Minutes of a meeting of Aslackby, Laughton & Graby Parish Council held on Monday, 27th July 2026 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Aslackby

Present: Cllr M Fairhead (Chair)
Cllr A Carr-Bilas
Cllr M Leighton
Cllr R Miller
Cllr S Roberts

Cllr K Abel (SKDC)

Parish Clerk: Mr I Sismey

The Chair Cllr Mark Fairhead welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special welcome to the member of the public that was in attendance.

0091.044.26 Apologies for absence and acceptance of any reasons given.

Apologies were received from Cllr M Dodds and Cllr G Atkinson

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas Seconded Cllr M Fairhead

RESOLVED: To approve apologies for absence from Cllr's Dodda and Atkinson and the reasons given.

0092.044.26 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

0093.044.26 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 was one member of the public present, and he was asked if he would like to speak on any agenda item.

0094.044.26 To adopt the notes of the meetings held on the 22nd June 2026 as a true record and to resolve for the chair to sign them.

Proposed Cllr M Fairhead Seconded Cllr M Leighton

RESOLVED: For the chair to sign the notes of the meeting held on the 22nd June 2026 as a true record with the following amendment at minute No. 0090.043.26 where reference to the 16th October 2026 should read 16th November 2026. Cllr Carr-Bilas had also pointed various other minor amendments that have been incorporated in the definitive version.

0095.045.26 To receive reports, if any, by District/County Councillors or representatives on other organisations.

Cllr K Able (SKDC) reported:

- That the decision had now been made on Local Government Reorganisation and the County would now consist of two new unitary authorities across the area currently covered by the two-tier system-a Lincoln City Unitary and a Rural Lincolnshire Unitary. The successful proposal recommends that Northeast Lincolnshire and North Lincolnshire remain as existing.

  Clearly the concern going forward is that representation would be heavily disadvantaged in the new Rural authority as one hundred Councillors would be representing around 575,000 residents. Cllr Abel continued that he thought this would be residents main concern that each councillor would be expected to represent far more people that currently.

  Cllr Abel informed members that SKDC were looking to possibly ask for a judicial review to challenge the decision.

  Cllr Leighton asked Cllr Abel how the decision would impact local Parish Councils. Cllr Abel responded that it would impact on representation due to the increase in numbers that each councillor would have to contend with post reorganisation.

  Cllr Miller informed the members that following a meeting that he had attended over a year ago it was mentioned that far more responsibility would be passed down to Parish Councils and a lot more interaction at base level.

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- Full Council had seen a motion passed to employ a business development manager to help Public Houses. At this point Cllr Carr-Bilas asked Cllr Abel if this was for hospitality as well as pubs. Cllr Abel continued that this was to help protect pubs and not hospitality generally.

- Cllr Abel commented that the work regarding Article 4 data is continuing. Cllr Abel continued that he had put in a Freedom of Information request to help him understand the dispersal of asylum seekers. Cllr Carr-Bilas asked where Cllr Abel was trying to obtain the information from. Cllr Abel informed the members that he was trying to obtain the information from SKDC but was now

communicating with the home office as SKDC would not divulge the information. Currently the Home Office are continuously extending the given deadline to respond. It was clear that Cllr Abel was concerned that asylum seekers were being housed locally without anyone's knowledge.

Cllr Leighton commented that he thought it was nonsensical to place asylum seekers in small villages where transport links are almost non-existent. Cllr Leighton asked Cllr Abel if the housing was temporary and Cllr Abel confirmed that this was the case.
There was continued discussion on this item regarding the process going forward and at what stage the asylum seekers could start to obtain work in the UK. Cllr Abel stressed that he would continue to press for information on the matter and that he would report back accordingly.

It was agreed that as could be seen from the national press coverage this was a continuing concern that needs to be addressed by Central Government.

Cllr Abel informed the members that the end result would be an article 4 direction for the district that would ensure family homes are not turned into houses of multiple occupancy (HMO's) without first obtaining the relevant approval.

CORRESPONDENCE

0096.046.26

The clerk produced a list of correspondence for the members to review and receive.

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

A) For Information only - to be received en bloc

a) RSN – Newsletters 24.06.2026
b) LALC – Enews 26.06.2026
c) SKDC Planning Lists 22-26.06.2026.
d) RSN – Newsletters 27.06.2026
e) HW Lincs Newsletter – June 2026
f) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 25.06.2026
g) SKDC Planning Lists 25 – 29.06.2026-03.07.2026.
h) RSN Weekly Newsletter – 08.07.2026
i) NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 02.07.2026
j) LALC – Enews 07.07.2026
k) SKDC Planning Lists 06-10.06.2026.
l) LCC – Town & Parish Newsletter June 2026
m) SKDC Planning Lists 13-17.07.2026.

n) RSN – NALC – Chief Executives Bulletin 02.07.2026
o) Newsletters 24.07.2026
p) LALC – Enews 24.07.2026

B) Items for discussion

a) National Grid – Grimsby-Walpole Update

Further update from the team at National Grid on the project to install further power pylons from Grimsby to Walpole.

b) Improvements to Household Waste Recycling – LCC

Communication from Lincolnshire County Council who have approved a package of improvements designed to modernise Household Waste Recycling across the County. The agreed measures include the introduction of a booking system across all Household Waste Recycling Centres to help reduce queuing.

Lincolnshire County Council have yet to announce the date that these new measures will start.

c) Elections May 2027

As previously discussed, May 2027 will see both shadow authority elections following the reorganisation announcement along with Parish and Town Council local elections.

The clerk explained that as far as Aslackby was concerned the Council would come to an end and a new Council formed.

Proposed Cllr S Roberts Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas

Resolved: To receive the above correspondence en bloc

0097.047.26 Highways

a) Tree Cutting – The clerk informed members that he was awaiting a response from Open Reach/BT with regard to the tree cutting on the High Street. Cllr Roberts asked if a reply had ever been received from SL Engineering the clerk replied that a response had not been received.

   It was decided that a further letter should be sent for the attention of the MD James Riley.

b) Grass Cutting – the clerk presented a schedule of grass cutting from Lincolnshire County Council.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas Seconded Cllr S Roberts
Resolved: To receive the above information

0098.048.26 Planning

The clerk was still awaiting a response from SKDC with regard to the status of the conservation area extension.

0099.048.26 Approval of Treasurers Report for the period to 30th June 2026

The clerk presented the accounts for the period to the end of the financial year 30th June 2026.

The clerk had prepared an Income & Expenditure account statement and backed it with the usual spreadsheet that had previously been provided.

Income & Expenditure showed a surplus of Income of £ 3,797.77 with the bank account showing a positive balance of £ 15,632.41.

The above information was supported by a balance sheet for the period to 30th June 2026.

The clerk had also included a bank reconciliation to support the Parish Council's bank statement.

The clerk reminded members that at the last meeting of the Parish Council discussion had been held on the level of reserves that should be held by the Council.

To this end the clerk had prepared an Income & Expenditure account against budget.

The clerk referred the members to the section of the Practitioners Guide which states:

5.34 The generally accepted recommendation with regard to the appropriate minimum level of a smaller authority's general reserve is that this should be maintained at between three and twelve months of net revenue expenditure.

The clerk continued that the Parish Council's net position is £8,800 and therefore this balance should be maintained in reserves.

Due to the fact that the Council had reclaimed monies that had previously been due to them the reserves currently held do comply with the Practitioners Guide recommendation.

The clerk commented that the only issue currently is that when submitting its precept request for the year it should request the actual amount as stated on the budget and not a figure that then requires support from reserves.

Members were concerned about maintaining the reserve level and as suggested by Cllr A Carr-Bilas it was agreed that once the Parish current account was fully operational with Lloyds then a second interest yielding account should be opened and the reserve balance transferred to it.

Cllr S Roberts emphasised that if the precept was to rise above the current level of reserves the Council would have to factor in an increase in the reserve balance. Cllr M Leighton was of the opinion that this should be factored in at the budgeting stage.

Cllr Leighton asked if at some point we could share the financial documents with the residents.

Proposed Cllr S Roberts, Seconded Cllr A Carr-Bilas.
RESOLVED: To approve the Treasurers report and accounts for the period to 30th June 2026.

0100.049.26 Approval of Payments since last meeting

The Clerk presented a schedule of payments to the members that totalled. £1,440.46.

27/07/2026	Payroll	373.92
27/07/2026	WAVE	20.14
27/07/2026	BDG	523.20
27/07/2026	BDG	523.20

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr S Roberts
RESOLVED: To Approve the payments as listed

0101.050.26 Bank Account

The clerk reported that the bank account was now up and running and that all parties had received the necessary paperwork.

0102.050.26 Financial Year End Audit

The clerk confirmed that all relevant paperwork had been disclosed to the external auditors PKF Littlejohn.

0103.050.26 Policies

The clerk explained that there were various policies that underpinned the working of the Council and that these needed to be reviewed periodically and that therefore future meetings would include the review of a particular policy.

The clerk had included in the paperwork for the meeting the code of conduct for members information.

0104.050.26 Local Government reorganisation

The clerk explained that this item had already been discussed earlier in the meeting in some detail.

The clerk had prepared information for the members that included the original options appraisal from all four participators:

a) City of Lincoln
b) South & East Lincolnshire
c) Lincolnshire County Council
d) North Kesteven District Council and South Kesteven District Council

The clerk continued that 3 of the above proposals left N Lincs and NE Lincs as they are today due to various functions being maintained by sources outside of the authority e.g. Policing is under Humberside.

The clerk stated that as per the earlier discussion the option being taken will result in the following population split:

1) Lincoln City – 208,496
2) Rural Lincolnshire – 567,028
3) N Lincs – 171,366
4) NE Lincs – 159,911

The above shows the concern of many that the population split is disproportionate and will result in limited representation for Rural Lincolnshire as with only 100 councillors each member will be representing on average 5,700 residents.

The clerk reminded the members of Cllr Millers comments that it was felt that Parish Councils would have more responsibility passed down to them once reorganisation had taken place.

The clerk commented that a judicial review would be costly to the District Council and extremely time consuming this was also echoed by Cllr Abel.

The timetable for the process is as follows:

July 2026 – Announcement of new councils

August – December 2026 – Draft Structural Changes Order laid in Parliament.

May 2027 – Shadow Elections

May 2027 to March 2028 – One year transition period

April 2028 – Day 1 of new councils

It was felt that the Parish Council should continue to monitor the situation and continue to add it to the monthly agenda.

Proposed Cllr A Carr-Bilas, Seconded Cllr R Miller
RESOLVED: To receive the above information

0105.051.26 Cemetery

The clerk had searched land registry and downloaded the documents relating to the Parish Councils ownership of the land.

The clerk also commented that having researched the purchase the process had taken 10 years. It was also a concern that the purchase was not recorded in the Parish Council accounts as an asset. The transaction had started in 1970, and its conclusion was in 1979.

The clerk also pointed out that this was not the only asset that was not recorded in the Parish records and listed those that had been identified so far:

1. Telephone Box
2. Bus Shelter
3. Defibrillator
4. Cemetery

At this point conversation moved to properties in the village owned by a local organisation that were falling into disrepair some of which were listed others that were not.

The clerk pointed out that if listed buildings were falling into disrepair, then it was down too South Kesteven District Council as the conservation authority to enforce action against the respective owner.

The clerk continued that if members were concerned about the state of repair of local listed buildings, then members should report this to South Kesteven District Council.

The members were of the opinion that this process appeared to be ineffective.

0106.052.26 Emergency Planning

The clerk informed the members that having read through some of the past minutes from the parish records the County engineers have been promising for years that contingencies would be put in place to prevent flooding but it appears that this has never happened despite continued assurances from the lead authority.

It was discussed that Cllr M Hill was currently spear heading the campaign for essential works to be completed in the village.

0107.052.26 Neighbourhood Watch

The clerk had included the Nation Associations newsletter in the members packs.

0108.052.26 To discuss any such information which the chair may legally bring to the Councils attention.

Cllr S Roberts raised the issue of the external appearance of the Village Hall and whether the committee concerned would apply to SKDC for grant funding to redecorate the building externally. The clerk said that he would make contact with the committee members concerned to urge them to make an application.

Cllr R Miller informed the members that local resident Mr S Green had unfortunately passed away recently. Cllr Miller continued that Mr Green had done an awful lot for the village as had his father and Cllr Miller wished it to be noted that the Parish Council thanks him for his service and generosity to the village. The members were in agreement with this mark of respect.

The resident present informed members of continual fly tipping at the ‘Ford’ on Sovereign Street. It seemed members were aware of this issue and that invariably the fly tipping was generally taken away by SKDC when they visit the village.

0109.053.26 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The following dates had previously been agreed through to December 2026:

Monday 7th September 2026

Monday 5th October 2026

Monday 16th November 2026

Monday 14th December 2026

The meeting closed at 20.31Hrs

Signed ……. Chair

Date ……