



MINTING AND GAUTBY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of the

Minting and Gautby Parish Council

Held on

Tuesday, 1st August 2017 at Gautby Village Hall at 19.30

Present

Chairman Cllr. J Heselwood, Cllr. J Stuchfield, Cllr. H Padfield, Cllr Keys and Cllr. E Brown,
Acting Clerk, Mrs V Brown and 7 members of the public.

1. Chairman's remarks

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and opened the meeting for members of the public to speak in the public forum. A Gautby resident raised the issue of the unreliability of broadband locally; in Gautby, Quickline is very up and down and BT service is very poor, while some people's service with Quickline has improved, for others it has worsened. The Chair confirmed that Quickline had done work to improve the service since taking over from AB, but that while some people had experienced better reliability, others had not. She also advised that EE mobile internet was very good in some areas and not in others, as is 3 mobile and that some residents of Mill Lane in Minting are now connected to BT superfast broadband, receiving speeds of 50-60Mbps. A Minting resident asked as to whether the villages are in phase 3 of the superfast roll-out programme and the Chair advised it appeared not, despite what was promised at several different meetings. The resident asked if a quote had been obtained for community fibre connection, the Chair advised not, as because of the presence of old infrastructure in the area, such as old overhead wires, even new fibre connections would not necessarily make a difference to residents. She advised that some residents have put their £350 grant available towards getting their own connection to Quickline for example, rather than pooling money for a village wide project. It was noted that Quickline line of sight service was no good in Minting, as the village is in a dip. It was agreed that the Council would contact service providers again, and this would be discussed further at agenda item 11a.

Mr Reed asked if he would be able to comment at agenda item 9 later in the meeting, and possibly also at another item. It was agreed by the Chair that she would certainly consider the matter. As no more members of the public wished to speak, the public forum was closed.

2. Apologies for absence and reasons given

Cllr Bell sent her apologies by way of a letter, which was read out by the Chair:

'Will you please accept my apologies for being unable to attend the Parish Council meeting on Tuesday, owing to a prior, long-standing engagement?'

I especially regret not being able to meet our new Parish Clerk and to be able to thank Vicki for all her hard work over the last years on behalf of Minting and Gautby Parish Council.

I would like to express my regrets at the very acrimonious correspondence over the closure and sale of the Sebastopol Inn. The Chairman of Minting and Gautby Parish Council has been representing the Council, who have the responsibility of looking after the best interests of the Parish and the permanent closure of the Sebastopol Inn Public House as a local amenity, would be a great loss to the community'..

It was agreed by all to accept her reason for absence.

3. Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 made under the s.30 (3) of the Localism Act 2011

None.

4. To confirm or amend, and sign the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on May 12th, 2017

It was proposed by Cllr Stuchfield, seconded by Cllr. Keys and agreed by all that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting on May 12th 2017. The Chair duly signed the Minutes as a true record.

5. To receive reports from District and County Councillors and Police (if available)

No Councillors or Police were available to attend the meeting. However, PCSO Mohammed sent a report of police activity since 1st June, which was read out by the Chair:

Over the period 01 June to 01 August 2017, the following incidents were recorded in the locality of Minting and Gautby.

1 x Malicious Communications

05/07/2017. Caller being harassed by another via social media.

3 x Suspicious Circumstances

Incident Date 21/062017. Van seen acting suspiciously.

Incident Date 22/06/2017. Male selling tarmac. Also reported shortly afterwards in BUCKNALL.

Incident Date 21/07/2017. Van seen acting suspiciously over period of 3 days. Claimed to be looking for a dog.

The Chair advised that the suspicious activity reports are shared on the village Facebook page; which alerts a wider area of the local community to such incidents.

6. To accept the resignation of Mrs V. Brown, Parish Clerk as of July 31st, 2017

The Chair confirmed that Mrs Brown's employment as parish clerk had ceased on 31 July 2017 and that she was in attendance at the meeting as Acting Clerk to take the minutes, before the new clerk, Ms Diane Horsley, takes over from 7 August 2017.

7. To consider application by Mrs. V. Brown to become a councillor

The Chair advised that Mrs Brown has applied to be co-opted as a Councillor, and in accordance with standing orders, a secret ballot was held. Cllr. E. Brown did not take part in the ballot, due to her family connection to Mrs V Brown. It was unanimously agreed that Mrs Brown should be co-opted to Minting and Gautby Parish Council, and Mrs Brown signed the Acceptance of Office form accordingly.

