

Minutes of the Meeting of the Burton-by-Lincoln Parish Council
Held at the Burton Estate Club on Tuesday 6th December 2005

Present: John Copeland (Chairman), Gary Lisseman, Steve Chadderton, Peter Russon, Joan Osterfield, Eric Bell, Gillian Jolly.

In Attendance. Gordon Hickmore (Clerk), Cllr Sarah Anyan-Needham, Cllr Ray Sellars, Cllr David Cotton, Mr Duncan Sharkey, Chief Executive West Lindsey District Council.

Also Present: - Mr Peter & Mr David Coates, Mr Rick Costall, Mrs P Chadderton, Mr G Walkinton, Mr J West, Mr & Mrs P Cook, Mrs J Dobson and others, 20 in all.

Introduction:

The Chairman welcomed Mr Duncan Sharkey to the meeting. Mr Sharkey had kindly agreed to speak to the meeting as the newly appointed Chief Executive for West Lindsey District Council about the problems facing the District over the next 10 years.

Mr Sharkey stated that West Lindsey covered a large rural area of 450 Sq miles with 128 parishes and a population of only 80,000 people. In his initial review of the area, he concluded that while there were some poor areas that required intervention, the area as a whole offered a good quality of life for the residents. The Lincoln fringe villages and the Wolds were developing well, but the town of Gainsborough with a population of 20,000 people, was not reaching its potential. Gainsborough, having lost its industrial base, is a town which needs to define its future role. There is a need for a range of initiatives through a community policy but it is difficult to divert resources into one area which are then resented by others. For instance, Market Rasen and Caistor need new facilities but with limited resources how do you determine priorities without alienating the support of others? The District had been successful in obtaining a high level of grant funding from central government but there was still much to achieve. He stated that public consultation is important to establish priorities and this is done through the medium of Area Forums. Area forums are held three times per year in each of the three areas of West Lindsey; The Lincoln Fringe; Gainsborough and surrounding area; and The Wolds area. These nine Area Forums provide an ideal opportunity for public consultation on various issues regarding service delivery in West Lindsey. They are open to all who wish to be involved.

Protecting and improving community life in West Lindsey is at the heart of everything we do. We believe the best way forward is to forge strong partnerships and help communities achieve their own aims and aspirations. The District Council is a main partner in the West Lindsey Local Strategic Partnership, together with health agencies, the police and other public, private and voluntary organisations. In 2005 the partnership published West Lindsey's first Community Strategy that sets out the milestones that will affect the District over the next few years. Eight themes have been identified and individual groups are now developing more detailed plans for action.

Priorities that the Community Strategy is based on include:

- encouraging sustainable, diversified growth of the economy;
- tackling all transport related problems;
- conservation of the highly valued rural environment;
- improving the safety and peace of mind of local communities;
- ensuring the good health and well being of all residents;
- ensuring equality of opportunity in education and training;
- support to local communities

Asked about the future of West Lindsey as an administrative area, Mr Sharkey said that there was pressure to reorganise local government into larger, more efficient units. This is happening in other areas such the Primary Care Trusts and with the pressure to introduce regional police forces. At present, services are divided between the Districts and the Lincolnshire County Council, but there are proposals within government to create unitary authorities that would be responsible for all services within an area.

Mr Sharkey considered that Lincolnshire is too large and remote to be a unitary authority, but in a District Council such as West Lindsey it would not be economically viable to provide services currently provided by the County Council. Districts could amalgamate, such as East and West Lindsey, but Lincolnshire does not split easily into regions. There is the prospect of an enlarged Lincoln Authority, swallowing areas that currently fall with West Lindsey and North Kesteven. However, in his view, the status quo would remain for a number of years.

The Chairman thanked Mr Sharkey for his contribution and wished him well in his demanding appointment.

1. Minutes of the Last Meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th October 2005 were agreed, and signed by the Chairman.

2. Clerk's Report

2.1 Fly Tipping. (Para 2.3) A further incidence of fly tipping had occurred in Fen Lane. A delivery note attached to one of the boxes identified the source and the matter had been reported to the WLDC Enforcement Officer. It is the policy of WLDC to prosecute fly tippers, but the lack of resources and the length of time it took to bring a prosecution was very frustrating. The Chairman sought the cooperation of parishioners to report incidents of fly tipping.

2.2 Local Plan Inquiry – Inspector's Report. The Inspector's Report resulting from the Local Plan inquiry is expected to be published in late December. The Clerk agreed to notify councillors and the Burton Waters Resident's Association of the recommendations made in the report concerning the Burton Waters development.

2.3 Burton Estate Club. Although the Club had negotiated a 35 year lease on the building, no grant application had been made to improve the facilities. It was felt that the club would be unlikely to secure a grant from public funds unless the building is registered a village hall.

3. Finance

3.1 Parish Balance. The Clerk stated that the current account stood at £651 with £5 in cash. £2557 was held in the deposit account.

3.2 Authorisation of Expenditure. The follow expenditure was authorised by the Parish Council:

British legion – Remembrance Day Wreath	£20
Staples	£36.92 (paper etc as per receipts)
Xmas tree	£20
Litter picking expenses	£15
Printer toner	£66.83
Bank to cash	£50
Postage	£16.89

3.3 Parish Precept 2006-2007. The Clerk stated that details of the precept for 2006-2007 had been distributed to all councillors prior to the meeting. He explained that in 2005/06 the parish precept was £2745 with £1867 collected through the parish rate. This amounted to £8.48 for a Band D property. In 2006/07 he anticipated that expenditure would be similar but he had included an additional £500 for traffic calming measures and £250 for the purchase of dog foul bins for Burton Waters. He proposed that this expenditure would be met by taking £200 from the reserves, and £500 added to the precept, making a total of £3250 for the year. There had been a small increase in the housing stock from 269 to 281 houses which would reduce the total burden on individual householders. He estimated the parish rate for a Band D household to be £10.14 or 00.8% of the total tax collected through the rates. A copy of the budget calculations is at Annex A to the minutes.

3.4 In response to questions, the Clerk stated that the production and printing cost of the journal was £250 but this was offset by a donation of £60 from a parishioner and we were seeking advertising in future issues to cover the remaining costs. Costs were kept to a minimum by printing in house. The budget was approved unanimously by the Council.

Resolved:

That the budget for 2006/07 be approved.

That the Council set a Precept upon the Charging Authority of £3250.

4. Planning

4.1 Planning applications. The Council received notification of the following planning applications:

4.2 M05/P/0794 Walnut Garth. The application to build an extension above the garage at Walnut Garth was approved by WLDC.

4.3 M05/P/0983 Hotel and Conference Centre, Burton Waters. The outline planning application to build a Hotel and Conference Centre next to the David Lloyd Centre at Burton Waters was approved by WLDC.

4.4 M05/P/0927 & M05/P/0931 The Georgian House. The retrospective application for listed building consent for alterations to the Georgian House was approved by WLDC.

4.5 M05/P/1001 & M05/P1072 Burton Waters. The applications to build private dwellings on plot 523 and 527 at Burton Waters were approved by WLDC.

4.6 M05/P/0998 Dunster Lodge. No decision had been reached by WLDC on the application to convert a redundant farm building at Dunster Lodge to a holiday cottage.

4.7 M05/P/1205 Georgian House. Councillors had no observations to make on the application for listed building consent to block an internal doorway and remove a chimney stack.

4.8 M05/P/1189 Units 11/12 Site A Burton Waters. Councillors had no observations to make on the application to build a new glazed entrance porch to the side of units 11/12 at Burton Waters.

5. Correspondence

5.1 Correspondence received included the following items:

- WLDC Information booklets
- Central networks – Replacement of overhead lines and transformers in Burton village
- Brattleby Parish Council - support for mobile vehicle speed signs
- WLDC – Dog fouling - enforcement team attendance at parish meetings.
- WLDC – register of Electors 2006
- WLDC – Members allowances for Councillors
- NALC – Chief Executive’s report
- LCC – Free Trees Scheme
- East Midlands Regional Plan

6. Burton Waters and Odder

6.1 The retail complex at Burton Waters had been completed. Several units are now occupied with a hairdressers and solicitors office already open, and a Tapas bar which will open shortly. The developers have not, as yet, been able to secure a convenience store for the site. The waterside restaurant has been sold to a Chinese restaurateur and building is expected to start in February.

7. Road Safety

The Chairman stated that members of the Council met in October with representatives of Lincolnshire Highways Dept and the Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership. He was informed that under DoT regulations, double white lines could not be installed at the traffic lights as there was clear visibility for 100m in each direction. However, the LRSP was prepared to install further temporary traffic calming signs along the B1398 and in the village. Highways also agreed to extending the gritting and salting of Fen Lane as far as New Farm.

The Clerk stated there was a major problem of speeding within the village with drivers openly flouting the 30mph speed limit. Following consultation with other parishes, he was investigating the purchase of a mobile vehicle activated road (MVARs) sign which flashes up the speed of a vehicle as it approaches. The cost of the equipment is around £3000 which could be shared between 4 or 5 parishes. The equipment, which would be operated by volunteers, would act as a deterrent to speeding vehicles. As usual there are legal hurdles to overcome, but the equipment is used extensively in Norfolk and other counties with encouraging results.

8. Meetings 2006

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th March 2006 at 7.30pm in the Estate Club.

Dates of meetings for 2006 were agreed as follows.

Tuesday 9th May 6.30pm - followed by the Annual Parish Meeting 8pm

Tuesday 11th July 7.30pm, Tuesday 10th October 7.30pm Tuesday 5th December 7.30pm

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm

J Copeland

Chairman