

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 5th January 2015 in Wisbech St Mary Community Centre.

Attended by: Councillors B Payne (Chairman), Cllr. B Britain (Vice-Chairman), C Allen, P Barnes, D Broker, P Davies, T Fowler, M Knight and District Councillor G Booth. T Jennings and B Reay joined the meeting later.

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

Cllr Davies raised an issue on behalf of a parishioner relating to the pharmacy at Parson Drove. It was agreed that this would be discussed under item 14.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

J Fish. The Chairman explained that John was unwell. All members expressed their concern and best wishes.

2. TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING DATED December 8th 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) Item 7 Lindens Close. The Chairman had been informed by Cllr Fish that an inspection by Roddons had been arranged for 6th January. It was hoped that this would have a positive outcome.

(b) Item 9(n). The Chairman had received a letter from Annette Houghton, Manager of the Volunteer Centre Fenland which was noted.

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

Cllr B Britain declared a pecuniary interest in item 5.2 (b).

Cllr P Davies declared a personal interest in item 9 (m) as this was reimbursement of costs incurred on behalf of the Parish Council.

Cllr D Broker declared a pecuniary interest in items 5.2 (a) and (f).

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by Fenland District Council.

(a) F/YR14/0851/F Erection of a 2-storey extension with Juliet balcony to side of existing dwelling. Rosedene Garden Lane Wisbech St Mary. **Granted**

(b) F/YR14/0880/PLANO Modification of Planning Obligation attached to planning permission F/YR13/0268/F (entered into on 28/11/2013) relating to affordable housing requirement from 4 units to 1 unit plus 80% of affordable unit cost as a financial contribution. Land North West Of Green Acres Gull Road Guyhirn. **Pending Consideration**

(c) F/YR14/0892/F Erection of an extension to proposed new service reception/stores. JS Holmes Ltd. High Road Wisbech St. Mary. **Granted**

(d) F/YR14/0893/RM Erection of a 3-storey 5/6 bed dwelling involving the demolition of 2no existing dwellings. 3-4 New Drove Wisbech St Mary. **Approved**

(e) F/YR14/0906/F Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling with detached double garage. Plot 3 The Acorns Front Road Fronting Back Road Murrow. **Pending Consideration**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

Items were taken out of order so that items 5.2.a and 5.2.f could be considered together. Cllr Broker left the room while these were discussed.

(c) F/YR14/0950/PNCOU Change of use from agricultural building to 2-storey, 2-bed dwelling. Building South East Of Corner Barn Mouth Lane Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr & Mrs N King. Agent Mr R Swann. **Noted**

Cllrs Jennings and Reay joined the meeting.

(d) F/YR14/0964/F Variation of condition 3 of planning permission F/YR14/0397/F (Change of use of land and siting of 5no mobile homes for use by farm workers) relating to occupation of caravans and flood warning and evacuation plan. Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow.

Applicant Somerset Farm. Agent Mr Gordon Smith. **Recommend Approval**

(e) F/YR14/0970/F Erection of a 2-storey building for office use. Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow. Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow.

Applicant Somerset Farm. Agent Mr AC Hornsby. **Recommend Approval**

Cllr Broker left the room.

(a) F/YR14/0932/RM Erection of 2 x single-storey 2-bed dwellings. Land North Of 175 Front Road Fronting Back Road Murrow.

Applicant Mr J Maxey. Agent Mr David Broker. 7 in favour, 1 against. **Recommend Approval**

(f) F/YR14/0980/F Erection of a single-storey side extension to existing Community Centre. Wisbech St Mary Sports And Community Centre Limited Playing Field Beechings Close Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr G Wilkinson (Wisbech St Mary Parish Council). Agent Mr David Broker. **No comment was made as Wisbech St Mary support the application as the applicant.**

Cllr Broker returned. Cllr Britain left the room.

(b) F/YR14/0940/F Change of use from agricultural land to form extension to car park involving the relocation of the existing agricultural access. Play 2 Day Old Station Yard Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr J Thomas. Agent Mr J Griffin. **Recommend Approval**

Cllr Britain returned

(g) FDC Public Consultation on draft 'Developer Contributions SPD'. The consultation period deadline of 15 January 2015 was noted.

