

MINUTES OF WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Monday, 6th January 2014 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

PRESENT

B Payne Chairman	C Allen	P Barnes	B Britain	D Broker	P Davies	T Fowler
	T Jennings	B Reay				
Visitors	G Booth	G Gillick				
Parishioners	N Dean	P Dean	I Skinner			

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted J Fish.

OPEN FORUM – Members of the public are invited to address the Council.

Parishioners from Murrow voiced concerns with regard to the planning application F/YR13/0914/F erection of 3 x 3 storey 6 bed dwellings with attached double garage and 2.4 metre high (max) brick wall with gates land east of Hollycroft House, 180 Front Road, Murrow, Cambs. It was felt that this was not in keeping with the village scene as the area is surrounded by bungalows and this development would tower over these properties and therefore, would not benefit the local community. There were further comments in that there are already empty properties within the village of Murrow and therefore such developments are not necessary. These luxury homes would not encourage local people to stay within this village as they are not affordable.

1. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 2nd December 2013.

The minutes of the 2nd December 2013 were signed as a true record.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the 2nd December 2013.

3. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on the agenda.

Mr D Broker declared a prejudicial interest on item 5c and left the meeting at the appropriate time.

Mr B Payne declared a personal interest on item 9 (1).

Mr P Davies declared a personal interest on items 9(1).

4. POLICE MATTERS

Report regarding crimes or incidents in the parish a copy of which was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. This report contained details of 5 crimes and 2 incidents. Included in the crimes were 1 burglary, theft of heating oil, bilking from the local garage, and 2 incidents of criminal damage to vehicles and the incidents were poaching and suspicious circumstance. The emerging issue was that there had been one burglary in Guyhirn since the last meeting one oil theft. PCSO D Russ stated that he will continue to attend both Wisbech St Mary and Murrow schools as often as possible and continue to issue parking tickets to those parking illegally.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Chairman requested that the Councillors stay after the end of the meeting to discuss a Planning item prior to it being submitted to Fenland District Council Planning Department.

List of planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.

List of planning applications for discussion.

- (a) F/YR13/0868/F formation of a dirty water storage lagoon with 1.2 metre high chainlink fence/gates and extension of existing access roadway Somerset Farm, Cants Drove, Murrow. Applicant Mr J A Dale. Agent Mr A C Hornsby. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (b) F/YR13/0895/F erection of a detached double garage with study above and external staircase to existing dwelling Fernleigh, Gull Road, Guyhirn. Applicant Mr M Crawley. Agent Mr C Rudd. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (c) F/YR13/0910/F erection of 3 x 2 storey 4 bed dwellings with detached car port (plot1), attached car ports (Plots 2 and 3) land east of Two Ways, High Road, Bunkers Hill, Cambs. Applicant Mr and Mrs A White. Agent Mr David Broker. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (d) F/YR13/0913/F erection of a 3 storey 5 bed dwelling with attached double garage, detached pool building to rear and 1.4 metre (max) high wall to front boundary land east of Eastfields, High Road, Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr S Pollock. Agent Mr C Walford. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (e) F/YR13/0914/F erection of 3 x 3 storey 6 bed dwellings with attached double garage and 2.4 metre high (max) brick wall with gates land east of Hollycroft House, 180 Front Road, Murrow, Cambs. Applicant Mr T Jarvis. Agent Mr D Upton. **We recommend refusal as this development is not in keeping with the village scene as this area is dominantly bungalows. A vote was taken and this decisions was unanimously agreed.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (a) Thank you letter from Murrow Pre School for the grant of £500.00. **Noted.**
- (b) Thank you letter from Southea PCC for the grant of £500.00. **Noted.**
- (c) Acknowledgement from North Level District Internal Drainage Board stating that they have no power over

- the pollution issues passed to them, but have passed our letter to the Environment Agency. **Noted.**
- (d) FDC Twinning Visit to Fenland on the 22nd January 2014 at 5.30 pm in the Council Chambers at FDC. **Noted.**
- (e) N Fenton Cambs Police regarding increase in the policing part of the Council Tax to protect the front line. **Noted.**
- (f) Norfolk Green advising that it will be sold to Stagecoach Holdings PLC at the end of the working day on 17th December 2013. **Noted.**
- (g) Thank you letter from Youth Support Service for the grant of £1000.00. **Noted.**
- (h) Village Voices regarding local news. **Noted. Ms B Reay agreed to contact the local schools for any news that can be put into the Village Voices to try and make this more news worthy and not a publication of advertisements.**

At this point of the meeting a discussion took place in respect of an article in the Village Voices regarding the Guyhirn Cemetery and the using of spare plots between existing graves and some parishioners had been concerned.

7. HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS

- (a) Acknowledgement to our application for the Local Highways Improvement Initiative. **Noted.**
- (b) Confirmation from CCC Highways that the footway project will be commencing shortly. **Noted.**
- (c) CCC Highways Panel meeting 27th January 2014 2.30 pm at Hereward Hall, March. **Noted.**

Highways reports from Councillors on problems

1. Cants Drove, Murrow road surface in a dangerous state of repair. In view of the increased traffic due to the planning application F/YR13/0868/F formation of a dirty water storage lagoon with 1.2 metre high chainlink fence/gates and extension of existing access roadway Somerset Farm, Cants Drove, Murrow this area is need of immediate attention.
2. Alasan Lodge, Front Road, Murrow tree obscuring streetlight.
3. School sign is being obscured by tress at Sheraton House, High Road, Guyhirn.
4. Pavement in High Road, Guyhirn outside Sheraton House overgrown and needs clearing.
5. Hedges and trees need cutting along the Highway.
6. Station Road, Wisbech St Mary road sign is still missing.
7. Large lorries are using Station Road, Wisbech St Mary.
8. From Guyhirn Playing Field to Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn the side of the road needs clearing.
9. Many areas throughout the parish need clearing of surface road water by digging of gripples to take the water onto the adjacent road verges.
10. Concerns were voiced that we were told that the High Road, Guyhirn would be resurfaced during this financial year and to date it has not been done. When will this work be undertaken and will the school signs on the road outside Guyhirn School be replaced as these were funded by the Parish Council.
11. No replies have been received from CCC Highways or Mr Bass regarding the dangerous trees in Tholomas Drove. The clerk was requested to chase CCC Highways for a date for a meeting to take place. This is not the responsibility of the Parish Council, but a risk to parishioners has been identified.

Highways reports from Councillors on streetlights

- (a) Fenland District Council quotation on replacement streetlights Murrow Bank, Murrow £1116.64
- (b) Fenland District Council quotation on replacement streetlights Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary £1410.26.
To date no reply has been received from FDC regarding why these streetlights need replacing.
- (c) Streetlight in Station Road, Murrow still not connected. **Clerk to contact Balfour Beatty to have this streetlight connected.**

8. FINANCE

- (a) To receive a budgetary control report for the 2013/14 year to date. **The balance recorded was £141471.56.**
- (b) Recycling credit £3.55. **Noted.**
- (c) 2nd Concurrent Functions instalment of £3495.00. **Noted.**
- (d) FDC advising of the phasing out of Concurrent Functions Grant and upgrade of Parish Street Lighting.
- (e) Council Tax Support Grant £6748.00 and Concurrent Functions Grant £4660. Precept form completed at £36984.00. **Agreed.**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

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| (f) Clerk January 2014 salary | £600.00LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (g) Tax & NI | £150.00LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (h) Election recharge 28.03.13 | £3636.30LGAct 1972 S111 Agreed. |

To approve payment of grants

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| (i) Guyhirn Football Club for goalposts | £1040.00 LGAct 1972 S137 Agreed. |
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9. **PARISH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT MATTERS**

