

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday December 9th, 2019 at Thorney Toll Village Hall.

Attended by: Councillors D Wheeler (Chairman), C Allen, G Booth, B Britain, P Davies, J Fish, M Fryett, M Knight MBE DL, S Mann, D Scrimshaw.

Members of the public: 2

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

- (a) Diane Cutler reported that three families currently look after Murrow Pond.
- (b) Diane Cutler provided an update on Murrow Street Pride and Speedwatch. It was agreed that CSW would liaise direct with the Guyhirn MVAS Group. The Clerk clarified that CSW would not be covered by the Council's insurance for any operations involving the MVAS at Guyhirn.
- (c) Diane Cutler requested clarification regarding Streetpride taking over maintenance of planters in Murrow. It was decided that sponsors would be advised when invoices were sent out in April.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr J Humphrey, S King and S Bligh.

2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 11 November 2019 The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only).

(a) PFHI Application – Speedwatch signs Murrow

The Clerk reported the application had been submitted and an assessment arranged with CCC. D Cutler confirmed that the assessment had been completed and feedback from CCC awaited.

4. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda.

Cllr Mann declared an interest in Item 8 (c).

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

September Meeting

(c) F/YR19/0693/F Erect a detached workshop to existing dwelling at 1 Snowdrop Cottages Mill Road Murrow. Applicant Mr M Mobius. Agent N/A **Granted**

(g) F/YR19/0736/VOC Variation of conditions 4, 6, 7, 8 and 14 (condition listing approved plans) of Planning permission F/YR16/0194/F (Erection of 4 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and the formation of 2 new accesses) at Land South East Of Mole End Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr R Grundy. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd. **Granted**

October Meeting

(d) F/YR19/0817/F Erect 3 x 8.0 metre high (max) lighting columns and 1 x 8.0 metre high (max) lighting/CCTV column (retrospective). Offices Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow. Applicant Biocow Ltd. Agent Plandescil Ltd. Recommend Refusal - Lights should not pollute neighbours properties – they should be changed if there are objections. **Pending Consideration**

(e) F/YR19/0823/F Erect a single-storey rear extension to existing dwelling. Bungalow 3 Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr & Mrs Cocks. Agent Anfoss Ltd. **Pending Decision**

(f) F/YR19/0841/VOC Variation on conditions 8 and 9 to enable amendment to approved plans relating to Planning permission F/YR18/0386/O (Erection of up to 3 x dwellings (Outline with matters committed in respect of access)) Land West of Sunset Rooms Station Road, Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mrs Symonds, Mrs Goodger and Ms Plumb. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd. **Granted**

November Meeting

(a) F/YR19/0816/F Revised Proposals. Erect a single storey side extension to existing dwelling. Longfield Barn New Drove Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr J Wyatt. Agent N/A **Granted**

(b) F/YR19/0842/F Revise Proposals. Erect a single-storey extension to front of existing dwelling. 114 Back Road Murrow

Applicant Mr & Mrs Walsham. Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd. **Granted**

(c) F/YR19/0861/O Erection of up to 6 x dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) including the formation of 6 x new accesses and the creation of Natural Open Space. Land North East Of Hazeldene Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Land Investments Ltd Agent Alexandra Design. **Refused**

(d) F/YR19/0887/F Erect a detached double garage with store above to existing dwelling. Ferry Farm Cottage High Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr M Edwards Agent Mr J Stephenson **Refused**

(e) F/YR19/0899/F Change of use of public house (A4) to car sales/office and 2no 1-bed flats (sui generis/C3) including alterations to front elevation and erection of MOT service building (sui generis), including palasade fencing (1.8m high). Black Hart Public House Wisbech Road Thorney Toll. Applicant The Motor Group Peterborough Agent SLR Architectural

Pending Consideration

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR19/0817/F Revised Proposals. Erect 3 x 8.0 metre high (max) lighting columns and 1 x 8.0 metre high (max) lighting/CCTV column (retrospective). Offices Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow. Applicant Biocow. Agent Plandescil Ltd. **Recommend Refusal** - Lights should not pollute neighbours properties – they should be changed if there are objections

(b) F/YR19/0977/F Erect a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling involving demolition of conservatory. Westonia High Road Guyhirn.

