



## MINTING AND GAUTBY PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of the

### Minting and Gautby Parish Council

Held on

Tuesday, 21 July 2015 at Gautby Village Hall at 19.30

#### Present

Chairman Cllr. J Heselwood, Cllr. J Laver, Cllr. G Keys, Cllr. J Stuchfield and Cllr. H Padfield.  
PCSO Briggs, District Cllr W. Gray and 1 member of the public.

1. **Chairman's Remarks.** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr. Keys to his first meeting.
2. **Apologies for Absence**  
None.
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**  
None.
4. **Approval and Signing of Minutes.**  
The Chair requested any corrections to the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, held on May 12th, 2015. No corrections were required. It was proposed by Cllr. Stuchfield, seconded by Cllr. Keys and agreed by all that the minutes were a correct record of the May 12th, 2015 meeting. The Chair duly signed the Minutes as a true record.
5. **To consider casual vacancies to the Parish Council.**  
Miss Gwenda Bell advised that she wished to be co-opted back on to the Council. As per standing orders, a secret ballot was held by Councillors, who accepted her co-option unanimously. Miss Bell joined the meeting and was welcomed by the Chairman. She signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
6. **To receive reports from District and County Councillors and Police (if available)**  
ASB - PCSO Briggs reported that since 1 January, there has only been one incident of anti-social behaviour reported in the villages. He emphasised that if there are any non-urgent incidents to report, residents should call the 101 number. Rogue traders and suspicious vehicles should also be reported on the 101 number, as should hare coursing. In this way, the Police can build up a picture of any problems and can make extra patrols and deal with any issues, which arise. All 101

calls are graded, anti-social behaviour incidents are allocated to an officer, dependent on the nature of the incident; an officer will not necessarily attend. An incident, which is not witnessed, is hearsay, but if it is a repeat offender, or verges on vandalism, the matter can be escalated by the Police and further action taken. The Clerk to include information about the 101 reporting system in the next village newsletter and PCSO Briggs to provide copies of their own poster for noticeboard display and also advised that anyone can sign up for the Police 101 alerts, which report incidents for residents to be aware of locally such as burglary, vandalism and theft.

The Chair asked if CCTV could be fitted to any buildings. PCSO Briggs advised that this can be done, but the view of the camera must only be on the owner's property (not out into the road for example); and in order to be used as evidence, any pictures must be clear and well lit.

District Cllr. Gray advised that East Lindsey can also be of help in these areas. They have an Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator, who works with the PCSOs to help build up evidence if incidents are recurring. They can be contacted via ELDC main telephone number 01507 601111.

The Chair thanked PCSO Briggs for his report and he left the meeting.

**Communities** - Councillors received a report from District Councillor Gray, who had just attended an Executive Briefing meeting at East Lindsey and advised that he has had a change in responsibilities since the elections. His area of responsibility is now called Communities and includes housing, homelessness, wellbeing, anti-social behaviour and ageing, covering a budget of tens of millions to provide statutory services. Cllr. Gray further reported that the SO Festival had just finished and had been very successful. It is now the time for budget setting at ELDC and this is on-going. Cllr. Gray is also preparing a policy for the district council which combines the safeguarding of children, adults and those suffering domestic abuse; together with making preparations for the introduction of Universal Credit in the autumn, when tenants will receive their housing benefit directly rather than the landlords.

