

## MARCH 2025 MINUTES

The **Parish Council** meeting was held on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March** at **7.28 p.m.** in Hough on the Hill Church community area.

**Present:** *Councillors S Sharman (Chair), R Harris (Vice-Chair), A Seage, S Allen and V McLean, District Councillor P Milnes.* There were 2 members of the public present.

**Clerk/RFO** - Donna Lang

**Absent:** *Councillors L Rann, J Pope and County Councillor A Maughan*

### **Public Participation:**

A member of the public would like to see a litter pick organised for the villages. They asked District Councillor Penny Milnes why there was no longer a big clean up. District Councillor Penny Milnes responded that there were no longer funds available as they had been culled at the last election and suggested that all parishioners should report on Fix My Street as the more comments they receive the more likely it is that the works will be done. A member of the public mentioned that drainage works to Brandon had involved three new gullies being fitted to the kerbing along the COO1.

**72/24 To receive apologies and valid reasons for absence, these having been submitted to the Clerk prior to the meeting.** Apologies for absence had been received from *Cllrs Pope and Rann* and County Councillor Maughan.

**73/24 To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011 and receive Requests for Dispensations.** There were none.

**74/24 To approve the draft notes as the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and for the Chairman to sign them as the agreed minutes.** It was proposed by *Cllr Seage*, seconded by *Cllr Harris* and resolved to approve the Parish Council Minutes. The Minutes were duly signed.

**75/24 To receive reports from County and District Councillors (for information only).** These are attached to the Minutes.

**76/24 To note the list of correspondence since the November council meeting.** Noted.

**77/24 Any other business.** None.

### **Planning and Tree Matters:**

**78/24 To note tree works applications received from SKDC: S25/0236 – Section 211 notice to remove walnut tree – Priory Cottage, Gelston Road, Hough on the Hill.** Noted.

**To note planning applications received from SKDC:**

**79/24 S24/1956 – Conversion and rear single storey extension and proposed change of use to holiday let. No comments received.** Noted.

**80/24 S25/0097 – BT installation of fixed line broadband – Old School House, High Road, Hough on the Hill. No comments received.** Noted.

**81/24 S25/0128 – Side extension and alterations to attached rear store building to form annexe – Hough Grange, Grange Lane, Hough on the Hill. No comments received.** Noted.

**82/24 S25/0167 – Proposed partial change of use from restaurant into residential use – Brownlow Arms, Hough Road, Hough on the Hill. No comments received. Noted.**

**83/24 Play Area. To note play inspection reports received for November, December 2024 and January and February 2025. Cllr Harris recommends a park clean. Date to be determined and volunteers required. Cllrs Sharman, Harris and Seage would liaise and arrange a date between themselves to clean the play area.**

**84/24 Drainage issues: Cllr Sharman update.** Please refer to Cllr Sharman's APM report attached to the APM Minutes.

**85/24 Church Parking: Cllr Sharman update.** Please refer to Cllr Sharman's APM report attached to the APM Minutes.

**86/24 Neighbourhood Plan/Design Code: Cllr Sharman update.** Please refer to Cllr Sharman's APM report attached to the APM Minutes.

**87/24 SID/Community Speed Watch: Cllr McLean update.** Cllr McLean suggested that a sub-committee to raise funds for a SID could be a way forward to involve the community. The clerk would put a post on Noticeboards and Next Door inviting parishioners to put themselves forward.

**88/24 To note a recent Freedom of Information request in respect of the Neighbourhood Plan (received 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024) and confirm that a response was provided (13<sup>th</sup> December 2024) within the required timescale. Noted.**

#### **Financial Matters:**

**89/24 To approve bank reconciliations for 30.11.24, 31.12.24, 31.01.25 and 28.02.25. The bank reconciliations had been checked by Cllr Sharman prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Seage, seconded by Cllr Harris and resolved to approve the bank reconciliations. They were duly signed.**

