**Minutes of a Meeting of Aslackby, Laughton & Graby Parish Council held on Monday, 23rd February 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Aslackby**

Present: Cllr M Fairhead - Chair
Cllr A Carr-Bilas
Cllr M Dodds
Cllr M Leighton
Cllr R Miller
Cllr G Atkinson

Cllr M Hill - Lincolnshire County Council
Cllr K Abel – South Kesteven District Council

Parish Clerk: Mr I Sismey

**Due to the absence of Cllr S Roberts who had given her apologies Cllr M Fairhead took the Chair.**

**Cllr Fairhead welcomed everyone to the meeting which included Cllr M Hill (LCC) and Cllr K Abel (SKDC).**

**There were no members of the public present therefore the Open Forum was opened and closed without comment.**

**0018.010.26 Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons given**

Apologies for absence and reasons were received from Cllr S Roberts.

**Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas Seconded Cllr M Dodds**

**RESOLVED: To approve apologies for absence and the reasons given.**

**0019.010.26 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

**0020.010.26 To ask if members of the public, resident or employed within this Parish, have any intention to speak under any agenda items of this meeting.**

There were no members of the public present.

**0021.011.26 To adopt the notes of the meetings held on the 5th January 2026 as a true record and to resolve for the chair to sign them.**

Cllr Dodds queried the fact that the minutes made mention of a bridge at Morton. The clerk informed the members that this had been amended to the bridge at Graby.

**Proposed Cllr M Fairhead Seconded Cllr G Atkinson**

**RESOLVED: For the chair to sign the notes of the meeting held on the 5th January 2026 as a true record.**

**0022.011.26 Matters outstanding for discussion:**

**Financial Matters**

The clerk introduced this item as the 5th January had been his first meeting and appointment to the Council. The clerk informed members that he had taken on the role of clerk with the aim of dealing initially with various critical matters.

**PAYE –** The Council now has access to their PAYE account with HMRC which confirms the overpayment made by the Parish Council of £325.56. This amount has been allocated by HMRC to offset PAYE owed by the Parish Council. This matter to be taken up with the previous Internal Auditor/Accountant who should have been taken care of the PAYE direct with the outgoing Clerk.

The current situation shows an overpayment of £57.21 which will be used against future PAYE liabilities.

The clerk continued that going forward the Parish payroll was now being run through HMRC's own software 'PAYE Basic Tools'. This system ensures that PAYE is calculated correctly and communicates with HMRC so they are aware at all times what tax/NI is due from the Council.

**VAT –** The clerk reported that VAT had not been reclaimed for various years and therefore He had produced a claim for the past four years which is the period of time that the Parish Council can legally reclaim for and this has now been submitted to HMRC. The claim amounted to £823.50.

**Grass Cutting –** This had been an issue due to the fact that the Parish Council had not reclaimed their contribution from Lincolnshire County Council under the Parish Grass Cutting Agreement for at least the past three years. After consulting with Lincolnshire County Council they have now issued the following three Purchase Orders to enable the Parish Council to reclaim a total of £3,138.76.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PO 20110167811 | Contribution 2025/26 | £1285.20 |
| PO 20110168240 | Contribution 2024/25 | £1,263.24 |
| PO 20110168249 | Contribution 2023/24 | £ 590.32 |

Going forward the Parish Council are continuing with the agreement and will be due a contribution for the year 2026/2027.

**Compliance with External Audit**

The clerk explained that members had been concerned with regard to compliance with External Audit which is managed by Central Governments appointed Auditors 'PKF Littlejohn'. The clerk confirmed that following contact with PKF all was now in order and that the Parish Council were compliant and in a good position for this year's upcoming Audit.

The clerk continued that he had approached the Internal Auditor that he had used at Bourne Town Council who was the previous SKDC internal Auditor who had agreed to take on the Aslackby Internal Audit. The clerk went on to mention that a full audit should be requested of PKF to ensure that as far as the residents were concerned the Council had completed their due diligence. This was agreed unanimously by the members.

**Emergency Plan - This item was subject to a separate agenda item and noted under minute reference**

**Highways – This item was subject to a separate agenda item and noted under Minute ref**

**0023.012.26 To receive reports, if any, by District/County Councillors or representatives on other organisations.**

Cllr M Hill (LCC) reported:

- Lincolnshire County Council had agreed a 2.9% increase in Council Tax for the year 2026/2027 this included budgets for Road and Drainage initiatives.
- LCC had submitted its papers to Central Government on Local Government Reorganisation which along with other submissions were under consultation during March

Cllr K Abel (SKDC) reported:

- New bins being rolled out for food waste, 25LT with a 5LT kitchen unit if desired. Initial roll of bags will be included.
- Large bulky item removal to increase by £1.50
- Full Council on Thursday of this week which should see the approval of a Council tax increase of 2.9%
- Full Council will also be voting on an increase in licensing fees for HMO'S but it cannot be seen as a profiting opportunity. Cllr A Carr-Bilas shared her concern where an HMO was being used to house at risk/vulnerable children and they were going to be penalised. Cllr Hill commented that as these were governed by LCC children's services they should not be affected.
- Cllr Abel informed members he would be sitting on committees for Rural and Housing.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**0024.013.26 The clerk produced a list of correspondence for the members to receive.**

**The clerk informed the members that should they wish to inspect any item of correspondence then they should contact him direct.**

*A) For Information only – to be received en bloc*

**a) RSN – Newsletters 07.01.2026**
**b) SKDC Planning Lists 09.01.2026**
**c) LALC – E-news 09.01.2026**
**d) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 15.01.2026**
**e) SKDC Planning Lists 16.01.2026**
**f) RSN – Newsletters 14.01.2026**
**g) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 22.01.2026**
**h) SKDC – Webcasting**
**i) RSN – Newsletters 21.01.2026**
**j) LALC – E-news 23.01.2026**
**k) SKDC Planning Lists 23.01.2026**
**l) RSN – Newsletters 28.01.2026**
**m) LCC Town & Parish N/Letter January 2026**
**n) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 29.01.2026**
**o) SKDC Planning Lists 30.01.2026**
**p) RSN – Newsletters 04.02.2026**
**q) LALC – E-news 06.02.2026**
**r) SKDC Planning Lists 06.02.2026**
**s) RSN – Newsletters 11.02.2026**
**t) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 12.02.2026**
**u) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 19.02.2026**

**v) RSN – Newsletters 18.02.2026**

*B) Items for discussion*

a) Local Government Reorganisation

The clerk stated that as previously discussed and also eluded to by Cllr Hill the Local Government Reorganisation was continuing through its process and was under consultation throughout March.

A final decision will be made by July 2026

b) Litter Picking

Communication had been received from a local resident enquiring if litter picking equipment was available to use around the village. (to be discussed under item (g) Graet British Spring Clean)

c) SKDC Food Waste Recycling

This item was covered in Cllr Abel's report. The clerk informed members that the new bins were being rolled out from the beginning of February with an intended start date of April. Cllr Carr-Billas enquired of Cllr Abel when the bins would be received locally. Cllr Abel said that he was unsure whether the intended start date would be met but it should be early in the new Council year.

d) Deer Population

Cllr R Miller informed members that new a new Government guideline was issued yesterday with a 10-year plan that will allow more shooting of deer at night to allow farmers to do all that they can do to keep the population under control. The clerk was asked to respond to the resident informing them that it had been discussed with local landowners and that new Government guidelines recently issued should aid the situation.

e) SKDC Walking Festival

The clerk informed members that if they had knowledge of any walk that could be added to SKDC's walking Festival they still had time to contact them. Cllr Carr-Bilas informed members that the Aveland History Group will be undertaking a walk as part of the festival.

f) SKDC Community Awards

The clerk informed members that the annual Community Awards were now accepting nominations.
If any member was aware of any worthy person or body they could nominate them.

g) Great British Spring Clean

The clerk suggested that perhaps in line for the residents request the Parish Council could purchase some litter picking equipment and take part in the 'Great British Spring Clean' initiative. Cllr Leighton commented that this had been discussed previously but the concern was around liability and insurance cover. The clerk informed members that volunteers are covered by the Councils insurance policy, the only caveat to that would be that a risk assessment should be in place and needed to be adhered too.

The clerk continued that should the members decided to go ahead with the suggestion then it may be with the Church's permission the equipment might be able to be stored there enabling access to those who wished to use them.

Cllr Leighton asked if perhaps the Parish Council could organise a day when people could volunteer to litter pick and that would be a start to the initiative.

It was agreed after various discussion:

- The clerk would approach SKDC for loan equipment for a one-off litter pick
- That the clerk would also approach SKDC for refuse bags and confirmation that they would collect those bags the day after the litter pick.
- That a post would be made on the village website informing people of the litter pick and details of how to take part.
- That the litter pick should coincide with the Great British Clean Campaign that takes place between the 13th-29th March.

Cllr Abel informed members that the District Council had invested in mobile CCTV to try and reduce fly tipping and if there were any areas locally that suffered from this then SKDC should be informed.

**Proposed Cllr M Fairhead Seconded Cllr G Atkinson**

**Resolved: To receive the above correspondence en bloc**

**0025.015.26 Highways – Update**

This matter had been discussed at length at the previous Council meeting and can be summarised as follows:

- the area adjacent to SL Engineering needed to be tidied up as the growth needs to be cut back, It appears that the contractors that had been contacted were not prepared to complete the works due to:

  **a)** The need for road closures to enable the work to be performed.
  **b)** Electric Cable concerns
  **c)** Stability of the bank once the works had been completed

It had been previously decided that the focus should be on the cutting back of foliage rather than removing entire trees to maintain bank stability.

Cllr Fairhead informed the members that his contact was happy with the stabilisation issue and could do the work without the need of a road closure but was still waiting to receive a quote for the works.

Other Highways matters continue to be of concern and remain unresolved:

- **Potholes -** Continue to be an ongoing issue with LCC and this situation to be monitored.

  The failed reinstatement by Anglian Water on the road near the church is still under investigation by LCC. Cllr Leighton expressed concerns with regard to the church whilst the situation with Anglian Water remains unresolved.

  Cllr Hill confirmed that he was aware of the pothole issues in the Parish and it may be a possibility that 'a 'Recycling' solution may be required.

- **Bridge Status -** The issue with the bridge is also still under investigation by LCC.

- **Drainage Issues –** Cllr Hill informed members that this was high on LCC's agenda and after talks with one of the chief engineers he is hopeful that works would be instigated sometime in the new year and that this would be a major scheme straight through the village. This follows deferral of works previously promised in the current year.

- **Lighting on the Dovecote Meadows –** Cllr Atkinson reported that there was no street lighting down Dovecote Meadows. Cllr Hill informed the members that the current policy was not to put new street lighting in unless paid for by the Parish Council. Cllr Hill was of the opinion that there was a new policy forthcoming, and he would find out what the new policy was going to be.

- **TRO – Aslackby/Millthorpe Lane –** The clerk had included in the paperwork notice of a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order to be imposed on the 26th February 06.00 – 18.00 on Millthorpe Lane.

- **NHT Survey –** LCC are again undertaking a National Highways & Transport survey to capture feedback on Highways and Transport services in the area. The survey finishes on the 28th February and members may participate by accessing the following link https://nhtnetwork.co.uk/isolated/data/scorecard/new/bespoke/1214

**Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr G Atkinson**
**RESOLVED: To receive the above information**

**0026.017.26 Planning Applications**

There were no Planning Applications for the members to consider.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**0027.017.26 Approval of Treasurers Report for the period to 31st January 2026**

The clerk presented the accounts for the period to the end of January that showed little movement from those presented at the previous meeting.

Income & Expenditure showed a surplus of Income of £1203.29 with the bank account showing a positive balance of £8798.88.

**Proposed Cllr M Fairhead, Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas**
**RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurers report and accounts for the period to 31st January 2026.**

**0028.017.26 Approval of Payments since last meeting**

The only payment that had been made was WAVE – Water Rates for the cemetery £21.74.

**Proposed Cllr M Fairhead, Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas**
**RESOLVED: To approve the Accounts for payment as listed.**

**0029.017.26 Bank Account**

The clerk confirmed that the application for a new bank account was progressing.

At this point of the meeting Cllr M Dodds queried the payment from LCC of a nominal £80.00 for the yearly clearance of a local footpath that had been negotiated some year ago. The clerk undertook to investigate this matter.

**0030.018.26 Cemetery**

There was no update on the cemetery, and the clerk is due to meet with Brian Wilkinson.

**0031.018.26 Update on Emergency Planning**

Cllr Dodds reported that they had increased numbers on the 'Flood Warning' **Whatsapp** group which had included some younger members that would be extremely useful to help with the sandbagging.

The clerk informed members that LCC were currently installing flood warning devices in certain Parishes under project 'Groundwater' and he was making enquiries with regard to the possible installation of these in in local water courses. The devices would:

- Monitor water levels year-round in ordinary watercourses
- Feed data into an online dashboard accessible to the Parish members and residents
- Deliver a simple alarm when water reaches predetermined levels

The clerk continued that these devices would not replace the existing EA system but merely there to compliment it by monitoring other watercourses as well as rivers.

Cllr Matin Hill (LCC) was obviously aware of this project and confirmed the clerks comments. It was suggested that perhaps a device in the water course adjacent to Cllr Leightons property would be an ideal location. It was confirmed that this was a project in association with the Environment Agency and not the Black Sluice IDB and that this was a totally funded project from Central Government.

**0032.018.26 Neighbourhood Watch**

Nothing to report on this item

**0033.018.26 Website**

Nothing to report on this item

**0034.018.26 To discuss any such information which the chair may legally bring to the Councils attention.**

There were none.

**0035.019.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

It was agreed that the scheduling of a full diary for the new year should wait until the Councils annual meeting.

It was agreed that the next Council Meeting would be April 13th 7.00pm.

It was agreed that the annual Parish Meeting and the Councils Annual Meeting should be May 18th 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 20.25Hrs

Signed ……. Chair

Date ……