

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 8th December 2014 in Thorney Toll Village Hall.

Attended by: Councillors B Payne (Chairman), Cllr. B Britain (Vice-Chairman), C Allen, P Barnes, D Broker, P Davies, J Fish, T Fowler, T Jennings, M Knight, B Reay, District Councillor G Booth & 2 member of the public.

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

None

2. TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING DATED November 10th 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 9(a) Parish Defibrillator. Awaiting results from the examiner.

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

Cllr P Davies declared a personal interest in item 9 (o).

Cllr D Broker declared an interest pecuniary interest in items 5.2 (c) and (d).

Cllr J Fish declared a personal interest in item 9 (M).

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by Fenland District Council.

(a) F/YR14/0801/F Erection of 4no 22.0 metre high (hub height) wind turbines with associated works to replace existing 6no turbines on site at Wind Turbines At Chestnut Farm Nettle Bank Elm. Applicant Chestnut Farm. Agent GreenPower Solutions Uk Ltd. **Granted**

(b) F/YR14/0809/F Erection of 4no 10.0 metre high single lamp columns in service yard and 2no 6.0 metre high floodlights in staff car park (retrospective). Bretts Transport Thorney Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr Simon Brett. Agent Mr Robin Briscoe. **Granted**

(c) F/YR14/0817/F Erection of single-storey 3-bed log cabin for use as holiday accommodation to be used in conjunction with existing commercial fishing lake. Lakeside Manor Seadyke Bank Murrow. Applicant Mr G Patrick. Agent Mrs Alex Patrick. **Pending Consideration**

(d) F/YR14/0820/A Display of 3no externally illuminated building mounted signs. Bretts Transport Thorney Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr Simon Brett. Agent Mr Robin Briscoe. **Granted**

(e) F/YR14/0828/F Erection of 6no 2-storey dwellings comprising of 3 x 3-bed and 3 x 2-bed involving demolition of existing Public House. Black Heart Public House Wisbech Road Thorney Toll. Applicant Mr M O'Brien. Agent Mr Mark Benns. **Pending Consideration**

(f) F/YR14/0846/F Change of use of land to form a single gypsy and traveller pitch with associated sleeping shed (retrospective). Land West Of Ponderosa Farm Garden Lane Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr C Julian. Agent Mr M Hargreaves. **Pending Consideration**

(h) F/YR14/0849/O Erection of a dwelling. Land South West Of Rose Lodge Selwyn Corner Guyhirn. Applicant Mr D and Mrs M Patten. Agent Mr David Broker. **Granted**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(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.

Applicant Mrs S Russell. Agent Mr M Sturgeon. **Recommend Approval**

(b) F/YR14/0880/PLANOB 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. ML & JL Wright. Agent Mr John Maxey. **Recommend Approval**

Recommend Approval

Cllr D Broker left the room while (c) and (d) were considered.

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

Applicant M. Holmes. Agent Mr David Broker. **Recommend Approval**

(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.

Applicant Mrs I M McCarthy. Agent Mr David Broker. **Recommend Approval**

(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.

Applicant Mr J McGrelis. Agent Mr Alasdair McFarlane. Cllr Reay and Cllr Jennings voted against the application. All other Councillors voted in favour. **Recommend Approval.**

3. (a) Planning Application – Proposed Lorry Park at Barton Road, Wisbech.
The Clerk confirmed that he had sent an email to Graham Nourse (FDC) on 24th November 2014. To date no reply has been received.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

(a) Mr B Sandall – footpath High Road, Wisbech St Mary. Letter enclosed.

Cllr Knight and Cllr Payne met on site to discuss the issue. It is a Highways matter and once levelled and seeded should be satisfactory. It was agreed that no action was justified at this stage and to monitor the situation.