Broadband: At the briefing meeting ELDC was advised by OnLincolnshire that 30,000 homes now have a broadband speed of 20mG thanks to superfast roll out. However, due to the rural nature of East Lindsey, the cost of installation is higher than BT originally budgeted for and there is a shortfall of £1.3 million. East Lindsey have funded £1 million of this and they have now been asked to find the remaining £300,000. BT are very busy working on this project and even some new builds have yet to be connected due to BT's workload. Cllr. Padfield asked what percentage of residents won't get fast broadband, Cllr Gray advised that this number is estimated to be 2%, only in very rural areas, not villages like Minting and Gautby. He also advised that extra funding is likely to become available to fund satellite connection to very rural locations such as isolated farms as it is acknowledged that so much farming administration must now be carried out online and yet farms are some of the most difficult places to get internet connection. Cllr Heselwood raised the concern that theoretically Minting has superfast connection as there is an enabled junction box at Wispington crossroads. However, this is so far out off the village that only a few houses at the top of Silver Street actually receive superfast speeds; a local resident has enquired with BT on the matter and been told he will have to pay extra to receive the service. It was agreed by all that the Clerk should contact Steve Brookes at OnLincolnshire and check if Minting is considered finished as it is not, and to ask what level of speed we are expecting to receive, and to copy Victoria Atkins into the enquiry. Cllr. Bell asked if the residents can be surveyed as to whether they feel they have satisfactory internet speed at home.

Cllr. Gray asked if Councillors needed any help from him to please get in touch, especially in respect of Community Grant funding as this could be useful financial assistance to any Parish Council projects. The Chair thanked Cllr. Gray for his report.

## 7. Financial Matters

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

The Chair read out the list of receipts and expenditure since the May 12<sup>th</sup> 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)
15/06/2015	Richardson's Shelving	Gas Bottle Storage Cage	V9	641	301.80
21/07/2015	Mrs V Brown	Clerk's wages	V10	642	313.01
21/07/2015	EKM Ltd	Grass cut Gautby	V11	643	150.00
21/07/2015	Minting Village Hall	Hall Hire	V12	644	24.00
21/07/2015	M&G Heritage Soc.	2 packs greeting cards	V13	645	20.00
21/07/2015	Home Comfort	Gas Cooker install	V14	646	840.00
21/07/2015	Lincs Gases	2 x 47kg gas bottles	V15	647	108.00
21/07/2015	Glendale Countryside	Minting Grass Cutting	V16	648	201.41

## 8. Planning Matters/ Built Environment/Tree Preservation

a) Nocton Fen Wind Farm consultation including audio-visual slides of proposed plans. Councillors watched an audio-visual presentation from the Vatenfall website and looked at plans provided by the company. They raised the following points to be reported back by the Clerk to the consultation:

1. It is not clear to the council from the paperwork supplied, whether the turbines will be visible from these villages or not. Can this be clarified to us? In principle, the height of the turbines is the problem as they are so large.
2. The Council feel that the turbines are located too close to the nearest dwellings, and would point put that in Europe, they do not place turbines any nearer than 2km from a dwelling. As they are the most affected, this council would like to support those living nearest to the proposed turbines in their opinions; and that these must be given the highest priority.

3. Will the presence of the turbines mean that the RAF or civil aviation authority need to re-route their flights? If so, what effect will this have on those residents who then become under the flight-path when hitherto, they have not been; and how can any issues such as noise pollution be mitigated?
4. If the project goes ahead; will our villages be eligible for any of the community benefit payment, and if so, how would this be allocated?

**b) To consider potential amendments to the current grass cutting regime.**

The Chair reminded Councillors of the tendering system and that the Council is not obliged to accept the cheapest quote, but what is best value. Traditionally Veolia has been a partner to many parish and town councils in respect of grass cutting and has cut the playing field and centre of Minting for some years. They have been several hundred pounds cheaper than other tenders for Minting, but only slightly cheaper for Gautby, so a different local contractor has cut Gautby grass.

Now, Veolia has been taken over by Glendale and the quality of the work has dropped. A number of parish councils have complaints about their work. Cllr. Keys advised that as the grass is not cut often enough, it is long when the mowing is done, and as it is not removed, there is a smell from the rotting grass and it is untidy. The Chair advised that a local resident in Gautby has been cutting a lot of the grass himself. She suggested that for next year, the Council could ask the current Gautby contractor (whose work is very good) to cut Minting and the volunteer resident to cut Gautby. The extra money, which the current Gautby contractor would charge for Minting, could be offset by not needing to pay for Gautby.

