

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday March 9th, 2020 at Murrow Village Hall.

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

Fenland District Council (FDC): Cllr S Bligh.

Members of the public: 5

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council.

(a) It was reported that Street light FPC5 o/s 93/95 Front Road Murrow still had not been repaired. The Chairman advised that it would be one of those renewed in the new financial year.

(b) The speed of some vehicles using Front Road was a great concern.

(c) Diane Cutler provided an update on Murrow Street Pride and Speedwatch. Of 1156 vehicles monitored during January/February 7% had been speeding; 9% on 30mph roads and 5% on 40mph roads. Recent surveys at High Road, Guyhirn indicated speeds had significantly reduced since the first survey results.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr. King

2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 10 February 2020

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

(a) The Clerk reported an email from MVV Medworth confirming that the Council had been added to the list of consultees for the possible Wisbech incinerator.

4. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda

(a) Cllr Booth declared an interest in item 5.2(a) as he had been contacted by the applicant.

(b) Cllr Wheeler declared an interest in item 5.2(a) and took no part in discussions.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

January Meeting

(c) F/YR19/1048/F Siting of a residential caravan (retrospective). Land Rear Of Sunset Station Road Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr E Neale. Agent Peter Humphrey Associates.

Pending Consideration

February Meeting

(a) F/YR19/1105/F Erect part single-storey part first-floor extension to dwelling and detached gym. Kilhams Acre Willock Lane Wisbech St Mary

Applicant Mr T Wheeler. Agent Morton & Hall Ltd. **Granted**

(b) F/YR20/0004/VOC Variation of condition 13 (condition listing approved plans) of planning permission F/YR19/0736/VOC (Removal of condition 7 and Variation of conditions 4, 6, 8, 10, 12 and 14 of planning permission F/YR16/0194/F (Erection of 4 x 2-storey 4-bed dwellings and the formation of 2 new accesses)) to allow changes to house types. Land South East Of Mole End Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Estover Properties Ltd. Agent Anglia Building Consultants Ltd. **Withdrawn**.

(c) F/YR20/0079/F Erect a dwelling (2-storey 3-bed) involving demolition of existing side extension to existing dwelling (including access and parking to serve 42 Station Drive). Land North Of 42 Station Drive Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr & Mrs Doherty. Agent n/a. **Pending Consideration**

(d) F/YR19/1020/F Revised proposals. Erect 5 x greenhouses and a boiler house/storage building (part retrospective). Volmary Limited Station Road Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Volmary Ltd. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd. **Pending Consideration**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR20/0096/F The siting of 1 x static caravan for residential use (retrospective). Land South West Of Windy Ridge New Drove Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr & Mrs Wigginton.

Agent Maxey Grounds & Co. Following discussion and vote by a majority of 5 to 4 councillors voted to **Recommend Refusal**.

(b) F/YR20/004/VOC – F/YR19/0736/VOC email from FDC 20 February 2020.

As no provision had been made for the completion of footways prior to occupation of the last plot councillors unanimously **Recommend Refusal**.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED **NIL**

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting

(i) The Clerk has submitted the application to UK Power Networks for two new lighting columns at Guyhirn, an estimate is awaited. If the estimate were acceptable it would then be necessary to apply to CCC for permission to install the units. In order to avoid any unnecessary delay, it was proposed by Cllr Britain seconded by Cllr Booth that the Chairman have delegated authority to accept a quotation if it were less than £5,000. Agreed unanimously.

(ii) The Clerk reported that the order for Phase 2 of the replacement programme had been sent to Electrical Testing Ltd 17 February 2020. The order excludes the six units at Waverley Close believed to be housing association property.

(iii) The Clerk referred to a letter dated 3 March 2020 circulated to councillors. The offer consisted of a one off payment of £27,900 in 2021 for renewals, an increase from 2020-21 onwards in Concurrent Functions Grant (CFG) of £2,480 towards energy and maintenance costs, and for 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 only a additional £1,000 for those parish councils that had converted to LED by the preceding 20th February. FDC has given the Council until 30th June 2020 to accept the offer. Additionally, the Council has until 20th March 2020 to claim the Category 2 capital street lighting costs. In addition, FDC have said that this is a 'without prejudice offer' in return for a formal resolution that the agreement is in full and final settlement of the dispute and assumes the Parishes continued responsibility for ongoing asset ownership and liability for capital and revenue costs.

The Chairman summarised the situation, he was very unhappy to receive the ultimatum as it did not address the inequity that exists, financial offers were not consistent with the number of lights in each parish and the increase in CFG was a small portion of the energy costs alone which amount to approx. £8,900 per year and a small proportion of the sum that FDC have saved.

Following lively discussions Council reluctantly agreed to accept the offer in order to avoid FDC financially penalising parishioners further. Proposed by Cllr Wheeler, seconded by Cllr Booth, 9 in favour, 1 abstention. **Agreed**

(b) Highways

(i) Local Highway Improvement Applications 2021/22

The Clerk reported the application window had been brought forward to 1 April to 31 May 2020. **Noted**
It was proposed to re-submit the application made last year. **Agreed**

(c) Bus Shelter High Road, Wisbech St Mary

The Clerk referred to an email from MHA Architects. It was proposed by Cllr Booth seconded by Cllr Humphrey that a response should be sent that we have not agreed to move the shelter and a meeting would be useful. **Agreed**

(d) Bus Shelters, Wisbech St Mary

It was proposed by Cllr Knight seconded by Cllr Fryett to ratify the decision to install seats in five additional bus shelters. **Agreed**

(e) Complaint – MVAS post Gull Road, Guyhirn

The complaint was reviewed. It was noted that the most effective position for the sign was near the speed limit, the sign would be moved to other sites regularly and early indications were that the sign does encourage lower speeds. It should therefore be considered a benefit. It was unanimously agreed that it should remain.

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 £76,345.70, the Bank Reconciliation balanced. **Noted**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(b) Clerk February salary

£834.63 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(c) Tax and NI	£253.34 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(d) Clerk postage and office consumables	£62.10 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(e) Rapier Signs- 2 x Deep Water	£35.00 Misc Prov 1976 S196 Agreed
(f) Wisbech Electrical Ltd – repairs to 20/1/20	£2739.07 Parish Council Act 1957 S3 Agreed
(g) Wisbech Electrical Ltd – lighting repairs to 4/2/20	£48.88 Parish Council Act 1957 S3 Agreed
(h) Proedge Construction – 2 x shelter bases	£5,256.00 LGMisc Prov Act 1953, S4 Agreed
(i) Maypole Manufacturing Ltd – 2 x shelters	£11,508.00 LGMisc Prov Act 1953, S4 Agreed
(j) ILIFFE MEDIA - 2 x Citizen adverts	£453.60 LG Act 1972 s112 Agreed
(k) Oliver Twist Country Inn - hire 10/2/20	£40.00 LG Act 1972 S143 Agreed
(l) Fenland District Council – election costs	£428.16 LG Act 1972 S111 Agreed
(m) Cambs ACRE – membership	£57.00 LG Act 1972 S143 Agreed
(n) E-ON Lighting Energy January	£909.59 Parish Councils Act 1957 Agreed
(o) C & D Property Maintenance	£160.00 LGMisc Prov Act 1976, S196 Agreed
(p) C & D Property Maintenance	£800.00 LGMisc Prov Act 1976, S196 Agreed

Grant applications: NIL

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance

Highway grass verge cutting was due to commence shortly. **Noted**

(b) Planters - Murrow War Memorial

The verge is CCC Highway and will now be maintained by the Parish Council. Councillors had no objection to the proposal to add up to two barrel planters to it. **Agreed**

10. FENLAND LOCAL PLAN

Proposals have been submitted as requested by FDC. There would be further opportunities to make suggestions. Following discussion, it was agreed to accept what had been done so far but to ask FDC to explain why many of the Parish Council comments and suggestions had been ignored.

11. RECRUITMENT

The Clerk reported ten applications had been received. Interviews were planned for 2 April at Murrow Village Hall. A Sub-Committee consisting of Cllrs Wheeler, Humphrey, Allen and Booth was appointed to draw up a shortlist. **Agreed**

12. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

The Clerk read Cllr Kings report:

- (a) The work on Cants Drove should begin by the end of March
- (b) The Splash Drove and Silt Pit Lane patching should have been done
- (c) I have had this response about the drain work at Bevis Ln/Jackson Cl:
"We have paid for these works as these works were to alleviate the flooding to a property. There was an old pipe that went under the properties and the pipe was blocked and couldn't be unblocked. Our only option was to install 40m of new pipe through carriageway and into ditch."
 I have again put the case for a similar scheme at the drain at the Wisbech St Mary bus shelter and I have been told:
"We will be able to look at this, but this will need to be in the new financial year"
 I will continue to emphasise the urgency of this work.
- (d) CCC are waiting to hear from Stagecoach about the missing sign on Black Drove opposite Folley's Drove.

FDC Cllr Bligh reported:

- (a) WStM Green Dog Walking Scheme has been launched
- (b) WStM StreetPride are canvassing for volunteers
- (c) Bird boxes have been acquired
- (d) 'Use This Bin' stickers are being distributed.

FDC Councillor Booth reported:

At the FDC Council Meeting 20 February:

- (a) FDC opposed the proposed incinerator
- (b) Council Tax would be frozen at the current rate
- (c) FDC has appointed Amy Brown as Monitoring Officer

13. POLICE MATTERS

Circulated 3 March 2020. **Noted**

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

- (a) Cllr Knight stated that FDC have simply moved their street lighting costs into our budget.
- (b) Cllr Britain suggested the bid for a defibrillator at Tholomas Drove should be resubmitted to the Wryde Croft Wind Farm Community Fund for the October round.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6th April 2020 Thorney Toll Village Hall

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21

Monday 18th May 2020 Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday 8th June 2020 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn
Monday 13th July 2020 Murrow Village Hall
Monday 10th August 2020 Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 14th September 2020 Chequers Inn Tholomas Drove
Monday 12th October 2020 Wisbech St Mary Community Centre
Monday 9th November 2020 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn
Monday 14th December 2020 Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 11th January 2021 Murrow Village Hall
Monday 8th February 2021 Chequers Inn Tholomas Drove
Monday 8th March 2021 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn
Monday 12th April 2021 Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 10th May 2021 Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman