

MINUTES OF WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
held on Monday, 2nd December 2013 at Thorney Toll Village Hall

PRESENT

| | | | | | | |
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| B Payne Chairman | C Allen | P Barnes | B Britain | D Broker | P Davies | J Fish |
| | T Fowler | T Jennings | B Reay | | | |
| Parishioners | T Coleman | B Sandall | | | | |

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted G Booth.

OPEN FORUM - Members of the public are invited to address the Council.

Mr Brian Sandall presented the Parish Council with a copy of the petition signed by 244 parishioners requesting that the X1 bus service between Peterborough and Lowestoft and vice versa be re-routed through the villages of Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary (B1441) with one stop in the villages for picking up and alighting passengers. Mr Sandall stated that he will continue with this initiative and forward the petition to the bus company.

163. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 4th November 2013.

The minutes of the 4th November 2013 were signed as a true record.

164. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

There were no matters arising.

165. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on the agenda.

Mr B Britain declared a prejudicial interest on item 167b and left the meeting at the appropriate time.

Mr D Broker declared a prejudicial interest on item 167 a and 167e and left the meeting at the appropriate time.

Mr B Payne declared a personal interest on item 171 (1).

Mr P Davies declared a personal interest on items 170 m and 171(1).

166. POLICE MATTERS

- (a) Report regarding crimes or incidents in the parish a copy of which was distributed to Councillors prior to the meeting. This report contained details of 4 crimes and 6 incidents. Included in the crimes were 2 burglaries, theft from a shop and theft of domestic heating oil and the incidents were 3 poaching, 2 suspicious circumstance and a rowdy nuisance.

167 TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

List of planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.

List of planning applications for discussion.

- (a) F/YR13/0809/F erection of 2 x 2 storey 3 bed dwellings and formation of vehicular access and retaining wall with 1.2 m post and rail fence above, involving demolition of existing dwelling Briar Croft, High Road, Guyhirn, Wisbech. Applicant Mr and Mrs R W Fowler. Agent Mr David Broker. **Over development of plot, exit from this plot on a dangerous bend and development is not in keeping with the village scene. A vote was taken and a proposal not to support the application was carried by 6 votes with 3 abstentions.**
- (b) F/YR13/0801/F part change of use of existing agricultural building to storage (B8 (retrospective) Fort Farm, Gull Drove, Guyhirn. Applicant Mr B Britain. Agent Mr John Maxey. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (c) F/YR13/0816/F erection of a single storey stables, hay barn and storage sheds/garages block (retrospective) The Laurels, Long Drove, Murrow. Applicant Mr S Lawrence. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (d) F/YR13/0839/F erection of 2 x 2 storey 3 bed dwellings involving the formation of a shared vehicular access land east of 56 Back Road, Murrow. Applicant Mr K Vaughan. Agent Mr Ken Elener. **Over development of plot, site and road too narrow to continue to take increased development. A vote was taken and proposal not to support the application was carried by 7 votes with 2 abstentions.**
- (e) F/YR13/0856/F change of use of land and siting of portacabin for office use in association with existing business (retrospective) Guyhirn Tyres Oak Tree Farm, Thorney Road, Guyhirn. Applicant Mr B M Dickson. Agent Mr David Broker. **We support this development and recommend approval.**

168. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

- (a) Bulletin War memorials Trust Number 59 November 2013. **Noted.**
- (b) Clerks Magazine November 2013. **Noted.**
- (c) Thank you letter for the rent from Guyhirn Village Hall. Rent to be increased to £14.00 per hour. **Noted.**
- (d) Thank you from Murrow Art Group for the Grant of £500.00. **Noted.**
- (e) War memorial Trust. Does anyone care about your local war memorial? **Noted.**
- (f) Clerks and Councils Direct November 2013. **Noted.**
- (g) Complaint regarding the lack of facilities for the teenagers of Murrow. **Noted. Advise parishioner of the Murrow Playing Field Committee and the Murrow and Parson Drove Youth Club.**

