

Minutes of Laceby Village Council Finance and Planning Meeting
Held at the Stanford Centre, Cooper Lane, Laceby on Tuesday 4th February 2025 at 7.30pm

- 13456 Present:** Chair – Cllr R Childs
Cllr S Greenbeck, Cllr P Schofield, Cllr M Hall, Cllr P Page, Cllr S Turner, Cllr D Johnson, Cllr R Barford, Cllr R James, Cllr B Metcalf
- In Attendance:** Nicola Ashton – Clerk & RFO
6 members of public
- Apologies:** Ward Cllr D Hasthorpe, Ward Cllr H Hudson

Cllr Childs opened the meeting, welcomed all present to the meeting. The statement regarding the Recording of Meetings was read out.

Apologies were received and accepted.

13457 Minutes from the 7th January 2025

The minutes from the Finance and Planning Meeting on the 7th January 2025 were proposed by Cllr Schofield and seconded by Cllr Page as a true record, and agreed by all Councillors present.

RESOLVED: That the minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of events.

13458 Declaration of Interests & Dispensations

a. Dispensations

No Dispensations recorded.

b. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Metcalf declared an interest in finance.

13459 Public Forum

Members of the public may make representations, answer questions, and give evidence at a meeting to which they are entitled to attend in respect of the items on the agenda. The time designated for public participation will not exceed 15 minutes in total, and 3 minutes per person. As per standing orders 3e and 3f.

- Member of the public asked about who the contractor was for the Church Wall and what the costs were.

Cllr Childs confirmed that the contractor to rebuild the Church Wall was Steve Cope and Sons, and confirmed that the total estimated cost for all works was £86,250, this included the wall, trees, legal costs and archaeology, but the cost of the wall alone was £71,300.

Discussion held with those present regarding the total cost being extremely high and whether there were any other options.

Cllr Metcalf advised that the Village Council have no choice but to rebuild the wall (legal requirement due to closed burial ground), and that despite looking at other options, NELC will not let us put anything but a wall up. The current wall was never fit for purpose, and it was built in the wrong place impacting on the highway – NELC want the highway back, and so the wall has also had to be moved. LVC have been saving for this for over 20 years, and preparing for the works and have £70k funds available, however when covid hit (and with brexit) the costs have gone up by more than 50%. The original quotes were £70k to £150k, and none were fit for purpose. The Council has worked incredibly hard to do the best for the village.

Cllr Johnson advised that the Councillors had spent hours with NELC to find a solution. The wall is not just a garden wall, but it has had to be engineered with a structural engineer. The Council has saved thousands of pounds because Mr Cross has given up his time to help the council with planning, drawings, liaising with NELC, and getting us to the point of being able to put the wall up. At every step NELC and the Diocese have caused obstructions. A great deal of time and energy has been spent by everyone in order to find a cost-effective way to do this.

- Member of the public raised the issue of the precept.
Cllr Childs advised this had been discussed at length at previous meetings, along with the wall, and was not going to be discussed any further tonight.
- Member of the public advised that a fence had been installed at the corner of Trevor Close, and had been reported to planning enforcement, who advised retrospective planning was required, however this has not been done.
Cllr Childs advised he would email NELC planning.
- Member of the public asked if NELC had yet responded to the Council proposal for Grimsby Road.
The Clerk advised that she had chased this up, but had not received any further response.
- Mr Cross advised that in regards to the Church Wall, the Village Council are legally responsible for maintaining the boundary of a closed burial ground, and this includes the wall.

Public Forum closed 19.44.

13460 Matters Arising

- **Ornaments on Graves**

The Clerk advised that she had checked all graves, and there was no broken glass on the plots.

- **VE 80**

Cllr Childs advised that as yet there hadn't been a planning meeting, and queried whether there were any funds available for an event. The Clerk advised that as RFO, her advice would be to only authorise essential spending until the Church Wall is built and all bills have been paid. Cllr Hall advised that the LCC also have a lot going on with the pavilion too. It was agreed to review next month.

