

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 10th November 2014 in Murrow Village Hall.

Attended by: Councillors B Payne (Chairman), C Allen, P Barnes, D Broker, P Davies, J Fish, T Fowler, T Jennings, M Knight, B Reay, District Councillor G Booth & 1 member of the public.

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

The Chairman reminded members that the meeting could be filmed and opened the meeting at 7pm.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr. B Britain.

2. TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING DATED October 13th 2014.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

(a) The Chairman commented how useful the three CAPALC training sessions had been.

(b) The Chairman drew attention to the potential problem of continuing to hold Parish Council meetings at Guyhirn Village Hall after the last booked meeting on 9th February 2014. The Clerk replied that The Christian Society did want the hall every Monday next year but are happy for the Parish Council to book their usual meetings.

(c) CCC Public Transport Questionnaire. The Chairman drew attention to the publicity that had been given to the issue in Village Voices and said how crucial it was that people complete the questionnaire so that they don't lose the facility in the future. The Clerk briefed members on the communications he had had with CCC, the last stating that questionnaire should be delivered week commencing 10th November. As the closing date for the consultation was 23 November 2014 members were extremely concerned that it leaves little time for questionnaires to be distributed and returned. The Clerk was asked to convey to CCC that the time allowed was unacceptable and to request an extension to the deadline.

(d) FDC Planning Training. The Clerk advised members that an update had been received from FDC. Training will be arranged by the Head of Planning Services, they apologised for the delay and said we will be advised as soon as possible.

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

Cllr D Broker declared an interest pecuniary interest in item 5.2.h.

Cllr B Payne declared a personal interest in item 8.g and h.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by Fenland District Council.

(a) F/YR14/0737/F Erection of 2-storey 5-bed dwelling with detached 2-storey garage. Plot 1 Land North Of Meadow View Gull Road Guyhirn . **Granted**

(b) F/YR14/0755/F Erection of a replacement covered play area for use by pre-school group. Wisbech St Mary Church of England Aided Primary School Church Road Wisbech St Mary. **Granted**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR14/0801/F Erection of 4no 22.0 metre high (hub height) wind turbines with associated works to replace existing 6no turbines on site at Wind Turbines At Chestnut Farm Nettle Bank Elm. **Support – little change to existing**

Applicant Chestnut Farm. Agent GreenPower Solutions Uk Ltd.

(b) F/YR14/0809/F Erection of 4no 10.0 metre high single lamp columns in service yard and 2no 6.0 metre high floodlights in staff car park (retrospective). Bretts Transport Thorney Road Guyhirn. **Recommend Approval**

Applicant Mr Simon Brett. Agent Mr Robin Briscoe.

(c) F/YR14/0817/F Erection of single-storey 3-bed log cabin for use as holiday accommodation to be used in conjunction with existing commercial fishing lake. Lakeside Manor Seadyke Bank Murrow.

Applicant Mr G Patrick. Agent Mrs Alex Patrick. **Recommend Approval – providing this holiday accommodation and not permanent use.**

(d) F/YR14/0820/A Display of 3no externally illuminated building mounted signs. Bretts Transport Thorney Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr Simon Brett. Agent Mr Robin Briscoe. **Recommend Approval**

(e) F/YR14/0828/F Erection of 6no 2-storey dwellings comprising of 3 x 3-bed and 3 x 2-bed involving demolition of existing Public House. Black Heart Public House Wisbech Road Thorney Toll.

Applicant Mr M O'Brien. Agent Mr Mark Benns. **Recommend Approval**

(f) Appeal Decision. F/YR13/0914/F Erection of 3 x 3-storey 6-bed dwellings land east of Hollycroft House 180 Front Road Murrow. **Noted**

(g) F/YR14/0846/F Change of use of land to form a single gypsy and traveller pitch with associated sleeping shed (retrospective). Land West Of Ponderosa Farm Garden Lane Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr C Julian. Agent Mr M Hargreaves.

Recommend Refusal: i) Is it within current planning guidance for the site?

ii) There is already sufficient provision of this type of development.