(h) FDC Fenland Infrastructure Delivery Plan Update. The following were identified as desirable improvements in infrastructure that would benefit parishioners:

Guyhirn Playing Field – improvements to entrance and access roadway.

The two Jettys in Wisbech St Mary – upgrade with hard surfacing.

Murrow Playing Field – improvement and hard surfacing of entrance.

Murrow two footpaths between Front Road and Back Road – provide hard surfacing.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

(a) St Marys Church Council. **Noted**

(b) PC D Russ. **Noted**

The Chairman added that PC Dave Russ has appealed for more volunteers to co-ordinate Neighbourhood Watch groups. PC Russ has provided appropriate links. Members agreed to publicise the need for volunteers and the value of the scheme, including in Village Voices.

(c) Cambridgeshire Self- Sufficiency Group. **Noted**

(d) Cambridgeshire County Council – fault reporting. **Noted**

(e) FDC Member Services Corporate Plan. **Noted**

(f) Fenland District Scout Association. **Noted**

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

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

(a) Highways

Cllr Britain – Gull Drove is in very poor condition.

- Overgrown brambles obscure visibility at Gull Road junction with The Bank.

- Trees along Gull Drove need cutting back.

The Clerk was asked to arrange a site meeting to view the many issues that concerned members.

Cllr Barnes – again expressed concern regarding the depressions/subsidence at various locations along The Bank.

Cllr Knight – raised various maintenance issues that had not been completed. The Chairman confirmed that work had been booked.

Cllr Jennings – drew attention to the 'craters' in High Road Guyhirn which were getting worse.

The Chairman read out details of work proposed to the A47 by the Highways Agency including diversion and the effect on bus services.

Cllr Knight enquired as to progress with drainage/flooding issues at bungalows in Wisbech St Mary.

Cllr Britain explained that a meeting with North Level District Internal Drainage Board (NLIDB) had been productive and identified possible causes of the problems and a drainage point. NLIDB had agreed to investigate further to identify an effective solution. Further discussions were planned.

(b) Streetlights.

The Chairmen read a letter from summarised a letter received from the FDC Head of Assets and Projects dated 22 December 2014. The letter set out a 'Without Prejudice' offer from FDC to replace

category 1 defective lighting units at no cost to the Parish Council. The replacement of other categories will be subject to further discussion. The proposal was agreed and the Chairman authorised to sign the response to FDC.

The following street lights are known to be defective or missing:

- i. FPC5 Murrow Bank, Murrow. Refer to 9 (c) below.
- ii. FPC3 Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary. Refer to 9 (d) below.
- iii. Seadyke Bank outside the travellers site.

As these may be listed as category 1 defects for repair by FDC it was agreed that no action should be taken at this time.

8. BUDGET FOR 2015/16 FOR PRECEPT

The Clerk drew attention to the estimate received from FDC for election costs in May 2015.

The total amount of Budget proposed is £75,907.06 but it was agreed to only increase the Precept to £53,732 having maintained it at the same level since 2009/10 and to fund the increase in Budget from reserves.

The Budget and Precept were proposed by Cllr Davies, seconded by Cllr Britain and received unanimous support.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

Cllr Knight requested a copy if a plan of the Parish. The Clerk was asked to contract Anna Goodall at FDC to request some copies.

(a) To receive a budgetary control report for the 2014/15 year to date. **Accepted**

(b) FDC Parish Precepts 2015/16. **The Clerk was authorised to complete the Precept form and return it to FDC.**

(c) FPC5 Murrow Bank, Murrow. Quotation received from FDC £1,116.64 plus vat. **Deferred**

(d) FPC3 Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary. Quotation received from FDC £1,410.26 plus vat. **Deferred**

It was believed that items (c) and (d) may be listed as category 1 defects on the schedule supplied by FDC. The Clerk was asked to research past correspondence regarding these two items.