**90/24 To note Currys' invoice for £60.00 in respect of i-cloud back up. Noted.**

**91/24 To note Belvoir Sawmill invoice for £148.80 in respect of repair to Gelston jubilee bench. Noted.**

**92/24 To note V Clark invoice for £70 in respect of audit fee. Noted.**

**93/24 To note The Community Heartbeat Trust invoice for £270.00 in respect of three village defibrillators maintenance. Noted.**

**94/24 To note LALC electorate invoice for £170.72. Noted.**

**95/24 To note receipt of Groundwork monies in the sum of £2,850.00 received by Open Plan Consultants Limited. Noted.**

**96/24 To note return of Locality Grant monies in the sum of £2,590.00 to complete End of Grant. Noted.**

**97/24 To note LALC webmaster invoice for £108.00 in respect of website maintenance. Noted.**

**98/24 Resolution to approve the payment of Clerks expenses November 2024 to February 2025 for £119.49. This has been forwarded to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was**

**proposed by Cllr Seage, seconded by Cllr Harris and resolved to approve the clerk's expenses.**  
Cllr Sharman duly signed the list of expenses.

**99/24 To note receipt of NP Groundwork monies in the sum of £2,375 for update of NP.** Noted.

**100/24 To note date of next meeting – Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025.** Noted.

The meeting closed at 8.16p.m.

Please be advised that these are notes of the meeting taken by the clerk and cannot in any way be regarded as the official Minutes of Council proceedings until they are approved and signed at the next meeting.

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#### **Attachments:**

Councillor Alexander Maughan Spring Report and District Councillor P Milnes' report

Correspondence

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Report received from Councillor A Maughan (absent from meeting)

Below is my Spring LCC newsletter for your meeting next week.

Please let me know if there are any queries.

#### **A1 Road Safety event announced - YOUR views wanted!**

Lincolnshire County Council are putting on the event which will see travel and safety bosses in attendance for an open discussion about the A1 and road safety.

Representatives from LCC, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership and National Highways will be present to discuss the A1's future in Lincolnshire.

The event is entirely free to take part in for any member of the public who wants to attend.

Anyone wishing to give their own point of view about the A1, and how the road affects them, in person will be able to do just that on Wednesday, March 12th from 7pm to 9pm at The Olde Barn Hotel, Toll Bar Rd, Marston, Grantham, NG32 2HT.

Anyone unable to attend, but who would still like to share their thoughts, can do that easily by using our Q&A page at: [Road Safety on the A1 Workshop | Let's Talk Lincolnshire](#).

#### **Lincolnshire starts new partnership with Ukrainian region**

Cllr Colin Davie and Oleksandr Prokudin

Representatives from the Kherson region in Ukraine have visited Lincolnshire and signed an agreement with councillors to work together to benefit both areas.

The UK and Ukraine have developed a positive relationship through the Homes For Ukraine programme and Lincolnshire is very proud that we have more than 1,000 people here in Lincolnshire under this scheme.

This agreement marks the start of a journey to develop a strong partnership with the Kherson region that will see us learn from each other, build networks over time between businesses, connect research organisations, and support growth in both areas.

As well as the signing of the memorandum of understanding, the visit also included a tour of the of LIAT Campus at Riseholme and the Siemens facility in Lincoln.

### **Grantham Southern Relief Road update**

The project is now expected to be complete in 2026 following a design error related to the rollout of the bridge over the River Witham and the East Coast Main Line.

Upon learning about the issue, Lincolnshire Country Council demanded a solution and is seeking to recoup the additional costs.

The relief road is now expected to open in 2026, a year later than expected. Rectifying this issue is expected to cost between £10-20 million, bringing the project's expected total to £158-168 million.

The Council are pursuing contractual and legal processes as a result of this error so are unable to comment any further on this at this stage for legal reasons.

For now, our priority now is getting this massive project back on track as soon as possible – and that means continuing to work closely with our appointed contractor and designers.

*An overview of progress on the Grantham Southern Relief Road project:-*

#### What we achieved in February

East side of site – completed temporary works to the platforms to Pier 4 / continued formwork, reinforcement and concrete works to the eastern abutment, including falsework and shuttering to the ballast wall.

#### What's happening in March

East side of site – continue formwork, reinforcement and concrete works to the eastern abutment / concrete the ballast wall nib / steel-fixing to the wingwalls / shuttering and concreting to first wingwall for pour two

#### Current/ongoing traffic restrictions and closures

Lane restrictions around the B1174 Roundabout to facilitate the construction of the haul route and access into site

## **Lincolnshire councils' commitment to working together on local government reorganisation**

The leaders of all ten greater Lincolnshire councils agreed to work together on proposals for what local government reorganisation could look like for our county.

The Government has made clear its intention to change all remaining two-tier local authority areas in England and replace county and district councils with new unitary authorities.

On 5 February 2025, the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, Jim McMahon, wrote to all council leaders in two-tier areas and small neighbouring unitary authorities to invite them to develop these unitary proposals.

The invitation gave guidance for developing these proposals, including the expected population of each new authority area and that consideration should be given to existing district boundaries and reducing disruption to vital care services. It also set out the timeline; interim plans should be submitted by 21 March, and more detailed proposals are expected by 28 November.

Greater Lincolnshire's ten council leaders have committed to work together to explore all options, and form plans that are in the best interest of the people of Lincolnshire.

### **We will soon be electing our next representative to Lincolnshire County Council. So, what does Lincolnshire County Council do?**

Lincolnshire is the fourth largest county in England, covering more than 3,600 square miles. Lincolnshire County Council supports a population of over 768,000 people.

The county council invests more than £650m a year in its vital services, including £206m in supporting adult care and community wellbeing, and £114m for children's services, to support people to live life to the full.

We pay for around 8,000 beds in long-term and short-term care settings, and in excess of four million hours of commissioned community-based support. In the coming year, we will provide support for more than 4,500 carers across Lincolnshire.

We are currently managing over 3,440 open children's social care cases, this includes 408 on a Child Protection Plan and 791 children in care. We support over 107,000 school-aged children and young people in Lincolnshire, and around 400 primary and secondary schools and academies. We help around 20,000 pupils get to and from school or college each day.

We manage over 5,500 miles of road to keep Lincolnshire moving, repairing in excess of 100,000 potholes each year. We help over 1,700 of the county's businesses to access the support they need to thrive.

The county council disposes of over 350,000 tonnes of waste and recycling each year, and operates 11 household waste recycling centres across the county.

We run 15 core libraries and 34 community hub libraries, and support more than 1,500 adults to get a new qualification through our adult learning courses each year.

As the fire authority, we operate 38 fire stations, ready to respond to emergencies 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Alexander Maughan**

Lincolnshire County Councillor for Hough Division

Hough on the Hill Parish Council      6 March 2025

Report from Ward District Councillor Penny Milnes

This year has been one of change and confusion with changes to the National Planning Policy Framework, Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation.

NPPF.

The major change requiring Councils to uplift the amount of land for housing is being addressed through the ongoing Local Plan Review which should be 'made' by November 2026. Extra land for housing will need to be allocated in the plan and include urban extensions around the 4 towns and increases in the larger villages. Hough is a smaller village which could support some development, and the policies appertaining will not change significantly, if at all, and retain the caveat 'where development will not compromise the village's nature and character'.

District wide and for the allocations, the Government target to build 1.5m homes to build nationally equals a higher housing target locally from 895 with the addition of 208 per annum. Affordability indicators mean that if it is a problem then more housing is needed. SK will use local needs evidence to determine proportions for housing in, for example, affordable/market housing/ age groups.

The Council have to ensure a 5-year land supply. Effectively, it means that *additional* land has to be found for a further 2,800 homes across plan period plus a buffer of 20%. However, 5-8% may be more realistic increasing the pressure.

Looking forward 15 years until 2043 even more houses will be needed. There will be questions on deliverability and how land is used within the allocations for example, densities/heights/types

Good design is imperative with open spaces and walks around. This will be on a site-by-site basis.

SK will soon be completing a new Design Code which will be more prescriptive, please engage with the last consultations.

Basically, the Local Plan Review is back at draft stage now and therefore delayed.

Consultations with Parish Councils and the public will take place Summer 2025 for submission Dec 2025 to be made Nov 2026 – a short timescale.

### Solar Farms

Applications are increasing and on a larger scale, utilising farmland and impacting on our countryside. Unfortunately, the push for net zero ties our hand at the planning stage with a presumption in favour. A recent Inspector's report allowed solar on Grade 2 land on the basis that it is not lost and will be returned in 40 year's time. Therefore, mitigation of the impacts is extremely important with a new landscape strategy and use of landscaping and habitat areas alongside the required biodiversity net gain.

### Devolution

The new Mayoral Combined Counties Authority (MCCA) is being implemented as we speak. The elections for the new Mayor will be on 1 May. The MCCA encompasses Lincolnshire County Council, N Lincolnshire Unitary and NE Lincolnshire Unitary.

The contentious challenge currently is Local Government Reorganisation within the MCCA. The Government wants the area has to be divided into unitary councils of 500,00 population on a business case basis. This is being done to us. It means the dissolution of District Councils and possibly only 2 Unitary Councils. The Leaders are engaged in the difficult task of formulating some viable proposals to be submitted by the 21 March. The letter from Jim McMahon MP, Minister of State for Local Government and Devolution, arrived 6 February– an extremely tight timeline. The potential aim is for the shadow Unitary Councils to be in place in 2 years with elections to mandate in May 2027 for delivery by April 2028.

### SK Budget

A 2.98% rise in Council Tax has been agreed bringin a Band D property to £189.37.

A balanced budget based on the Corporate Plan has been set. There are budget pressures over the next 2 years.

### A1 Litter

Clearing litter on the A1 started on 3 March in collaboration with National Highways. This is a difficult and dangerous job which the street scene staff have risen to, been trained and properly equipped. It may seem odd but SK have a responsibility to do this task, and could be legally challenged for not doing so, and a fund of £60,000 was set up.

### New Waste Depot

This is planned to open in November 2025.

### Bin Collection Review

Please note that as a result days could change.

### New Fix My Street App

To cover SK and LCC can be downloaded onto a phone- fly-tipping, dead animals, streetlights etc

## Environmental Crime:

continues to be a challenging issue which costs the tax-payer and work is always underway to find the culprits and prosecute. Our Head of Environmental Protection set up and Chairs a District wide panel of agencies involved – Councils, Environment Agency, Defra etc

## Car Parking, Hough Road, Brandon

Unfortunately, despite my best attempts, the Technical Services Improvements team have informed me that there are no current plans to fund any work on the parking area.

## Arnhem Tulips

Please look for the tulips as they bloom in Fulbeck and Caythorpe. SK won funding to continue with developing a new trail called 'Soldiers from the Sky'.

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## Correspondence received since the November 2024 council meeting to 28 Feb 2025

SKDC working together for the homeless newsletter  
LCC Parish Town newsletter  
SKDC car parking tariff proposed changes  
SKDC design code workshop  
Cllr A Maughan invitation to Christmas drinks  
SKDC Anti social behaviour newsletter  
LALC Newsletter  
Parishioner email re: gelston bench repair  
Parishioner email re: Locality Grant funding  
SKDC – Action to combat damp repair to council tenants  
SKDC Section 211 Notice Tree Planning  
SKDC Save the date for Xmas lights  
Parishioner email re: repair to Gelston Jubilee bench  
Cllr P Milnes Report  
Cllr A Maughan Report  
Parishioner email re: locality grant funding  
Lincs Police Crime and Policing Survey  
Locality Grant Funding  
Parishioner email re: flooding Hall Road Brandon, Hough Relief in Need Charity, CSW, SID and litter pick  
Hough Gardening estimate of gardening expenses 2025  
Parishioner email re: grit bin location Brandon  
Brendan Shaw LCC response to flooding issues along Hall Road Brandon  
SKDC Design Code workshop reminder  
Hough Gardening and Handyman Services October 2024 invoice  
Belvoir Sawmill invoice for repair of Gelston bench  
LALC newsletter  
Parishioner email NP Locality Grant  
Police and Crime Commissioner Survey  
V Clark Internal Audit Report and invoice  
Cty Cllr Maughan report on issues reported in November meeting  
Locality Grant update on NP funding  
Community Matters newsletter



SKDC Precept budget  
Brendan Shaw LCC email re: flooding issues Hall Road Brandon  
SKDC Design Code workshop slides presentation info  
Parishioner email re: grit bin location in Brandon  
SKDC free car parking in council operated car parks for December notice  
LCC Town and Parish Newsletter  
CSW newsletter  
Cllr A Maughan – Response re: grit bin in Brandon  
Cllr Maughan – Pre Christmas drinks reminder  
LALC News  
SKDC Design Code stall at markets notification  
Parishioner email regarding Freedom of Information Request on all information regarding Neighbourhood Plan between the dates of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
TSG Christmas bus service information  
SKDC Community Orchard Fund  
LCC Highways Brendan Shaw – update on flooding issues along Hall Road Brandon  
Cllr Maughan – update on reduction of speed limit along Stubton Road, Brandon  
SKDC Decision Notice – S24/1884 Section 211 Notice to remove sycamore tree  
SKDC Help to plant more trees volunteer request  
Cllr Maughan – Request for highways meeting to discuss highways and signage  
SKDC Notification of bin collections over Xmas  
LALC News  
Parishioner email regarding Freedom of Information Request on all information regarding Neighbourhood Plan between the dates of 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023 and 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024  
LALC annual subscription 2025  
LALC training on NPPF  
Parishioner email regarding flooding issues in and around Brandon  
Parishioner email regarding flooding issues affecting their property and general flooding in Brandon  
Parishioner email regarding parking outside green verge along entrance to Hough Road Brandon  
LALC newsletter re: Veterans and Armed Forces coffee mornings  
SK Community Workshop newsletter  
LALC newsletter  
SKDC Notification of planning S24/1956 – The Cottage 5 Village Streets Gelston  
National Highways and Transport Survey  
Parish Online Newsletter  
Parishioner email re poor state of roads and verges in Brandon  
Groundwork re; neighbourhood planning funding  
Parishioner email re: flooding on Church Lane Brandon  
Parishioner email re: Hough Road Brandon parking  
SKDC Decision Notice – BT apparatus, Old School House, Hough on the Hill  
Open Plan – Neighbourhood Plan breakdown of costs  
Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance Walk with Crew  
LCC Parish Newsletter  
LCC Traffic Restriction – Brandon tree clearance  
Locality – End of Grant Report request  
SKDC Notice of planning application – S25/0128 Mr and Mrs Martin, Hough Grange, Hough on the Hill (side extension and alterations to rear store building)  
LCC Highways notification of works in Hough on the Hill  
LCC Highways notification of works in Brandon  
Open Plan – Quotation for final works on NP  
Webmaster invoice for Hough website  
Keep Britain Tidy Campaign Newsletter  
SKDC Planning S25/0167 – Works at the Brownlow Arms, Hough on the Hill  
LALC News

Locality – NP Grant approval  
District Cllr P Milnes – Update on parking along Hough Road Brandon  
Neighbourhood Planning Team – Offer of Grant  
Hough Relief in Need Charity Chairmans Report and Notice  
SKDC – removal of debris due to car accident Hough Road Brandon  
Parish Online Newsletter  
Sara Davies – Faculty re: parking outside Brandon Church  
SKDC planning S25/0236 Notice to fell and remove walnut tree  
Parishioner email supporting Community Orchard  
LALC News  
Fix My Street – update on signage along Hough Road  
Cllr Maughan – update on drainage works.  
Lincolnshire Flood and Water Management Report  
SKDC News – Interesting in becoming a Councillor  
LCC Parish News update