(h) F/YR14/0849/O Erection of a dwelling. Land South West Of Rose Lodge Selwyn Corner Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr D and Mrs M Patten. Agent Mr David Broker. **Recommend Approval**

Cllr D Broker left the room while this application was considered.

3. (a) Planning Application – Proposed Lorry Park at Barton Road, Wisbech.

The Chairman said that there was a great deal of concern within Wisbech St Mary as the site was generally considered untidy and an eyesore. Complaints had been made to FDC about it and the enforcement officer involved. He had been told that a planning application was to be submitted for a lorry park. The Clerk was asked to look out for such an application although the site was not within the Parish. There were many issues of concern to parishioners including stray dogs, access not in accordance with highway standards, lorries, caravan, assorted other vehicles and an abandoned caravan in very poor condition on the highway. Of great concern was the possibility of a lorry park. Although not in the Parish it would attract HCV movements along North Brink, Wisbech and to/from the A47 through Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary. This would seem inappropriate and detrimental to the local environment, in particular from the cumulative impact of HCV movements. The Clerk was asked to write to FDC explaining concerns within the Parish, asking to be updated regarding action already instigated and any action planned.

(b) Planning Guidance enclosed. **Noted**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

(a) Local Government Boundary Commission for England - Electoral Review consultation. This concerns electoral division boundaries across Cambridgeshire. The Commission is also minded to recommend that 63 county councillors be elected rather than the current 69.

Fenland District Council – may move to 39 councillors from the current 40 from May 2015.

(b) Balfour Beatty street lighting questionnaire – filed for future reference.

(c) Clerks & Councils Direct – The Chairman recommended this publication to all members. All agreed that it would be useful and good value at £12 per Councillor per year. The Clerk was asked to add this to the Agenda for the next meeting.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

Highways and streetlight reports from Councillors on problems causing *immediate concerns*.

(a) Highways

Lindens Close – Cllr J Fish has met with a representative of Roddons who denied any responsibility. The Clerk was requested to go back to FDC in another attempt to clarify responsibility as FDC had referred the matter to Roddons.

The Green Churchfield Way Wisbech St Mary – Reported to FDC, passed to Bob Ollier. **Noted**

Cllr Barnes - Gull Drove depressions. Seadyke Road – slippage into drain.

Hedges overgrown at Sandbank and Seadyke

Bellamy Bridge Local Highway Improvement (LHI) Initiative – Cllr G Booth confirmed that a bid has been made and the Committee decision awaited. There is the potential for three Parish Councils to contribute (c. £1000 each) in order to progress this much needed improvement. Decision is expected in January 2015.

Cllr C Allen – High Road, Guyhirn this road is in a very poor condition and is used when diversion is required from the A47. The Clerk was requested to contact CCC to clarify the possibility of a major repair or minor improvements if a major improvement was not possible.

Cllr Knight – requested a footpath at Station Road from the village sign to Church Road. This may be a candidate for a LHI.

Cllr Davies - requested an update on the drainage issues at High Road, Guyhirn.

- Gull Drove subsidence is getting worse and dangerous to the extent that a vehicle could be thrown into the path of an oncoming vehicle.
- Gull Drove – vegetation overgrown and obscuring sight on access/egress.

(b) Streetlights.

The Clerk reported clarification received from FDC that they undertake street lighting maintenance on behalf of the Parish Council. Balfour Beatty are their contractor. 0800 7838 247 should be used for reporting defects as the number is direct to Balfour Beatty. New lighting issues should go to FDC Assets & Projects.

The Clerk handed out a note to all Councillors containing highways and street lighting contacts details.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) FDC email regarding litter/dog waste bins. The Clerk reported an update from FDC. Four bins have been installed. The bin proposed for outside Guyhirn School would need to be fixed in hard surfacing by CCC Highways and would cost an additional £150. Members agreed to consider alternative sites and debate at the next meeting.

