

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held in Murrow Village Hall on Monday 14th July 2014.

Attended by Councillors B Payne (Chairman), B Britain (Vice Chairman), P Barnes, P Davies, J Fish, T Fowler, T Jennings, M Knight & B Reay.
G. Booth (Fenland District Councillor) & PCSO Dave Russ.

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.
There were no Parishioners present at the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors C Allen & D Broker.

2. APPOINTMENT OF PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER.

The Chairman reported on that one candidate invited to attend for interview was unable to attend due to illness. The interview panel recommended that Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson be appointed as Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer with effect from 1st August.

Councillors resolved to accept this recommendation and appoint Mr Wilkinson to the post of Clerk & RFO for a probationary period of 6 months on a NALC/SLCC Salary Scale Spinal Point 23 at £10.60 per hour. However owing to holiday arrangements already made he would be unable to attend the August Parish Council Meeting.

The meeting was briefly adjourned following the arrival of Mr G Wilkinson who was introduced to Councillors after which the meeting was reconvened.

3. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 16th June 2014.

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only).

It was reported that recently there had not been any vehicles parked at Pigeons corner causing an obstruction.

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

There were no declarations of interest made by Councillors.

6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.

The following planning applications had been approved:

- a) F/YR14/0408/F. Erection of 2 storey 4 bed dwelling with attached garage, land east of 56 Back Road, Murrow. Applicant Mr Vaughan.
- b) F/YR11/3091/COND. Details reserved by conditions 2,4, 5, 7, 9, 10 of planning permission F/YR10/0957/EXTIME (Erection of 8 x 3bed semi detached houses with associated garaging/parking involving demolition of existing bungalow (renewal of planning permission F/YR07/1341/F) Alasan Lodge, 113 Front Road, Murrow.
- (c) F/YR14/0397/F. Change of use of land and siting of 5 mobile homes for use by farm workers. Somerset Farm, Cants drove, Murrow. Applicant: Dale & Burgoyne Ltd.

2. Planning applications for discussion:

- (a) F/YR14/0455/F. Erection of 1 x 3-bed and 1 x 2-bed single-storey log cabins for use as holiday accommodation to be used in conjunction with existing commercial fishing lake. Lakeside Manor, Seadyke Bank, Murrow. Mr G Patrick. Agent: Miss Alex Grainger.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted providing the log cabins are only used for holiday accommodation and not full time residential use.

- (b) F/YR14/0448/Reserved Matters. Erection of a 2-storey 4/5-bed dwelling with integral double garage involving demolition of existing outbuilding. Land south of 88 Murrow Bank, Murrow. Mr R Wyatt. Drawings: A Vanhinsbergh. This application is for approval of Reserved Matters F/YR13/0361/O dated August 23rd 2013.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

- (c) F/YR14/0476/F. Variation of conditions 11 and 13 involving removal of hedge adjacent to Plot 1 of planning permission F/YR12/0572/F (Erection of 3 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings with garages and formation of new vehicular access). Land south of Ravens Farm, Tholomas Drove. A J & S R Mann. Agent: R Swann.

Councillors resolved to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

- (d) F/YR14/0265/F & F/YR14/0266LB. Change of use of church to 5-bed dwelling with new access at St Mary Magdalene Church, High Road, Guyhirn. These applications have been withdrawn. Noted by Councillors.

- (e) F/YR14/0494/O. Erection of a dwelling. Land south-west of 'Rose Lodge', Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn. Mr & Mrs Patten. Agent: David Broker.

Councillors resolved by a majority vote to support this application and recommend approval is granted.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Belectric UK. Offer to attend a parish council meeting to outline the proposed Wisbech Solar. Farm, Begdale, Elm.

Councillors resolved to take no further action on this matter.

(b) Fenland Street Trading Consent Policy 2014.

The Chairman advised that this document was available on the District Council's website for Councillors to view and make comments on.

(c) Councillor Training Evenings: Monday Sept 8th; October 6th, and October 27th.

Dates noted by Councillors. It was agreed that Councillors who wished to attend would confirm this at the next meeting on the 11th August.

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

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

Councillor Knight advised that the flooding outside the shop on High Road, Wisbech St Mary was still not resolved and a meeting with the Highways Officer had been arranged for Tuesday 15th July to discuss this.

Various road drain gullies were full of mud causing footpaths to flood in Guyhirn particularly near the Chapel of Ease.

The roundabout on the A47 at Rings End was very over grown with thistles and weeds.

The grass verges at Thorney Toll had not been cut and were now obstructing the speed camera.

The road signs and railings had still not been repaired at Pigeons Corner, Murrow.

Over grown hedges throughout the parish were obstructing the footpaths and it was agreed that this would be raised in the next issue of Village Voices.

(b) Streetlights. See Agenda items 9(c) and 9(j)

Councillor Fish advised that street light FPC 3 at Lindens Close Thorney Toll had been reported numerous times and had not been working since April. The reason for the delay appeared to be because the street light was located near to the A47 and the footpath would have to be dug up. There was also a broken street light at the bottom of Lindens Close which had been reported and Councillor Fish had been informed that it could take up to 8 weeks for this to be repaired.

(c) Resident's concern about maintenance of the Long Jetty, Wisbech St Mary.

A complaint had been received about the condition of the public path and Councillors resolved to instruct the maintenance contractor to attend to this by replacing the gavel. There was also a problem with dog fouling in this area and it was agreed that signs be erected.

(d) To discuss the increasing concern about accidents at the Bellamy's Bridge junction.

