

Minutes of the meeting of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 at 19:00hrs at Braceborough & Wilsthorpe Village Hall.

Present- Dave Kentish, Rosemary Trollope-Bellew (Clerk), James Shorrocks, Susan Burgoin, Paul Morriss, Steve Collins, Cllr Barry Dobson (SKDC), C R Benn (conservative candidate for Lincolnshire County Council), Di Holden, G Burgoin, M Ravilious, Sue Cook, Sue Holliday, C.Cllr A Baxter.

Ross Edgar, a member of Greatford Flood Committee gave a presentation on flooding in that village and what work they were doing with other authorities to help reduce and prevent flooding in the future. He noted that the Shillingthorpe Gauge had broken down and therefore gave a false reading, the Fitzwilliam Sluice was either on automatic or manual, the gauge at Burton Coggles gave a twelve hour warning to residents of Greatford. In 2025 flooding was not as severe as 2024, it was concentrated in Greatford Gardens and S bend on Main Street.

The parish obtained funding from Lincolnshire County Council which enabled them to pay for the hire of a digger and driver who cleared out dykes around the perimeter of the village, Landowners and farmers had agreed to work with the group, LCC put a camera down the drains and found that some were full of silt. Mr Edgar reported that the Flood group walk and check the areas periodically.

A question-and-answer session then followed. The Chairman Thanked Mr Edgar for his presentation.

Meeting Commenced 19:30hrs

1. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS- Dave Kentish welcomed everyone to the meeting.
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –None given
3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING-It was proposed by Mr J Shorrocks & seconded by Mr S Collins that the minutes of the last meeting held March 2024 be received. All agreed.
4. CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

Mallard Pass Solar Farm

Disappointingly this was approved by the new government only days after taking office, and to no-one's surprise it has already been sold on to another company.

This solar farm will now be built. It will be the responsibility of the Councils, SKDC and Rutland to hold the company building this solar farm accountable for the agreements put in place in the planning approval with regards to the transporting of materials, HGV movements and approved routing, screening, biodiversity, lighting etc. etc. Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council will support the councils with this where we are able to.

Flooding

Again, flooding has caused severe property damage to homes in villages within this area, which is devastating for the families affected. And in reality, this will happen again and again unless there is considerable will and money from government and councils to develop a long-term plan for mitigating the risk of flooding. Parish Councils are getting together to lobby all the services responsible for maintaining the infrastructure that would enable minimisation of flooding, and your Parish Council is involved with this.

Greatford Mineral Extraction

The plan for quarrying was approved three years ago. As yet, nothing has started. As a reminder, the approved plan is to convert 55 hectares of agricultural land off King Street for the extraction and processing of gravel and sand. A road widening amendment to the plans and traffic routing was agreed by the planning office.

Ashton's Estates have put in an amendment to the approved planning 'To vary condition 13 of planning permission S20/1351 to allow the mineral development to commence but restricting the exportation of any minerals from the site until works have been carried out to widen King Street, Greatford location: Land at King Street, Greatford' This amendment will be going to the Planning and Regulation Committee on Monday 10 March for a decision.

Both District Councillor Barry Dobson and I will be part of the "Quarry Liaison Committee" which will enable us to give feedback to Parishioners on the quarry's developments as well as give feedback to the committee on any concerns that we and Parishioners may have.

Once this project gets underway it will create heavier HGV traffic on King Street and surrounding roads, and we will press the planning office and the local councils to make sure that the restrictions put in place will be regularly monitored.

Weight limit restrictions Baston and Langtoft

Lincolnshire County Council recently received a request to review the roads around Baston and Langtoft villages with regards to their usage by Heavy Goods Vehicles, particularly from the quarries located there.

Whilst the majority of HGVs are using the Cross Road to join the A1175, investigations have shown that the area would benefit from a 7.5 tonnes weight limit to restrict access to the adjacent villages of Baston and Langtoft as well as the nearby Meadow Road and New Road. The roads between Baston and Langtoft villages and King Street are also included in the proposal to remove them as potential short cuts from King Street to the A15.

So long as there are no objections to this proposal to highways by the 5th March the weight restrictions should be implemented, which is great. The reason that I have put this into my report, although at the moment it only relates to Baston and Langtoft is that we would also want to push to extend this weight restriction to cover our Parish as well as hopefully partner with Greatford to have it implemented there too. This is especially relevant as the Greatford Mineral Quarry as mentioned above will be going live at some point soon with HGV movements being a considerable challenge.

BT Braceborough public phone box service removal

You will probably be aware that BT have given notice to villages currently with working phone boxes, five of which are listed, and one of these is the Braceborough box, advising that the phone service will be discontinued. The Braceborough box is also inside the conservation area. Whilst we acknowledge that the phone box is hardly ever used, (BT do have the stats to back that up), the Parish Council and many residents feel strongly that the phone box should remain in working use in case of dire emergencies. To this end the Parish Council and your District Councillor have written to BT to strongly lobby for the continued use of the phone box. BT are taking these and other communications into consideration, we await the outcome.

Potholes - Kerbside breakup – Verges

Potholes, kerbside break up and damage to verges are problems that I'm afraid, are not going to go away, the best that can be managed is to have repairs made as soon as they are reported. To this end, what will help, is if you see a problem and report it onto the Highways website <https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk/> with the location and the problem and continue to keep doing so, Highways will come and install a repair. The more people that report any of these issues the quicker a repair will get done. The Parish Council do a yearly Parish walkabout with Highways outlining problems and getting as much buy in from them for as many repairs as they can feasibly manage.

Planning applications

The Parish Council have sight of all planning applications in the Parish and examine each one. There is a structure laid down by the local Planning Authority that we have to take account of when giving our observations and comments, and these are considered by the planning officers when making their decisions.

The big clean

I report on this each year as reminder that this programme has proved to be a success. The teams visit our Parish two or three times a year, clearing out weeds, cutting back overgrown hedges and clearing pathways. This is a great initiative from SKDC and one that I hope continues into the future.

Parish Council vacancy

We have a vacancy on the Parish Council. This is a wonderful opportunity for someone who would be willing to step up, assist the Council and the community by adding their thoughts, viewpoints and a perspective to the issues that are presented to the Parish Council. There is no barrier to putting your name forward for this, other than that you must be at least eighteen years of age, be on the electoral role and have lived in the parish for at least a year.

If you would like to consider yourself for this role but feel that you do not have any experience of what this would entail, please do not let that put you off. Almost all people who become Parish Councillors do not have any experience of this when they join, and I myself had no Council experience when I became a Councillor the same as all my fellow councillors. I will be very happy to have a chat with anyone who would like to know more about this and would hope to talk to you soon.

Please get involved

The Parish Council welcomes and invites all members of the Parish to attend the Parish Council meetings. If you feel that there is something important that I have not covered here, or when something crops up in the future, then please raise your concerns at our Parish Council Meetings and find out how we as your Parish Council are able to help or advise you.

Finally, a big thank you to my fellow colleagues on the Parish Council, our clerk and the representatives from the outside bodies who keep us up to date with the wider matters that affect our Parish and who we work closely with.

I look forward to the coming year and hope for your continued support.

Dave Kentish
Chair Braceborough and Wilsthorpe Parish Council

5. FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2025 – Clerk gave a report on the council accounts to date which would be updated at the Annual General Meeting of the Council May 2025.
6. REPORTS FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR
Unfortunately, due to the forthcoming County Election, complete set of statistics is not going to be available to present to you at the upcoming AGM. However, I have put together some information of events throughout the year.

The main events this year that have had an impact on our District Council:

1. Opening of Customer Centre – this is brand new centre located within the Picture House building behind the existing SK House. It is right next to the cinema. The centre is pleasantly

furnished with separate rooms for residents to discuss matters with officers in private. It is a great addition and certainly more comfortable and private than the previous set-up.

2. Ukrainian Refugees that have settled well in our district and grateful to be in the safety of our country.
3. Rewilding is encouraged wherever possible to restore the insect population that is so necessary for healthy wildlife. As a board member of the Welland and Deepings Internal Drainage Board, I attended a talk by a local farmer on the need to retain as much wildlife on the dykes and ditches by not cutting both sides. Doing so reduces the insect count and consequently reduces the number of birds and eventually the entire wildlife population. It also doesn't help the retention of the river banks that have been so often catastrophically breached, flooding the neighbouring areas.
4. Personally, I am convinced that the new government as well as other parties outgoing did not appreciate the destruction and consequent affects of two major approvals: Mallard Pass Solar Farm among others, was signed off too quickly. There was no doubt it is going to destroy a huge amount of our local nature and wildlife with additional pylons countrywide.

Devolution, has also gone ahead for Lincolnshire and there has been much discussion with a lot more to come. The County Council election will at least hold for a further 4 years. Newly formed Councils will each have 500,000, but this may change. Costs are going to be considerable and probably no cheaper or efficient than the current arrangement of County & District.

D.Cllr Barry Dobson

7. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER BODIES:-

- a) Braceborough Village Hall Committee
- b) St Margaret's Parochial Church Council.
- c) St Faith's Parochial Church Council-

Our Parish Share for 2024, which is now called a Covenant Pledge and is increased by an agreed percentage each year, was paid in full and the agreed amount for 2025, has also been paid in full. St Faith's is well supported in the village for both services and fund raising activities, for which we are very grateful, as this is our only means of income. The church remains open 24/7 and many visitors come to the church both for services and as tourists. Our Knight continues to be of interest, recently a gentleman from Bristol visited, specifically to see the Knight effigy.

The fabric of the church appears in good condition. In May last year we had the Quinquennial inspection and although no major repairs were highlighted, some masonry work requires attention. We will look at that this year and also a redecorating programme (hopefully!).

Our Open Gardens was a great success in 2024 with over 250 visitors. It has been agreed that this will become a bi-annual event, therefore the next one will be in 2026.

Other fund raising events are being organised and details of these will be in the Towers & Spires

St Faith's PCC would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous grants given in previous years and their continuing support. The grant is used solely towards the cost of maintaining the churchyard and from the comments and compliments received, is much appreciated by the village and visitors alike.

Susan Burgoin, Treasurer

- d) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) Wilsthorpe:

As reported last year, NHW has completely changed from when I first joined as co-ordinator. We had meetings in Bourne with an AGM etc. Now through varying name changes it is called Lincs Alert and totally on-line. I do not know our local Police person or even a PSCO, if there is one.

Most of the emails received are either surveys to complete, newsletters or there is also a lot of advice on online spam, online abuse, domestic violence etc., etc. There are no longer updates on local issues and crime but all necessary emails continue to be sent onto villagers in Wilsthorpe. There are still a few, free, Fraud Advice Packs on the table inside the church, for those who have any concerns or would like to pass on. Susan Burgoin.

- e) Neighbourhood Watch Scheme (NWS) Braceborough – Dave Kentish reported that a large number of people had left as there was very little local information and lack of meetings with the police.
 - f) Mallard Pass Action Group-Sue Holliday reported that she had met with Alicia Kearns MP and parish council Chairman/women. There was still concern from Greatford how the development might affect flooding in the village.
 - g) Mr Chris Benn introduced himself as the prospective conservative candidate for Deepings West and Rural at the elections on 1st May.
8. TO RECEIVE CONCERNS & CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF ELECTORS CONCERNS –
9. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CLOSED 20.40Hrs.