It was agreed to take the following two items out of order:

(j) The Clerk read a quotation received from FDC for a replacement lantern at FPC1 Murrow Lane in the sum of £376.89. This was queried as the understanding was that FDC carry out maintenance of the Parish Council street lights. Cllr. G Booth agreed that this should be queried as he believed that FDC had a budget of £40k for such lighting maintenance. The Clerk was requested to respond to FDC and request that the lantern be replaced funded from their maintenance budget.

(k) Street lighting connection at Station Avenue Murrow - £838.20 plus VAT £ 1005.64. **Agreed**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(b) Clerk October salary £548.23 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(c) Tax and NI £144.55 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(d) PKF Littlejohn LLP External Audit to 31st March 2014. £360.00 Accounts and Audit Regulations 1996 s11996/590 **Agreed**

(e) Murrow Pre-School £500 LG Act 1972 s137. As agreed 13th October 2014

Grant application

(f) Rural Cambs CAB - £500

Related letter from Parson Drove Parish Council 27 October 2014 enclosed.

Members agreed to the proposal received from Parson Drove Parish Council and to put the CAB

bid on hold. It was further agreed that we would need dates, times, venue details and costs for the year.

(g) Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parochial Council – maintenance expenses of the closed churchyard

£500 Agreed

(h) Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn Parochial Council – maintenance expenses of Guyhirn churchyard

£500 Agreed

(i) Letter and Guidance Notes enclosed.

It was agreed to add the requirement to provide a copy of the latest accounts showing balances to the Applicant Details and to start the new procedure from January 2015. Letter Agreed.

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Parish Defibrillator: The Chairman suggested that it would be best if the defibrillator were in the possession of the person trained in its use. When training has been completed the details of the person would be circulated. **Agreed.**

(b) Parish Council Notice Boards. Cllr Britain will report at the next meeting.

(c) Cllr. Knight raised the question of whether seats should be provided in bus shelters. During discussion pros and cons emerged. It was decided that members would give the matter some more thought and discuss further at the next meeting. Cllr Knight said that the tree near the pond had not yet been trimmed and that gravel was yet to be completed at Long Jetty. That Chairman replied that he would remind S. Bowles of these issues.

(d) Cllr. Davies reported the Guyhirn sign overgrown by a tree. Cllr. Payne and Cllr Fowler will meet with S. Bowles. The War Memorial at Guyhirn needs pressure washing. It was agreed to add this to the agenda for the next meeting. A person has volunteered to carry out general maintenance work at the pond. It was agreed that it must be made clear to the person that they would not be covered by Parish Council insurance.

10. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr. D Broker advised:

(a) Concurrent Functions Grant – still under review. Cllr G Booth added that at the CAPALC meeting five Parish Councils had been represented - the consensus was to keep the model as it was. Minutes of the meeting will be passed to FDC and Parish Councils invited to comment before FDC makes a final decision.

(b) Street lighting is being resurveyed by Balfour Beatty – they will then come up with a proposal.

(c) A potential move by FDC into Hereward Hall was under review.

(d) The future of the community house at North Ward Wisbech was under review.

(e) Building Control at FDC was to be outsourced to CNC and relocated to the Boat House Wisbech.

Cllr G Booth advised:

(a) He was pressing for a completion of the street lighting exercise.

(b) With regard to properties that had suffered flooding there were two in Wisbech St Mary. If there are any more people can still apply for assistance to FDC.

(c) Regarding work to footpaths in Wisbech St Mary – work has yet to be completed. They have returned today.

(e) Guyhirn roundabout – situation is ongoing.

11. POLICE MATTERS

PC Russ could not be present but had supplied a crime and incident report. **Noted**

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only) None

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday December 8th 2014 Thorney Toll Village Hall.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2014/2015

Monday January 5th 2015 WSM Community Centre.

Monday February 9th 2015 Guyhirn Village Hall.

Monday March 16th 2015 Murrow Village Hall. To be confirmed

Monday April 13th 2015 Thorney Toll Village Hall.

(Thursday May 7th 2015 Parish Council Elections).

Monday May 18th 2015. Parish Assembly/ Annual Meeting: Wisbech St Mary Community Centre.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Signed: Cllr. B Payne, Chairman