**SOUTH KYME PARISH COUNCIL**

# MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL

**Held on 19th September 2024**

**Present:** Cllr T Kerr (Dep Chair)

Cllrs P Goode C Midgley

J Nadin

**Absent:** Cllrs C Chapman C Clayton

**In attendance:** Cllr A Key (LCC),Cllr M Head (NKDC)

**Also present:** 5 members of the public

As the Chair of the Council was unable to attend, the Vice Chair presided over the meeting. The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and the public session was opened.

A parishioner stated that resolutions were being enacted prior to the publication of meeting minutes. They were advised that the DRAFT minutes were published within days of the meeting taking place, however, once items had been resolved they could legally be enacted immediately. They also stated that the agenda for this meeting could not be found online. It was stated that a hard copy of the agenda was available on the village notice board and that it could also be found on the council’s website.

A member of the public criticised the way that a bodycam had been utilised during a walk around of the village by two members of the Council. It was requested that a policy statement should be adopted for the cameras future use and they offered a potential guide policy. There followed a debate on the use for and against the cameras use, along with some discussion on public criticism made on social media. A Cllr stated that it was counter productive for these adverse comments, which were often pure speculation, to be made as they had a significantly detrimental effect on potential volunteers who would then be loathe to come forward in the future. A member of the public had made a written informal complaint about the use of the bodycam at their residence and, being in attendance at the meeting, they stated that they did not like the use of the camera.

The meeting commenced at 7.35 p.m.

1. **Apologies For Absence.**

The meeting was advised that apologies with valid reasons for absence had been received from Cllrs C Chapman and C Clayton.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That apologies be noted with valid reasons for absence be accepted from Cllrs C Chapman and C Clayton.

1. **To Receive Declarations Of Interest Under The Localism Act 2011.**

There were no declarations of interest.

1. **To Consider Any Applications For Co-Option To The Parish Council As A Councillor.**

An application for Co-option to the Parish Council had been received from Mr D Casswell.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That Mr D Casswell be co-opted onto the South Kyme Parish Council and that the Clerk send the new Cllr the Form of Acceptance for signature.

1. **To Approve As Correct Records The Minutes Of The Previous Council Meetings And To Authorise The Chair To Sign The Official Minutes.**

The minutes from the meetings held on 8th August 2024 were approved as a correct record of the previous meeting.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That the Chair be authorised to sign the official minutes for the 8th August 2024.

1. **To Receive Brief Reports As Tabled:**

Cllr A Key (LCC) updated the meeting on County Council issues. He stated that the Government had granted the Greater Lincoln Authority to progress and that the vote to elect a Mayor would take place in May 2025 in combination with County Council elections. He also stated that winter fuel payments had been discussed at a full Council meeting and District and Parish Councils were urged to encourage pensioners to apply for pension credits where appropriate.

Cllr M Head (NKDC) updated the meeting on District Council issues. He stated that NKDC property services current strategy for the South Parade flooding, was to divert water into the Black Sluice system. He was asked by Cllr Midgley to involve himself fully with the issue and to allow him access to the final plan for discussion before publication. He also noted that the new Chief Executive for NKDC will be announced next month. There was further discussion on the use of Air Source Heat Pumps in council houses; Cllr Head stated that there had been numerous laudable comments on the installations so far, even though Cllr Midgley had some concerns about the appropriateness of these installations and whether the residents were being appropriately represented.

The Clerk gave an update on correspondence sent and received. The previously awarded Star Council Award had been located and would be returned to the Council for public display. The Clerk had written to the Spring Fayre Committee giving the Councils position that they could not resolve to provide a volunteer. He had also received confirmation from Mr R Howes about the Wreath Laying Ceremony preparations and he had thanked him, on behalf of the Council, for once again organising this very significant and important event. An update had also received from the Lincolnshire Reservoir Project team which highlighted potential issues; this had been forwarded to cllrs for consideration and comment. A message had also been received from Mr D Bustin (Captain of the SK Golf Club) stating that a Halloween event was being offered to children of the village to attend on 26th Oct 2024; the Clerk was to ensure that this would be widely advertised around the village.

