

# **WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on the 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 7.00 pm**

1. Attended by Councillors: B Britain (Chairman), M Knight MBE (Vice Chairman), C Allen, D Broker, P Davies, J Fish, J Humphrey, J Newland, D Scrimshaw. Councillors elect S Mann and D Wheeler.

Fenland District Councillor (FDC) G Booth.

Cambridgeshire County Councillor (CCC) G Gillick.

Geoff Wilkinson, Clerk

Members of the public: 5

2. Apologies: None

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 18 May 2015 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman referred to the Annual Report and to the recent retirement of Councillors Reay and Jennings. He went on to highlight the ongoing issue of street lighting maintenance provided by Fenland District Council. He said how pleasing it was to see all Councillors present and members of the public. He thanked FDC Cllr G Booth for his help during the year and all Councillors for their support.

5. Street Lighting – The Chairman invited the Clerk to summarise the situation appertaining to street lighting. The Clerk reported that in the past FDC had provided a maintenance and replacement service. FDC has changed the service and we are awaiting FDC to clarify what the new service will be.

Mrs Woollard reported that a faulty light had been reported via 0800 7838 247 but that the operative who had attended said that she needed to report it to FDC. The Clerk confirmed that she has reported it to the correct contact number.

6. Highways – The Chairman invited the Clerk to summarise the situation appertaining to highways. The Clerk advised that CCC had ungraded the highways defect reporting system including an upgraded mapping facility that should be more user friendly. Cllr Knight said that he had viewed the system and it was an improvement.

The Chairman added that he was pleased to hear that CCC had plans to increase spending the Parish and invited Cllr Gillick to comment. Cllr Gillick reported that as part of the negotiations to agree a precept it had been agreed that CCC would allocate increased funding to the

Fenland District area as it was desperately needed and hoped that this would bring additional highway repair works.

Mrs Barnes reported that Seadyke was in a very poor condition.

Cllr Humphrey again questioned progress at Bellamys Bridge. The Clerk confirmed that his comments made previously had been passed on to CCC but that no further response had been received. The Clerk was asked to press for a response.

#### 7. John Bend Charity Accounts.

The Chairman advised the meeting that accounts had been received to year end 5 April 2016. The income for the year was £26,633 and the dole pay out £5,920. Total cash balance carried forward was £18,037. Proposed by Cllr Fish seconded by Cllr Davies and agreed unanimously.

#### 8. Poors Allotment Charity.

The Poors Allotment Charity Account was presented to year ending 31 March 2016. Income £ 16,434 expenditure £21,369 and the balance carried forward to the next financial year £20,818. In response to a question from Cllr Broker regarding the increase in expenditure Cllr Davies explained that two series of grants had been allocated during the year. Proposed by Cllr Broker seconded by Cllr Scrimshaw and agreed unanimously.

#### 9. Parish Affairs:

Mrs Woollard complained that not all Agendas were posted in the Murrow notice board and volunteered to keep it up to date. It was agreed that articles for the notice board would be sent to Mrs Woollard in future and was thanked for the kind offer.

There were no further matters arising and the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20pm.

Signed 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017

B. Britain, Chairman