

**Minutes of the Deeping St James Annual Parish Meeting
held at
The Deepings School Conference Centre,
Park Road, Deeping St James
on
Tuesday 9 May 2017 at 7.30 pm**

1. **Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Parish Councillors Bowell, Hall, Gilbert, Pelling, District Councillor Steve Benn, County Councillor Trollope Bellew, Police Chief Inspector Mike Burnett and Eileen Bradford Fawson from Private Kollection.

2. **Welcome**

Councillor Phil Dilks welcomed the many local residents to the meeting and extended a special welcome to the new Chairman of South Kesteven District Council, Councillor Bob Sampson. As the outgoing County Councillor for Deeping St James Councillor Dilks said a few words about the role, congratulated Councillor Barry Dobson and wished him well for the next four years.

3. **Approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Parish Meeting**

Those that were present at last year's meeting agreed that they should be signed as a true copy

4. **Annual report of the Parish Council**

Councillor Dilks firstly took the opportunity to introduce the Parish Councillors and staff who were present.

He then advised that the Parish Council holds its full council meeting on the last Thursday of every month and this meeting is open to the public as well as a number of smaller committee meetings.

In the past year the parish council has worked together with many other community groups to organise the dog show, the carols in the park, the annual clean-up as well as hosting three public right of way footpath walks with a buffet afterwards.

The Parish Council also financially supported the summer play scheme, The Deepings Youth Club, The Deepings Community Library and a community skip - a service for local residents as well as granting funding to a number of organisations to assist them in serving the community.

Throughout the year a number of issues had been raised by parishioners, most common are inconsiderate parking and speeding, anti-social behaviour and planning concerns. None of these are enforceable by the parish council but it can put individuals in touch with the relevant organisation and offer support.

The Parish Council is responsible for the following - Allotments, Cemetery, Millennium Wood, Woody Heights Skate Park, Bus Shelters, some street furniture and some waste bins.

In the last year a further bus shelter has been installed making the total in the parish 11, funding has been secured to replace the metal skate ramps at Woody Heights and a second reactive speed sign has been purchased.

Councillor Dilks explained that this all costs and the money is collected via the Parish element of the council tax precept which had increased this year however for the average property in Deeping St James was still less than £1 a week and he hoped everyone felt it was worth it.

The Parish Council's future aspirations are to not only continue with what it currently does but to work closely with other organisations to improve the open spaces and leisure facilities in the parish, support the re-building of the St James Deeping signal

box and the building of a bridge over the River Welland enhancing the footpath walks and also to replace the skate park.

5. **Entertainment from representatives from The Deeping Gang Show.**

Seven of the Beavers group sang a witty song with lots of actions.

6. **Reports from organisations and community groups**

- Richard Lord who has been the Head of The Deepings School since September 2016 gave a presentation about the School which has 1600 pupils and 200 staff. He spoke of the role of the Governors, a number of talented pupils and how the STEM subjects (Science, Technology, English and Mathematics) are thriving and the extra-curricular activities that are offered are strong. He mentioned the infrastructure challenges of the School which was built in 1958 and how 5 billion had been spent improving the building over the last five years the next block to be renewed would be the design and technology block. As well as this work on lease documents was progressing and when completed the outdoor activities could be renewed. The School is at the heart of the community and has strong community links – involved in the recent Deepings Literary Festival, supports the Local Youth Club, supports charitable organisations such as the Foodbank and receives support from them too (DSJ United Charities have recently provided a piano) as well as a number of year 10 students recently undertaking work experience with local organisations and companies.
- Tom Hutchins from the skate park improvement working party advised that following on from last year's presentation he was pleased to say that Deeping St James will have a new skate park very soon. A number of community engagements events had taken place throughout the year, at The Deepings Carnival, The Rose and Sweetpea Show and the Deepings Raft Race, and two designs – from Gravity and Maverick - were being considered at present. The £135,000 needed had been raised from a number of sources including a grant funding application to WREN which he understood had been an arduous task but worth it.
- Judy Stevens Chair of the Friends of Deepings Library started by acknowledging Louisa Crowson who was employed by the friends of Deepings Library and Liz Waterland former Chair who had put their all into the venture. The 3 year battle to save the Deepings Library had been vindicated as it is now the most successful Library in Lincolnshire. There is a lot more than books on offer including story-time, age concern visits, craft events, pop-up gardens and book sales. A new idea starting soon was a baby group. The Deepings Literary Festival had been such a success due to the number of people who got involved and the read dating event promoted a number of local authors of which the Deepings has many.
Councillor Dilks thanked them all for their presentation and expressed special thanks to Judy Stevens who had been the Director of the Deepings Literary Festival

7. **Presentation of awards.**

a. **Making a difference awards**

1. **Young Person (under 19)**

Alfie Clifton & Harry Anderson
Tom Hutchins
William Schelpe
Leo Markey

2. Citizen

Judith Allen
Louise Magness
Kevin Barber
Nick Ash
Elliott Cooper
Cameron Hare
David Henderson

3. Organisation

Deepings Nature Reserve group
Deepings Lives Responders
Priory Players
Deepings Literary Festival
Little Linchfield Parent and Child group

4. In the course of doing their job

Raechell Last
Janice Bullock

Each nominee received a certificate and the overall winners - Tom Hutchins, Judith Allen, Deepings Nature Reserve group, Janice Bullock - received a trophy. These were presented to those who were in attendance by local Author and Illustrator Ellie Sandall.

b. The Deepings Literary Festival window dressing competition awards

The four short listed entries were The Old Bakery, Private Kollection, Murano Silver and J.R Callow & Son. Certificates were presented by Novelist, short story writer and playwright Hilary Spiers to Howard from J.R Callow 7 Son, and Molly from Murano Silver who also received a signed copy of the book 'Appletree Yard' by Louise Doherty.

8. Raffle and vote of thanks

A free raffle took place followed by a vote of thanks from Councillor Mike Ward, to all who had attended, all the nominees for the making a difference awards and the Beavers for their entertainment. Special thanks were extended to and token gifts presented to Hilary Spiers, Ellie Sandal and Margaret Flegg and Councillor Bob Sampson. Councillor Sampson took the opportunity to say a few words thanking the Parish Council for inviting him to the meeting, adding that what he had seen was a community where the spirit of citizenship and the spirit of youth shine through.

Followed by homemade refreshments provided by Margaret Flegg