

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on the 8th May 2017 at 7.00 pm

1. Attended by Councillors: B Britain (Chairman), C Allen, P Davies, J Fish, J Humphrey, J Newland, D Scrimshaw, S Mann, D Wheeler.
Fenland District Councillor (FDC) G Booth.

Geoff Wilkinson, Clerk

Members of the public: 4

The Chairman opened the meeting and introduced the councillors and clerk.

2. Apologies: M Knight MBE(Vice Chairman) due to illness.

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 9 May 2016 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record. Referring to item 6 Councillor Humphrey reported four more accidents at Bellamys Bridge, signs had not been installed and lines faded. He called for further action to encourage Cambridgeshire County Council to take action. The motion was proposed by Cllr. Scrimshaw seconded by Cllr. Davies and agreed unanimously.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman referred to the sad passing of Brian Payne a past Councillor and Chairman who had given many years service to the Parish and achieved much. The Chairman reflected on the past years achievements; planters had been installed, three defibrillators had been provided with two more planned through a grant offer from the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund, progress had been made in the provision of additional bus shelters and it was hoped to complete them this year, a new seat had been provided at Chapel Avenue. The Parishes had been working to secure a new supplier for street lighting provision and maintenance and he looked forward to regular maintenance continuing to improve the appearance of the villages.

5. Street Lighting – The Chairman invited the Clerk to summarise the situation appertaining to street lighting. The Clerk reported maintenance had continued to be a challenge and efforts continued to resolve outstanding issues. Category 1 units had been replaced. Progress had been made with the appointment of Electrical Testing Ltd to provide a full inventory and condition assessment of all units.

6. Highways – The Chairman invited the Clerk to summarise the situation appertaining to highways. The Clerk advised that some improvements had been completed, notable the Gull Road junction, although not as many as the Council would like. Improvements at The Pigeons/Back Road had been commenced. In February a representative of Amey

Design Consultants attended the Parish Council to brief Council on the proposed A47 Guyhirn roundabout improvement scheme.

7. John Bend Charity Accounts.

The Chairman referred to the accounts to year end 31 March 2017 as circulated. The income for the year was £8,435.75 and the dole pay out £5,720. Total expenditure was £6945 giving a total cash balance of £19527.88. Cllr Allen stressed the value of the charity to those with low incomes, funds go to those in greatest need. He referred to the advert in Village Voices and invited more applicants to request assistance. Proposed by Cllr Fish seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed unanimously.

8. Poors Allotment Charity.

The Chairman referred to the accounts to year end 31 March 2017 as circulated. Income £ 16,453.55 expenditure £18,284.41 and the balance carried forward to the next financial year £18,987.10. Cllr Davies (Chairman) explained that expenditure was up due to planning permission costs in order to increase the value of land that could then be sold and in turn enable more land to be purchased as an investment for rent thereby increasing income. Proposed by Cllr Newland seconded by Cllr Allen and agreed unanimously.

9. Francis Hardy Charity.

The Chairman referred to the accounts to year end 5th April 2017 as circulated. Income £ 2,150.54 expenditure £2948.00 giving a total cash balance of £987.07. Accounts were agreed unanimously.

10. Parish Affairs:

Mr Roger Reeder explained that the custodian trustees of Murrow Village Hall were deceased, consequently if sold proceeds would pass to the Charity Commission and lost to the village. He asked the Parish Council to consider becoming the custodian trustees so that proceeds could be used for the benefit of the Parish. The Chairman proposed to add the item to the agenda for the next meeting, all agreed.

There were no further matters arising and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.28pm.