8. Financial Matters

a. To approve payments to be made by the Parish Council

Councillors were advised of the following payments made to date, where payment was necessary before the meeting:

| Date | Payee | Item | No. | Cheque no | Amount |
|------------|----------|--------------------|-----|-----------|--------|
| 21/07/2017 | EKM Ltd | Grass Cutting | V12 | 701 | £924 |
| 21/07/2017 | J Cooper | Internal Audit fee | V13 | 702 | £40 |

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|---------------------|-----|-----|---------|
| 21/07/2017 | R Treacher | Noticeboard repairs | V14 | 706 | £18.92 |
| 21/07/2017 | R Treacher | Noticeboard repairs | V15 | 706 | £1.82 |
| 21/07/2017 | R Treacher | Noticeboard repairs | V16 | 706 | £8.39 |
| 21/07/2017 | V Brown | Expenses - paper | V17 | 704 | £14.49 |
| 21/07/2017 | V Brown | Expenses - mileage | V18 | 704 | £20.25 |
| 21/07/2017 | V Brown | Wages – June/July | V19 | 705 | £322.36 |

It was proposed by Cllr Stuchfield, seconded by Cllr Keys and agreed by all to note the above payments and to make the following further payments:

| Date | Payee | Item | No. | Cheque no | Amount |
|------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-----|-----------|--------|
| 01/08/2017 | J Heselwood | Expenses - stationery | V20 | 707 | £13.75 |
| 01/08/2017 | J Heselwood | Expenses - stationery | V21 | 707 | £15.53 |
| 01/08/2017 | V Brown | Expenses - postage | V22 | 708 | £2.40 |
| 01/08/2017 | V Brown | Expenses - postage | V23 | 708 | £11.65 |
| 01/08/2017 | Minting Village Hall | Hall Hire | V24 | 709 | £32 |
| 01/08/2017 | LALC | Training Subs | V25 | 710 | £55 |

b. Formally agree the contract and employment of Diane M. Horsley as Parish Clerk from August 7th, 2017

Councillors were provided with a draft copy of Ms Horsley's contract of employment, which the Chair confirmed had also been provided to Ms Horsley. It was proposed by Cllr Keys, seconded by Cllr Padfield and agreed by all to formally offer Ms Horsley the position of Parish Clerk, with effect from 7 August 2017 and the contract to be as agreed with Ms Horsley. The Chair formally welcomed Ms Horsley to the Council.

c. Agree to pay annual subscription for LALC Training

The Chair advised that, as a new Clerk, Ms Horsley will need to attend LALC training sessions and that the Chair also needs to attend refresher training and it is better value to pay for LALC's annual training subscription than to pay for individual courses. The Acting Clerk advised that annual subscription ought to be £65, but as it is part-way through the year, the cost will be £55. It was agreed by all to pay this.

d. Agree to pay Clerk's membership of SLCC

The Chair reminded Councillors that the membership of SLCC was not renewed at the last meeting, as the Clerk was leaving. With a new Clerk now employed, the annual subscription should be renewed, but SLCC have not yet confirmed what that will be. Acting Clerk confirmed that the fee was budgeted for and it was proposed by Cllr Heselwood, seconded by Cllr Stuchfield and agreed by all that this be paid once the amount is advised.

e. To discuss a grant request from St Andrew's Church, Minting for the purchase of a lawn mower

The Chair read out an application from Mr D Allsop on behalf of St Andrew's Church, Minting for £150 towards the purchase of a lawn mower for the churchyard. The Chair also advised that a charity classic car show is being held at the Priory in Minting on 28 August and that will be raising some money towards the church lawn mower fund. The meeting was opened to the public for resident Mr K Smith to speak, as he is one of the church yard mowers. He confirmed that a new mower is required and that the most robust second-hand mower as possible will be purchased. It was proposed by Cllr Keys, seconded by Cllr Stuchfield and agreed by all to donate £150 to St Andrew's Church for the purchase of a mower and any donations received from the car show will be added to the grant. The cheque will be raised when the council is forwarded a purchase invoice.

f. To consider new cheque signatory

The Chair reminded Councillors about the lack of cheque signatories, as only herself and Cllr Bell are currently signatories. It was proposed by Cllr Heselwood, seconded by Cllr Keys and agreed by all for Cllr V Brown to become a signatory to the bank account.

g. To vire monies between internal budgets as required

The Chair advised that, as the new clerk lives in Wragby, mileage payments will be required for her to attend meetings etc. In addition, the money for the lawn mower grant needs to be moved from another budget. It was proposed by Cllr Heselwood, seconded by Cllr Keys and agreed by all to vire £100 from the contingency budget to the mileage budget and also, vire £150 from the contingency budget to the grants budget. This would leave £200 remaining in the contingency budget.

