

Minutes of the Saltfleetby Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2017  
which started at 7pm in the Marshland Community Centre

**Present:**                **Chairman**                Cllr W MacDonald  
   Cllr B Stapleton  
   Cllr Rick Smith  
   Cllr Robin Smith  
   Cllr S Harrison  
   Cllr L Dover  
   Cllr S Clark  
   Cllr S Dykes  
   C Owen - Clerk

There were six members of the public present & three representatives from Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board.

Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board conducted a presentation to the Council and the Public that were present. In summary this covered:

- The areas covered by the LMDB with a map of the area including the Pumping Stations, LMDB maintained Watercourse and rivers
- LMDB is the largest draining board in England covering 52,500 hectares, 938km of watercourse & 30 pumping stations
- They are legislated by various Acts including Drainage Acts, Flood and Water Management, Health and Safety, Wildlife and Countryside and Conservation Acts
- Annual expenditure, income estimates for 2017/2018
- Saltfleet Pumping Station built in 1955. There will be a catchment study in 2018/2019 and refurbishment planned for 2020/2021
- Summer Works Progress was explained with Saltfleet catchment south of B1200 to be completed by 14<sup>th</sup> October and The Mardyke being completed by the end of October. Due to roadside working there is an extra requirement for manpower
- Summer Maintenance – flailing and weed cutting was explained by the use of diagrams of the watercourse structures with specific references to wildlife conservation
- The sluice gate at Saltfleet was discussed

After the presentation there were a number of questions and comments from the public in attendance.

A resident made a comment regarding the tremendous job that LMDB do in the area, the quality of the staff and machinery being very good. It is essential that the residents back them and if it wasn't for their work and the retaining of the watercourses, houses would be under water.

LMDB responded that information would be collected if there are any problems and that they are there to serve the rate payer. Any issues need to be reported.

Various questions were raised from the public around the water levels in the watercourses causing subsidence of roads (Mill Lane/Rimac), also B1200 on junction of North End Lane/Three Bridges Lane, clay drying out as the water levels had not been raised quickly enough and potentially causing building subsidence (brought up at the APM by various residents), the addition of more water retainers and increased building insurance premiums due to the watercourses/flood risk area, also, the need for more water in the dyke at the old railway crossing (another sluice required), the need for more water at the west end of the village and a new culvert near Swallowgate. However, it would have to be possible to remove the gates quickly if water started to get

too high. A resident asked if there could be an experiment at Fishmere Gate to see if more water can be retained by timber and beams being added to dyke. This area of the watercourse has been damaged by large tankers travelling on the road. A concern was raised that if the Mardyke collapsed it could be very serious. Out towards the sea (after the Pumping Station) the banks need excavating as the water swirls around and also the Pumping Station leaks.

Responses from LMDB include; they were not aware of the issue on Mill Lane and Rimac and will take that away to investigate the situation. The Council will report back at the next meeting any responses received from LMDB. The B1200 cross roads at North End Lane and Three Bridges Lane, LMDB believe this is a highways issue and LMDB to inspect the area and will raise it directly with LCC.

There cannot be a strict timetable of when to raise the water levels in the dykes as it is very much dependent on the weather conditions, current water levels and wildlife. The aim is to raise around April/early spring and then lower in October/late autumn.

LMDB believe that it is unlikely that the water levels are causing the clay issues and that they would never put anyone at risk of flooding. If there are any specific properties then this will be investigated.

There is a study being planned of water levels, drainage and flood protection over the next few years. LMDB will be looking at new doors on the East Mardyke Sluice Gate. There are only 13 staff to run the area.

LMDB took on board the comment around Fishmere Gate and the potential for the collapsing Mardyke. They will investigate further in the Spring.

In regards to the Buildings/House Insurance, the sea is a significant risk in terms of flood risk and there is a standard narrative for insurance companies. This is a nationwide issue not just in East Lincolnshire. LMDB will help if they can in this area.

The Pumping Station is LMDB but the watercourse up to the Pumping Station is the Environment Agency (sea side of the station). The sand banks are EA responsibility.

The doors at the Pumping Station are gravity doors and have not been lowered for 25 years. LMDB are worried that if they are lowered they may not be able to be raised again causing major issues. This may be looked at in the future.

The Chairman thanked the representatives from LMDB for their time and in answering questions and the Council look forward to their responses once investigations have been done. Thanks also given to the residents that had attended and asked questions.

Session ended at 19.43

Open forum started at 19.45

Public Comments: A resident commented that at the site of the public footpath at Green Lane Farm, Main Road there is a big red sign stating 'Private property, trespassers will be prosecuted'. It is noted that this is footpath no. 226.

The same resident stated that the roadside footpaths are in a very poor state. One example given was the vegetation on the footpath at Osier Holt. The resident has been asked to forward photos of the paths to the Clerk. The speeding through the village in general was brought up again. The Chairman confirmed that data from the speed signs showed a vehicle travelling at 95mph down the B1200 at 8am. A specific mention that motor bikes have been observed travelling at excessive speed along the B1200 as well.

The Chairman thanked comments made by the public.

Statutory proceeding commenced at 19.50

**00627 Apologies for absence** – Cllr D McNally - apologies were accepted.

**00628 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2017** had been circulated and it was resolved to accept them p Cllr Harrison, s Cllr Rick Smith. The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman.

**00629 Declarations of Interest** – None. A proposal to go into closed session once the business of the open meeting has been concluded was made, to consider issues that cannot be debated in open session p Cllr MacDonald s Cllr Harrison.

**00630 District Councillor Report** – Cllr McNally was not present at the meeting.

**00631 County Councillor Report** - Cllr McNally was not present at the meeting.

**00632 Councillor Vacancies** – No requests for co-option onto the Parish Council for the three current vacancies.

**00633 EnergieKontor UK Ltd – Gayton Funds** – Minutes of the EK Panel Meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 had been circulated and it was resolved to accept them p Cllr Harrison s Cllr MacDonald

**00634 Financial Matters**

a. Accounts to be paid/authorised – Invoice from Duncan & Toplis Chartered Accountant for £96.00 for the preparation of the EK Community Fund Accounts for 2016/2017 – it was resolved to authorise the payment from the EK Community Fund bank account p Cllr Clark s Cllr Harrison. Payment for the previous Clerks Statutory Holiday pay will be discussed in closed session at the end of the meeting. Current Clerks Salary for September 2017 was resolved to authorise payment p Cllr Dykes s Cllr Stapleton.

b. Foxall Plant Hire – £18.00 to be reimbursed to Cllr Stapleton for tool hire was resolved and authorised for payment p Cllr Dover s Cllr Harrison.

c. Filing Cabinets – quotations obtained. A resident stated that he had some filing cabinets that may be suitable at no cost. It was resolved that the Clerk would arrange a viewing with the objective of securing suitable filing cabinets.

d. Internet Security – for the Parish laptop. Various internet security providers were discussed and it was resolved to allow the Clerk a budget for securing an upgrade to the laptop security of up to £50 p Cllr Dover s Cllr Clark.

e. Bank Reconciliation – Cllr Harrison raised a query regarding the balances on the reconciliation. There was a discussion around the origins of the balances and there was clarification by the Clerk that balances were as per bank statements (these were made available to the Council).

f. Change of correspondence address for Lloyds Bank Plc – SPC and EK Fund accounts – to be resolved in closed session.

g. Saltfleetby Wind Farm Community Fund Financial Statements for period 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017 - to be resolved in closed session.

h. Information Commissioners Office subscription renewal for £35.00 was resolved and authorised to make payment p Cllr Dover s Cllr Harrison.

i. Annual Return 2016/2017 external auditor report was discussed and resolved to publish on SPC website p Cllr Harrison s Cllr Dover.

**00635 Planning Applications** – None

**00636 Policies to be discussed and approved** – Standing Orders had been circulated and it was resolved to approve them p Cllr Rick Smith s Cllr Harrison. It was agreed that the Council prioritise a list of policies for review/acceptance. It was requested that the Clerk prepares the most urgent policies for the next meeting and that this is an item on the next agenda.

**00637 SPC Fixed Assets** – Cllr MacDonald apologised to the Council for not completing this and that it would be on the agenda for the next meeting in November.

**00638 Village Signs** – Discussed replacement of the village signs. It was resolved that Cllr Stapleton and Cllr Clark would look into quotes to acquire and site 6 signs and report back to the next meeting.