District Councillor Booth advised that he had recently spoken with Officers from the County Council to discuss this matter and had been advised that there were not enough accidents at this location to warrant funding. Highways Officers had however suggested that a joint application be made under the Local Highways Improvements Bids by the three Parish Councils. Parson Drove Parish Council were considering this suggestion but he had not yet contacted Gorefield Parish Council. Councillors agreed that this would be a way forward.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To receive a report on the Internal Audit. Action to be taken.

Councillors were presented with a copy of the Internal Report which raised 6 points requiring attention. One referring to the Insurance Cover had already been completed and the remaining 5 would be completed during the coming months by the new Clerk. The Chairman thanked

Mrs Reader for her work on preparing the required documentation for the Internal Audit.

(b) To approve the Annual Return Governance Statement for External Audit on July 21st.

Councillors approved the completion of the Annual Return Governance Statement ready for submission for External Audit on the 21st July. The high reserves held by the Council were discussed and it was agreed that the Chairman and the acting Clerk would provide an explanation for this.

(c) Notice of a further meeting at Fenland District Council concerning Concurrent Functions and street lighting and to discuss the contents of a letter from FDC Leader.

The Chairman advised that he would be attending the meeting on the 21st July to discuss further the proposals being made by the District Council. Councillors welcomed the proposal for no further reductions to be made to the Concurrent Functions Grant. The suggestion for the District Council to contribute 50% towards the cost of replacing the street lights in category 1 which required replacing within the next year was also encouraging but it was considered that the District Council should also contribute towards the cost of replacing the street lights in category 2 requiring replacement within the next 3 years.

(d) Quotation from FDC for new litter bin outside Guyhirn school: £308.74 including installation. Update.

District Councillor Booth advised that the District Council did not have any budget for litter bins but would be prepared to provide one.

(e) £124.75 having been paid to the Wisbech St Mary webmaster, to consider paying the balance of £75.25 remaining from the annual allowance.

Councillors resolved to approve the further payment of £75.25. L.G.A. 1972 s 142.

- (f) Bowles Tree & Garden Services: 4½ days general maintenance February – July 2014. £2,025.00. Councillors resolved to approve payment of this invoice. L.G.M.P A. 1953 s 4.
- (g) To receive BACS remittance from FDC being 1st Function Grant 2014/15. £2,330.00. Noted by Councillors.
- (h) To confirm the re-investment of £100,000 in Barclays Treasury Deposit Account; maturity date June 18th 2015. Information noted by Councillors.
- (i) Cheques for refund of £ 58.09 from BT following cancellation of telephone line and direct debit. Noted by Councillors.
- (j) Invoice from FDC for replacement of streetlight FPC21, High Road, Guyhirn. £2,494.27. Update. Councillors resolved to approve payment of this invoice subject to confirmation from the Insurance Company or Farmer that an insurance claim had been completed.
- (k) To receive BT Wayleave payment for Murrow footpath. £182.80. Noted by Councillors.
- (m) Invoice: Hire of Murrow Village Hall June 9th. £30.00. Councillors resolved to approve payment of this invoice. L.G.A. 1972 s111.

Grant applications.

None received.

10. PARISH PROPERTY

- (a) Guyhirn pond restoration. Update.

Councillor Davis advised that work had been completed to the gate and grass areas and Invoices would be submitted for the work completed.

Councillors suggested that the probation service be approached for the community pay back team to paint the railings around Murrow War Memorial. The Chairman & Councillor Fowler agreed to liaise with the Probation Service.

Councillors agreed to ask the maintenance contractor to attend to the bus shelters

11. NEW PAVILION FOR GUYHIRN FOOTBALL CLUB

There was no further update on this matter.

12. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Booth advised that suggestions were being considered for changes to the Delegated Powers for planning applications up to 10 dwellings. Changes to the rules for District Councillors to call in a planning application were also being considered.

Councillor Booth advised that the County Council Highways Department had very little funding available for maintenance work but more funding was available for capital projects. Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn was on the list for resurfacing work next year.

13. POLICE MATTERS

- (a) Debrief concerning the recent 'Religious Congregation' event at Wisbech St Mary.

PCSO Russ advised that the event had gone very well with very few issues. The one incident he was aware of was damage to a tree on the sports field. The site had been cleared with very little rubbish left on the field. There had been a lot of Police presence and this high profile had worked well. The Chairman advised that he had been informed of some minor incidences where some elderly residents had felt intimidated but thanked PCSO Russ for how the event was handled and policed.

- (b) Parking problems outside schools in the parish.

PCSO Russ advised that a parking ticket had been issued last week and he was continuing to monitor the situation at Wisbech St Mary School. It was agreed that this would be discussed again in September but a solution might be for cones to be placed across the school entrance to prevent parents using this to turn around. Youths on mini motto's were still a problem as was speeding along Front Road, Murrow and the A47 junction at Guyhirn. PCSO Russ suggested that perhaps a Speedwatch team could be set up to monitor this. Councillors reported problems with vehicles parking outside Guyhirn Village Hall blocking driveways for local residents. PCSO Russ advised that this was not an offence provided the vehicles were moved if requested by residents wishing to access their driveways.

14. CIVIC SERVICE TO COMMEMORATE THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR I.

Wisbech St Mary Parish Church, September 7th 2014. Advance Notice

Noted by Councillors.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

Councillors raised a problem with some of the dykes in Murrow that may be polluted and believed that this had already been discussed in February.

Councillor Britain advised that the annual October visits to the Drainage Board Offices would be continued.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday August 11th 2014, Thorney Toll Village Hall, 7.00pm.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2014/2015

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

Meeting closed at 9.20pm