

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 10th April 2017 at 7pm in Thorney Toll Village Hall.

Attended by: Councillors B Britain (Chairman), C Allen, P Davies, J Fish, J Humphrey, S Mann, D Scrimshaw, D Wheeler.

Fenland District Council (FDC) Councillor G Booth.

Members of the public 1.

The Chairman reported the sad passing of Brian Payne. The meeting observed a minutes silence in his memory. Brian Payne had served the Parish Council for many years and had been Chairman from May 2011 to May 2015. He will be greatly missed. The Chairman said that Brian worked hard behind the scenes and contributed greatly to the Parish achieving much that many would not be aware of.

OPEN FORUM Nil

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs Newland and M Knight (Vice-Chairman). The Clerk referred to an email received from Cllr Broker announcing his resignation due to many competing commitments.

2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 13th March 2017
The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only) Nil

4 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda. Nil

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council (FDC).

(a) F/YR17/0112/F Erection of a 2-storey side extension to existing dwelling and detached double garage with storage area over. Leighwood Mouth Lane Guyhirn. **Granted**

(b) F/YR17/0142/F Erection of 9 x single-storey log cabins involving the removal of existing mobile home and the erection of a 3.0m high (max height) entrance gate. Land North East Of Lakeside Manor Seadyke Bank Murrow. **Pending Consideration**

(c) F/YR17/0182/F Erection of a retail unit (A1) with a 2-bed flat above. Land West Of The Cod Father High Road Wisbech St Mary. **Pending Consideration**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR16/1174/F **Withdrawn** Erection of a 1.85m (max height) fence and the formation of a pond (to keep Koi Carp) (retrospective) at Land South Of Hazeldene Gull Road Guyhirn. **Noted**

Following discussion it was agreed to continue to press FDC for enforcement action.

(b) F/YR17/0203/O Erection of up to 7 no dwellings (Outline with all matters reserved). Land South West Of The Orchards Gull Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr R Yates. Agent Mr Simon Lemmon. **Recommend Approval**

(c) F/YR17/0228/F Change of use of part of domestic store to office (B1) (retrospective). Land South Of Keepers Cottage Gull Drove Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr Martin Paine. Agent Mr C Walford. **Recommend Approval**

(d) F/YR17/0232/F Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling and detached double garage with games room above involving the demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings.

Applicant JA Investments (London) Ltd. Agent Morton & Hall Ltd. **Recommend Approval**

(e) F/YR17/0259/F Erection of a single-storey 4-bed dwelling and detached garage with playroom above.

Applicant Mrs Symonds, Mrs L Goodger & Ms J Plumb. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd. Following discussion the proposal was put to a vote; two in favour, 2 abstain and 3 against. **Recommend Refusal due to over development and insufficient access.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) TMO Highways – Road Closure Gull Road Guyhirn **Noted**

(b) Fens LEADER coffee morning event 24 May 2017 **Noted**

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting

Cllr Booth reported that Balfour Beatty were continuing to maintain FDC street lighting. Cllr Wheeler suggested that the defective light FPC 5 at Front Road, Murrow should be repaired. **Agreed**

(b) Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2017/18

The Clerk referred to the bid that was unsuccessful. Cllr Booth suggested this may have been due to the size of the scheme and the high cost of works needed in High Road. It was agreed to add this item to the next agenda for further consideration. Cllr Wheeler expressed his disgust that a busy village the size of Wisbech St Mary was not considered by the County Council a high enough priority while schemes at locations with far fewer pedestrian movements were approved.

(c) High Road, Guyhirn – speed management

Following discussion the Clerk was asked to obtain estimates from CCC for interactive signs, a 30mph and a variable message sign activated by approaching vehicles.

(d) Tholomas Drove signs

Following discussion it was agreed to request FDC to provide two 'Tholomas Drove' signs.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To receive the final budgetary control report for 2016/17.

The Clerk circulated copies to all councillors. He drew attention to the Charity funds which were now removed from the Parish Council Balance Brought Forward figure which was revised to £83,228.43. Consequently, the Parish Council accounts would no longer include the Charity funds. This would bring the accounts in line with accepted good practice. **Agreed**

Bank Reconciliation was signed by Cllr Wheeler.

(b) To receive a budgetary control report for 2017/18 to date.

The Clerk circulated copies to all councillors. He drew attention to the Charity funds which were now removed from the Parish Council Balance Brought Forward figure which was revised to £103,289.96. Bank Reconciliation was signed by Cllr Wheeler. **Agreed**

(c) Nationally agreed pay scales from 1 April 2017.

The Clerk referred to the Nationally agreed pay scales which represented an increase of 1%. **Noted**

(d) Risk Assessment for Finance

The Clerk circulated copies to all councillors. The Assessment was reviewed and formally agreed unanimously.

(e) Corporate Governance Questionnaire(CGQ) for certification by the Chairman.