(b) Inside Government – The Changing Landscape of Local Authorities in Educational Services. Letter enclosed. **Noted**

(c) Murrow Pre-School letter of thanks for donation. **Noted**

(d) The Chairman introduced a briefing note from FDC: Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). District Councillor Booth clarified that FDC will not go ahead with and will now reconsider the developed contributions (£106 agreement) regime. The hope is that FDC will continue to work closely with Parish Councils in order to identify local needs.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

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

(a) Highways

Cllr Barnes – repeated reports previously made and that there had been another accident at Bellamy Bridge. The Chairman asked Cllr Booth if a bid for a local highway improvement had been made, he confirmed that it had and Committee papers would be out on 20 January 2015.

Councillors again reported severe depressions at Murrow Bank at Cants Drove junction with some 22cm to 25cm deep. The Clerk was asked to enquire if warning signs could be installed.

Councillors reiterated previous reports and added Black Drove leading to Parson Drove, just before the traveller site, subsidence and severe depressions.

Cllr Reay reported that the carriageway that leads from High Road to the slip road to the A47 has started to craze.

Cllr Knight reported potholes o/s 28 Station Road, and in Station Drive at Station Road junction.

Cllr Knight also queried the poor condition of the footpath adjoining Sayers Crescent – no drop kerb or surfacing. This is a developer responsibility as it is not yet completed and therefore not adopted by the County Council.

Cllr Broker reported drainage issues associated with a driveway.

Lindens Close – The Clerk had received a reply from FDC to his email which confirmed that Lindens Close properties and infrastructure had been conveyed to Circle Housing (Roddons), FDC had supplied a plan which was passed to Cllr J Fish. The Clerk was asked to contact Circle Housing to clarify the situation and to seek improvements to the footways, carriageways and drainage, and to keep Cllr Fish informed.

Cllr Payne reported mud on the footways and carriageways to the extent that a pedestrian with a pram had to use the road to avoid mud on footways. It was agreed that the Clerk will report this to the police and the new PCSO should be involved.

Cllr Britain reported the very poor condition of Gull Road, Guyhirn and had arranged a meeting with the police, the issue has been allocated an incident number. The Clerk was asked to locate the appropriate officer and write to them.

Cllr Payne raised the issue of water off the road flowing onto drives and onto private properties believed to be due to a ditch having been filled in. Cllr Britain confirmed that the problem lies with the filling of a ditch and had arranged to an engineer from North Level to visit on 11 December.

C Allen – High Road, Guyhirn this road is in a very poor condition and is used when diversion is required

(b) Streetlights.

The Chairmen summarised a letter received from The Leader of FDC dated 2 December 2014. The letter set out FDC obligations and Parish Council obligations with regard to the replacement of defective lighting. It also stated that concurrent functions grants would be considered by Cabinet on 18 December 2014.

The letter sets out the District Council 'without prejudice' offer to the Parish Council and includes an FDC grant that will enable Category 1 and some category 2 repairs, 22 units, to be completed at District Council cost in years 1 to 3. Parish Council obligation is to replace the remaining Category 2 repairs, 68 units, within years 1 to 3 and to re-inspect Category 3 in 5 years.

Councillors expressed concern that they should have some input into what is done and considered acceptable and not pay invoices presented to them by FDC/Balfour Beatty without appropriate checks being made. A detailed discussion ensued including the effect on future budgets and precepts.

It was agreed that the Clerk reply by 17 December 2014 expressing Parish Council concerns and that:

- i. A schedule of street lights should be provided showing those to be replaced and or repaired, and details of the work proposed.
- ii. Details of the replacement and repair costs should be provided.
- iii. An opportunity to input into the management of the replacement/repairs so that we can see what we are being asked to pay for before giving the order to proceed.
- iv. Details of the inspection regime used to arrive at the proposals including appropriate national guidelines and details of the risk assessment regime and details for each lighting unit.

8. BUDGET FOR 2015/16 FOR PRECEPT

The Budget Comparisons are as follows:

	2014/15	2015/16
Administration	£16,682.00	£16,682.00
CsExp	£520.00	£520.00
Grants	£25,000.00	£18,000.00
Capital Ex	£1,000.00	£5,000.00
137 Provision	£3,640.00	£4,000.00
Maintenance	£5,000.00	£8,000.00
Street Lights	£4,000.00	£20,000.00
Loan Int	£0.00	£0.00
Allotment exp	£50.00	£50.00
Disabled Access	£0.00	£0.00
Election 2015/16		£16,000.00
Total	£55,892.00	£88,252.00
Precept	£43,732.00	£53,732.00

Total amount of Budget set ££53,732. It was agreed to maintain support for local services. Given the pressure to replace or repair old lighting stock Councillors reluctantly agreed to increase the Precept to £53,732 having maintained it at the same level since 2009/10.

