

MINUTES OF WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Monday, 10th March 2014 at Murrow Village Hall

PRESENT

B Payne Chairman	C Allen	P Barnes	B Britain	P Davies	J Fish	T Fowler
	T Jennings	M Knight MBE	B Reay			
Visitors	County Councillor G Gillick					
Parishioners	J Barnes	T Coleman	G Edwards	M Ludlow	P Ludlow	P Rowe

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from G Booth.

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

A parishioner who lives in Murrow Bank, Murrow and walks her two children who are 6 and 8 years old to school every day. There is no footpath and therefore has to walk on the road. She advised the meeting that she has on several occasions been hit by passing car's wing mirrors and the drivers have either used abusive language either from within the car or have stopped the car and got out to do the same. On other occasions cars have swerved to miss her and the children but have again thrown abuse at her for walking on the road. On the occasions her husband has walked the children to school the same has happened to him. She requested whether it is possible for the Parish Council to install a footpath.

A parishioner stated that the Guyhirn Football Club have contacted Hetty Thornton for her help in obtaining grants to enable the changing rooms on the Guyhirn Football Club to become a reality.

Mr G Edwards a representative of Swann Edwards asked the Parish Council's support for planning application F/YR14/0065/F erection of 2 x 3 storey 6 bed dwellings in Gull Road, Guyhirn. These are 2 good size houses and will be discussed by the Planning Committee next month.

Mr G Edwards also asked for the support of the Parish Council for new offices within Guyhirn for Swann Edwards. He advised the meeting that they have 5 employees at present and have several projects including house extensions, retail developments, a new theatre and residential developments.

A parishioner stated that he lives in High Road, Guyhirn and on a regular basis the road outside his bungalow becomes waterlogged. When vehicles go through the water it ends up in his garden and he has had to install a drain in his front garden to alleviate this problem. Children going to school use the footpath and 2 children were covered in water whilst walking to school. He requested that this area be looked at and the problem resolved.

35. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 10th February 2014.

The minutes of the 10th February 2014 were signed as a true record.

36. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

The Chairman stated that Mr Brian Sandall had received a letter from Steve Barclay MP, together with a copy of a letter sent to the X1 bus company by Steve Barclay MP. Both these letters had stated that it was not a viable proposition to re-route the X1 through Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary in the day time as they would have to run an additional bus at a cost of £250,000 a year and there was already number 46 Norfolk Green bus doing this, which connected with the X1. They would however, consider re-routing the X1 after 6.00 pm when the Norfolk Green service ceases.

The meeting was advised that 34 people had attend the Golden Age Surgery. Fenland District Council thought it was worth doing. Those Councillors who attended were disappointed at the number of stands. The meeting was advised that one parishioner gained £2000.00 in support from this Surgery.

37 MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on the agenda.

Mr T Fowler declared a prejudicial interest on item 40 a and b and left the meeting at the appropriate time.

Mr M Knight declared a personal interest on item 40 a and e.

Mr P Broker declared a personal interest on items 43 o.

38. POLICE MATTERS

Report regarding crimes or incidents in the parish was received and a copy of which was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. This report contained details of 6 crimes and 2 incidents. Included in the crimes were a garage burglary, theft of oil, theft of motor vehicle, theft of a bird scarer, criminal damage and shoplifting and the incidents were 2 suspicious circumstances. The police continue to visit the schools as often as possible to monitor the situation and issue parking tickets as applicable. There have continued to be reports of persons trying to obtain bank card details and it is important to ensure that particularly the elderly are aware of this and do not give card details especially pin numbers to other persons.

Wisbech North Rural Forum undertook a survey and 120 forms were completed. From the survey 43.3% were concerned about speeding, 26.4 about dog fouling and 6.6% anti-social behaviour. Other concerns raised were fly tipping 4.2%, burglary, street drinking, vehicle crime 0.8%, vehicle nuisance, litter 1.6%.

39. CAUSE FOR CONCERN REGARDING DANGEROUS DOGS.

The clerk advised the meeting that she had received a letter from SGT Robin Cawston stating that the Police were aware of the incident with the two dangerous dogs and it was understood that the owners had moved from Guyhirn. They also stated that loose dogs are now dealt with by the local Council. The Police no longer have kennels and no way of transporting such animals. There are a couple of exceptions when dogs are loose on the main road to avoid accidents and when a dog is being a danger to members of the public they will attend with consideration of either destroying the animal or trying to contain the animal under the owner is traced.

The clerk advised the meeting that she had received a letter from Mike Gleadon the FDC Environmental Health Technical Manager who stated that dangerous and aggressive dogs are now the responsibility of the Police and they no longer employ a dog warden. They do have a contracted service to collect stray dogs that are reported to them and the dogs are then held at local kennels for collection by the owner.

40. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

List of planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.

List of planning applications for discussion.

- (a) F/YR14/0062/F erection of a 2 storey office with cycle/bin/tool store and associated parking and formation of balancing pond and 1.6 metre high earth bunding land west of Sunnyside, Fen Road, Guyhirn. Applicant Swann Edwards. Agent Mr James Burton. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (b) F/YR14/0063/F display of 1 no externally illuminated fascia sign and 1 no externally illuminated hanging sign land west of Sunnyside, Fen Road, Guyhirn. Applicant Swann Edwards. Agent Mr James Burton. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (c) F/YR14/0065/F erection of 2 x 3 storey 6 bed dwellings with integral garages land north of Meadow View, Gull Road, Guyhirn. Applicant Mr K Bagg. Agent Mr Russell Swann. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (d) F/YR14/0119/F erection of building for the installation of a Bio-mass boiler R Delamore Limited, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr James Banton. Agent Miss Grace Humphrey. **We support this development and recommend approval. Some concerns were raised in respect of the condition of the road from the entrance onto Leverington Common. There are numerous pot holes due to the number of lorry movements and we feel that is likely to increase.**
- (e) F/YR14/0118/F erection of 4 no polytunnels R Delamore Limited, Station Road, Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr James Banton. Agent Miss Grace Humphrey. **We support this development and recommend approval.**

41. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (a) Notification of the Annual General Meeting of the Fenland Rural Road Safety Network on Wednesday, 19th March from 7.30 pm The Cage, Parson Drove. **Noted. The Chairman stated that this organisation covers our Parish and our Parish should be represented.**
- (b) NALC legal briefing regarding the timing of the Parish Assembly, which states that if 2014 is the year of ordinary elections the Parish Assembly shall take place between the fourth day after the date of elections and the 31st July. **Noted.**
- (c) Cambridgeshire Community Services poster for Minor Injuries Units. **Noted.**
- (d) Invitation from the Mayor of Wisbech History of Wisbech Town Council Wednesday, 9th April 2014 cost £10 per head. **Noted.**
- (f) Cambridge Housing Association regarding vacant property in Guyhirn. **This letter stated that we should encourage Guyhirn residents who are looking for properties to rent in the Parish to register on Home Link. It was agreed that the clerk try and get some posters advertising Home Link for the notice boards. It was agreed that an article be placed in the Village Voices.**

42. HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS

- (a) PCSO has been in touch with Roddons regarding the parking at Pigeons Corner, Murrow they are unable to fund any off road parking in this financial year but will ask for this to be considered in the next year's budget. **Noted. It was agreed that the clerk writes requesting that they budget for this project.**
- (b) CCC Local Highway Improvement Initiative decisions. Our project footpath at Selwyn Corner not successful. **Noted. It was agreed that in the new funding round we look at extending the footpath at Bunkers Hill and also installing a footpath along Murrow Bank, Murrow to the school in view of the comments made by a resident in the open forum.**

Some concerns were voiced that Highways do not reply to our emails and it was agreed that if we have not had a reply by the next meeting we send the items again until we do get a reply.

Highways reports from Councillors on problems

1. Murrow Bank, Murrow road subsiding.

2. Bellamys Bridge dangerous junction and despite site meetings no progress has been made in making this area safer.
3. Direction sign at the Bridge Inn, Wisbech St Mary needs replacing.
4. Murrow Bank trenches at least 12 inches deep each side of the road.
5. People walking from Murrow to Guyhirn no footpath, but a wide grass verge could be mowed to enable pedestrians to walk on to alleviate the necessity of walking on the road.
6. Church Road, Wisbech St Mary numerous pot holes at the road edges.
7. Wisbech St Mary village seat near the garage in need of repair. The clerk to ask Mr Bowles to look at this to see if it could be repaired.
8. Leylandi at Follies Drove opposite Bennett and Tegardines need cutting back as they are obstructing the road junction.
9. When is the resurfacing of High Road, Guyhirn going to be undertaken? It was promised in this financial year.
10. Cars are still turning right from Gull Road, Guyhirn junctions.
11. The joints in the tarmac on the A47 at Thorney Toll are wearing out and causing considerable noise.
12. Safety issue at Murrow Bank, Murrow with no footpath.
13. Road signage at The Pidgeons, Murrow inadequate.
14. The clerk was requested to write to the Murrow School Governors regarding the problem of children walking to school along Murrow Bank.
15. Numerous pot holes along Church Road, Wisbech St Mary.
16. Large pot hole in the middle of the road at the entrance to Churchfield Way, Wisbech St Mary, which cannot be avoided as cars parked at the side of the road.