9. Update on the Sebastopol Inn, Public House. This is a standard agenda item which will appear on each agenda until further notice.

The Chair advised that emails had been received both from Mr and Mrs Reed and from the Sebastopol Inn Bid Team. The Bid Team have requested that the Parish Council write to ELDC for clarification on the subject of change of use. The Chair advised that the villages do not regard the matter as closed, although not enough money was raised this time, the villages very much wants the pub to be retained, and hope that someone else will come in and buy the property and run it as a pub. Councillors were given a copy of a draft letter to the Planning Department of ELDC which covers these matters. Mr Reed asked if they could have a copy of the letter and as it is not a confidential letter, the Chair agreed that once the letter was agreed and no longer in draft form, Mr and Mrs Reed will receive a copy.

Mr and Mrs Reed complained that they have been forced to live in the Sebastopol Inn as their private home as it had not sold and the facilities there meant that it was like "living in a dump" and that "the kitchen was so cold (6 degrees)" it was uncomfortable to cook in, so they were considering investing and improving the licensees' accommodation, to make it easier for them to use the premises as a private house. There was some discussion on the true value of the pub.

There was a proposal from the parish council to set up a working party whose terms of reference are to continue to look at options and innovative ideas to retain the pub for the community and this was unanimously supported. It was agreed that Cllr V Brown would lead the working party. It was further agreed that the working party would engage with Mr and Mrs Reed as appropriate and report back to the parish council.

10. To agree a response to the Louth Cattle Market Consultation by ELDC

The following response to the ELDC Consultation regarding the Future of the Louth Livestock Market site was agreed by all:

The parish council agrees with the following statement from Keep Louth Special:

To guarantee the prosperous future of Louth, the visitors who come in their droves, the thousand or more employed in local shops, the reputation as Britain's favourite market town, then you have to play to Louth's strengths: the depth of offering in the independent shops and

the town market, the provenance of the food, the Georgian character and heritage of the town, and the many market events which are possible only through the unpaid work of dozens of volunteers at Louth Town Partnership. Louth has already made a mark nationally through sticking to what it does best. To go in the opposite direction makes no sense. There is, after all, no national award for 'Best Grimsby wannabe' and no tourism or jobs in it either.

The council also agrees with the following statement by Transition Louth regarding East Lindsey District Council's public consultation on the future of the Louth livestock market:

The council's decision to engage with people and seek their views is welcome. Unfortunately, the way that the consultation is framed is unsatisfactory. It fails to set out all the options in a comprehensive and fair way. Good practice in option appraisal requires that "do nothing" should be considered on the same basis as all other proposals. ELDC precludes this under option 3 by presenting refurbishment costs for the cattle market without any evidence that they are necessary. Inviting respondents to make comparisons between these costs and the "multi-million pound capital receipt" to be generated by the sale of the site displays in-built bias. More importantly, instead of "option 4" (which cannot be compared to options 1-3 as it does not set out any future scenario for the livestock market) ELDC needs to consult people about the real, and perfectly viable, fourth option of retaining the site for community use. Because the Council seems not to have considered this there is no opportunity for people to support or oppose it.

Our view is that the sale of the site (giving rise to a receipt of an undisclosed amount) needs to be judged against the benefits of its retention as a public asset. We believe that keeping the site (whether or not a new cattle market is built elsewhere) could, if properly thought through, offer the possibility of greater net benefits over the long-term. Clearly developing the site for public benefit involves a financial cost although this could be offset by development agreements for a part of the site.

As long as ELDC does not take into account the community use option it is likely that the consultation will be interpreted as a means of leading people to support the Council's predetermined decision. The consultation will be seen as flawed and vulnerable to legal challenge.

Consultation with a local farmer leads us to question whether the operator and contract are the reason the current Livestock market is not as successful as it could be and that would be an easy thing to change. The nearest livestock markets would then be in Yorkshire or Nottinghamshire and result in welfare issues for beasts travelling so far.

SO, the first question, should the land be kept in public ownership or sold to private interest, needs to be consulted on.