The Chairman read the CGQ which was agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman. **Agreed**

(f) Approval of the 2016/17 Accounts as they stand prior to internal Audit.

The Clerk circulated copies to all councillors. He explained that Charity funds would now be omitted from the Cash Book. He drew attention to the Bank Reconciliation which balanced, to the Balance Sheet which now showed General Fund, General Fund Cash Reserves and Capital Reserve which he had reduced by the amount spent on capital during the year and to the Fixed Assets which had been adjusted to include new assets acquired during the year. The Accounts were agreed unanimously and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his efforts.

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(g) Clerk March salary	£700.15 LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(h) Tax and NI	£241.01 LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(i) Valuation Office Agency – Land at Tholomas Drove	£660.00 LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(j) SR Signs – sponsorship signs	£180.00 LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(k) Wisbech Electrical Ltd – supply to defibrillator	£276.07 Public Health Act 1936 S234	Agreed
(l) Wisbech Electrical Ltd – lighting to defibrillator	£250.73 Public Health Act 1936 S234	Agreed
(m) Murrow Village Hall – hire 13 March 2017	£30.00 LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed
(n) North Level Internal Drainage Board – rates	£11.79 Financial Provisions Act 1963	Agreed

Grant application

(o) Nil

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance

(i) Land at Tholomas Drove – The Chairman raised the possibility of planting a new tree to replace that lost to storm damage. Following discussion it was agreed that Cllr Mann would remove

the old stump and plant a new tree nearby.

(ii) Guyhirn Pond – The Clerk reported that the valuation had not yet been received. With reference to the willow branches overhanging neighbouring property he proposed to make a planning application as the trees were covered by a Tree Preservation Order(TPO). Cllr Davies suggested exploring whether the TPO could be removed.

(b) Bus Shelters – The Clerk reported a summary of progress provided by Cllr Broker.

(c) Defibrillators – (i)The Chairman was awaiting progress with the units proposed for the outside of the Community Centre and at Holmes Garage.

(ii) The Clerk reported that an offer of a grant had been received from Cambs Community Foundation with conditions regarding completion of programme by 31 October 2017, publicity and project monitoring. It was agreed to accept the offer.

(d) Planters – The Chairman distributed 'sponsored by..' signs to councillors who volunteered to fix them. Twelve had been sponsored so far out of a total of sixteen. With regards to the planter damaged in a recent road traffic collision the Clerk confirmed that he had contacted the Police and CCC highways for information so that costs may be recovered.

10. THE MIDDLE PIT AND THOLOMAS DROVE WASH PIT FUND

The Clerk highlighted the need to update trustees named on the Charity Commission website - Cllrs Wheeler, Mann and Scrimshaw agreed.

The possibility of using the charity funds to acquire land to gain income from rent was discussed. The Chairman offered to explore the possibilities with Maxey Grounds Estate Agents. **Agreed**

11. HIGH ROAD WISBECH ST MARY – SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE

Cllr Booth reported that a meeting was planned for next week.

12. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Booth reported there had been a meeting of FDC at the end of March:

- a) Local Enterprise Partnership(LEP) – it was noted that the MP was taking the LEP to task regarding lack of investment in Fenland.
- b) Wisbech Garden Town proposal – FDC were planning to bid for a £2m grant from government to fund a feasibility study. Housing may extend along Barton Road into Wisbech St Mary.
- c) Murrow Village Hall – the future was uncertain as there were no regular users.

13. POLICE MATTERS

Report circulated 8 April 2017.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

(a) C&PALC Outreach Training Sessions – The Chairman encouraged all to attend. A list of councillors was provided.

(b) The Clerk reported a letter received concerning a new fence that had appeared at footpath no. 6 between Front Road and Back Road Murrow. The Clerk confirmed that he had reported the issue to CCC Rights of Way and received an acknowledgement.

(c) Cllr Humphrey reported enquiries he had received concerning the new surfacing at The Jetty as gravel had not been removed. Cllr Wheeler had received similar concerns. Following discussion Cllr Davies volunteered to investigate.

(d) Cllr Mann reported vehicles being damaged by overgrown vegetation. Following discussion it was noted that CCC could take action if they were advised of land owner details.

(e) Cllr Allen queried the £4k contribution to bus shelter provision. The Clerk replied that FDC had confirmed that they had received it and the Parish Council would need to put a proposal to FDC in order to claim it.

(f) Cllr Fish noted how difficult it had been to contact FDC by telephone.

(g) The Chairman reminded councillors that the next meeting was the Annual Meeting at which they will need to consider the office of Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8th May 2017 Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/2018

Monday 12th June 2017 Guyhirn Village Hall

Monday 10 th July 2017	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 14 th August 2017	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 11 th September 2017	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday 9 th October 2017	Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday 13 th November 2017	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 11 th December 2017	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 15 th January 2018	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday 12 th February 2018	Guyhirn Village Hall

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed: Cllr. B Britain, Chairman