169. **HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS**

- (a) Local farmer requesting help reporting to the Environment Agency sewerage draining into dyke from bungalows Front Road, Murrow adjacent to his land. **Problem with drainage and rubbish in drain. It was agreed that the clerk contact the North Level Drainage Board and the Environment Agency.**
- (b) Local Highway Improvement Initiative 2014/15. Decision regarding application ideas from Councillors. **It was agreed to complete an application for a new footpath from Selwyn Corner to the 30 mph sign towards Wisbech St Mary.**
- (c) Trees in Tholomas Drove, Wisbech St Mary, which have become dangerous. **We understand that the CCC Tree officer will be meeting with District Councillor Booth within the next two weeks, but this has been said in the past and no progress has been made. After a discussion it was agreed that the clerk writes to CCC and the landowner concerned and request they meet to try to move this forward. These trees are diseased and all 8 may need felling. . The clerk is to request that we receive a reply by our January meeting on the 6th January 2014.**
- (d) Footpath to be constructed in Bunkers Hill, Wisbech St Mary. **After the construction of this 40 metre footpath there will still be some way to reach another footpath and therefore, pedestrians will have to walk on the road as the grass verge is overgrown and this is a dangerous stretch of road. The Parish Council continue to receive correspondence asking if we still wish to go ahead. After a discussion it was agreed that Mr D Broker take up this problem with M Pickering. It was suggested that instead of this footpath having a curb, which is what is costing the money, there should be an informal footpath to cover the whole of the distance.**

Highways reports from Councillors on problems

- 1. Reflector lights across the whole area dirty and many facing the wrong way or are nonexistent as they have been mowed down by the grass cutters.
- 2. Numerous pot holes in Murrow Bank.
- 3. In Murrow Bank the side of the road has 9/10 inches deep ruts, which have been caused by lorries going off the road as it is not wide enough for two lorries to pass.
- 4. Murrow Bank to Station Road has dips in the road.
- 5. Seadyke, Murrow undulating road surface.
- 6. Footpath Front Road, Murrow near Arthur Gee was smashed up on the 30th November 2013 by Thory's lorries.
- 7. Road name sign Station Road has been flattened.
- 8. Lorries have been trying to make part of Station Road, Wisbech St Mary into a dual carriageway there is a 6/8 inch drop each side of the road for 100 yards.
- 9. Numerous pot holes in High Road, Guyhirn./
- 10. Firtree Lodge, High Road, Guyhirn new footpath required.
- 11. Traffic from Gull Road onto the A47 cars still turning right and not left. A curb is need to stop this happening and perhaps a dummy camera to deter this happening.
- 12. Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn footpath needed towards Wisbech St Mary as far as the 30 mph sign. (See 169b above)
- 13. Gull Drove, Guyhirn turn towards Murrow cannot see as Guyhirn sign stops vision from the right.

Highways reports from Councillors on streetlights

- (a) Fenland District Council quotation on replacement streetlights Murrow Bank, Murrow £1116.64
- (b) Fenland District Council quotation on replacement streetlights Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary £1410.26.
Clerk had written requesting the reason for the replacement of these streetlights, but had not received a reply. Mr Broker agreed to contact Fenland District Council to find out this information.

170 **FINANCE**

- (a) To receive a budgetary control report for the 2013/14 year to date. **The balance recorded was £146793.72. Two Councillors inspected the Bank reconciliation and signed the Bank statement as evidence.**
- (b) FDC recycling credit £7.63. **Noted.**
- (c) Completion of the Precept form Council Tax Support grant £6748.00. **Noted. Agreed that the clerk complete the Precept form deducting the amount of the Council Tax Support grant from the Precept agreed at the last meeting of £43732 the same level since 2008/2009. This will make the Precept £36984.**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

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| (d) Clerk December salary | £600.00 LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (e) Tax & NI | £150.00 LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (f) Bowles Tree & Garden Property Maintenance | £1160.00 LGAct 1972 S134 Agreed. |
| (g) Clerks & Councils Direct 3 x £12 | £36.00 LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (h) SLCC membership | £129.00 LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (i) SLCC book purchase | £113.50 LGAct 1972 S112 Agreed. |
| (j) Murrow Village Hall hire of hall | £24.00 LGAct 1972 S134 Agreed. |

To approve payment of grants

- (k) Guyhirn Football Club for goalposts £to be agreed LGAct1972 S137 **Requested the clerk to write asking for more information regarding the cost of the goalposts in order that the Council can make an informed decision.**
- (l) Southea with Murrow PCC £500.00 LGAct 1972 S137**Agreed.**
- (m) Guyhirn Playing Field £2500.00 LG Mis Prov 1976 S196 **Agreed.**

171. **PARISH PROPERTY MAINTENANCE AND RISK ASSESSMENT MATTERS**

Parish Property Maintenance and Risk Assessment reports from Councillors

1. Fence to be erected at the Chapel of Ease to allow access to the Play area at Guyhirn. **The meeting was advised that the fence will be constructed in the new year.**
2. Guyhirn War Memorial: proposal to move it to the entrance of Parish Council land in High Road. Planning Permission to be applied for. **Mr D Broker presented a plan to enable the Parish Council to obtain Planning Permission. It was agreed that we do not go ahead with planning permission until an article has been in the Village Voices stating the reason this memorial cannot be placed in the grounds of the Chapel of Ease. Parishioners will be given an option as to what they would wish to happen either to be moved onto Parish Council land in High Road, Guyhirn or to remain in its present position in the grounds of Guyhirn Church. If the latter was to happen to area around the memorial would be landscaped.**
3. Guyhirn Pond. **A quotation was presented for £200.00 for additional work to the bank around the Pond. After a discussion this was agreed.**

172. **INVITATION TO HOST GOLDEN AGE SURGERY IN THE NEW YEAR**

Discussion in respect of hosting a Golden Age Surgery in the New Year.

The Chairman stated that he had been contacted to see if we would host a Golden Age Day in the New Year. We did host a day in Wisbech St Mary sometime ago. After a discussion it was agreed to host a day in Murrow sometime in February and it was agreed that we pay for the hire of the hall. (Post meeting note: Murrow Village hall booked for Tuesday, 18th February 2014 9.00 am to 2.00 pm.)

173. **VACANCY ON THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Letter from M Clarke resigning from the Parish Council. **The clerk was requested to write a letter of thanks to Mr Clark.**

Notice of vacancy dated the 19.11.13. If by the 09.12.13 a request for an election to fill the said vacancy is not received then the vacancy will be filled by co-option. **The clerk stated to date she had not received any applications for this vacancy, but was not aware of any requests that FDC may have received.**

174. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)**

1. The Chairman stated that he had received details from a Rebecca Jackson regarding engaging the elderly in a scheme called Ping Pong Care campaign in the Community encouraging the elderly to take part in active aging. **This was noted.**
2. Mr Fish advised the meeting that he had been contacted by Hetty Thornton of FDC regarding the presentation of a plaque for Thorney Toll Village on Wednesday, 27th November 2013 between 9.30 and 10.00. This plaque would state that they helped fund the alterations. Several parishioners turned up, but no one from FDC turned up. FDC were contacted to try and find out why they had not turned up and was advised that they had been contacted a week earlier that this meeting would not take place. It was agreed that Mr David Broker would look into this. A discussion took place and it was agreed that the clerk place on the agenda for the next meeting an item for the Parish Council to consider purchasing a plaque stating that the Parish Council helped to fund the alterations.
3. Following the earlier presentation in Public Forum, the clerk was requested to contact First Group and send a copy of the petition. The clerk was also requested to write to Brian Sandal and thank him for the presentation of the petition and that the Parish Council were pleased to support his efforts in trying to get the X1 re-routed through Guyhirn and Wisbech St Mary.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15. The Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas.

175. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 6th January 2014 – Wisbech St Mary Community Centre**

176. **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2013/2014**

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| Monday, 10 th February 2014 | - | Guyhirn Village Hall |
| Monday, 10 th March 2014 | - | Murrow Village Hall |
| Monday, 14 th April 2014 | - | Thorney Toll Village Hall |
| Monday, 19 th May 2014 | - | Guyhirn Village Hall – Annual Assembly & AGM |
| Monday, 16 th June 2014 | - | Wisbech St Mary Community Centre |
| Monday, 14 th July 2014 | - | Murrow Village Hall |
| Monday, 11 th August 2014 | - | Thorney Toll Village Hall |

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| Monday, 15 th September 2014 | - | Guyhirn Village Hall |
| Monday, 13 th October 2014 | - | Wisbech St Mary Community Centre |
| Monday, 10 th November 2014 | - | Murrow Village Hall |
| Monday, 8 th December 2014 | - | Thorney Toll Village Hall |
| Monday, 5 th January 2015 | - | Wisbech St Mary Community Centre |