The Clerk noted the following outstanding resolutions: DBS checks, Repairs to the Village Noticeboard and the purchase of Flymo Skirts.

The RFO updated the meeting on financial issues. He stated that the largest item of expenditure since the last meeting had been repairs to the ride-on mower.

Cllr J Nadin gave an update on South Kyme Community Speed Watch (CSW). Several complaints had been received on the increasing number of very fast vehicles through the village. There was to be a Lincolnshire Road Safety Day held on 1st Oct 24 and it was hoped there would be a consolidated number of CSW events across the county.

1. **To Review, Update And Approve The Following Policies:**

Communications Policy.

Grant Application Policy.

Risk Management Policy.

Having reviewed the above policies it was agreed that the updated policies be adopted with the amendments as tabled.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That the amended: Communications Policy, Grant Application Policy and the Risk Management Policy, all be adopted as policy.

1. **To Discuss The Allocation Of Funding For:**
2. The Purchase Of A Christmas Tree For The Village

The council discussed the purchase of a Christmas tree, however a parishioner had offered a tree that was currently growing in their front garden and this would be offered for free if volunteers could be found to collect it. It was agreed that no funding was needed at this time.

1. The Purchase Of A Pole-Saw For The VTG

The council discussed the purchase of a Pole-Saw for the VTG. Cllr P Goode was to negotiate with Ernest Doe in North Kyme (company replacing Burdens) over potential discounts.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That the sum, not to exceed £700 be set aside for the purchase of a Pole-Saw for the VTG’s use.

1. **To Discuss And Agree Actions Relating To The Disposition Of The South Kyme Football Club Historical Funds.**

A letter had been sent to Mrs A Freeston, the Sec of the defunct SK Football Club, stating that a resident had concerns that the residual funding would potentially be lost in the future and to offer the Councils assistance in the matter should they need it. Mr S Coy had attended this meeting and offered the funds to be placed in the Tower Fund for safe keeping.

1. **To Discuss And Agree Actions Relating To The Recovery Of The LALC Star Council Awards, Council Of The Year Award, Previously Presented To South Kyme.**

The award had now been located and would be returned imminently, with certificate, to enable them to be appropriately displayed in a public place. It was agreed that these items should be displayed in the Coronation Hall and that the hall trustees should be approached.

1. **To Present The Budget Monitoring Report And Approve The Bank Reconciliation For The Current Financial Period.**

The bank reconciliation for the financial period to date was presented by the RFO.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That reconciliation for the financial period to date be approved and accepted.

1. **To Authorise The Signing Of Accounts For Payment For The Current Financial Period.**

The accounts for the current financial period were presented to be authorised for payment.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** That the accounts for the current financial period be authorised for signature by the Chair.

1. **To Receive Any Further Reports From Councillors.**

Cllr Goode raised the issue of the tree overhanging the river at the western end of the village. The owner of the land where the tree is located was present and stated that they would look into removing the obstruction.

Cllr Goode also raised the issue of the grass verges along Skinners Lane and stated that he felt that LCC Highways had not taken these verges into account when calculating the Grass Cutting payments that the Council receives for maintaining areas of the village. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to LCC and ask for clarification.

Cllr Nadin stated that the abandoned vehicle near to the Slea Nav Monument was still in situ and that higher authorities were unable to offer assistance. It was agreed that the Clerk would formally write to the owner and ask if they would like assistance removing the vehicle.

Cllr Kerr stated that he was putting together the funding application to NKDC for Litter Picking. It was discussed that this should be widely advertised to groups such as the Biodiversity Group and village volunteers to seek assistance in keeping the village tidy.

1. **To Note Further Agenda Items And Arrangements For The Next Meeting (21st Nov 2024).**

The following items were requested to be added to the agenda for the next meeting, to discuss:

The purchase of TWO longer cut Flymo skirts.

The meeting closed at 8.41 p.m.