(e) NJC for Local Government Services Pay Award. The Chairman read details of the 2014-2016 National Salary Award provided by the Society of Local Council Clerks. From 1 January the Clerks salary increases from £8270pa to £8452pa. In addition a one off non-consolidated payment of £40.54 is due and is included in 9 (f) below. **Noted**

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his efforts since taking over as Clerk in challenging circumstances.

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(f) Clerk December salary	£575.71 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(g) Tax and NI	£163.20 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(h) Hire of Murrow Village Hall November	£30.00 LG Act 1972 S134 Agreed
(i) The Society of Local Council Clerks subscription	£167.00 LG Act 1972 S143 Agreed
(j) FDC installation of litter bins.	£926.16 LG Act 1972 S133 Agreed
(k) CAPALC Chairmanship training course	£35.00 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(l) Drive Time – Guyhirn Cemetery erection of fence	£1,100.00 Agreed
(m) PM Davies – Guyhirn Cemetery supply of materials	£1,583.72 Agreed

Grant application

(n) Emmanuel Churchyard Southea – Grounds maintenance. **A Grant of £500 was agreed being the same sum as that awarded in 2013/14.**

10. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Parish Notice Boards. Cllr. B Britain had received a quotation for the size agreed (12 x A4 sheets) of £485 each (no vat) plus £62 for glazing plus vat. Other quotations were awaited.

(b) Bus Shelter maintenance. Cllr Broker described the existing four brick built shelters and one timber shelter which was in good condition. Taking into account the cost of maintenance of the brick shelters Cllr Broker put forward for discussion the option of an alternative all steel design and circulated a plan. Councillors discussed the option and other types and agreed to explore the costs associated with the steel design.

11. GUYHIRN WAR MEMORIAL

The Chairman summarised the background to the issue as recorded in previous minutes and opened

discussions. Cllr Broker confirmed that the drawings were available if needed. Councillors were mindful of the potential development of the church and how that may affect the future of the war memorial. However as no form plans for development were in place as far as the Parish Council was aware it was proposed by Cllr. Britain seconded by Cllr Allen that the war memorial remain where it is until circumstances change. **Agreed**

12. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr D Broker – At the last full FDC meeting the following emerged:

- i. The community house at Wisbech will be funded by the Department of Work and Pensions for a further year.
- ii. 'Windfall' land development was discussed. This had been a contentious issue, however it had been concluded that FDC was not at fault as 'windfall' was a national initiative not a local one.
- iii. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL); this would entitle the Parish to a percentage of income from housing development. The current thinking was in favour of retaining the s.106 regime. However, there were alternatives such as phasing in CIL. This would be subject to further discussion.

Cllr Booth – made the point during discussions at FDC regarding the restructuring of the Neighbourhood Team that deprivation existed in rural areas as well as Wisbech and that other areas deserved support. However it had been decided that the Neighbourhood Team would focus on Waterless area. Cllr Broker added that other councillors had made the point that other areas of the District were being denied that support.

- The Fenland Local Plan said that up to 249 houses could be considered as windfall. He added that the definition of 'windfall' was simply not clear enough.
- Concurrent Functions Grant for street lighting was still subject to discussion to consider how the funding could be split in a more fair way.
- Carol Pilson is the new Monitoring Officer.
- The District Polling Review had been agreed. No changed locally.
- A motion to return to the Committee system had been withdrawn. It was decided that it was more appropriate for the new administration to consider following the May 2015 elections.
- The Bellamy Bridge highway safety proposal would be discussed at a meeting 20 January 2015.

13. POLICE MATTERS

The Chairman read an email received from the Police regarding shed burglary and recommendations on how to protect such property.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

(a) The Chairman opened discussions regarding the issue raised by Cllr Davies. There were positive comments and negative. However, as some parishioners had suffered great inconvenience it was agreed that a letter asking for improvements in service be sent to the Day Lewis Pharmacy. It was noted that doctors were aware of the problems.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday February 9th 2015 Guyhirn Village Hall.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2014/2015

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

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2015/2016

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 9.25pm

Signed: Cllr. B Payne, Chairman

