

SKILLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Grantham, Lincolnshire

Chairman: Graham Page Vice-Chairman: Richard Wrigley

Councillors: Neville Clark, Francis Disney, Dave Featherstone, David Raes, Anita Sheehan (Mrs)

Parish Clerk: Vicky Page (Mrs), The Old School, Colsterworth Road, Skillington, Lincs. NG33 5HF

Telephone: 01476 330281 e-mail: clerk.spc@gmail.com

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held at Skillington Village Hall on Monday 4th April 2016 at 7.00pm. These are DRAFT minutes and are subject to ratification at the next meeting of the Council.

Present: Cllrs G. Page, N. Clark, F. Disney, D. Featherstone, D. Raes; V Page (Parish Clerk); R. Allinson, C. Crump, P. Duggan, S. Millington, K. Perdue, S. Reynolds, G. Robinson, D. Suchoruczka.

The Meeting was chaired by Graham Page, Chairman of Skillington Parish Council.

1. **Apologies for absence:** received from Cllrs A. Sheehan and R. Wrigley; Steve and Steph Burrows, A. & M. Fryer and Cllr A. Webster (SKDC).
2. **Notes of the Annual Parish Meeting on 8th April 2015:** were agreed.
3. **Report on the Parish Council:** The Chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their service. Mark Fryer stood down at the election. Francis Disney and Dave Featherstone have filled the vacancies on the Council. The next election will be in 2018 and it is hoped that more residents will be prepared to stand. He then reported on the activities of the Parish Council (PC) in the past year:
 - 3.1 **What is the Parish Council?:** the lowest tier of local government with various Duties and Powers. What the PC cannot do is: refuse or grant planning applications, but it is informed of all applications and can make comments; it cannot mend holes in the road although the Clerk will report and follow up issues with Highways, however it helps if residents report any potholes themselves too.
 - 3.2 **Finances:** income is mostly from the Precept of £4,600 which is £33.05 of a Band D property Council Tax. Additional income is from Cemetery charges and various grants and reimbursement of costs for services provided on behalf of LCC and SKDC such as maintenance of the Closed Churchyard of St James's Church, grass cutting and litter collection. Payments made during the year are for mowing within the village, employment costs for the Parish Clerk and litter collectors, maintenance of the bus shelter and Cemetery (both to be continued or completed during 2016) and grants to the Village Hall for a new projector screen/blind, Skillington Methodist Church for maintenance and St James's Church for maintenance and the provision of, and emptying of, a green bin.
 - 3.3 **Planning Committee:** the Planning Committee usually consists of the Chairman and three councillors. The Committee confers and prepares comments on all planning applications relating to buildings and trees in Skillington, bearing in mind the need to protect the identity and character of the village and the rules under which such comments can be made. Any significant development is referred to the full Council for consideration. These comments are collated and sent to SKDC Planning Department by the Parish Clerk. The following aspects are of particular concern, to the Committee: size and nature of the proposal; feasibility; impact on the environment; integration into the village structure. During the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 the following applications were received: three concerning Trees in the Conservation Area and one for a house-holder development which were all granted; also a re-submission of an application refused in February 2015, for which permission was again refused by SKDC Planning. In addition, the Parish Council was informed by LCC of an application to vary the conditions of the planning permission granted in 2006 to allow direct access onto Crabtree Road from Colsterworth Quarry.
 - **Pat Duggan** asked why the PC was not in favour of the proposed development in Lords Lane: The Chairman replied that: SKDC had previously ruled that new development would not be allowed in a Non-Sustainable Community, and therefore the application had been refused; in addition the PC felt that the proposed houses would overlook Albion House and the bungalows facing onto Colsterworth Rd; that the plots were not large enough for the planned development; there was inadequate provision for parking which would impact on Lords Lane; and that the drainage was inadequate in an area which already has problems with drains and surface water.

Signed: Chairman

Date

The PC is not necessarily against all development in the area but had serious objections to this particular proposal.

- **Colsterworth Quarry:** *permission was granted for the use of the new access onto Crabtree Road, subject to various conditions including the installation of a wheel-wash: the new access is now in use but it appears that the conditions have not been complied with and the PC is continuing to monitor this and report back to LCC Planning Dept.*
 - 3.4 Mowing:** During 2015/16 the PC took over the mowing previously undertaken by LCC within the village for which reimbursement was received. Notification has been received that this arrangement will terminate in March 2017 after which LCC will only carry out safety mowing. The PC will consider the implications of this when further information is received from LCC. In general, the PC believed that the mowing it organises, both on behalf of LCC and that which is the PC's own responsibility, has been carried out satisfactorily and gave good value.
 - 3.5 Bus Shelter:** roof repairs were carried out last year and further maintenance of the Bus Shelter will be undertaken within the next few months.
 - 3.6 Viking Way:** the Viking was in a very poor state. The PC has recently reported fly tipping which has been promptly dealt with by SKDC. In addition, the PC will continue to put pressure on LCC Highways to carry out maintenance work however, this is difficult and pointless when the surface is destroyed by irresponsible joy-riders.
 - 3.7 The Blue Horse PH:** Ms Suchoruczka attended the last PC meeting and reported during the Open Forum that the pub was currently losing money and that she was making internal alterations and reducing the opening hours in an attempt to cut overheads. During that meeting the possibility of applying for an Asset of Community Value was discussed, but no action by the PC was proposed. An ACV gives a PC or a community group a six-month period to raise the money to tender to buy an asset, should it come on the market. However, Ms Suchoruczka had made it clear that, should an ACV be applied for she would close the pub immediately.
 - *The Chairman now reported that an application had been received for Change of Use from a Public House to a Private Residence. He understood that if this is granted Ms Suchoruczka will not stop trying to run the pub at a profit, at least for the time being.*
 - Ms Suchoruczka stated that she felt she needed to apply for the Change of Use now before the owners of The Crossed Swords made a similar application.
 - Ms Suchoruczka also reported that she wants to keep the pub open if she can but will not be able to do so unless it breaks even.
 - 3.8 Outlook for 2016/17:** The Precept has again remained unchanged. Improvements to the Cemetery are continuing. The PC hopes to maintain services where LCC & SKDC have reduced budgets.
 - 3.9 Thanks:** The Chairman expressed his thanks to the volunteers who have helped throughout the year, to all the Parish Councillors; to Cllr Adams for his continued support throughout the year, attending almost all the PC's meetings; and to the Parish Clerk for the many extra hours worked.
- 4. Parish Council Finances:** the unaudited Accounts of Skillington Parish Council for the year to 31st March 2016 were presented.
- 5. Neighbourhood Plan:** the Chairman reported progress in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Non-Service Centre status will be changed in the future but if a NP is in place, planning issues will need to refer to it. A survey of a village has been carried out and two meetings have been held to report back the findings. The results have been assessed and a rough plan and policies have been sketched out. A Draft Plan should be ready to go out to residents for comment by Autumn 2016. Meanwhile Consultants will be appointed and funding has been applied for and agreed.
- 6.** The Chairman thanked those in attendance for coming to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm.

The next Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday, 3th April 2017 at 7.00pm at Skillington Village Hall

Signed: **Chairman**

Date