It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Glendale and complain about the grass cutting work, to get them to come out and look at the problem. Cllr. Keys advised that in respect of next year, a full risk assessment for volunteers will be needed. The Chair advised that volunteers would be covered under the council's insurance policy subject to a risk assessment and provision of suitable protective equipment. Clerk to find out whether the Parish Council is able to carry out the risk assessment. Cllr Keys was also concerned about the implications for the parish council in the event that the volunteers ceased to cut the grass. It was also agreed that a rebate should be requested from Glendale. It was agreed by all that the matter be discussed fully with the proposed volunteers and reported back to the council for consideration at the next meeting.

## 9. Ongoing Matters

a) **Broadband update** This matter was discussed as part of Cllr. Gray's report above.

b) **Highways**

Cllr. Heselwood advised that there is a large pothole by the pine trees on Gautby Road between Austacre Wood and Mince Pie Cottage Corner, also at the junction of Bricken Field Lane and Gautby Road. Cllr. Bell advised that the potholes at the road edge and verges in Gautby are still there. Also the Stixwold Road into Woodhall Spa has a lot of subsidence and is very uneven. Clerk to report or re-report these matters using the new council reporting system.

c) **Emergency Plan including defibrillator funding**

The sand bins are due to be delivered in the next few days. The cooker has been installed and the village hall committee have bought 2 gas bottles, which are attached inside the gas cage. The cheque signed earlier at the meeting (voucher 15) is for the Parish Council's 2 bottles of gas for the emergency plan and will be delivered and put in the cage at the village hall.

The current defibrillator total is £682, and more is required. Cllr. Keys confirmed that they are absolutely lifesaving equipment and can make all the difference to a patient's survival. In respect of other essential equipment required as part of the emergency plan, he advised that radios are a very good idea in a power cut. Cllr. Heselwood advised that she would like to discuss the Emergency Plan with Cllr. Keys, to get the benefit of his experience in these matters.

Cllrs. Heselwood and Stuchfield will be attending a Fire and Resilience forum on 22 July; as flood wardens. These roles are expanding to cover more emergency situations. They will report back to the council about the changes in due course.

**d) Communications.**

The Chair advised that the new website has now been updated and includes all the documents required as part of the Transparency Regulations. Photographs of all councillors and the clerk have been taken and will be put on the website too. Cllr. Keys enquired as to data protection on the website and what the council's legal responsibilities are on managing information. The Chair advised that all documents are published in PDF format so that others cannot easily edit them and that it conforms to the Data Protection Act. Cllr, Gray advised that there is a Data Protection Officer at East Lindsey, who can be contacted regarding queries of this nature. Her contact number is 01507 513409.

The Chair showed councillors the list of suggested topics for the next newsletter and it was agreed by all that these should form the newsletter.

**e) Village Matters**

The Chair reported to Councillors that the Heritage Society's Season of Music and Theatre at The Venue at Minting Village Hall will be getting underway on 22 August with a live opera concert and 3 course meal; which is fully booked already, and continuing with 2 filmed operas and 2 rural touring theatre shows between October and the end of January 2016. The Clerk advised that following a request to the village hall committee from a resident regarding noise from the bottle banks; East Lindsey have now been requested to remove the bottle banks in early August. Notices to this effect have been put up at the bottle banks, noticeboards and online and information will also be put in the newsletter and parish magazine.

**10. To consider rescheduling the next Parish Council meeting from 15 September 2015, to 5 October 2015.**

The Chair requested that the next council meeting, originally scheduled for 15 September, be moved to Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> October, as she will not be able to attend in September. It was agreed by all to change the date. Clerk to notify all the usual attendees and information on noticeboards and website to be altered accordingly.

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

None

**12. Correspondence as per list below:**

The Clerk Magazine	July 2015
Clerks & Councils Direct	July 2015
HAGS SMP Play equipment	May 2015
Glasdon Council offers leaflet	
Letter from Western Power re power cuts	3 July 2015
Horncastle Area Committee Meeting minutes	4 June 2015
Letter to flood wardens re Annual Volunteer Flood Warden event	22 June 2015

**13. To agree agenda items for the next meeting on 5 October 2015 at Gautby Village Hall.**

None

**Meeting closed at 9.40pm**