**00639 Maintenance of Benches** – Discussed anchoring the bench at St Clements Churchyard and also investigating plastic wood affect benches. These would potentially last longer, would not require maintenance and this would outweigh the costs incurred. Cllr Clark to acquire information and remain on agenda for next meeting. Cllr Stapleton reported that the benches at All Saints Church and North End Lane is Iroko and requires treating with bleach, sanding and refinishing. Cllr Stapleton to get quotes for the work required. With the quotes for new benches and the quotes for the work required on the current benches a decision can be made as to the best course of action.

**00640 Village Newsletter** – Council resolved to make an application to draw from the EK Community Fund for the financial support of the Saltfleetby Village Newsletter. The Clerk is to complete an application for £250 to be able to produce the newsletter p Cllr Clark s Cllr Dover.

**00641 BT Telephone Kiosk Disconnection** – Cllr MacDonald reported that the disconnection had been completed. Cllr MacDonald is now waiting for a report to be received to confirm the disconnection. Cllr MacDonald has already contacted Northern Power Grid 5 weeks ago and they said that the confirmation could take approx. 4 weeks. He believes the letter is imminent.

**00642 Transparency Funding** – Discussion around fixed assets that would enable the Council to adhere to the future Transparency Code. Suggestions: Laptop (for Parish Clerk), projector, noticeboard for outside, Bluetooth enabled tablet (for speed signs). Clerk to look into process for application.

**00643 Reports from Outside Bodies** - None

**00644 Correspondence** – Cllr MacDonald reported that he had received a response from Northern Power Grid, to his letter regarding the unacceptable number of power cuts that are occurring within the village. The letter received does not answer the questions that were raised around the reasons why the power cuts are very frequent (up to 40 in one day) and the duration of them. Concerns were raised around the vulnerable residents in the village. The Council would ask that ALL residents record any power cuts; time of day, frequency and duration over the next 12 months. Cllr MacDonald to send the Clerk a copy of the letter for the record.

Letter has been received from Kier Business Services Ltd regarding the Playing Field at the former Saltfleetby C of E Primary School and their potential disposal. It was resolved that Cllr Harrison and Cllr MacDonald would compose a response noting all concerns as soon as possible as the deadline is 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The main discussion points to raise in the response; the interest by a group of procuring the site, the fact that the

site in question is land-locked and has no access to the road, impact on the street scene of any future development to the site, the School is a significant part of the history of the village.

**00645 Councillor Reports** – Cllr Stapleton explained that the grass cutting at St Clements Churchyard had been undertaken twice. The churchyard looks much tidier than it was previously. It is noted that no invoice has been received by the Clerk in respect of this work and Cllr Stapleton will contact the contractor to prompt. The Council is awaiting a quote for the electrical work for the installation of the defibrillator at the Prussian Queen.

Cllr Rick Smith informed the Council that the installation of cabinet 4 for superfast broadband is now up and running.

Cllr Clark stated that residents should be able to log all road/highways/footpath issues to LCC through the portal and a reference number is generated. Unfortunately, the status cannot be checked after using this reference number, however, if residents would like any update then Cllr McNally could be asked to check the status of any logs.

Cllr Robin Smith stated that some residents had asked about the possibility of numbering the houses in the village to aid the emergency services being able to locate properties when called out. This is to be added to the next agenda to discuss.

Cllr MacDonald and Cllr Harrison attended a session at Tedder Hall, Manby to hear presentations on Operation Repeat. Representatives from Lincolnshire Police talked about how vulnerable members of society are being targeted by organised criminals by knocking on doors and ‘stalking’ properties to determine who lives there, times they go out etc. This is done by the criminals posing as a door to door sales person and will do this a number of times to survey the property and person. These people will go to any lengths and Cllr MacDonald reported that an elderly lady was killed as a result of the persistence of these criminals. A copy of the leaflet given at the meeting will be displayed and also there will be some information in the next edition of the Village Newsletter being issued in November 2017.

**00646 Parish Clerks Report** – LALC are holding their AGM on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October at Cranwell, Lincoln. The Clerk and Cllr Dover are to attend and report back to the next meeting. The Clerk will book the relevant places through LALC.

**00647 Items for the Next Agenda:**

- Dates for EK Wind Farm Community Funding Panel Meetings – proposed date w/c 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017
- Draft Annual Budget for 2018/2019
- Financial Regulations to be approved
- Review of application process for EK Wind Farm Community Fund
- Policies – to discuss prioritised list and review 3 policies that have been prioritised
- Fixed Asset List

The meeting closed at 10.11pm. Next Parish Council Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.00pm

Chairman ..... Date .....

Clerk ..... Date .....