

# Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016 at 7pm in Guyhirn Village Hall.**

Attended by: Councillors B Britain (Chairman), M Knight (Vice-Chairman), C Allen, P Davies, J Humphrey, J Newland, B Reay, D Scrimshaw.  
Fenland District Council (FDC) Councillors G Booth, W Sutton and S Bligh. Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) Councillor G Gillick.  
8 members of the public were present.

**OPEN FORUM** – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

(a) Mr Gareth Edwards explained that Guyhirn had reached the 10% growth threshold under LP12 of the Fenland Local Plan 2014. Consequently, the applicant must provide evidence of local support for a scheme. Plans had been sent to the Parish Council inviting their views. As the area concerned came under flood zone 3 he also invited the Council to consider what community benefit they may ask for.

(b) Cllr Will Sutton thanked the Parish Council for their support in funding the hire of the hall to facilitate the Golden Age Fairs.

Cllr Sutton asked if the Council had considered Neighbourhood Planning and offered to arrange for an officer to attend a meeting to explain the process.

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Broker. Cllrs Fish and Jennings as a result of illness. On behalf of the Council the Chairman conveyed his best wishes to Cllr Jennings for a speedy recovery.

## 2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2015

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

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** (information only) None

4. **MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST** for items on this agenda None

## 5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

### 1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.

(a) F/YR15/0975/F Erection of a 2-storey rear extension with Juliet balcony and insertion of side window to first-floor of existing dwelling involving demolition of existing conservatory. 24 Station Drive Wisbech St Mary. **Granted**

(b) F/YR15/0971/F Change of use of land to wedding and formal occasion venue involving area for siting of a marquee and erection of 3m high (max) entrance gates. Lakeside Manor Seadyke Bank Murrow. **Pending Consideration**

(c) F/YR14/0906/F Appeal Decision. Plot 3 Back Road Murrow. Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached double garage. The appeal is allowed and planning permission granted.

### **Noted**

(d) F/YR15/1014/CERTLU Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing): Occupation of dwelling without compliance with condition 1 of planning permission F/0179/74/F relating to agricultural occupancy of Fort Farm Gull Drove Guyhirn. **Certificate Issued**

(e) F/YR15/1029/F Erection of a single-storey extension to side of existing annexe (ancillary to existing dwelling). Ivydene High Road Tholomas Drove. **Granted**

(f) F/YR15/1032/F Erection of 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached garage and study involving removal of residential caravans and demolition of existing dwelling and the formation of a new access. Caravan Woodville Gull Road Guyhirn. **Granted**

(g) F/YR15/1033/F Erection of a 2-storey 5-bed dwelling and detached double garage with study over involving the demolition of existing dwelling and the formation of a new access. Hazeldene Gull Road Guyhirn. **Granted**

(h) F/YR15/1057/F Erection of a single-storey side extension to link pool house to dwelling. Meadow Lodge Station Road Wisbech St Mary. **Granted**

(i) F/YR15/1061/F Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling. Land North West Of The Bridge Inn Public House Sandbank Wisbech St Mary. **Pending Consideration**

(j) F/YR15/1067/PNC01 Change of use of office to dwelling at Danbrooke House Station Road Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr David Broker. **Granted**

## **2. Planning applications for discussion:**

(a) F/YR15/1077/F Erection of an agricultural building and formation of a hardstanding. Land East Of New Bungalow Hooks Drove Murrow.

Applicant Mr G Patrick. Agent Mrs A Patrick. Following discussion and taking into account revised proposals as (g) below Cllr Davies proposed approval seconded by Cllr Allen which was passed by 6 votes to 1. **Recommend Approval**

(b) F/YR15/1083/TRTPO Fell 1no Sycamore, 2no Lime, 1no Holly and 2no Acacia and works to 2no Sycamore, 4no Holly, 2no Beech and 2no Yews covered by TPO 07/1978. The Old Vicarage Barton Road Wisbech.

Applicant Dr Q Wong. Agent n/a. **Recommend Approval**

(c) F/YR15/1089/F Variation of Condition 14 of Planning Permission F/YR13/0361/O and Variation of Condition 2 of Planning Permission F/YR14/0448/RM (imposition of a condition listing approved plans) to enable amendments: Remove pitch roof above landing window and kitchen door to SE elevation; amendments to front door and patio door to rear, garage doors and windows to NE, NW and SE elevations; addition of porch to front elevation. Hawthorne Lodge 90 Murrow Bank Murrow.

