

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 11 February 2019 at The Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn.

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

Members of the public 9

Cambridgeshire County Councillor (CCC): Cllrs Mrs French and S King

Fenland District Council (FDC): Cllr G Booth.

OPEN FORUM D Cutler reported plans to install sleeper style planters on grassland between Front Road and Back Road Murrow funded by fund raising.

Mr Boyce reported that the new street light at High Road, Wisbech St Mary was working. Mr Boyce asked for action to resolve the drainage problem outside the shop and bus shelter High Road Wisbech St Mary – surface water floods across the footway. A gully installed by CCC and connected to an existing gully has not solved the problem.

H Wilson, Wisbech St Mary Pre-School, reported the Peeping Pebbles initiative to promote literacy within the village. The pebbles will be painted by children and have positive messages on them in support of the emphasis on mental illness and wellbeing.

Mrs R Drinkwater reported a complaint to CCC regarding the condition of Cants Drove, Cllr King had received an estimate from officers of £200k.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllrs D Wheeler (Vice-Chairman), A Patrick, FDC Cllr S Bligh.

2. GREG JARVIS, ELECTRICAL TESTING LTD (ETL)

The Chairman welcomed Greg Jarvis and invited him to comment on street lighting.

Greg introduced himself and explained the work ETL does. ETL had been engaged by FDC and several other Parish Councils to replace their lighting stock with LED units. Wisbech St Mary Parish Council had engaged ETL to complete a structural and electrical test, seventeen units had been identified as red (meaning failures) and had been replaced. Other parish councils had elected to replace all their lights. He explained that as the units were old many items would be obsolete and maintenance costs were likely to be high, consequently replacement may offer better value for money. Greg referred to his estimate of £17k, requested at a meeting with the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Clerk, to replace lights on the main road through Wisbech St Mary, Bunkers Hill, Tholomas Drove, Guyhirn and Murrow. Cllr Knight asked for clarification regarding the six-week target for maintenance repairs – Greg explained that ETL had been clear from the beginning that they were not a maintenance company, their costs to attend to one defect in the Parish would simply be prohibitive. On potential option early on was for all Parishes to combine their defects so there was a reasonable number to attend to in a day – but this had not materialized. Cllr Allen asked if the two new lights required at Guyhirn would be provided. Greg replied that they could be delivered at the same time as replacements if ordered.

The Clerk explained that the ETL estimate and other options would be discussed at item 8.

The Chairman thanked Greg for attending.

3. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 14th January 2019

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

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

(a) School Keep Clear markings – The Clerk reported that CCC had replied that they would check the road markings to see if there were single or double yellow lines. Cllr Mrs French added that she believed it may be the signs that are at fault and had asked for markings and signs to be checked.

5. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda **Nil**

6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council (FDC).

July Meeting

(e) Re-Consultation F/YR17/1217/F Erection of 76 dwellings: comprising 29 x 2-storey 4-bed, 6 x 3-storey 4-bed, 29 x 2-storey 3-bed and 2 x blocks of flats (4 x 1-bed and 8 x 2-bed) with associated garages, parking, play area and landscaping involving the formation of a new access road. Land North Of Orchard House High Road Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr S Mitchell Queensbridge Homes Ltd. Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd. **Pending Decision.** Draft Decision Notice is on the FDC website dated 5 February 2019 **Granted**

November Meeting

(e) F/YR18/0963/F Change of use of land for domestic purposes. Land East Of Leyland Halt Station Road Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr & Mrs S Chaplin. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Pending Consideration**

(f) F/YR18/0966/F Formation of a digestate lagoon with a 4.5m high surrounding earth bund and a 1.2m high chain-link fence (retrospective). Anaerobic Digestion Plant Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow. Applicant Biocow Ltd. Agent ADAS. **Granted**

December Meeting

(b) F/YR18/1041/F Erection of an agricultural building including lighting, fence and flagpole (retrospective). Land South of Oaklands Willock Lane Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr & Mrs M Goat. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Granted**

(c) F/YR18/1054/F Erection of a 2-storey rear extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of existing rear 2-storey. The Willows Hooks Drove Murrow. Applicant Mr P Goodfellow. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Granted**

January Meeting

(a) F/YR18/1089/F Erection of a 2-storey side extension with balcony to existing dwelling involving demolition of garage/utility. The Bungalow Bevis Lane Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr & Mrs Wheeler. Agent Holt Architectural. **Granted**

(c) F/YR18/1096/F Erection of a single-storey detached annex ancillary to existing dwelling. Fairfields Gull Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr J Atkins. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Granted**

(d) F/YR18/1138/F Removal of existing window to be replaced by door in existing dwelling. The Old Post Office High Road Guyhirn Wisbech.

