

**D R A F T**  
**MINUTES OF SOUTH WILLINGAM**  
**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 9 JULY 2015**

**Present:**

Councillor D Challender

Councillor P Cutts

Councillor M Edmundson

Councillor P Elliott

Councillor N Harris

Councillor D Nutten Chair

Councillor N Spencer Vice Chair

**1 Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Councillor R Fry (ELDC)

**2 Thank you to Paul Cutts:**

On behalf of the Parish Council and the residents of South Willingham, the Chair thanked Paul Cutts for his chairmanship over the past five years. Councillor Cutts had dealt with many issues over this time involving public footpaths, parking, planning and many more. He would be missed in this role and it was hoped that Paul would continue to use his expertise and knowledge as a Parish Councillor.

**3 Declarations of interest in any items on this Agenda:**

There were no declarations of interest

**4 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 May 2015:**

The Minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**5 Matters arising from the Minutes:**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**6 Financial Matters:**

Councillors were able to view the latest bank and budget statements. Councillors signed a cheque for £24.52 in payment of the Clerk's Expenses.

Parish Council Insurance: Councillor Nutten had investigated the cost of Parish Council insurance and had sought a quote from an alternative provider. This provider had confirmed that the insurance was necessary and could not compete with the premium being charged by the Council's current provider. **Action: Proposed to consult Councillor R Fry (ELDC) and investigate further when the insurance is due for renewal next year.**

Possible Savings on Grass cutting to Village Approaches: Councillor Nutten informed the meeting that East Barkwith Parish Council had opted out of the County Council's grass cutting programme and arranged its own grass cutting. Discussion followed about the merits or otherwise of grass cutting or leaving the verges uncut particularly with regard to wildlife habitat. Road safety was also an issue. Currently LCC are responsible for cutting the grass approaches which is done three times during the summer months. No changes to this would be considered unless it is beneficial to the village and agreed by Councillors. **Action: Councillor Nutten would investigate further and report back to the next meeting.**

## **7 Lead Roles on the Parish Council:**

Councillors Nutten and Spencer and the Clerk had met to form a list of issues that would normally need dealing with by the Parish Council. Councillors agreed to take on lead roles as follows:

Planning Applications: Councillor Cutts

Highways and Footpaths within the Village: Councillors Nutten and Spencer

Hedge and Grass cutting: Councillors Nutten and Spencer

Village Assets (Bus shelter, Bench, Phone Box): Councillor Edmundson

Community Grants: Councillor Elliott

Environmental Issues: Councillors Harris, Challender and Elliott

Children's Issues: Councillor Elliott

Annual Village Tidy-Up: Councillors Harris and Challender

Representative on External Events: Councillor Nutten

Wildlife Issues: Councillor Challender

Parking Issues: Councillor Nutten

Best Kept Village Co-ordinators: Councillors Challender and Nutten

Village Hall Liaison: Councillor Elliott  
Village Liaison for Newsletter and Website: Councillor Spencer  
Legal Issues and Codes of Practice: Parish Clerk  
Agendas, Minutes, Correspondence etc: Parish Clerk  
Finance and Budget: Parish Clerk  
Elections and Appointments: Parish Clerk  
Local Crime Issues: Claire Harrison, Home-Watch Co-ordinator

Any residents who wanted advice on any of the above issues could contact the appropriate Councillor direct, or contact the Clerk who would pass on the details to the relevant Councillor.

It was agreed that this would be reviewed in a year's time.

#### **8 Update on Public Footpaths and Decision on Representation:**

A letter had been received from Lincolnshire County Council regarding the "Addition of a Public Footpath between Barkwith Road and Panton Road, via Skirbeck Farm". Following discussion it was agreed that all Councillors should consider the evidence currently available and an additional meeting would be held to agree the Parish Council's response to the County Council. **Action: Councillors would hold an additional meeting.**

#### **9 Planning Matters: Oakfield Cottage, Barkwith Road:**

The Clerk had circulated details of an application for an extension to Oakfield Cottage. The Parish Council had no objections to the application and Councillor Nutten had responded to ELDC to that effect.

#### **10 Telephone Kiosk – Possible Adoption by Parish Council:**

Councillor Challender had contacted various agencies regarding this. It was confirmed that there were currently no plans to remove the kiosk despite the low usage (two calls in the previous 12 months to free numbers). The Council would look at the possibility of adoption again if BT should consider removing the kiosk in the future.

#### **11 Retirement of Long Serving Parish Councillors:**

It was agreed that an expression of thanks should be sent to retiring Parish Councillors when the occasion arises.

#### **12 Best Kept Village Entry:**

No further information had been received since the entry forms had been submitted.

**13 Broadband Update:**

Councillor Spencer had contacted Stephen Brookes (Lincolnshire Broadband Programme Manager) for an update. The Phase 2 contract with BT had been signed in May but some further changes were required. The Burgh-on-Bain cabinets were due to be completed by 30 September. A final decision on whether a new cabinet would be placed in South Willingham would be made when LCC were clear about the use of alternative technologies that it was hoped would be available very shortly.

**14 Invitation from Craig Leyland, Leader ELDC to talk to Parish Councils:**

Councillors agreed that Craig Leyland would be invited to attend a meeting should his input be required.

**15 Electoral Review of Lincolnshire:**

This would be discussed when further information was received from The Local Government Boundary Commission.

**16 Items for the Next Agenda:**

Footpaths, grass cutting

**17 Date of Next Meeting:**

10 September 2015

The final meeting of the year would be held on 12 November

Meeting closed at 9.40 pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Date: