

Council



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL



Thursday, 23 November 2023 at 2.00 pm
Council Chamber - Council Offices, St. Peter's Hill,
Grantham. NG31 6PZ

Members: Councillor Gloria Johnson, Chairman of the Council
Councillor Paul Fellows, Vice-Chairman of the Council

Councillor Matthew Bailey

Councillor Emma Baker

Councillor Rhys Baker

Councillor Ashley Baxter

Councillor David Bellamy

Councillor Harrish Bisnauthsing

Councillor Pam Bosworth

Councillor Pam Byrd

Councillor Richard Cleaver

Councillor Helen Crawford

Councillor Steven Cunnington

Councillor James Denniston

Councillor Phil Dilks

Councillor Richard Dixon-Warren

Councillor Barry Dobson

Councillor Patsy Ellis

Councillor Phil Gadd

Councillor Ben Green

Councillor Tim Harrison

Councillor Graham Jeal

Councillor Anna Kelly

Councillor Jane Kingman

Councillor Gareth Knight

Councillor Philip Knowles

Councillor Zoe Lane

Councillor Robert Leadenham

Councillor Bridget Ley

Councillor Nikki Manterfield

Councillor Paul Martin

Councillor Penny Milnes

Councillor Virginia Moran

Councillor Charmaine Morgan

Councillor Chris Noon

Councillor Habibur Rahman

Councillor Rhea Rayside

Councillor Nick Robins

Councillor Penny Robins

Councillor Susan Sandall

Councillor Max Sawyer

Councillor Ian Selby

Councillor Rob Shorrocks

Councillor Vanessa Smith

Councillor Peter Stephens

Councillor Lee Steptoe

Councillor Ian Stokes

Councillor Paul Stokes

Councillor Elvis Stooke

Councillor Rosemary Trollope-Bellew

Councillor Sarah Trotter

Councillor Murray Turner

Councillor Mark Whittington

Councillor Jane Wood

Councillor Paul Wood

Councillor Sue Woolley

Agenda

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☎ 01476 406080

Karen Bradford, Chief Executive

www.southkesteven.gov.uk

This meeting can be watched as a live stream, or at a later date, [via the SKDC Public-I Channel](#)

For those Councillors who wish to attend, prayers will be held at 1:55pm before the commencement of the meeting. Please be seated by 1:50pm.

1. Public Open Forum

The public open forum will commence at **2.00 p.m.** and the following formal business of the Council will commence at **2.30 p.m.** or whenever the public open forum ends, if earlier.

2. Apologies for absence

3. Disclosure of Interests

Members are asked to disclose any interests in matters for consideration at the meeting.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2023

(Pages 9 - 19)

5. Communications (including Chairman's Announcements)

(Page 21)

6. Making of the Claypole Neighbourhood Plan

(Pages 23 - 32)

This report seeks Members' approval to formally 'make' the Claypole Neighbourhood Plan (NP) as part of the South Kesteven Development Plan. The report follows the NP's successful referendum which was held on 5 October 2023.

The Claypole Neighbourhood plan can be found online at

<https://moderngov.southkesteven.gov.uk/documents/s39652/Claypole%20NP%20Referendum%20Version.pdf>

7. Appointments to Outside Bodies and Committees

(Pages 33 - 36)

To provide Full Council with an opportunity to appoint to two Outside Bodies. There is also a vacancy for the South Kesteven Coalition Group on the Rural and Communities Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

8. Community Governance Review for Grantham

(Pages 37 - 74)

To report the outcome of the second consultation stage of the Community Governance Review for the unparished area of Grantham following the Council's formal proposition to create a Parish Council for Grantham.

To report a formal recommendation from the Community Governance Review Working Group regarding the creation of a Parish Council for Grantham.

9. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places

(Pages 75 - 108)

This report details the proposals of future polling districts and polling places following the compulsory review of polling arrangements.

10. Amendment to Constitution - Procedure for Dealing with Complaints Against Councillors

(Pages 109 - 126)

To provide Full Council with notification of a recommendation by the Standards Committee to include the revised procedure for dealing with complaints against Councillors as part of the Constitution.

11. Members' Open Questions

A 45-minute period in which members may ask questions of the Leader, Cabinet Members, the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and opposition group leaders excluding the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee, Licensing and Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Licensing Committees and Governance and Audit Committee.

12. Notices of Motion

a) Councillor Lee Steptoe

Full Council notes that:

1. *The pressure on organisations to pay their fair share of tax has never been stronger.*
2. *Polling from the Institute for Business Ethics finds that "corporate tax avoidance" has, since 2013, been the clear number one concern of the British public when it comes to business conduct.*
3. *Almost two thirds of people (64%) agree that the Government and local councils should consider a company's ethics and how they pay their tax, as well as value for money and quality of service provided, when awarding contracts to companies.*
4. *Around 17.5% of public contracts in the UK have been won by companies with links to tax havens.*
5. *It has been conservatively estimated that losses from multinational profit-shifting (just one form of tax avoidance) could be costing the UK some £17bn per annum in lost corporation tax revenues.*
6. *The Fair Tax Mark offers a means for business to demonstrate good tax conduct, and has been secured by a wide range of businesses across the UK, including FTSE-listed PLCs, co-operatives, social enterprises and large private businesses.*

Full Council believes that:

1. *Paying tax is often presented as a burden, but it shouldn't be.*
2. *Tax enables us to provide services from education, health and social care, to flood defence, roads, policing and defence. It also helps to counter financial inequalities and rebalance distorted economies.*
3. *As recipients of significant public funding, local authorities should take the lead in the promotion of exemplary tax conduct; be that by ensuring contractors are paying their proper share of tax, or by refusing to go along with offshore tax dodging when buying land and property.*
4. *Where councils hold substantive stakes in private enterprises, influence should be wielded to ensure that such businesses are exemplars of tax transparency and tax avoidance is shunned.*
5. *More action is needed, however, as current and proposed new UK procurement law significantly restricts councils' ability to either penalise poor tax conduct (as exclusion grounds are rarely triggered) or reward good tax conduct, when buying goods or services.*
6. *UK cities, counties and towns can and should stand up for*

responsible tax conduct - doing what they can within existing frameworks and pledging to do more given the opportunity, as active supporters of international tax justice.

Full Council resolves to:

1. Approve the Councils for Fair Tax Declaration.
2. Lead by example and demonstrate good practice in our tax conduct, right across our activities.
3. Ensure IR35 is implemented robustly and contract workers pay a fair share of employment taxes.
4. Not use offshore vehicles for the purchase of land and property, especially where this leads to reduced payments of stamp duty.
5. Undertake due diligence where possible to ensure that all new suppliers wishing to trade with the council are transparent and complete declarations on ownership, consolidated profit and loss, that they pay due taxes, business rates and other taxes in line with the Fair Tax standards. Promote the Fair Tax standard to all existing suppliers and request that they seek compliance with the standard.
6. Promote Fair Tax Mark certification especially for any business in which we have a significant stake and where corporation tax is due.
7. Support Fair Tax Week events in the area and celebrate the tax contribution made by responsible businesses are proud to promote responsible tax conduct and pay their fair share of corporation tax.
8. Support calls for urgent reform of UK procurement law to enable local authorities to better penalise poor tax conduct and reward good tax conduct through their procurement policies.

Supporting information available at: <https://fairtaxmark.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Councils-for-Fair-Tax-Declaration-ENG-CYM.pdf>

b) Councillor Ben Green

Community Governance Review for Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council, and Great Ponton Parish Council

Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council has remained dormant for a period exceeding four years. Council therefore recognises the need to address the inactivity of Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council through appropriate measures.

It is essential to explore viable solutions, including; the potential dissolution of Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council; restoration of the status quo ante; or its merger with neighbouring Great Ponton Parish Council, which also falls within Isaac Newton Ward and the Colsterworth Rural Division.

In the event of a merger, Great Ponton Parish Council could serve as the primary governing body, accommodating newly-appointed parish councillors representing Little Ponton and Stroxton, thereby ensuring the long-term sustainability of the governance structure.

Engaging the community through comprehensive consultation is imperative to making an informed decision regarding the future governance structure of the parishes of Little Ponton and Stroxton, and Great Ponton.

A Community Governance Review will be required to properly assess and determine the most appropriate governance for these areas.

To help facilitate the Community Governance Review, it is recommended that a working group, not exceeding five councillors, shall be established. This group shall convene regularly and be overseen by the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee.

Therefore, be it resolved:

- 1. This Council initiates a Community Governance Review to explore and refine proposals concerning Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council. These are to include:
 - a) abolishing Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish Council;*
 - b) returning it to its previous status;*
 - c) or merging it with Great Ponton Parish Council.**
- 2. The working group, comprising a maximum of five councillors from the Governance and Audit Committee, shall be convened to supervise the Community Governance Review process, which will encompass both Little Ponton and Stroxton Parish, and Great Ponton Parish.*

This motion is hereby proposed for the consideration and endorsement of the Council.

c) Councillor Vanessa Smith

Preamble

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt in the UK, and across the world. The average global temperature has already increased by 1.2°C above pre-industrial levels and—alongside this—the natural world has reached crisis point, with 28% of plants and animals threatened with extinction. In addition, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world as more than one in seven of our plants and animals face extinction, and more than 40% are in decline.

Climate change remains a major concern for UK voters with 66% of people (according to YouGov) expressing they are ‘worried about climate change and its effects’. Alongside this, the popularity of Sir David Attenborough’s Save Our Wild Isles initiative demonstrates public concern that UK wildlife is being destroyed at a terrifying speed.

Climate & Ecology Bill

The Climate & Ecology Bill, a private member's bill currently before the House of Commons, seeks to address the challenges that this situation poses by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

Based on the latest science, the CE Bill aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was goal agreed to at COP15, via the Kunming-Montreal Framework (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with the UK's fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5°C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the Paris Agreement (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on climate and the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and skills; reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

South Kesteven District Council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by 180 cross-party MPs and Peers, 237 local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; NGOs, such as the Wildlife Trusts, the Doctors' Association, Oxfam, the W.I. and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Riverford and The Body Shop; and 42,000 members of the public.

The CE Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

- 1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;*
- 2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;*
- 3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;*
- 4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;*
- 5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;*
- 6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and*
- 7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative Climate & Nature Assembly, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one*

and no community is left behind.

South Kesteven District Council therefore resolves to:

- 1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;*
- 2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision;*
- 3. Write to Gareth Davies MP to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill;*
- 4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing South Kesteven District Council's support (councils@zerohour.uk).*

d) Councillor Zoe Lane

This council agrees to develop a biodiversity and nature strategy in consultation with and led by the needs of farmers, land owners and those in the rural areas of South Kesteven.

13. Close of meeting