

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on Monday June 16th 2014.

Attended by Councillors B Payne (Chairman), B Britain (Vice Chairman), C Allen, P Barnes, D Broker, P Davies, T Jennings, B Reay. G. Booth (Fenland District Councillor) & Inspector Alan Boughen.

1 member of the public.

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

Concern was expressed by the Parishioner regarding the forthcoming Evangelistic traveller 3 day event to be held in Wisbech St Mary starting on the 22nd June.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Councillors J Fish, T Fowler & M Knight.

2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated May 19th 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)

The Chairman advised that the renewal confirmation had been received from Zurich Insurance.

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

Councillor Britain declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in respect of Agenda Item number 5(b) but as this planning application had already been determined by the District Council did not leave the room whilst the application was considered.

The Chairman and Councillor Davies declared a non pecuniary interest in respect of Agenda Item Number 9 (c)

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.

The following planning applications had been approved:

a) F/YR14/0325/F. Erection of an agricultural storage building, 4no polytunnels, and formation of hardstanding. Land south of 'Oaklands', Willock Lane, WSM. Mr Goat. Agent: D Broker.

b) F/YR14/0320/F. Erection of a single storey extension to form classroom and formation of hardstanding play area. Wisbech St Mary Church of England Aided Primary School, Church Road, WSM. Ely Diocese Office. Agent: P Smith.

c) S Barfoot, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0261/F, Agent Russell Swann, for the erection of a first floor extension, porch to front and raising of roof involving insertion of 2 dormers to front of existing dwelling of Bennett, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn.

d) Mrs Crockford, Planning Application No. F/YR14/0272/F, Agent D Broker, for the erection of a single storey 3 bed dwelling with attached garage on land south of Westbury, Gull Road, Guyhirn.

2. Decision from the Planning Inspectorate re land south-east of 'Finchley', High Road, WSM.

Councillors were informed that the Planning Inspectorate had dismissed the appeal.

3. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR14/0390/F. Erection of 2 x 2-storey 5-bed dwellings with detached double garages. Plots 7 and 8 Land north-west of 'Greenacres', Gull Road, Guyhirn. Applicant: Mr P Humphrey. Agent: Chris Walford.

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

(b) F/YR14/0375/F. Demolition and reconstruction of part existing front elevation to existing building, Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn. Applicant: Mr B Britain. Agent: Mark Scoble.

Granted by delegated decision.

Councillors resolved to support the application although it was noted that approval had already been granted by the District Council.

(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. Agent: Alan Hornsby.

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

(d) F/YR14/0408/F. Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with attached garage. Land east of 56, Back Road, Murrow. Applicant: Mr Vaughan. Agent: Ken Elener.

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

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Letter from the Leader of Fenland District Council, Councillor John Clark.

The Chairman advised that the new Leader wished to work closely with Parish Councils and in view of this would like to attend a Parish Council Meeting together with the Chief Executive Paul Medd and Deputy Leader Ralph Butcher. Councillors resolved to defer an invitation to attend a Parish Council Meeting until after the appointment of the new Clerk.

(b) FDC: Notice of Adoption of the Fenland Local Plan and Policies Map.

Information noted by Councillors.

(c) Letter of thanks from Parson Drove Surgery Car Service.

Noted by Councillors.

(d) Notice of work at National Grid's Wisbech gas site.

Information noted by Councillors.

(e) Bereavement Support Group. Cambs & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

Noted by Councillors that this would take place on the second Thursday of each month starting on the 10th July and this would be included in the next issue of Village Voices.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Highway and streetlight reports from Councillors on problems causing *immediate concerns*. Councillors raised concerns regarding Pigeons Corner, Murrow, Gull Road, Guyhirn and Seadyke Road, Murrow.

Notification had been received from Cambridgeshire County Council that work to the road Gully's would be undertaken on the 10th August at Selwyn Corner, 12 & 13th August at Station Road, Wisbech St Mary and on the 13th & 14th August at High Road, Wisbech St Mary.

(b) Streetlights. See Agenda items 8(b) and 8(e).

8. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To approve the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2014, and the completed Annual Return ready for Internal Audit. External Audit extended to July 21st.

The Accounts presented by Yvonne Reader acting Clerk & RFO were approved by Councillors and signed by the Chairman.

(b) Report from a meeting at Fenland District Council concerning Concurrent Functions and street lighting.

The Chairman advised that he had attended a meeting when the future of the Concurrent Functions Grant had been discussed together with the issue of maintenance of the parish streetlights. The District Council were looking again at their proposals regarding the future total withdrawal of the Concurrent Functions Grant and a further meeting would be held to discuss the way forward. The District Council had no legal obligation to maintain parish streetlights.

Belfour Beaty had carried out an inspection of the 157 parish streetlights and initial feed back indicated that 29 were identified as being in need of replacement within the next few months with a further 35 to be replaced within the next 3 years. All the street lights should be re-inspected every 5 years.

(c) Letter from HM Revenue & Customs concerning Tax and NI contributions.

It was agreed to defer this item until the appointment of the new Clerk.

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

Councillor Booth advised that he had approached the District Council regarding funding for additional litter bins in the parish and in view of this Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting.

(e) Invoice from FDC for replacement of streetlight lantern FPC21, High Road, Guyhirn. £2,494.27 inc VAT.

Councillors resolved to defer this matter until the next meeting in order for investigations to be made into whether a quotation had been received and approved.

(f) Invoice from Murrow Village Hall. Hire of hall May 13th. £30.00.

Councillors resolved to approve payment of this invoice. L.G.A. 1972 s.111.

(g) Invoice from Johnston Publishing Ltd. Parish Clerk advertisement. £767.43 inc VAT.

Councillors resolved to approve payment of this invoice. L.G.A. 1972 s.112.

The Chairman advised that the Treasury Deposit Investment Account was due to expire on the 16th June. Councillors resolved to renew the investment of £100,000.

Grant application

(a) Murrow Methodist Church Council. Repairs to Chapel and Book Café access.

Councillors resolved to give a grant of £1,600 for the repairs to the Chapel and Book Café access. L.G.M P. A. 1976 s. 19.

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) To receive a report on the annual inspection and risk assessment of Parish Property.

Councillor Britain advised that he had completed the annual inspection of the assets with Mrs Reader and gave a detailed report to the Council. There were no serious defects found but there was some maintenance work required. The main items identified as requiring attention in the very near future were

1 The roof and back fascias of the Bus Shelter at Tholomas Drove

2. The fascias on the Bus Shelter near the Methodist Church Main Road, Wisbech St Mary.

3. Several of the seats within the parish required painting.

4 Railings around the War Memorial at Murrow needed repainting.

5. The Village Sign at Guyhirn also required some attention.

Whilst completing the annual inspection of the assets it would appear that there are some discrepancies with the Asset Register as this did not tally with the Insurance Schedule nor the assets included in the year end accounts.

Councillors therefore agreed that this matter should be addressed once the new Clerk is appointed.

(b) Application for a parish allotment.

Councillors resolved to hold this application on file as there were no vacancies at the present time.

(c) Letter from WSM & Guyhirn Parochial Church Council concerning new access to Guyhirn churchyard.

Councillors resolved to agree to the request for access to the churchyard from the playing field track at a suitable point north of the Chapel together with a suitable arrangement for access to a key to the Parish Councils gate at the High Road entrance to the playing field track.

10 NEW PAVILION FOR GUYHIRN FOOTBALL CLUB

Councillors were informed that plans were being drawn up and estimates being obtained for a new pavilion.

11. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor Broker advised that the new Local Plan had been adopted by the District Council. A further meeting would be held to discuss the future of the Concurrent Functions Grant and street lights maintenance.

Councillor Booth advised that the New Horizon Bus would be attending Parson Drove's Car Show on the 20th July. A further site visit was being arranged for the Bellamy Bridge junction and new signage and white line markings were being ordered.

12. POLICE MATTERS

(a) Travelling Congregation. Inspector Alan Boughen.

Inspector Boughen informed the Council of the information they had received regarding the forthcoming Religious event being held on private land in Garden Lane, Wisbech St Mary starting on Sunday 22nd June through to Thursday 26th June. The Police were liaising with the Traveller Officer at Fenland District Council and did not envisage any serious problems but there would be a visible Police presence to reassure residents. The Police had received assurances from the land owner that adequate facilities would be provided.

Councillors expressed their concerns in view of the problems encountered the last time a similar event was held in the village.

(b) Parking problems outside schools in the parish.

In view of recent problems with parking outside Wisbech St Mary School Inspector Boughen was requested to arrange for PCSO D Russ to monitor this.

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

Wisbech St Mary Parish Church, September 7th 2014.

Information noted by Councillors.

14. APPOINTMENT OF A PARISH CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER.

a) to receive an update from the Short-listing Meeting, Monday June 9th 2014.

The Chairman advised that 5 candidates had been short listed and invited to attend the Interviews on Monday 30th June at Fenland Hall, March.

b) to appoint an Interview Panel.

Five Councillors were appointed for the Interview Panel.

c) to consider the remuneration to be offered to the successful candidate.

Councillors resolved to base this on the experience and qualifications of the successful candidate using the National Pay scales issued by NALC.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

The Chairman confirmed that he had signed and returned the BT Wayleave agreement for Back Road, Murrow,

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday July 14th 2014, Murrow Village Hall, 7.00pm.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2014/2015

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

Meeting closed at 9.50pm