



MINTING AND GAUTBY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the

Minting and Gautby Parish Council

Held on

Tuesday, 19th January 2016 at Minting Village Hall at 19.30

Present

Chairman Cllr. J Heselwood, Cllr. J Laver, Cllr. J Stuchfield and Cllr. G Bell.
One member of the public.

1. **Chairman's Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
 2. **Apologies for Absence**
 - a. Apologies were received from Cllr Keys due to work commitments. Councillors accepted the reasons for his apologies.
 3. **Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests under the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 made under the s.30 of the Localism Act 2011**
 - a. None.
 4. **Approval and Signing of Minutes.**
 - a. The Chair requested any corrections to the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting, held on December 4, 2015. No corrections were required. It was proposed by Cllr Bell, seconded by Cllr. Laver and agreed by all that the minutes were a correct record of the December 4, 2015 meeting. The Chair duly signed the Minutes as a true record.
 5. **To consider casual vacancies to the Parish Council**

The Chair reminded Councillors that since the uncontested elections in May 2015, there remain vacancies on the Council. She introduced Emma Brown who confirmed that she wished to be considered for co-option to the Council and gave Councillors a copy of her CV. In accordance with Standing Orders a secret ballot was taken amongst all Councillors, and counted by the Chair. It was unanimously agreed to co-opt Emma Brown onto the Council, she duly signed the declaration of office and was welcomed onto the council.
- 19.45 – Councillor Padfield entered the meeting.**
6. **To receive reports from District and County Councillors and Police (if available)**

None available.

7. Financial Matters

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

The Chair gave Councillors a breakdown of the costs of purchasing the defibrillators and cabinets, compared to the fundraising achieved. It was noted that there is currently a surplus of approximately £190. With the agreement of East Lindsey District Council, who supplied the large community grant, this money is to be used to fund the installation of the equipment by a qualified electrician, a quote for which is expected next week. It was confirmed that with the finances at this level, no loan will be required from Parish Council funds to complete the project, subject to the electrician's costs.

The Chair read out the list of expenditure since the December 4th meeting. It was proposed by Cllr. Stuchfield, seconded by Cllr. Bell and agreed by all to make the payments below:

Date	Payee	Details	Voucher No	Cheque No	Expend (inc VAT)
19/01/2016	Mrs V Brown	Clerk's wages, Dec and Jan	V31	663	313.01
19/01/2016	Physio-Control	2 x AED units	V32	664	1300
19/01/2016	SADS UK	2 x AED boxes	V33	665	635
19/01/2016	Gautby Village Hall	Hall Hire	V34	666	8
19/01/2016	M&G Heritage Soc.	30 Greetings cards	V35	667	15

b. To approve the increase in the Clerk's salary, in line with national pay agreement.

The Chair reminded Councillors that the Clerk is paid in line with the national payscale, and that a new payscale has yet to be agreed for 2016. Therefore, payment continues to be made in line with the 2014-16 agreement. It was proposed by Cllr. Bell, seconded by Cllr Stuchfield and agreed by all to increase the Clerk's pay to the next spine point, from 1 April 2016, an increase in salary of £36 per annum. Cllr. Brown did not take any part in these discussions, since she is a relative of the Clerk.

c. To receive a report on ELDC's transformation programme, which has a bearing on our precept discussions:

i. ELDC and LCC spending cuts and implications for future Parish Council funding.

The Chair and the Clerk attended a recent ELDC meeting and presented briefing papers and transformation project ideas to council, which included a change of funding for elections in the future.

ii. Following ELDC's suggestion to withdraw funding for the running and maintenance of the Minting street lights, council to consider what action to take.

The Chair read out correspondence received from East Lindsey, regarding a proposed change in the funding and management of street lighting and how it would affect Minting and Gautby. It was noted that the figures supplied by East

Lindsey would not apply to individual parish councils maintaining their own lights as they would not be able to benefit from the same economies of scale as East Lindsey currently do. There are 8 affected lights, all of which are in Minting. The 3 options available are 1 - no lights, 2 - parish council takes over the lights or 3 - parish councils who wish to maintain lights ask East Lindsey to continue to maintain them in return for a fee. East Lindsey have agreed that if no decision can be made immediately, parishes have until the end of the next financial year. Councillors were minded to discontinue street lighting as everyone has access to a torch, mobile phone and reflective clothing. However, Councillors wanted to hear if there were any reasons for maintaining the lights and it was agreed to publish a survey to all residents which would go in the newsletter, delivered to every household; to return, or complete an online survey form. It was agreed by all if the decision was made to keep the lights, this would only be possible if East Lindsey retained the administration of it as the Clerk's workload is already high.

d. Precept - To agree a draft Budget for FY 2016-17 and precept request for 2016-17

Potential costs were discussed item by item. The Chair advised that the precept grant has now disappeared and that there are increasing costs for various items and that it is important to build reserves for known future liabilities such as election costs, audit costs, costs of living rises combined with loss of grant income. It was proposed by Cllr Laver, seconded by Cllr Stuchfield and agreed by all to increase the precept by 74p per month for a Band D property; the new budget to be £6195 per annum; see attached budget. As part of agreeing the precept, the grass cutting situation was discussed and mention made of complaints of untidy and infrequent cutting in Minting. Thanks to the offer to cut the grass on a voluntary basis in Gautby, in exchange for petrol costs; the council was able to use the money saved to put towards the Minting grass cutting budget to ensure that there are sufficient funds to ensure a higher quality of service in 2016.

e. To vire monies between internal budgets as required

None required.