The Budget and Precept was proposed by Cllr Davies, Seconded by Cllr Britain and received unanimous support.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

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

(b) Due to the additional cost of fixing a bin in hard surfaces outside Guyhirn School it was agreed to monitor the situation. **Agreed**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(c) Clerk November salary	£548.23 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(d) Tax and NI	£144.55 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(e) Clerk postage and office consumables	£100.05 LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed
(f) Hire of Guyhirn Village Hall May and September	£84.00 LGAct 1972 S134 Agreed

- (g) Parson Drove Parish Council C&PALC Councillor training £453.50 LGAct 1972 S112 **Agreed**
- (h) Clerk & Councils subscription £132.00 LGAct 1972 S143 **Agreed**
- (i) CCC 10% contribution to local highway improvement £816.94 Highways Act 1980 **Agreed**
- (j) Chairman reimbursement of expenses for Poppy Wreaths £51.00 LGAct 1972 S137 **Agreed**
- (k) Bowles Tree & Garden Services £550.00 LGMisc Prov 1976 S196 **Agreed**
- (l) FDC/Balfour Beatty FPC1 Murrow Lane. £376.89 LGAct 1972 S133 **Agreed**

Grant application

- (m) Thorney Toll Village Hall – Grounds maintenance - £1500. Letter enclosed. Cllr Fish declared a personal interest and took no part in discussions. **Agreed**
- (n) Volunteer Centre Fenland - £500. Letter enclosed. The Application was not supported as there was insufficient evidence of benefit to the Parish.
- (o) Guyhirn Playing Field Association – £2500. Letter enclosed. Cllr Davies declared an interest and took no part in discussions. **Agreed**

10. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Parish Notice Boards. Cllr. B Britain detailed the process he had gone through in considering options including inspecting notice boards in other villages. He recommended hardwood on existing supports. He had obtained quotes and compared those with costs obtained on the internet which tended to be twice as much. Quotes were from £695, £420 and £365. Following detailed discussion it was agreed that it was important to use toughened glass and to accommodate 12 x A4 size pages. It was agreed to proceed with improvements.

(b) Increased maintenance arrangements. During detailed discussions it was agreed that a notice 'Deep Water' should be provided, Bus Shelter fascia boards should be inspected and replaced where rotting, the ponds at Wisbech St Mary, Guyhirn and Murrow should be cleared 5x in summer and 2x in winter. S Bowles has been advised that notice boards will be replaced and to keep cleaning them in the interim. It was also agreed that any major work required should be subject to quotations.

11. GUYHIRN WAR MEMORIAL

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting.

12. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr D Broker – Boundary Commission Changes Seminar – this Parish is not affected.

Cllr Booth – Next full meeting is 18 December 2014, the Polling Station Review has been completed – no changes are proposed for the Parish, Alan Pain is leaving FDC therefore a new monitoring officer must be appointed, the Audit port of FDC showed no issues to be addressed.

13. POLICE MATTERS

PC Russ could not be present but had supplied a crime and incident report which was mainly issues outside the Parish.

PCSO Andy Ross will soon be joining the team. **Noted**

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only) None

(a) Cllr Allen – Plans and quotations for Guyhirn Football Club should be expected shortly.

(b) Cllr Barnes – some of the missing signs from The Pigeons, Murrow were being looked after by Tony Jarvis at Holycroft Farm, Front Road, Murrow.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday January 5th 2015 WSM Community Centre 7pm

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2014/2015

Monday February 9th 2015 Guyhirn Village Hall.

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

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 9.30pm

Signed: Cllr. B Payne, Chairman