planning enforcement; they had visited the site and do not consider it to be in an untidy condition which would allow formal action to be taken. Any responsibility for fencing will remain with the owner, Morris Homes. Much discussion ensued, following which Councillors Wall and Canner volunteered to go to the site to see what needed to be done and report back to the next meeting with suggestions and costings. To be an agenda item at the next meeting.

8. ACCOUNTS

FINANCE BUDGET 2012/2013

As read. The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a cheque for £1000 from the son of the late David Welsh to be used for any purpose that supports community life in Fiskerton. It was AGREED that Mr. Michael Welsh should be thanked for this donation. To be an agenda item at the next meeting to discuss a suitable use.

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT/FINANCIAL REPORT

The Clerk outlined the following transactions, which had occurred since the last meeting

CURRENT ACCOUNT

Payments:

PWLB (Loan)	1026.27	
Txf from DA	3000.00	
Current Account balance		3415.16

CAPITAL DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

Receipts:

Interest to 30/06 3.12

Payments:

Txf to CA	3000.00	
Deposit Account balance		28048.46

PETTY CASH

Postage 10.69

Stationery - paper 2.99

June telephone 4.00

Total Petty Cash 17.68

Petty cash balance -3.12

GRAND TOTAL 31460.50

ACCOUNTS TO BE PASSED FOR PAYMENT:

Fiskerton VH (meeting hire) 40.00

Staffing costs (1 months) 472.73

AGREED

Total after cheques paid out 30947.77

The Clerk reported that, following the local government national pay award, SLCC and NALC have now issued revised recommendations on the salary of local council clerks. The new pay rates apply with effect from 1 April 2013 and increases should therefore be backdated to this date - AGREED.

DONATION REQUESTS

There were no donation requests.

9. TEENAGE SHELTER - LIGHTING/MAINTENANCE

No further progress had been made re costings for lights. Much discussion was held on the problem of mess left in and around the teenage shelter. District Councillor Darcel offered to look at the costs of providing blue and black wheelie bins. Councillor Ms Chesman suggested that members of the parish council meet with the teenagers and explain what is expected of them - use it, keep it tidy or lose it. To be an agenda item next meeting.

10. PROVISION OF BUS SHELTER

Grant funding of up to a maximum of £3000 is available towards this project. Once the type and style has been decided, site meetings will take place between LCC Highways and the Transportation Group (Capital Projects). Councillor Canner proposed that a shelter be provided similar to those in Reepham. The proposed site near High Meadows was confirmed as this stop is used by all buses going through the village. The Clerk had been given a petition for the erection of a bus shelter on Ferry Road opposite Corn Close - a copy to be sent to WLDC as requested. District Councillor Darcel felt that the parish council should have increased the precept so that more bus shelters could be installed.

11. HIGHWAY MATTERS

Nothing was discussed.

12. CIRCULARS

No papers were circulated.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

Nothing more discussed.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had received the following correspondence:

Mr. P. Howarth - withdrawal of Community Governor at Fiskerton School

Fiskerton PCC - thanks for donation towards Christmas Tree Spectacular

RoSPA - notification of play area inspection (August)

Mr. Nigel Bond - enquiries re work vacancies and whereabouts of an old school friend

LCC - temporary road closure - B1202 Wragby Road - B1202/C004 junctions

15. OBSERVATIONS OF THE DISTRICT/COUNTY COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Darcel reported that the highway and pathway outside 17 Church View Crescent needs repairing - the Clerk to inform LCC Highways. He is preparing schemes and drawings concerning proposed steps up the river bank; this will need a special form of consent costing £60 - AGREED.

16. TO CONFIRM THE DATE OF THE NEXT PARISH MEETING

CONFIRMED as 16th September, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Wall reported that he inspects the play area at regular intervals, preparing a risk assessment and has recently included the new teenage shelter. He noted that two windows have been cracked but made safe with tape over the cracks and there is wire mesh over the windows near the goal area. The whole play area has been assessed as a low risk area to be monitored and action taken as required.

Residents at Short Ferry are still very concerned about the lack of a bus stop/shelter - District Councillor Darcel offered to look into the problem.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.20p.m.

CHAIRMAN

16th September, 2013