8. Personnel Matters

- a. To re-schedule Clerk's review for 7 March 2016 and all Councillors to provide feedback to the Chair prior to then. Chair to report back at 15 March 2016 meeting.

9. To agree a response to the Lincolnshire County Council budget consultation

Councillors considered the Lincolnshire County Council budget consultation where the Council was asked to state whether department budgets should remain the same, reduce a little or a lot, or cease altogether (increasing was not offered as an option).

The Council agreed to request the following expenditure **remain the same**:

- Potholes
- Winter gritting
- Children's Centres
- Mental Health and Homelessness
- Rural bus route subsidies
- Domestic Abuse prevention

- PCSO's (Cllr Stuchfield declared a personal interest and did not express any views on this item)
- School Crossing Patrols

The Council agreed to request the following expenditure **should be a little less:**

- Libraries
- Heritage Services
- Food banks

The Council agreed to request the following expenditure **should be a lot less:**

- Grass cutting (only where dangerous)
- Community grants

The Council agreed to request the following expenditure **should be stopped:**

- Healthy Living promotion
- Specific business support

In addition, Councillors asked that vulnerable people of all ages be protected and that they were very concerned about social care services in Lincolnshire and it was also agreed to ask whether school transport for over 16's be means-tested, so that school transport be affordable for everyone.

10. To agree a response to the East Lindsey budget consultation

Councillors discussed at length and supported East Lindsey's draft budget, medium-term financial plan and draft Transformation plan. Councillors were also concerned that vulnerable people should be protected. In the event that bus subsidies were no longer protected, ideas of car clubs and car sharing were put forward. Ideas to increase East Lindsey's income were to run a lottery and also to retain and continue to look at revenue-making schemes. Councillors further commented that, in future, the communication of East Lindsey's proposals ought to be improved. It was agreed by all to support the plan and Clerk to respond via the online survey.

11. To agree a response to the Horncastle & Louth Constituency Survey

Councillors agreed on the following points:

- More local businesses
- Help for setting up businesses
- Stop large national supermarkets from coming to market towns
- Develop the Lincolnshire pound
- More high quality jobs are needed
- No one should be allowed to leave school illiterate
- More apprenticeships in horticulture and farming
- High quality hospitality training
- Broadband service via BT in our villages scored 1 out of 10
- Mobile signal in our villages scored 1 out of 10 (on average)

- Councillors feel good transport is absolutely vital, as some of the public highways can now only safely be driven by 4x4 vehicles at normal speed due to the uneven road surface and deep, dangerous verges on single-track roads, leading to many elderly people fearing to drive.
- Councillors feel that social care must be adequately resourced as expected of the world's 4th largest economy. Our area has a large elderly population, a critical lack of doctors, resources etc – the NHS must be maintained.
- Regarding education, councillors felt there was generally a high standard locally, but basics such as how to prepare for the world of work and how to cook and look after yourself and your family needed to be included.
- Council felt it was impossible to rank areas of importance, as all areas suggested are equally important to the happiness and well-being of inhabitants.

Clrs Padfield and Bell left the meeting at 21.30

12. On-going Matters

a. Broadband update

A Minting resident who needs fast, reliable broadband for his business, had written of his problems trying to get a service via a landline and has now opted to participate in a trial for a mobile provider service, as he unable to receive AB Internet line-of-sight service in his location. The Chair suggested that AB internet may be able to use the spire of Minting church to enhance the coverage in Minting village and this will be suggested to them. It was agreed by all to make special mention of the broadband provision in the feedback to the constituency survey.

b. Highways Department

The Clerk has written to highways and Victoria Atkins MP regarding the state of the roads. No new items to report.

c. Emergency Plan including defibrillators

The Chair advised that the defibrillators are now on order and will take up to 5 weeks to arrive. The cabinets have arrived, but one has had to be returned due to a faulty lock. An electrician recommended to the Council with experience of fitting defibrillator cabinets has been booked to quote for fitting.

d. Communication - Discuss implications of training on Code of Conduct and Disposable Pecuniary Interest and response from ELDC Monitoring Officer

It was agreed by all to defer this matter to the next meeting.

e. Village matters (complaints about dog faeces' littering, Rural Touring show, Yoga class, The Venue at Minting etc.)

1. The Chair advised that residents had reported more dog poo bags being left and other dog faeces not being removed by dog owners/walkers. It was proposed by Cllr Laver, seconded by Cllr Stuchfield and agreed by all to put up the dog warden posters and put a reminder in the next newsletter, requesting people to make a report to the dog warden if they see this occurring.
2. The Chair reminded Councillors that The Rural Touring show is on 29th January and more tickets still remain to be sold.

3. It is hoped to start a yoga class in March, but more people are required to make it viable. This will also be added to the next newsletter.
4. The next Venue event is the Louth Zero Degrees Acapella Chorus on 23rd April.

f. Update on the Fracking debate

It was agreed by all to defer this item until the next meeting. However, it was noted that the government has been using a statutory instrument to fast track legislation on fracking without having a parliamentary debate.

13. To consider the Electoral Review of Lincolnshire: draft recommendations consultation and respond as necessary

The Council considered the recommendations and these were accepted and agreed by all. Clerk to respond via email.

14. Correspondence as per list below:

Item	Date
The Clerk Magazine	January 2016
Minutes of Horncastle Area Committee	December 2015
LCC Travel & Transport Briefing	Winter
LALC Training Schedule	Jan-July 2016

15. To receive reports from the Clerk and Councillors on matters outstanding and not on the agenda with feedback after this

None

16. To suggest agenda items for the next meeting on 15 March 2016 at Minting Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 21.45