

WISBECH ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly Meeting at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre on the 20th May 2019 at 7.00 pm

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

Geoff Wilkinson, Clerk.

Fenland District Councillors (FDC) G Booth and S Bligh.

Members of the public: 5

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

2. Apologies: Nil

3. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting 14 May 2018 at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

The Chairman reflected on the past years achievements with progress on street lighting and maintenance and he congratulated Street Pride groups on the progress they had made. He went on to reflect on achievements since becoming Chairman. The maintenance contract had led to work being carried out as routine which had improved the appearance of the villages. Notice Boards had been renewed and regularly maintained, four defibrillators had been provided, twenty planters had been constructed – he thanked Cllr Humphrey for supplying the timber and all councillors for their support in completing the project. New bus shelters had been installed and a new seat made from recycled material had been placed at Wisbech St Mary. The Council also had a new web site which contained useful information on the parish and villages.

The Chairman concluded by thanking the Clerk and all councillors for their support. He stressed the importance of working together if things were to be achieved.

The Clerk thanked the Chairman for his support during his term of office which had been very much appreciated.

5. Street Lighting – The Chairman reported work completed by Electrical Testing Ltd (ETL) and Wisbech Electrical Ltd and was looking forward to major improvements by ETL due to commence shortly.

6. Highways – Local Highway Improvements (LHI) had commenced. Mrs Cutler mentioned Street Pride which was developing well and also SpeedWatch. The Chairman thanked both volunteer groups for their efforts. Bellamy Bridge LHI was due to commence next week.

7. John Bend Charity Accounts.

The Clerk referred to the accounts to year end 31 March 2019 as circulated. Income was £8,315 and Expenditure £10,300, total cash balance at year end was £17,734.

Cllr Allen explained that expenditure was high as an increase in dole payment had been affordable. The criteria for a claim was to have been resident in the parish for 5 years and have an income below a certain level.

8. Francis Hardy Charity.

The Chairman referred to the accounts to year end 5th April 2019 as circulated. Income £ 16,503 expenditure £3,590 giving a total cash balance at year end of £237673.84. Cllr Allen as Vice-Chairman they were considering the purchase of an additional two plots to add to the c. 20 ac already owned. The rents went to benefit the free schools in the parish.

9. Poors Allotment Charity.

The Clerk referred to the accounts to year end 31 March 2019 as circulated. Income £16,108 expenditure £30,563 giving a total cash balance at year end of £210,906.72. Cllr Davies (Chairman) explained the high expenditure had been due to land drainage required to ensure the land was workable.

All Charity Accounts agreed unanimously.

10. Parish Affairs:

Mrs Woollard reported last year: surface water flooding outside 142/115 Front Road Murrow, drainage holes in the kerbs were blocked –still no action. Also o/s The Methodist Chapel a defect had been reported to Cambridgeshire County Council but as yet no action.

The Clerk will bring these issues to the attention of the County Councillor.

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