Highways reports from Councillors on streetlights

- (a) Fenland District Council quotation on replacement streetlights Murrow Bank, Murrow £1116.64. Knocked down by a vehicle and deemed unsafe and need replacing. **No reply received.**
- (b) Fenland District Council quotation on replacement streetlights Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary £1410.26. **No reply received.**
- (c) Streetlight in Station Road, Murrow still not connected. **No reply received.**
- (d) Request for a Streetlight in High Road, Guyhirn from The Oliver Twist to Selwyn Corner. **It was agreed that the local Councillors look at the area and report back to the next meeting.**
- (e) Letter from CCC Asset and Commissioning requesting we accept an Invoice for £1472.87 for streetlight energy cost. **It was agreed unanimously that the clerk writes advising that we will not accept this invoice as we do not own the streetlights.**
- (f) Email from B T requesting permission to erect a telegraph pole on the public footpath next to 118 Back Road, Murrow. **After discussions it was agreed to give permission to go ahead with this.**

43. FINANCE

- (a) To receive a budgetary control report for the 2013/14 year to date. **The balance recorded was £138,290.51.**
- (b) The removal of the Concurrent Functions. Letter from Benwick Parish Council. **Acknowledgement of letters from FDC received regarding our support that the Concurrent Functions should be continued. Councillor Broker stated that FDC are to continue with the Concurrent Functions this year and will report to Parish Councils regarding future years.**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

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| (c) Clerk March 2014 salary | £600.00 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (d) Tax & NI | £150.00 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (e) Fen Regis Plaque for Thorney Toll | £145.00 LG Act 1972 S143 Agreed. |
| (f) Bowles Tree & Garden Services | £1250.00 LG Mis Prog 1976 S196 Agreed |
| (g) Poppy Wreaths | £45.00 LG Act 1972 S137 Agreed. |
| (h) Fraser Dawbarns Trees Plash Drove | £54.00 LG Mis Prog 1976 S196 Agreed. |
| (i) Murrow Village Hall for Golden Age Fair | £66.00 LG Act 1972 S134 Agreed. |
| (j) Village Voices | £200.00 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed. |

Payment of grants

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| (k) Magpas The Emergency Medical Charity | £250.00 LG Act 1972 137 Agreed. Before this was agreed by the Council consideration was given as to whether the direct benefit to the community and its residents is commensurate with the expenditure. |
| (l) Murrow Book Café | £1000.00 LG Act 1973 S137 Agreed. |
| (m) Murrow Playing Field | More information required to enable the Parish Council to make an informed decision regarding the level of the grant. LG Act 1973 S137 |
| (n) Murrow Football Club | It was agreed to fund the purchase of the Heavy Duty Lawn Roller at a cost of £381.00 but for the invoice to be addressed and sent to the Parish Council in order that the VAT can be claimed back LG Act 1973 S137 |
| (o) Wisbech St Mary Playing Field | £2500.00 LG Mis Prov 1976 S196 Agreed. |

44. DISCUSSION RE CHANGING ROOMS FOR GUYHIRN FOOTBALL CLUB

A report was given in the Open Forum by a parishioner stating that the Guyhirn Football Club had contacted Hetty Thornton for her help in obtaining grants. Once the cost of the changing rooms and grants available were known the Parish Council would be able to make an informed decision regarding a grant.

45. **PARISH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT MATTERS**

Parish Property Maintenance and Risk Assessment reports from Councillors

1. Report on progress of fence to be erected at the Chapel of Ease to allow access to the Play area at Guyhirn.
Work on the fence will be undertaken as soon as weather permits.

46. **GOLDEN AGE FAIR Murrow Village Hall Tuesday, 18th February 2014**

A report of the event was given in Matters Arising.

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

1. The clerk advised the meeting that information had been received from FDC Street Scene Team Leader regarding a campaign against dog fouling, which was noted.
2. Councillor Gillick stated that he understood from Cambridgeshire County Council Highways that the resurfacing of High Road, Guyhirn had been actioned. What this really meant in real terms was unclear.
3. Councillor Gillick stated that he felt that if the Concurrent Functions was to cease then the only option open to Parish Councils was to increase the Precept by a similar amount in order that local communities did not suffer.
4. The Chairman thanked B Reay and T Jennings for their efforts at the Golden Age Fair.
5. The meeting was advised that no reply had been received from CCC Highways regarding the dangerous trees at Tholomas Drove.

48. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING** Monday, 14th April 2014 at Thorney Toll Village Hall

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

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