

# Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 7pm in Thorney Toll Village Hall.**

Attended by: Councillors B Britain (Chairman), D Wheeler (Vice-Chairman), P Davies, J Fish, M Knight, J Newland, A Patrick.

Members of the public 4

Fenland District Council (FDC) Councillor G Booth.

## OPEN FORUM

Mr and Mrs Howe said they represented New Drove residents and raised the issue of travellers having set up a camp which had resulted in vehicles parking such that they project over the carriageway and obstructed visibility thereby creating a potential danger. In addition untaxed vehicles were reported parked at Bevis Lane.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** Cllrs Allen, Humphrey, Scrimshaw, Mann due to work commitments, Cambridgeshire County Councillor (CCC) French and PCSO Sue Clarke.

**2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS** dated 10<sup>th</sup> July 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)

(a) Cllr Davies thanked Cllr Mann for removing the self-set Elder tree, item 10 (a).

(b) The Clerk confirmed that he had requested details of the sports equipment requested by Wisbech St Mary Sports and Community Centre but had not yet received a reply, item 9(k).

## 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). The following were not available at the meeting as the system was down.

(a) F/YR17/0466/F Erection of a part single-storey part two-storey side/rear extension to existing dwelling. Beaumont 151 Front Road Murrow. **Granted**

(b) F/YR17/0474/VOC Variation of condition 8 to enable amendment to approved plans of planning permission F/YR15/0587/F Erection of a 3-storey 5-bed dwelling with attached garage, detached workshop and the temporary siting of 2 x mobile homes involving the demolition of existing dwelling (part retrospective). Bridge House 22 Front Road Murrow. **Granted**

(c) F/YR17/0547/TRTPO Works to 4 x Willow trees covered by TPO 1/1995. The Village Pond High Road Guyhirn. **Granted**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR17/0632/F Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing conservatory. Portman Lodge Church Road Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr J Cox. Agent n/a. **Recommend Approval**

(b) F/YR17/0676/O Erection of 1no dwelling (outline with matters committed in respect of access only). Land North West of Drummond Lodge Spencer Drove Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr R Gilbert. Agent Mr Gareth Edwards. **Recommend Approval**

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) FACT – Befriending Groups – email 3 August 2017. It was agreed that the poster promoting the service would be placed in notice boards and village voices.

(b) Highways England – A47 Road Investment Strategy Corridor Improvements. **Noted**

(c) CAPALC – training courses. The Chairman stressed the importance of training and encourage attendance. **Noted**

## 7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). Following discussion it was agreed that the options be deferred pending further consideration.

(b) Street Lighting - FDC letter 3 August 2017. The Clerk read a letter from FDC with the latest proposals for the management of Parish Council street lights. It includes repairs, maintenance and energy at an estimated cost of £47 to £67 per column per annum. It was noted that FDC had paid energy costs in the past. It was also noted that Electrical Testing Ltd are commencing work imminently which will include a report on the condition of all Parish Council lighting units. Following discussion it was agreed to await the report and reply that the option may be of interest but the Council could not commit at this stage.

## 8. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To receive a report on the External Audit 2016/17. The Clerk read the report; there were no matters giving cause for concern and no matters to be drawn to the attention of the Council. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his efforts. **Noted**

Additional item; The Clerk reported that he had completed all obligations with respect to workplace pensions and referred to a letter from The Pensions Regulator: 'Acknowledgement of declaration of compliance'. **Noted**

### ***To approve payment of outstanding accounts:***

- |  |                                     |               |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| (b) Clerk July salary                                | £636.72 LG Act 1972 S112            | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (c) Tax and NI                                       | £198.62 LG Act 1972 S112            | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (d) Wisbech Electrical Ltd – supply to defibrillator | £771.11 Public Health Act 1936 S234 |               |
- The Chairman explained that this was for the full installation of two units **Agreed**
- |  |   |               |
|--|---|---------------|
| (e) K Clarke – gate and sign maintenance                                     | £120.00 Misc Prov Act 1976 S196                   | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (f) Murrow Village Hall – hire of hall 10 July                               | £39.00 LG Act 1972 S134                           | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (g) Bowles Tree & Garden Services – grass cutting and strimming              | £220.00 LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196                | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (h) Bowles Tree & Garden Services – maintenance plus spraying and strimming. | £550.00 Misc Prov Act 1976 S196                   | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (i) Bowles Tree & Garden Services – bus shelter repair                       | £90.00 Misc Prov Act 1976 S196                    | <b>Agreed</b> |
| (j) PKF Littlejohn LLP – external audit to 31 March 2017                     | £360 Accounts & Audit Regulations 1996 s11996/590 | <b>Agreed</b> |

### **Grant application**

(k) East of England Ambulance Service, Community First Responders – £1801.41 Public Health Act 1936 S234 **Agreed**

(l) Murrow Playing Field Association (MPFA) - grass cutting and insurance - £2,500 LG Misc Prov 1976 S19

Following discussion it was agreed that evidence be requested to show the grant had been credited to the MPFA account and details of accounts would be requested for future bids. **Agreed**

## 9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance

Guyhirn Pond treework – The Clerk confirmed that planning permission had been received. A quotation had been received from Bowles Tree and Garden Services. Following discussion it was suggested that quotations be invited from D Rowell and D Wheatley. **Agreed**

(b) Bus Shelters

Cllr Knight gave an update on progress. The objections to two of the proposed shelters had been determined by Cambridgeshire County Councillors – the decision was to support their installation. The newly installed base at Thorney Toll had had to be removed for legal reasons and a new base installed further along the lay-by. Circle Housing supported the new location. **Noted**

The Clerk was asked to write to the objectors advising of the CCC decision.

Cllr Davies requested a formal request for permission to install a shelter on Poors Allotment Charity land. **Agreed**

Cllr Knight proposed that quotations be requested from FDC for the provision of litter bins at each of the four sites. **Agreed**

(c) Defibrillators

The Chairman confirmed that the units at Thorney Toll Village Hall and The Bell Murrow had been installed. Following discussion it was proposed that publicity and training be explored with Adam Jeffries, First Responder.

(d) Planters

The Chairman reported that Bank View Nursery had offered to construct and sponsor an additional planter if the sleepers could be supplied. **Agreed**

Following discussion on how to improve the appearance of the planters it was agreed that additional compost and planting perennials would be a way forward. Cllrs Britain and Davies volunteered to seek quotations for the supply of perennials. **Agreed**

## **10. HIGH ROAD WISBECH ST MARY – SURFACE WATER DRAINAGE**

Cllr Booth reporter further flooding recently. Internal Drainage Board anticipate sending letters to residents soon. CCC has offered a £3k contribution as Lead Flood Management Authority. The Clerk was asked to contact CCC to request them to check and clear the highway drainage system.

## **11. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Booth reported:

- a) The new monitoring officer is Stephen Gerrard
- b) Treasury Management Policy
- c) FDC had resolved to keep councillor allowances unchanged until 2019
- d) Having promoted Speedwatch in Village Voices six volunteers had come forward
- e) Wisbech 2020 Vision consultation – more thought to public transport linking to the villages had been suggested
- f) Bellamy Bridge – Parson Drove Parish Council had highlighted the accident problems in a letter to Cllr King. The Clerk was asked to write in support of action.

## **12. POLICE MATTERS Nil**

## **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** (for information only)

(a) Further to Open Forum above the Chairman invited Mr E Neal to address the meeting. Mr Neal explained that he was a traveller. Their difficulty was finding new sites as none were being built. It was also difficult to obtain planning permission in advance of moving on to a site. He stressed that it must be in everyone's best interest to allow Gypsies a well-designed site. He suggested a guide needed to be developed that would enable something acceptable to be designed. He suggested the issue should be raised at CCC and FDC and asked for Council support. Mrs Howe sympathised with his situation but added that rules should not be broken.

(b) Cllr Knight enquired regarding the Wash Pit Charity funds. Cllr Britain replied that he had contacted Messrs Maxey Grounds to enquire if suitable land was available.

(c) Cllr Davies raised a query of ownership of an abandoned house at High Road Guyhirn. Cllr Booth added that FDC had a duty to ensure it was safe but that more significant improvements would be a very long process and success not guaranteed.

(d) The Clerk was asked to contact those responsible for replacing direction signs and street nameplates at The Pigeons junction, Murrow.

## **14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

## **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2017/18**

Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	Oliver Twist Country Inn
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2017	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> February 2018	Oliver Twist Country Inn

Meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed: Cllr. B Britain, Chairman