Applicant Mr R Wyatt. Agent n/a. **Recommend Approval**

(d) F/YR15/1093/CERTLU Certificate of Lawful Use (Existing): Use of the dwelling under Class C3b

Applicant Cambian Group PLC. Agent Planning Potential Ltd. **Recommend Approval**

(e) F/YR15/1108/F Erection of a 2-storey, 4-bed dwelling with integral garage. Plot 3 Land North Of 15 to 17 Selwyn Cottages High Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr C Dawson. Agent n/a. Following discussion Cllr Davies proposed refusal seconded by Cllr Allen which was passed by 8 votes to nil. **Recommend Refusal**

(f) F/YR15/1109/F Erection of 4 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with double garages and paddock facilities including stable blocks. Land North Of 19 To 29 Chapel Avenue Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr A Quince. Agent Mr Robin Briscoe. Following discussion regarding the suitability of the access through an existing development Cllr Allen proposed approval subject to the access being considered safe and suitable seconded by Cllr Davies which was passed by 6 votes to 1. **Recommend Approval subject to the access being considered safe.**

(g) F/YR15/1077/F Erection of an agricultural building and formation of a hardstanding at Land East Of New Bungalow Hooks Drove Murrow.

Revised Proposals. **As (a) above.**

## **3. Pre-application consultations.**

The Clerk referred to letters received from Swann Edwards Architecture inviting support and suggestions for community contributions for proposed four dwellings at land adjacent to Thornbury House High Road Guyhirn and four dwellings Fern House Gull Road Guyhirn. He explained that this was not a formal planning application consultation and was therefore not on the agenda. He suggested that members consider how they would prefer to respond to such requests.

With regard to planning application consultations and the time taken at meetings to review application details Cllr Knight recommended that councillors be deemed to have reviewed the background to applications prior to Council meetings. **Agreed**

Cllr Knight pointed out that if the Council were to also consider proposals at pre-applications stage i.e. before a formal application is made then many hours could be spent unnecessarily. He concluded that clarification was needed.

Cllr Booth drew attention to the consultation available on the FDC website regarding the Neighbourhood Strategy and improvements that councillors may wish to see within the Parish as there was an opportunity for some to be funded by community benefit.

Cllr Knight added that the Jetty footpath was an example of such an improvement.

## **4. Neighbourhood Strategy.** Review of infrastructure requirements.

It was agreed that this item would be on the next agenda.

The footway part completed from Bunkers Hill to The Bridge Inn could be a project to consider.

## **6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

(a) Church of England Primary School Guyhirn – thank you for donation. **Noted**

(b) Complaint – Back Road Murrow – lack of lighting. Following discussion and taking into account the many other potential issues at Back Road and the uncertainty surrounding expenditure on lighting

replacements it was concluded that it would be premature to consider additional lighting units at this stage. The Clerk was asked to respond accordingly.

(c) TMO Highways – Road Closure. **Noted**

(d) Parochial Church Council, Emmanuel Churchyard Southea – thank you for donation. **Noted**

(e) Fenland District Council (FDC) – replacement litter bin Guyhirn. Cllr Davies confirmed that this had been completed. **Noted**

(f) Cambridgeshire Police Shrievally Trust – thank you for donation. **Noted**

## 7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting

(i) Balfour Beatty email 15 December 2015. The Clerk read an email received from Balfour Beatty giving notification of their intention to upgrade lighting units at Murrow Bank Murrow from 15 February 2016 and inviting any questions/comments. **Agreed**

(ii) Doddington Parish Council email 22 December 2015. The Clerk referred to the survey by SKANSKA which had been completed although one unit had not been inspected as they had entered the column number incorrectly. He explained that further clarification was required as to what the results meant. A meeting had been arranged for 29 January 2016 which Cllr Simon King was expected to attend.

(b) Street Pride.

Cllr Knight reported that he was hopeful that the 'Clean for the Queen' project would progress.

(c) Cllr Davies raised the issue of problems in the highway that had been reported to CCC but no action had been taken. One example was the Overgrown vegetation and trees that forced heavy vehicles onto the verge and had resulted in a damaged water main causing flooding. With reference to overgrown vegetation at The Pit the Clerk was asked write to the owner requesting it be cut back.

## 8. REVIEW OF RURAL CAMBS CITIZENS ADVICE (CAB)

Cllr Reay reported that there had been three sessions, the first attended by three people and the next two none. Cllr Reay felt that the sessions were potentially very useful but with the poor attendance may not be considered value for money. She suggested they be better advertised. It was agreed that the Clerk contact CAB for their comments and suggestions.

## 9. BUDGET FOR 2016/17 FOR PRECEPT

It was agreed that the Precept be the same as 2015/16 at £53,732. The Clerk was authorised to complete the Precept form and return it to FDC.

## 10. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) Local Government Finance Settlement – The Referendums Relating to Council Tax increases. The Clerk read the letter and clarified that there were no plans to 'cap' parish councils for 2016/17 although they expected councils to protect taxpayers from excessive precept increases. **Noted**

(b) The Middle Pit and Tholomas Drove Wash Pit Fund – The Clerk circulated a proposal drafted by Fraser Dawbarns LLP that proposed an amendment to paragraph 8 of the Scheme that could enable income and capital to be used for charitable purposes. **Agreed unanimously**

### To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(c) Clerk December salary	£575.32 LG Act 1972 S112 <b>Agreed</b>
(d) Tax and NI	£159.13 LG Act 1972 S112 <b>Agreed</b>
(e) Clerk postage and office consumables	£56.85 LG Act 1972 S112 <b>Agreed</b>
(e) Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal -3 wreaths	£45.00 LG Act 1972 S137 <b>Agreed</b>
(f) Guyhirn Village CAB Hall Hire 10 December 2015	£35.00 LG Act 1972 S134 <b>Agreed</b>

Grant application    Nil    **Noted**

## 11. WEB SITE

Cllr Newland circulated copies of the web pages that she had completed to date. It was suggested that a link be included to Village Voices. Cllr Knight suggested that it may be possible to transfer past agendas and minutes from the Village Voices site. Cllr Davies proposed a vote of thanks to Cllr Newland for all her hard work and to Richard Humphrey for the photographs he had supplied. **Agreed unanimously.**

## 12. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance Quotations 2016/17

The Clerk reported that quotations were due in 27 January 2016. The results would be reported to the February meeting.

(b) Bus Shelters

Plans and quotations were awaited for the bases.

It was suggested that seats would be a welcome addition and contributing to a solution to the drainage issues close to the Mouth Lane shelter would be a very welcome improvement.

(c) Defibrillator

Deferred to the next meeting.

### 13. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Gillick explained that he was on the Infrastructure & Highways Committee which works closely with the Environment & Transport Committee and that the last few months had been taken up with considering cuts. He went on to describe the difficulty in getting highway defects rectified as there seemed to be a disconnect between the virtual processes and the actual process of completing repair work. He had reported defects at Cants Drove to but the response was there were no funds available. Council Tax increases were being considered, up to 4% was permitted, the Tories preferred a 1.99% increase. The fact was that CCC did not have the funds available to do all the highway work needed therefore some repair work would simply will not be done. He added that he understood that this may be difficult to accept giving that a new secondary school, probably in Wisbech £52m and windows had been repainted and a new lift installed at Shire Hall although this expenditure came from different funds. The Chairman suggested that Cllr Gillick inspect Gull Drove – Cllr Gillick replied that he had done so today. Cllr Davies gave Cllr Gillick that address of a location that had been reported before where vegetation overgrowing the highway forced heavy vehicles onto a verge causing damage which had resulted in a burst water main.

Cllr Booth said that a joint meeting with Parson Drove Parish Council would be arranged following receipt of the safety audit for the Bellamy Bridge scheme.

He reported that the Government settlement had been worse than expected and that FDC would need to find an additional £1m in savings next financial year. Another round of public consultation was planned as part of the comprehensive spending Review.

He referred to the invitation for nominations to attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Cllr Bligh reported thefts in Wisbech St Mary and that Police were aware and gathering evidence and the culprits being monitored.

Cllr Bligh added that the next Golden Age Fair was 24 March at Parson Drove Village Hall. The Clerk agreed to arrange for posters to be installed in the notice boards.

### 14. POLICE MATTERS

The Clerk had circulated the Police update 7 January 2016. The contact for the Wisbech Neighbourhood Policing Team was; [Wisbech.NPT@cambs.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Wisbech.NPT@cambs.pnn.police.uk)

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

Cllr Knight reported the service planned on Sunday 7 February 12 or 12.30 at Wisbech St Mary by the Cambs 876 Remembered initiative. The intention is to honour all 876 Officers and Soldiers of The Cambridgeshire Regiment who were killed during World War I. He requested the Parish Council to be well represented. **Noted**

Cllr Britain has received a quote of £150 for moving the notice board to outside the vegetable stall where it would be covered by a security light. **Agreed**

### 16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016      Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

### DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2015/2016

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2016      Murrow Village Hall

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2016      Thorney Toll Village Hall

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016      Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting: Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

Signed: Cllr. B Britain, Chairman