Applicant Mr & Mrs Fowler. Agent Alexandra Design. **Recommend Approval**

(c) F/YR19/1007/F Erection of an amenity block (part retrospective). Plot 2 Little Acre Hooks Drove Murrow. Applicant Mr D Morris. Agent B R Shemeld. **Recommend Refusal – over development, the structure is too large.**

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) FDC Code of Conduct Member Training 17 November 2019. The Clerk confirmed that all members had received copies of the training provided. **Noted**

(b) CCC Operation London Bridge – The Clerk referred to a briefing by FDC Thursday 13 February 2019 between 4pm and 5pm in the Council Chamber Fenland Hall. **Noted**

(c) Murrow Pre-School – thank you **Noted**

(d) CCC Climate Strategy Consultation The Clerk referred to an email circulated to all members inviting feedback to the consultation which runs from 20 December to 31 January 2020. **Noted**

(e) CCC – Tackling Scams. The Clerk read details of a simplified '5 Simple Steps' that they were invited to undertake. Following discussion Cllr Booth volunteered to be the Councils SCAM Champion.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting

The Clerk reported a meeting with Cllr Allen and UK Power Networks – the outcome was that it was possible to install new lights at the locations suggested. Details had been passed to Electrical Testing Ltd (ETL) – the reply was that they are not authorised to install new pole mounted brackets on poles where there has not been one before, or to work on poles that carry high voltage cables. The Clerk to clarify a way forward with UKPN.

Councillors expressed concern that work had not yet been completed. The Chairman will contact ETL. The Clerk advised that some Parishes had been asked to pay for disconnections prior to upgrading an outreach unit to LED – not something this Parish has to pay for under our arrangements.

(b) Highways

(i) High Road, Wisbech St Mary Local Highway Improvement – Project Feasibility

The Clerk read the Project Feasibility Summary including Total budget of £18,504 and Parish contribution of £3,504. Following discussion it was agreed to proceed.

(ii) Highway Grass Verge Cutting in the villages

The Clerk reported three quotations had been received from five invitations;

1. 3 cuts £7,650, 4 cuts £10,200
2. 3 cuts £4,470, 4 cuts £ 5,960
3. 3 cuts £2,358, 4 cuts £3,144

Following discussion and having satisfied themselves as to the quality to be expected and costs it was proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Davies that quotation 3 from TA Blackmore Ltd be accepted, four cuts per year. **Agreed unanimously**

8. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To receive the Budgetary Control Report for 2019/20 to date

The Clerk circulated the Report and reported the current Balance was £ £108,740, the Bank Reconciliation balanced. **Noted**

(d) Budget Review to 9 December 2019

The Clerk circulated the Review, drew attention to variations and street lighting energy costs that had not been budgeted for. The predicted end of year balance was £87,829. **Noted**
Following a query by Cllr Knight the Clerk confirmed that costs of providing bus shelters at Murrow had not been included in this years costs but that they could be funded this year.

(e) Allotment Rent Review

The Clerk circulated the Review. Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Allen seconded by Cllr Britain to keep rents at their current level. **Agreed unanimously**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(d) Clerk November salary

£729.53 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(e) Tax and NI

£208.80 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(f) Clerk postage and office consumables

£137.70 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(g) Murrow Village hall Hire November

£30.00 LG Act 1972 S143 **Agreed**

(h) Bowles Tree & Garden Services – maint'. £2,400.00 LGMisc Prov Act 1976, S196 **Agreed**

(i) Society of Local Council Clerks - subscription £202.00 LG Act 1972 S143 **Agreed**

(j) Bowles Tree & Garden Services – maint' planter. £563.76 LGMisc Prov Act 1976, S196 **Agreed**

The Clerk reported an additional invoice received which Council agreed to consider;

Wisbech Electrical Ltd – lighting maint. £43.20 Parish Council Act 1957 S3 **Agreed**

Grant applications:

(k) East Anglian Children's Hospice (EACH) - LG Act 1972 S137

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Fish seconded by Cllr Knight to grant £500. **Agreed by a majority in favour.**

(l) Citizens Advice Rural Cambs – contribution to costs of operating the scheme

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Booth seconded by Cllr Scrimshaw to grant £500. **Agreed unanimously.**

(m) Parochial Church Council Emmanuel Churchyard Southea – upkeep of churchyard. LG Act 1972 S214

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Fish seconded by Cllr Mann to grant £750. **Agreed unanimously**

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance

The issue of posters stuck to a bus shelter in Wisbech St Mary was raised. Cllr Knight volunteered to report the problem to FDC.

Cllr Fish reported that the bus shelter at Thorney Toll had not been cleaned. The Clerk to investigate.

The Clerk confirmed that quotes for seats in bus shelters had been requested.

Cllr Davies reported that planings may be useful at Guyhirn Playing Field access. The Clerk to email Cllr French and copy Cllr Davies so they could make the arrangements.

(b) Defibrillators - No business

(c) Planters

The Clerk reported a letter had been sent to the parson believed to have caused the damage to a planter at Tholomas Drove, no reply had been received.

10. MURROW BUS SHELTERS

The Clerk reported two objections had been received. Cllr Knight reported CCC had visited site and raised some issues including the possible need for a retaining wall, a detailed response was awaited. Costs could then be considered.

11. MURROW 'POND'

Councillors discussed the ponds at Murrow and Wisbech St Mary. The Chairman clarified that there were no plans to dispose of them. It was suggested that signs warning of 'Deep Water' with 'Wisbech St Mary Parish Council' in smaller font should be installed at both locations. **Agreed unanimously**

12. CLERK

The Clerk announced his intention to retire, June 2020 would be his final meeting.

13. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

FDC Councillor Booth reported:

- (a) Most FDC meetings cancelled due to the election.
- (b) A meeting 16 December to discuss the Local Plan Consultation results.

CCC Cllr King reported:

- (a) Bus Shelter - At the last meeting of the Highways & Infrastructure Committee on 4/12, I raised the issue of the £500 charge with senior officers and I was assured it was not intended to apply to preliminary discussions. As soon as I have more information, I will be in touch.
- (b) Multiple LHI applications for Wisbech St Mary - I also raised this at the Highways & Infrastructure Committee on 4/12, and it will be reconsidered before the next LHI round next year.
- (c) Tholomas Drove Trees - As some of you are aware, I have received this from CCC: "Apologies for the delay in responding to the previous emails, I have requested our other tree contractor quotes for these works. On previous occasions they have been quick on getting a price back to ourselves."
- (d) Bellamy's Bridge etc - This work is now completed.
- (e) Verge at Plash Drove and Salt Pit Ln - I have received this from CCC and I will continue to chase this up: "I have visited both the locations, and although I do agree they would benefit from something more than just the Dragon Patcher, there are areas that are ideal for it. I have had works carried out just recently on a similar condition of carriageway by the Dragon Patcher and I am really impressed with what they have achieved. I'd still like to get the Dragon Patcher to attend to carry out repairs to as much of the carriageway as we can. Following this, and probably in the new financial year, I'll address the situation again. I will be in touch when I have a date"
- (f) Missing bus stop sign on Black Drove opposite Folley's Drove - Some of you have seen this response from CCC, so if you could email me a location map of the bus stop and a photo, I will pursue it: "The nearest stops at the Black Drove end of Folley's Drove are at High Road/Mouth Lane or High Road/Plash Drove. There is nothing at the Gull Bank end, the nearest stop is at Gull Road/Woodland Garden in Guyhirn. Looking on Street View I also can't see anywhere obvious that a flag would have been attached to." Weed spraying had been completed.

14. POLICE MATTERS Report circulated 6 December 2019 **Noted**

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

(a) Cllr Booth requested speed limit reductions at Murrow Bank and Sand Bank to be added to the next agenda. **Agreed**

(b) The Chairman reported he had received complaints regarding seating at meetings at The Oliver Twist, some councillors having to sit with their backs to the audience. The Chequers was suggested as an alternative. It was agreed to add The Chequers to the venues for meetings following the current schedule of meetings.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 13th January 2020 Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2019/20

Monday 10th February 2020 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn

Monday 9th March 2020 Murrow Village Hall

Monday 6th April 2020 Thorney Toll Village Hall

Monday 18th May 2020 Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman