

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 9th February 2015 in Guyhirn Village Hall.

Attended by: Councillors B Payne (Chairman), Cllr. B Britain (Vice-Chairman), C Allen, P Barnes, P Davies, M Knight, B Reay, T Jennings, J Fish and District Councillor G Booth. 7 members of the public were present, in addition 2 joined at 7.30 and 2 at 7.38.

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7pm, welcomed members of the public to the meeting and reminded members that the meeting could be filmed.

Lindsay and Philip Howe indicated their desire to speak in support of their planning application, agenda item 2(g). Lindsay Howe explained their desire to downsize and to propose something quite different that was carbon neutral and eco sustainable. A plan was circulated. Lindsay Howe said that they were a local family that had lived in the village for three generations and had purchased a plot opposite their home for the purpose of completing their proposed new building which would have minimal impact on the environment. It must be south facing to achieve the eco gain proposed. There would be minimal energy use. Philip Howe then referred to nine letters of support.

The Chairman thanked Mr. & Mrs. Howe and invited any other contributions.

Gareth Edwards said that he was aware that item 2(b) had been approved and item 2(f) was a proposal for one caravan. He referred to an application for a grant in support of proposed changing facilities at Guyhirn Playing Field by Guyhirn Playing Field and Guyhirn Football Club Committees, item 8(o). Mr Edwards explained that the proposal was at sketch stage and that a commitment to support the application was required in order to enable them to explore other sources of grant aid.

The Chairman thanked Mr Edwards and continued the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Cllr D Broker.

Cllr T Fowler - The Chairman explained that Tony had suffered serious injury in an accident and was currently in Leicester Hospital. All present joined the Chairman in wishing Tony well and hoped he made a swift recovery.

2. TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES OF MEETING DATED January 5th 2015.

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

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

None.

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

None.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by Fenland District Council.

(a) 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. **Refused**

(b) 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.

Granted

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

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

(e) 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. **Pending Consideration**

(f) 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. **Refused**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR14/0986/A Continued display of 2no wall mounted signs, externally illuminated by 2no flood lights. Guyhirn Tyres Oak Tree Farm Thorney Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr BM Dickson. Agent Mr David Broker. **Recommend Approval**

(b) F/YR14/0993/F Erection of a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling to form a 1-bed annexe. Bank House Farm 88 Murrow Bank Murrow.

Applicant Mr & Mrs C Herring. Agent Mr R Swann. **Recommend Approval**

(c) F/YR14/1000/F Conversion of existing 2-storey detached garage and store to a 1-bed annexe (retrospective). High House High Road Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr S Else. Agent Mr David Broker. **Recommend Approval**

(d) F/YR14/1010/F Erection of a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling. Applecroft Station Road Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr & Mrs T Brown. Agent Mr Nick Seaton. **Recommend Approval**

(e) F/YR14/0684/O Appeal Under Section 78 against the decision to refuse the application. Erection of 2no dwellings. Land North West Of Wingfield Station Road Wisbech St Mary.

Noted – No Representations

(f) F/YR14/1024/CERTLU Certificate Of Lawful Use (Existing): Use of land for the siting of 3 x residential caravans. Caravan Woodlview Gull Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mrs C Pillans. Agent Mr G Edwards. **Recommend Approval**

(g) F/YR15/0014/F Erection of 3-storey 2-bed dwelling with integral garage and conversion of barn to domestic workshop. Barn South West Of Trefields New Drove Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr P Howe. Agent Mr Walford. **Recommend Approval**

(h) F/YR15/0045/F Conversion of garage to living accommodation and erection of a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling. Southfield 86 Front Road Murrow.

Applicant Mr R Welbourne. Agent Mr Roy Haldane. **Recommend Approval**

The Chairman read two letters received from Fenland District Council Development Services referring to applications that went to Planning Committee 4th February 2015:

F/YR13/0252/O – Officer Recommendation is to **Grant** the application.

F/YR14/0880/PLANOB - Officer Recommendation is to **Refuse** the application.

The Chairman advised that a planning application had been submitted for land at Barton Road, Wisbech. The Clerk advised that a reply to queries regarding the site had not yet been received from FDC. The application was for a lorry park and office buildings. Cllr Britain said that he was not supportive of the plan but if considered it should be well screened. There were also important highway considerations as the nature of traffic generated would not suit the local environment. Cllr Barnes suggested the Chairman should pass on concerns to the Planning Committee. Cllr Booth was invited to comment as the Parish Council contact on Fenland District Council; Cllr Booth suggested that highway concerns should be raised with Cambridgeshire County Council. It was agreed that a letter should be sent to FDC setting out our concerns.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED.

(a) Nutan Patel Cambridgeshire County Council. Cllr Reay suggested that the opportunity to apply for a grant towards the cost of community activity to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the end of WW II should be publicised on the Notice Board. The Clerk was requested to forward the details.

(b) Thorney Toll Village Hall. **Noted**

(c) DONG Energy Race Bank Offshore Windfarm. **Circulated and Noted.**

(d) Day Lewis Pharmacy. The Clerk read a response received from Lin Reeveley Regional Support Manager for the Day Lewis Partnership. The Chairman commented that he had contacted the Pharmacy but they had no knowledge of new procedures planned although they were aware that a meeting had been planned.

(e) The Chairman reminded Council that they may receive requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. He had received one recently regarding pension arrangements but this was not a concern as the Council does not provide pensions.

(f) The Clerk advised that NALC had provided information on the new Local Council Award Scheme which replaces the Quality Council scheme. The Clerk advised that he had registered with the new scheme and that the Council will be awarded Foundation Level for one year which will expire

in January 2016. Prior to that date Council will be invited to consider whether or not they wished to remain in the scheme.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

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

(a) Highways

Lindens Close. Cllr Fish has had contact with Roddons. Some defects were marked but marks washed away in two days. One visit by a workman to remove debris from a chamber resulted in debris being left on site and the workman giving up. Roddons had requested £6 per week to apply winter salt. Cllr Fish was pursuing the issues with Roddons.

The Clerk has arranged a meeting with Amanda Hill, CCC Highways to visit site and review concerns, Thursday 12 February High Road, Guyhirn.

Issues in addition to those already on the list:

Bellamy Bridge Local Highway Improvement had been approved by the CCC Committee 20 January. CCC will now develop the scheme design.

Cllr Knight again raised the issue of Sayers Crescent and the dangerous nature of the private road where it meets public highway.

Cllr Knight advised that the recently completed resurfacing of footways in Wisbech St Mary had been dug up by a company installing fibre optic cables.

Cants Drove outside Somerset Farm was in an appalling condition.

Black Drove from A47 to Turf Fen Bridge was very uneven due to subsidence on the drain side and potentially dangerous.

(b) Streetlights.

The Chairmen read a letter received from the Leader of FDC dated 3 February 2015. FDC confirmed that all Parish Councils have accepted the arrangements regarding Category 1 lights and orders are being placed for their replacement. With regard to Category 2 and 3 lights and concurrent functions grants Cabinet have decided to defer what is a key financial decision until after the elections as it would be more appropriate for the new Councils to make those decisions.

8. FINANCE MATTERS

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

(b) To receive the allotments account statement for 2014/15 showing full rent recovery. **Noted**

(c) Barclays Bank Plc Confirmation of signing arrangements. **Noted**

(d) Internal Audit arrangements. It was proposed that Auditing Solutions Ltd again be appointed internal auditors for 2014/15. **Agreed**

The clerk explained that recovery of costs following road traffic collisions was no longer the responsibility of FDC but rests with the Parish Council. Details are available for FPC5 Murrow Bank so there is a reasonable chance of recovery. Details are not available for FPC3 Sandbank although FDC/Balfour Beatty are checking their records. The procedure will be to repair the lights, pay the invoices and then seek recovery.

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

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

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(g) Clerk January salary £550.36 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(h) Tax and NI £163.20 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(i) Clerk postage consumables and mileage £112.86 LG Act 1972 S134 **Agreed**

(j) Hire of Thorney Toll Village Hall December £40.00 LG Act 1972 S134 **Agreed**

(k) Bowles Tree & Garden Services 21/2 days general maintenance and gravel to public footpath £1530.00 LGMis Prov 1976 S196 **Agreed**

(l) Hire of Guyhirn Village Hall February £42.00 LG Act 1972 S134 **Agreed**

(m) ACRE Membership £54.00 LG Act 1972 S143

Following a discussion regarding the benefits of membership it was considered on balance a worthwhile investment. **Agreed**

Grant application

(n) Murrow Playing Field Association – Grounds maintenance and Insurance £2500. **Agreed**

(o) Guyhirn Playing Field – Proposed Changing Facilities.

The Clerk read a letter dated 29 January 2015 received from Swann Edwards Architecture describing proposals by Guyhirn Playing Field and Guyhirn Football Club Committees requesting approval of the scheme and an indication of the likelihood of receiving a grant.

Cllr Allen supported the application and asked the Council to provide a grant. The Chairman invited Gareth Edwards to speak in support of the project: There was a need to provide good quality facilities. Sport England and Cambridgeshire Football Association were involved. He had also met with FDC to explore the possibility of a Rural Development Grant. In addition in house fund raising activities were planned. The Chairman said that the Parish Council was clearly supportive. This was at an early stage and as the project was developed we would need to be clear how many people this was likely to benefit. He asked how much funding was available. Paul Newton replied that they had some funds but not of the scale required to fund the project. Cllr Allen suggested a pledge of £50k. The Clerk said it was clear that this was a proposal that the Council would wish to support and that the Council would need to take into account current and potential future obligations bearing in mind the cost of street lighting replacements, this made future finances difficult to predict with any certainty. Cllr Britain proposed an amendment to pledge £30k, seconded by Cllr Barnes. The proposal was carried by 6 votes in favour with 3 abstentions. It was noted that as the project was developed and detailed costings became clear the option existed to bid for further funding support if necessary.

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Parish Notice Boards. Cllr. B Britain had received a second quotation of £810 including vat. glazed with perspex. Cllr Barnes proposed the quotation received from K Clarke of £485 each (no vat) plus £62 for glazing plus vat be approved. The motion was seconded by Cllr Fish and passed.

(b) Bus Shelter maintenance. It was agreed that there was a clear need to address the issue. Further discussions will take place when costings are available.

10. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Booth – said the there were concerns regarding development at Back Road, Murrow and complaints re. traffic which was on the agenda for the next meeting of Parson Drove Parish Council. He will supply a copy of the letter.

Although not at the meeting Cllr D Broker had provided an email update:

- i. Cllr Broker confirmed his appreciation of the proposed grant for Bellamy Bridge scheme.
- ii. FDC proposed to take advantage of the governments tax subsidy and to keep Council Tax at its current rate.
- iii. FDC have decide not to relocate to Hereward Hall, but instead to look at ways to fully utilise Fenland Hall.
- iv. He has met with Neil Band, CCC Highways at Back Road, Murrow to get additional speed limit and passing place signs which he agreed to action.

11. POLICE MATTERS

None received.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

(a) The Chairman advised that the Church would have tree surgeons working in the area removing dead wood and carrying out maintenance rather than removing any trees.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING Monday March 16th 2015 Murrow Village Hall.

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 9.05pm

Signed: Cllr. B Payne, Chairman