The consultation should then include an additional option for people to put their own ideas into the mix – closed consultations disengage voters and breed distrust.

The council should not have the power to transfer a public asset, owned by all of us, into private hands.

What we do with the land if farmers don't want or need it is a later question and some imaginative and prestigious ideas equivalent to the Tate Gallery in St. Ives should be sought – not just resorting to national retailers whose raison d'être is to take as much money out of the local economy as they can back to their HQ's, boards and shareholders.

Out of town centre retail reduces the viability of existing town centre retail and loses skills such as butchery and fishmongery, so uses need to be found that avoid this unfortunate effect, such as concert hall, art gallery, park, allotments, playground, social housing, antique sales, car park, woodland – owned by the public.

The council feels that although we disagree strongly with the closed nature of the questions, as it is currently written we would chose OPTION 3.

11. On-going Matters

a. Broadband update

As discussed earlier in the public forum, there are still numerous problems with broadband provision and reception in the area. It was agreed by all for the Clerk to write to Quickline, Paul Bimson at BT and OnLinconshire, with a copy to Victoria Atkins, updating them on the situation and asking for some clarification and progress to be made on broadband provision in both villages.

b. Highways

The Chair read an article from last week's Horncastle News regarding problems with reporting highways faults to the County Council. The Chair and Acting Clerk have used both the online reporting system and reported faults and potholes over the phone, but repairs have either not been carried out or have been ineffective. There has also been no outcome from the meeting they held with Cllr Davies from Highways and neither Minting nor Gautby appear on the county council schedule of works for the year despite Cllr Davies saying that we were included in the schedule. It was proposed by Cllr Heselwood, seconded by Cllr Keys and agreed by all for the Clerk to write to Highways, copied to District and County Councillors, stating all the problems.

c. Emergency Plan

The Acting Clerk reported on Emergency Preparedness Training she and the Chair recently attended and is awaiting receipt of a CD with all the presentation materials on it, to be shared with councillors.

It was agreed by all that it is necessary to re-convene the Emergency Plan Working Party which The Chair agreed to lead. Cllr. Stuchfield and Cllr. Keys agreed to join the working party, as did a member of the public, Mr Iain Hibbert from Minting. It was agreed that Cllr. Keys would provide several dates which would suit him for the meeting. Cllr Keys suggested that the Clerk writes to the local NHS Trust to ask to see a copy of their pandemic action plan. In addition, he also suggested the Clerk write to LCC about "Tempora" regarding what assistance is available to civil authorities from the military in the event of a pandemic or other large-scale emergency.

d. Communication

The new clerk's details will need to be notified to everyone and the emergency contact details sheet updated. The Chair confirmed that she and the Acting Clerk will continue to produce the village newsletter.

12. To receive reports from the Clerk and Councillors on matters outstanding and not on the agenda

The Chair opened the meeting to Iain Hibbert and Lottie McEnery who advised the meeting of their plans for the Charity Classic Car Show to be held on their land on Monday, 28th August; the entrance fees for which will be donated to the local Air Ambulance and the profits from refreshments and raffle to the church lawn mower fund as well as the Heritage Society towards the purchase of a new projector. All present were given flyers to advertise the event.

The Chair advised the meeting of the upcoming rural touring musical events to be held in Minting Village Hall in December 2017 and February 2018.

The Acting Clerk advised that West Lindsey's planning department have rejected Bardney Clays planning application. The applicants have appealed and the appeal is now going through the process, but as yet, no dates have been set. West Lindsey are currently taking legal advice about their next step in the process and the parish council will be informed in due course. It was noted that because Minting and Gautby are not a usual consultee for West Lindsey, information may be "falling through the cracks" and not being advised to the parish council in a timely manner. The clerk to contact West Lindsey in this regard.

13. Correspondence as per separate list

| Item | Date |
|------|------|
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These minutes were signed off as a true record at the meeting of the Parish Council October 3rd 2017

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| The Clerk Magazine | July 2017 |
| Email from LALC re Parliamentary outreach | 31 July 2017 |
| Email advert from SandHopper | July 2017 |
| Clerks & Councils Direct | July 2017 |

14. To agree agenda items for the next meeting in Gautby Village Hall

It was agreed by all that the next 2 scheduled meetings of the parish council will be Tuesday 3 October at Gautby Village Hall and Tuesday 21 November at Minting Village Hall. No agenda items were proposed.

15. Close Meeting

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.12pm

16. There was an opportunity for Informal chat with new clerk and councillors.