

**MINUTES OF WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre**

**PRESENT**

B Payne Chairman	C Allen	P Barnes	B Britain	D Broker	M Clarke	J Fish
	T Fowler	T Jennings	B Reay			

G Booth (District Councillor)

The Chairman welcomed Mr D Broker to the meeting as the newly elected Councillor.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were agreed and accepted from P Davies.

**OPEN FORUM** – There were no member of the public wishing to address the Council.

**48. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013**

The minutes of the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 were signed as a true record.

**49. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)**

There were no matters arising.

**50. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on the agenda.**

Mr D Broker declared a prejudicial interest on item 52 b and c and left the room at the appropriate time.

Mr D Broker declared a personal interest on item 55m.

**51. POLICE MATTERS**

- (a) A Report regarding crimes or incidents in the parish was received outlining six crimes and nine incidents including theft of diesel, theft of motor vehicles, burglary, rowdy nuisance and criminal damage.  
Speed watch – Church Road, Wisbech St Mary 51 vehicles checked 2 vehicles exceeding the speed limit, Murrow Bank, Murrow 40 vehicles checked 1 speeding and High Road, Guyhirn 54 vehicles checked 16 speeding.
- (b) Reply from Police regarding Murrow Primary School double parking. They will visit as often as is possible.  
**Noted.**
- (c) Chief Inspector Mike Winters Area Commander for Fenland Police wrote to the Parish Council updating them on the successes of his policing team over the last year. There had been 1100 fewer crimes within Fenland last year which equated to around a 19% reduction and their detection rate was over 35% higher than other areas in the country. This was despite the reduction in police budgets. The recognition by people that there is a limit to what the policy can do has led to support from volunteers as special constables who regularly patrol the streets of Fenland and take ownership of local problems.

At this point of the meeting the Chairman stated that there had been no mention in the Police report about the incident on the 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013 in Beechings Close when several reports had been made by residents of rowdy behaviour after a 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday party in the Community Centre. Seven police had attended and had stayed until the majority of those attending had left the hall, but the problem had come from a small group. The centre does not allow these functions to take place without the assurance that there will be adequate adult supervision.

**52. TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

- 1. F/YR13/0048/F erection of 3 x 2 storey 4 bed dwellings with detached car port (plot1), attached car ports (Plots 2 and 3) at land East of Two Ways, High Road, Bunkers Hill. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN. **Noted.**
  - 2. CCC Planning advising that as from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2013 they will be introducing Electronic Consultation. **Noted.**
- List of planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council.**

**List of planning applications for discussion.**

- (a) F/YR13/0143/RM erection of a 2 storey, 3 bed dwelling and construction of retaining walls to existing drain Sweet Brier, Back Road, Murrow. Applicant Mr G Arnold. Agent Mr S Hall. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (b) F/YR13/0150/F erection of a single storey extension to rear of existing dwelling Riverbank Lodge, Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn. Applicant Mr N Askew. Agent Mr David Broker. **We support this development and recommend approval.**
- (c) F/YR13/0168/F erection of a detached double garage to existing dwelling Woodlands, Sandbank, Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr and Mrs A Woods. Agent Mr David Broker. **We support this development and recommend approval.**

**53. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

- (a) Clerk magazine March 2013. **Noted.**
- (b) NALC advising of the retirement of John Findlay from his position of Chief Executive. **Noted.**
- (c) Oliver Twist, Guyhirn concerning neighbours dogs. **The chairman had received letters from two residents living adjacent to Briar Croft, Guyhirn voicing concerns at the barking dogs. It was agreed**

**that the clerk writes to the FDC Environment Health asking for support for these residents.**

- (d) Invitation from the Mayor of Wisbech to attend Mayor's Walk on the 14.05.13. **Noted.**
- (e) FDC advising that they are ceasing the Community grants Scheme. **Noted.**
- (f) Notification of public exhibition of the French Farm Wind Turbine Project at Thorney on Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April 3.00 pm to 8.30 pm.

#### 54 HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING MATTERS

- (a) CCC Highways advising of changes to the Gull Road junction onto the A47 no right turn. **Noted.**
- (b) Reply regarding the de-illuminations of streetlights across the County. **Noted. It was agreed that the clerk writes requesting which light in Church Road, Wisbech St Mary will be de-illuminated.**
- (c) Weekly routine inspections of the A47 by the Highways Agency. **Noted. The meeting disagreed that there was no potholes which were classed as an emergency. It was agreed that the clerk writes advising highways that there was a very large pot hole 100 yards from Ken Thomas Limited yard. It was agreed that the clerk advise this Agency of the fatal accident on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March and another on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March when two motorist were seriously hurt at Thorney Toll. On the Friday the road was closed from 4.30 to 9.30 pm and on the Saturday for 2 ½ hours.**
- (d) CCC Highways advising of the Swan Bridge Crossroad, Parson Drove. **Noted. This work has now been undertaken and it appears to have had the opposite affect than was hoped as the road surface has been improved instead of slowing down the traffic it has increased it.**
- (e) Reply from CCC Highways on issues passed to them. **Noted. The tree in Guyhirn School grounds obscuring the streetlight has not been cut back and CCC Highways suggested that we report this online to the CCC stret lighting contractor Balfour Beatty.**
- (f) R Marshall CCC Highways order another bin to be delivered to T Fowler for storage until next winter. **The meeting thanked Mr Fowler for agreeing to store this bin.**
- (g) Highways Agency advising that they grass cut on roundabouts twice a year usually around June and September. **Noted.**
- (h) Pavement outside Guyhirn Village Hall. **A letter had been received from members of the new committee for the Village Hall requesting that the pavement outside the hall be looked at as when it rained it became water logged and did not give a very good imagine to those looking to rent the hall.**

#### Highways reports from Councillors on problems

1. Hooks Drove road has collapsed by the council houses towards ABS's second house on the left.
2. Large pot hole in Gull Road, Guyhirn near the junction of Cants Drove, Guyhirn.
3. Pidgeons Corner , Murrow road signs have been removed together with those near the Bridge at the Pidgeons.
4. Numerous cars parked on the sign of the road at Pidgeons Corner, Murrow. This is very dangerous. There was a similar occurrence at 87/101Rookery Homes, Main Road, Parson Drove and Roddons have made the front gardens into an area for car parking. We have suggested this on numerous occasions.
5. On the corner of Mill Road, Murrow parking by contractors. This is causing grave concerns by the residents as it is very dangerous. Materials such as sand and being delivered and left in the middle of the road. The pavement has also been broken by the lorries of the builders and builders merchants.
6. We have reported on numerous occasions the dangerous condition of the trees in Tholomas Drove near The Chequers. Numerous branches have broken off and to date no one has been seriously injured, but it is only a matter of time. As this is being reported again there is a branch hanging precariously.
7. Silk Pit land, Tholomas Drove Road breaking up and it is almost impossible to use it.
8. Pavement near Firtree Lodge, Murrow has broken up and needs resurfacing.
9. A47 south side of the roundabout a large pot hole.
10. Junction of Gull Drove with Gull Road very large laburnum tree and briars across the road obscuring the junction.
11. Mouth Road dangerous to drive down.
12. Grass verges need cutting especially between Bunkers Hill to Wisbech St Mary as there are no pavements.
13. Long Drove, Parson Drove near Turf Fen bridge contractors were filling the gully made of soil with tarmac, which is a complete waste of time and materials as they are not going to last any length of time.
14. Access to Mayfair Gardens, Wisbech St Mary a curb is 9 inches high, much higher than adjacent curbs.

It was also reported that there has been a great deal of rubbish left at the side of the road in Barton Road leading to Wisbech. Mr Booth agreed to report this to the Rapid Response team. It is understood that they are very busy at the moment and are taking longer to respond to the volume of calls.

#### Highways reports from Councillors on streetlights

1. Station Road, Murrow streetlight. **This light has now been installed and working.**

2. High Road, Guyhirn. **We are waiting for this light to be installed.**
3. Mill Road, Murrow. **No one was quite sure of the location of this light as this was being organised by Mr Scrimshaw.**

55. **FINANCE**

- (a) To receive a budgetary control report for the 2012/13. **The balance recorded was £138871.27**
- (b) To receive a budgetary control report for the 2013/14 year to date. **The balance recorded was £138871.27.**
- (c) FDC Advising that Precept and Council Tax Support Grant Payments for 2013/14 will be received in two half yearly instalments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April and 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013. **Noted.**
- (d) FDC recycling credit £2.23. **Noted.**
- (e) Corporate Governance Questionnaire for signature by the Chairman. **It was agreed that the Chairman sign the Corporate Governance Questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.**
- (f) Approval of the 2012/13 Accounts as they stand prior to the Internal Audit. **It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk as Responsible Financial Officer sign the 2012/13 Accounts.**

**To approve payment of outstanding accounts:**

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|---------------------------------|--|
| (g) Clerk April salary          | £600.00 LG Act 1972 S112 <b>Agreed.</b>                  |
| (h) Tax & NI                    | £150.00 LG Act 1972 S112 <b>Agreed.</b>                  |
| (i) Murrow Village Hall         | £24.00 LG Act 1972 S134 <b>Agreed.</b>                   |
| (j) CCC Grit Bin Tholomas Drove | £114.00 LG (Mis Prov) 1953 S4 <b>Agreed.</b>             |
| (k) North Level Drainage Rates  | £11.43 LG (Financial Provisions Act 1963) <b>Agreed.</b> |
| (l) CAPALC subscription         | £726.41 LG Act 1972 S143 <b>Agreed.</b>                  |

**To approve payment of grants**

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| (m) Wisbech St Mary Sports & Community         | £2500.00 LG Mis Prov 1976 S196   |
| (n) Guyhirn Village Hall repaint front of hall | £to be agreed LG Mis Prov 1976 S196 <b>It was agreed that the clerk contact the Committee for a breakdown of the costs involved.</b> |
| (o) Thorney Toll Village Hall                  | £12500.00 LG Mis Prov 1976 S196  |

56. **DISCUSSION REGARDING EXCESS FUNDS AND HOW THEY COULD BE SPENT IN THE PARISH.**

List of items from the meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2012.

1. New changing rooms on the Guyhirn Playing Field for the football club.
2. New Village hall on the Playing Field at Guyhirn.
3. Subsidence to the Thorney Toll Village Hall and funds required to have this repaired, together with refurbishment of the toilet block. **Agreed to match fund to a maximum of £12,500. Payment made to the Village Hall in order that they could commence the work.**
4. New Village hall for Murrow.
5. New Village hall between Murrow and Guyhirn to be shared by both communities.
6. Grants given to each of the three schools for educational supplies.
7. Refurbishment of Murrow Village Hall.

57. **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 there had been no objections and it was therefore a matter of time before this work could be undertaken.**
2. Guyhirn Bus Shelters at Selwyn Corner. **Mr Fowler stated that he had spoken to the builder who at the moment had other work, but would undertake the building of the bus shelter as soon as possible.**
3. Wisbech St Mary Village sign. **The Chairman agreed to look into this.**
4. Guyhirn War Memorial: proposal to move it to the entrance of Parish Council land in High Road. **The Chairman stated that the Ely Diocese would have to make sure that there were no objections from residents before we would be able to move this forward.**
5. Approval to employ a self employed maintenance person. **The meeting was advised that Mr Payne and Mr Fowler had met as agreed by the Parish Council at their meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> March to look at the three written quotations received. The three quotations were for £2740 per annum, £1800 per annum and £1542 per annum. The recommendation to the meeting was accept the £1542 quotation given by Mr T Blackamore. This recommendation was proposed by Mr Barnes and seconded by Mr T Jennings. An amendment was proposed by Mr Fish and seconded by Mr M Clarke that we accept the quotation of £1800.00 per annum. A further counter proposal was made by Mr C Allen that we accept the quotation of £2740 per annum given by Mr Rowell and as there was no one to second this proposal it failed. The meeting voted on the amendment, which was carried by 4 votes for and 1 against with 5 abstentions. It was therefore agreed to accept the quotation from Mr S Bowles at £1800 per annum. This would be a twelve month contract with invoices being paid once a quarter. At this point the meeting thanked Mr Payne and Mr Fowler for all their hard work.**

58. **EXCEPTION SITES FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING.**

Discussion on sites for affordable housing.

(a) Gull Road, Guyhirn

(b) Station Avenue, Murrow

**At the Parish Council meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> February it had been agreed to go ahead with both these sites. It is understood that Karen Freya the Fenland District Council Housing Enabler had been advised of this decision and was in the process of looking at both these sites. Once a decision has been made documents and plans would be presented to the Parish Council for their consideration.**

59. **ALLOTMENTS**

1. Bowser Ollard and Bentley reiterating that the Executors of Robert Scimshaw deceased are happy to surrender the land as from the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013. **Noted.**

2. Maxey Grounds and Co requesting Confirmation of Agency Instructions letter to be signed. **The Clerk advised the meeting that this had been signed prior to the meeting as this land needed to be rented as soon as possible in view of the time of year.**

60. **REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

A copy of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were distributed at the meeting.

**It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Standings Orders and Financial Regulations without alteration.**

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

The meeting was advised that the John Peck Society were holding their Annual General Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at 7.30 pm at Parson Drove Village Hall and all were welcome. The speaker will be Tony Homden "Entertaining Tales of a Locksmith".

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

62. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2013 – Thorney Toll Village Hall - Annual Assembly 7.00 pm**

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

Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> June 2013	–	Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2013	–	Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 12 <sup>th</sup> August 2013	–	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2013	–	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> October 2013	–	Guyhirn Village Hall
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2013	–	Murrow Village Hall
Monday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2013	–	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2014	–	Wisbech St Mary Community Centre