Applicant Mrs G Sloan. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Granted**

(e) F/2013/18/CW Construction of approximately 1 Kilometre of high-pressure gas pipeline to connect an existing anaerobic digestion plant to the national gas transmission system with a block valve connection, a proposed gas convertor compound, gas flare and associated equipment. The retention of 24 metre diameter, 6 metre high anaerobic digestion tanks (22 metre diameter tanks previously approved by planning permission F/2015/11/CW) and the erection of two 24 metre, 6 metre high anaerobic digestion tanks, feeder plant and a pre-pit (10metres by 5 metres). Somerset Farm, Anaerobic Digestion Plant, Cants Drove, Murrow. **Recommend Refusal – Infrastructure must be upgraded to cope with additional HCV movements in both directions to and from the site. CCC response – comments on file and highways made aware.**

(f) F/YR18/1087/VOC Revised Proposals Variation of condition 13 to enable amendment to approved plans of planning permission F/YR13/0268/F (Erection of 9no 2-storey dwellings comprising of 4 x 3-bed and 5 x 4-bed with detached garages to Plots 5-9) for Plot 8 only to change design of dwelling and access point. Land North West Of Green Acres Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr & Mrs Clare. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Granted**

(g) F/YR19/0002/O Erection of up to 3no dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved). Land North West Of Long Acre Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr & Mrs Jarlett. Agent Maxey Grounds & Co. **Pending Consideration**

(h) F/YR19/0003/F Change of use of from residential/dog grooming parlour to residential/beautician parlour – retrospective. Coxton House 16 Front Road Murrow. Applicant Mrs Morton. Agent Alexandra Design. **Pending Consideration**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR19/0038/O Erection of up to 3no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access). Land South Of Trafford House Station Road Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr & Mrs Desborough. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited.

The proposed access onto Barton Road is considered potentially dangerous due to alignment, close proximity of junctions, speed of vehicles using the main road. Access onto Station Road via Trafford Farm is considered safer. Recommend Approval subject to access off Station Road.

(b) F/YR18/1095/O Erection of up to 3 no dwellings involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings (outline application with all matters reserved). The Laurels High Road Bunkers Hill. Applicant Mr & Mrs Smith. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Limited. **Approved. Noted**

(c) F/YR19/0055/F Erection of a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling. Land South West Of Rose Lodge Selwyn Corner Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr J Patten. Agent David Broker Design Services. **Recommend Approval**

(d) F/YR19/0062/F Erection of a detached workshop to existing dwelling. 1 Snowdrop Cottages Mill Road Murrow. Applicant Mr M Mobius. Agent Nil. **Recommend Approval**

(e) F/YR19/0063/F Installation of 716 solar panels mounted on 7 No. 2.7m high (max) ground mounted panels. Volmary Limited Station Road Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Volmary Ltd. Agent Geo Green Power Ltd. **Recommend Approval**

3. Register for automatic notifications. The Clerk reminded councillors of the offer by Nick Harding to register with the Planning Services website to receive automatic notifications. **Noted**

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED Nil

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting – FDC letter 11 January 2019

The Clerk referred to the FDC letter which explains the procedure for drawing down the FDC residual element of Cat1 funding to be used to contribute to Cat2 replacements. The contribution may be drawn down providing the Parish Council can provide written evidence that at least the value of the Cat 2 contribution sum has been expended on the replacement of Cat 2 street lighting within the Parish. Furthermore the Parish must confirm that Cat 2 street lighting defects have been addressed and that the Parish Council has made the necessary arrangements to ensure its street lighting assets are suitably tested and maintained to avoid any safety concerns. For the avoidance of doubt as asset owners the Parish Councils that have opted out are now fully liable for the street lighting assets. The Clerk referred to discussions with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman regarding an option to increase spending on street lighting. Given the need to replace units with new and a predicted outturn figure 2019/20 of £67k (well above the precept figure) an option is to allocate up to £30k to street lighting replacements. Councillors discussed the options and took into account defective units and the cost of repairing them in advance of replacing them with new LED units. A limited number of requests for additional streetlights was also considered. It was proposed by Cllr Davies seconded by Cllr Mann that that an additional £30k be allocated to replacing street lighting units with new LED units and a limited number of additional street lights be installed. **Agreed unanimously.**

Where outreach brackets had been removed from BT poles the Clerk was asked to request BT to pay for replacements.

(b) Street Lighting – removal of vegetation from lighting units

Regarding vegetation overgrowing street lights it was agreed that this should be cut back.

9. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To receive the Budgetary Control Report (BCR) for 2018/19 to date

The Clerk circulated the BCR and drew attention to £3,990 received from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation for the Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign at Guyhirn and to allotment rent received. The Bank Reconciliation balanced.

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(b) Clerk January salary	£669.08 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(c) Tax and NI	£212.77 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(d) Bowles Tree & Garden Services – maintenance	£330.00 LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196 Agreed
(e) Cambs ACRE membership	£57.00 LG Act 1972 S143 Agreed

Grant application Nil

10. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance Contract 2019/20 – Quotations

The Clerk referred to quotations received from K Clarke and Bowles Tree & Garden Services. It was proposed by Cllr Mann seconded by Cllr Allen to accept the lowest quotations in the total sum of £8,780. **Agreed unanimously**

(b) Defibrillators

The Clerk confirmed that a bid for a defibrillator at Tholomas Drove had been submitted to the

Cambridgeshire Community Foundation Wryde Croft Wind Farm Grant and had been acknowledged.

(c) Planters – maintenance regime

Following discussion as to the degree of maintenance required at each planter it was agreed to provide the same level at each. Any additional work required could be undertaken by the volunteers. It was noted that Thorney Toll Village Hall Committee maintain their own.

11. GUYHIRN PLAYING FIELD – Meeting/Changing Room

Cllr Davies requested a cheque to FDC for the planning application to be submitted by Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd. Cllr Knight clarified that a formal proposal including funding, fund raising and management regime was awaited. Cllr Allen explained that the plan was to get planning permission, then to consider details of management and financing. In response to a question from the Chairman regarding funds from the village hall sale, Cllr Allen explained that the £55k was only available if there is a meeting room incorporated in the design. Approx. 25% of the building would be for the meeting room, the remainder for the football club. It was agreed to provide the cheque.

12. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

CCC Cllr French reported:

- (a) A forward plan for highways was being developed, more funding will be available for the area in 2019/20. Cllr Davies commented that High Road Guyhirn had been awaiting resurfacing for many years.

FDC Cllr Booth reported:

- (b) CCC has allocated £3m to Road Safety Schemes
- (c) Latest Speedwatch figures show of 710 vehicles 132 (19%) were speeding. Worst locations were High Road, Guyhirn 43% speeding, Wisbech St Mary 21% speeding
- (d) Fly-tipping reports – contact details are required by FDC in order to gain further data/clarification
- (e) Cllr Bligh has received fifteen expressions of interest in Street Pride

13. POLICE MATTERS Report circulated 11 February 2019

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

- (a) Cllr Knight explained that on 23 May members of the Army Cadet Force would be removing overgrowth from and cleaning WW1 graves. He encouraged councillors to lend their support.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th March 2019 Murrow Village Hall

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2019/20

Monday 8th April 2019 Thorney Toll Village Hall

Monday 20th May 2019 Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Monday 10th June 2019 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn

Monday 8th July 2019 Murrow Village Hall

Monday 5th August 2019 Thorney Toll Village Hall

Monday 9th September 2019 Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Monday 14th October 2019 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn

Monday 11th November 2019 Murrow Village Hall

Monday 9th December 2019 Thorney Toll Village Hall

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: Cllr. B Britain, Chairman