Parish Property Maintenance and Risk Assessment reports from Councillors

1. Fence to be erected at the Chapel of Ease to allow access to the Play area at Guyhirn. Confirmation from Fraser Dawbarns confirming that they have received the completed registration from the Land Registry.
Noted.
2. Guyhirn War Memorial proposal to move it to the entrance of Parish Council land in High Road. Planning Permission to be applied for. **In view of the fact that the Parish Council cannot rescind a decision of the Council before six months have passed, it was agreed to look at this matter again in six months from the date of the November 2013 meeting when the original decision to move the war memorial was agreed i e the 19th May 2014 meeting. At this time we can look at when the Guyhirn Church conversions will take place. The Chairman thanked Mr D Broker for his work on the plans for the moving of the war memorial onto Parish Council land adjacent to the Guyhirn Playing Field. It was agreed that the clerk again make every effort to trace the £600 held by the Wisbech Standard to landscape the area around the Guyhirn War Memorial.**

At this point of the meeting the Chairman read a letter from the Rev Cannon Matthew Bradbury stating the position of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) in not allowing the war memorial to be placed in the Chapel of Ease graveyard. The views of the PCC and the Rev Canon Bradbury were that this would disturb the graves and obstruct an historic and significant view of the chapel. It was also stated that the PCC were not aware of any pressing reason why the memorial should be moved from its current position but the redevelopment of the Victorian church might make this desirable.

10. **DISCUSSION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF A PLAQUE FOR THORNEY TOLL VILLAGE HALL**

Discussion to consider whether to purchase a plaque for Thorney Toll Village Hall notifying parishioners of the contribution made by the Parish Council in the building work. **It was agreed that the clerk obtain a wooden plaque from Fen Regis for Thorney Toll Village Hall. The wording agreed was "Wisbech St Mary Parish Council were pleased to make a significant contribution to the restoration of this Village Hall.**

11. **GOLDEN AGE SURGERY IN THE NEW YEAR**

Murrow Village Hall booked for Tuesday, 18th February 2014 9.00 am to 2.00 pm. **It was agreed that the Parish Council have a stand at this Golden Age event in Murrow Village Hall.**

12. **VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Notification has been received for an election. **No further information is yet available.**

13. **DISCUSSION REGARDING PARISH COUNCIL TRAINING**

Review of Parish Council training. **It was agreed that the Parish Council contact Parson Drove to join with them for a training event over three evenings.**

14. **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

Annual review of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. **A copy of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were distributed to all Councillors. It was agreed that we discuss the contents of these documents at our next meeting on the 10th February 2014.**

15. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)**

- At this point of the meeting Mr Gillick our County representative advised the meeting that he is looking at the local streetlights and traffic calming for High Road, Guyhirn to make this area safer. He was requested whilst discussing this with Cambridgeshire County Council that he try to ascertain when the new road surfacing work is due to take place in High Road, Guyhirn.
- The meeting was advised that the petition to have the X1 redirected through Wisbech St Mary and Guyhirn had been delivered by Mr B Sandall the organiser to the bus company. Mr Gillick stated that he will ask Cambridgeshire County Council to support this initiative.
- Mr G Booth advised the meeting that he and Mr Humphries the Chairman of Gorefield Parish Council had met with Neil Band at Bellamy Bridge. Mr Band had stated that the cost of the installation of a mini roundabout would be prohibitive. It was felt by Mr Band that the main danger at this junction came from Sandbank and that better signage and moving of white lines would be the best option. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the main danger came from the fast moving traffic from Parson Drove and that the best option would be a 4 way stop with a no entry box.
- Ms Reay stated the Guyhirn Pond area was looking good.
- The clerk advised the meeting of a conference run by SLCC at Sutton Parish Council on the 21st February 2014 with a seminar on " Dealing with difficult people".
- The clerk advised the meeting of the Pride in Fenland Awards 2014 and any nominations should be received by the 5th February 2014 and sent to The Citizen 11 Union Street, Wisbech.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Monday, 10th February 2014 - Guyhirn Village Hall

17. **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2014/2015**

Monday, 10 th March 2014	-	Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 14 th April 2014	-	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 19 th May 2014	-	Guyhirn Village Hall – Annual Assembly & AGM
Monday, 16 th June 2014	-	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 14 th July 2014	-	Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 11 th August 2014	-	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 15 th September 2014	-	Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 13 th October 2014	-	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday, 10 th November 2014	-	Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 8 th December 2014	-	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 5 th January 2015	-	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre