

**Minutes of the Deeping St James Annual Parish Meeting
held at
The Deepings School Conference Centre,
Park Road, Deeping St James
on
Tuesday 8 May 2018 at 7.30 pm**

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Rt. Hon John Hayes MP and Police Chief Inspector Steve Williamson.

2. Welcome

Councillor Andrew Howell, Chairman of Deeping St James Parish Council welcomed the large number of local residents and gave a special welcome to the Chairman of Lincolnshire County Council, Councillor Andrew Hagues, the Chairman of South Kesteven District Council, Councillor Bob Sampson, South Kesteven District Council Officers Adrian Smith and Andrew Norman, Lincolnshire County Councillor for Deepings East Councillor Barry Dobson and the Market Deeping Town Council Mayor and Consort Councillor Pauline Redshaw and Robert Redshaw.

3. Approve the minutes of the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting

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

4. Annual report of Deeping St James Parish Council

The Chairman of Deeping St James Parish Council Councillor Andrew Howell gave a speech covering the Parish Council's role which included the following points:

- The Parish Council consists of 15 Councillors and employs 3 part-time members of staff
- provides & maintains the Cemetery, as a Burial Authority, provides and manages over 100 allotments, provides and manages the skate park and MUGA, manages the Millennium Wood and is a consultee of the planning Authority. It also provides and maintains play equipment, bus shelters, seating, litter and dog waste bins, and the K6 telephone kiosk near The Priory Church together with the defibrillator inside.
- Litter picking, emptying bins, removing graffiti, and weeding the village to keep it tidy, and enhancing the appearance of it by setting bulbs and trees, and cutting the grass is also organised by the Parish Council.
- applied and obtained funding for the renewal of the skatepark at Woody Heights on Linchfield Road which was officially opened on 4 December 2017
- Signed the Charter for Trees Woods and People reinforcing the importance of trees in the environment
- Hosts 3 footpaths walks to keep the public rights of way accessible and enjoy the countryside and supports local community groups to maintain the countryside and the heritage in the area
- provides grants to help local groups run clubs and hold events that benefit the local community as well as providing funding to the Deepings Community Library, Deepings Youth Group, the Summer playscheme and the weekly community skip
- Works closely with the Friends of Jubilee Park to organise the annual Dog Show and Christmas carols
- works closely with neighbouring councils, the District and County Council, the local Schools and the Neighbourhood Policing team too.

5. **Entertainment from members of Deeping St James Community Primary School**

The Deeping St James Community Primary School Band and Choir performed several songs

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

- Kaye Brennan from the Woodland Trust introduced the Charter for Trees Woods and People which Deeping St James Parish Council had shown their support for. The principles of the Charter are to articulate the relationship between trees and people and to bring the principles to life people need to be encouraged to think about behaviour choices and exercise their rights to visit local woods and ensure they are trees are preserved or replenished. Tree Charter Day is on 24 November and is the start of National Tree Week when it is hoped everyone will do something to mark the occasion.
- Pam Byrd from Deepings First, the neighbourhood planning group covering Deeping St James and Market Deeping collectively referred to as The Deepings. More development is designated in The Deepings and one of the aims of Deepings First is to ensure the health and well being of the community is taken into consideration during this development. The Deepings Green Walk aims to incorporate safe attractive accessible pathways within developments and the policy has been well received by the developers. The walk will cover up to 9 miles around the Deepings and it is hoped it will encourage healthy lifestyle choices, tourism and community integration.
- Andrew Norman, Head of Visitor Economy, InvestSK at South Kesteven District Council explained that within the District approximately 2000 people work in tourism related industries, and 3.2 million people had visited in 2017 bringing £168 million into the economy. In order to encourage the 15.3 million people who each year pass close to South Kesteven, the gateway to Lincolnshire, a new webpage, Discover South Kesteven, will promote the areas market towns, sporting teams and facilities, walking and cycling opportunities, Arts and Culture, Heritage and retail outlets.

7. **Presentation of awards** by Janette Wickens, Regional Development Officer at The Woodland Trust.

a. Making a difference awards

1. Young Person (under 19)

The nominees included Harriett Spriggs, Macie Chapman, Jake Jarman, Tayla-Mai Tomlinson and Esme Hughes. The award was presented to Harriett Spriggs.

2. Citizen

The nominees included Bob Parmenter & Betty Fenech, Sharon Roberts, Sue & Bob Titman, Kate Redhead, Theresa & George Mcdonagh and Jan Fisk. The award was presented to Bob Parmenter and Betty Fenech.

3. Organisation

The nominees included Age Concern, Deeping Swimming Club, Deepings Foodbank, Deepings Forget Me Not Club, Deepings Community Library volunteers, Gracefully Uncovered Girls, Raft Race Committee, Priory Players and DSJ Women's Institute. The award was presented to Deepings Forget Me Not Club.

3. In the course of doing their job – Heather Newton, Gervais and Victoria Seymour, David Blessett and Louisa Crowson. The award was presented to David Blessett.

b. Special award

Sossy the Dog – for being a life-saver!

c. Favourite tree announcement

Councillor Stevens read out the results of the Favourite Tree Competition which had received 18 entries and the public had voted for upon arriving at the meeting. The winner was the Willow Tree in the Halls rear garden on Station Road Deeping St James.

8. Raffle and vote of thanks followed by a buffet

The raffle was drawn then the Vice Chairman of Deeping St James Parish Council, Councillor Ward, thanked all the attendees, making a difference award nominees and nominators, the children and staff from Deeping St James Community Primary School, the Chairmen of Lincolnshire County Council and South Kesteven District Council, the Parish Council office staff and Margaret Flegg for the buffet that everyone was invited to enjoy.