Minutes of the Scothern Annual Parish meeting held on 8 March 2023 in the Methodist Church, Main Street, Scothern at 19:30.

Present: Cathryn Nicoll (CJN), Chair Scothern Parish Council

23 members of the public

Simon Crampton, Sudbrooke Parish Council

Councillor Sue Rawlins (SR), Lincolnshire County Council (LCC)

Councillor Roger Patterson (RP), Vice Chair, West Lindsey District Council

Apologies:    Councillor Bob Waller (RW), West Lindsey District Council and a Scothern resident

1. Chair welcomed attendees and presented housekeeping arrangements.
2. Reports
3. Lincolnshire  County Council (LCC) - Councillor Sue Rawlins (SR):
* Information on bus services to be detailed later in the meeting.
* Budget discussed the impact the current economic situation on LCC’s budget. All areas have been under scrutiny. Funding has been identified from reserves to support some specific highway projects.
* There are implications for Social Care and funding for elderly adults and children services.
* Local Scothern issues - drainage scheme carried out in 2022 has been completed, however there continues to be some drainage issues in Craypool Lane/Back Lane which are being addressed with Anglian Water.
* Speeding issues continue and SR has requested a review of speed limits.
* LCC held a meeting on highways and discussed repair of potholes which has improved but the quantity of potholes remains an issue.

Raised by members of the public;

* Why all potholes in one area are not repaired in one go?

SR advised she would raise this with Highways.

* What is the progress on devolution and giving more power and funding to local people?

SR reported this was ongoing, LCC is involved in discussions but needed to be mindful that Lincolnshire would not miss out nationally.

1. District Council Report Councillor Waller was unable to attend but has advised that WLDC has been successful in a bid to buy Royal Air Force Scampton. However an outcome of central government utilising Scampton to house asylum seekers is awaited.

Roger Paterson, WLDC attending to discuss bus services, was asked if he had anything he wanted to say on Council business. WLDC had been successful in its bid to acquire RAF Scampton, the issue of using part of it to house asylum seekers had not yet been determined, however it was felt it would be unlikely due to infrastructure required.

1. Chairman’s Report on Scothern Parish Council’s activities 2022/23

Report is attached.

1. Receive reports for any local organisations present
2. Update on village hall improvements -Report is attached.
3. To discuss the provision of public transport in Scothern.
* Councillor Rawlins advised of a recent meeting of the LCC Highways and Scrutiny Committee and presented extracts from the Lincolnshire Enhanced Partnership Plan for Buses – documents are available on LCC website.
* The County Council does receive funding from the central government for bus services. LCC applied for funding for the Enhanced Partnership Plan but was not successful. A meeting will be held between LCC and Stagecoach on Friday 10 March 2023 and Councillor Rawlins will be in attendance. Councillor Mrs Nicoll has provided information from Scothern Parish Council regarding public transport in the village and this includes the current timings of buses, implications for schools, journeys to and from Lincoln, and access to health centres. The information provided from the discussion from this meeting will be fed into next Fridays meeting.

Councillor Patterson explained his reasons for attending.

* RP works for PC Coaches and is the CallConnect Manager.
* Historically insufficient demand for a full service and the decision taken to move capacity from Scothern to use for a park and ride service to Lincoln.
* There have been changes to staffing within PC Coaches; a new Managing Director (MD) has commenced, and a review of current services is being undertaken.
* PC Coaches supported financially by Lincolnshire County Council.
* Actively looking at putting a service into Scothern however there are issues of timings of vehicles.
* RP will feedback the points of this meeting and ask the MD to attend a Parish Council meeting.

Issues raised and noted by SR for feedback to LCC

* The service in Welton was every 15 minutes, this has been changed recently to 30 minutes. Can we reinstate the bus to Scothern?
* Told buses were originally stopped due to passenger numbers, also told that Welton/Dunholme wanted a direct route to Lincoln and not an issue of passenger numbers. Can we ask PC Coaches and Stagecoach to extend the service.
* The Call Connect service only stops in Scothern at certain points this is not accessible for all residents.
* Sudbrooke Parish Council Councillor pointed out the bus from Wragby Road turned into Sudbrooke and went round the village. Could this be diverted to Scothern before onward to Lincoln?
* Time taken to resolve is unacceptable, the reasons provided by LCC not helpful.  Why should we need to put in a detailed proposal for a new service when other existing services are not being scrutinised for value for money, why not look at a redistribution of services. SR confirmed there is a review of services being undertaken.
* Can funding for the CallConnect service be moved to another service for Scothern.
* CallConnect service not well attended currently. This service does not enable attendance at Welton or Nettleham Surgeries.
* Before Covid we had a more regular CallConnect service, why was this not reinstated.
* Was informed that it was not reinstated as it was being used for the Covid vaccination programme, but it still has not been reinstated. Need a choice of times for going to Lincoln.
* No one is using the 9:00am service as too early we need one at 10:00am.
* What about people who want to go to work and use a bus?
* Not just a senior citizens issue, we need to consider what teenagers will need.
* Scothern needs a proper hourly service.
* What justification did Welton use to get their buses?
1. Other points raised by the public
* Parking in the vicinity of St Luke’s Nursing Home and the grass verge(s) at the end of Elmdene raised.  The grass verges at the end of Elmdene are becoming “chewed” up and poor.

***Action:*** To be followed up by Parish Council however some doubt as to who is responsible for the grass verge – LCC or WLDC.

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 20:40.