13461 Police Matters

The Police newsletter was received, and details shared with those present (available on LVC website). Cllr Childs reiterated that all crimes should be reported to the police to enable them to build a picture of the issues in the village.

Cllr Metcalf advised that she had attended the Parish / Police quarterly meeting, and the police are advising that people must take action to protect themselves and their property. There are currently a lot of thefts of bikes, and motor vehicles. The police are also going round properties and asking residents about the area they live in and any concerns they have with crime.

There were no further concerns to be raised directly with the policing team.

13462 Ward Councillors Report

No items to report from the Wolds Councillors; any queries or concerns can be raised directly with them.

13463 Planning Matters

DM/1058/24/FUL – Erect single storey extension to rear and side with installation of rooflights, installation of flue and associated works; 4 Charles Avenue, Laceby

No objections were raised by Councillors.

DM/0015/25/FUL – Erect front roof extension over existing ground floor bay to form gable installation of dormer and rooflight to front roof. Installation of rear dormer. Erect rear single storey flat roof with extension with roof lantern. Install first floor en-suite window to side; 104 Caistor Road, Laceby

No objections were raised by Councillors.

There were no further planning applications for consideration.

13464 Finance Matters

To approve payment of accounts to 4th February 2025.

Wages x 2 members of staff - Month 11	£xxxx
HMRC – Tax and NI - Month 11	£237.75
NEST Pension – Month 11	£62.79
Chairs Allowance – Feb 2025	£20.00
Cemetery Waste	£55.89
Clerk Telephone/Broadband	£21.51
Clerk Petty Cash	£39.60
Anglian Water – Cemetery	£10.09
Christmas Tree Event – reimbursement	£44.05

RESOLVED: All payments approved; proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Turner and all agreed.

Groundskeeper Vacancy

The recruitment of the groundskeeper continues, but as yet there has been no interest in the vacancy. The Clerk will put out the advert again.

Gov.uk website

The Clerk explained the plans for Parish Councils to move to a gov.uk website and email address.

RESOLVED: To progress this later in the new financial year.

13465 St Francis Grove Matters

It was noted that Cllr Johnson and the Clerk have continued to remove litter from the park.

13466 Church and Cemetery Matters

Church Wall

Cllr Metcalf advised that the trees are going to be removed ready for the removal and replacement of the Church Wall. By grinding the stumps, we do not need an archaeologist on site, which is a cost saving. There will be temporary traffic lights in place for the work.

Cllr Metcalf explained the main Church Wall works will begin on 17th February, with 5-way traffic lights in place for 6 weeks. It was noted that NELC had originally requested a full road closure, but had been persuaded that traffic lights were a better option for residents.

Cllr Metcalf advised that the St Margaret's Church PCC, have agreed to pay for the trees, at a cost of £4,950. Thanks to be sent to the Church for the contribution to the costs.

13467 Stanford Centre

Cllr Metcalf advised that energy costs were ridiculously high – November bill alone was over £800! The Stanford Centre has looked at options to alter the heating, but because the building is mainly single glazed glass, and the metal stanchions cannot accommodate double glazing, there are few options. It will mean an increase in rental fees.

13468 Correspondence

Cllr Childs advised that some works had been completed to the footpaths and road at Bishops Grange.

13469 Information Exchange

- Cllr Metcalf asked the Clerk to notify Healing School and the Co-op of the traffic lights for the Church Wall from 17th February.
- Cllr Hall advised that works continue at Butt Lane, and the LCC are currently installing new kitchen and toilets.

13470 Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED: The exemption of the press and public for the remainder of the meeting under the Public Bodies Admissions to Meetings Act 1960, Section 1(2) on the grounds that the discussion of the following business is likely to disclose confidential information.

The Chair closed the public meeting at 8.00pm.

Signed:

Chair

Dated: