

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday June 8th, 2020 via 'Zoom'.

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

Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC): CCC Leader, Councillor S Count and Cllr S King.

Fenland District Council (FDC): Cllr S Bligh.

Members of the public: 0

OPEN FORUM – Parishioners are invited to address the Council. **Nil**

15. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Cllr B Britain due to emergency business commitments, Cllr S.Mann, Cllr J Fish.

The Chairman invited CCC Leader Cllr Steve Count to give his report so he could leave to attend other business.

11.1 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Count reported:

(a) CCC had Public Health and Resilience Forum responsibilities. They provided regular information for the public and updates. He warned that there is a natural tendency to move attention to the latest issues and stressed the importance of continuing the basic precautions such as washing hands frequently and social distancing.

(b) Cllr Count drew attention to the valuable work FDC had been doing through advice, action, help and signposting.

(c) He explained that the current R value for the Eastern Region was 0.94, with Fenland District in mid-pack of the lower pack of the Eastern Region.

(d) CCC has a responsibility for schools including private academy trusts. This has included reviewing and fine-tuning risk assessments for 150 schools, with Unions involved. It is the schools choice to open or not. Currently 75% of schools are open with 25% attendance.

(e) Test Track and Trace is a national initiative with no CCC involvement. If there are symptoms – request a test, if positive all in the household must self-isolate.

(f) CCC monitors outbreaks and investigates.

Cllr Count closed by stressing that the emphasis is on prevention, maintaining the flow of information and advice. Coronavirus is past its peak in Fenland District but it is important to continue following recommendations in order to keep R below 1.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Count who then left the meeting.

1. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 18 May 2020

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

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only) Nil

3. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda

Cllr J Humphrey Item 4.2 (d)

Cllr D Wheeler Items 7 (j) and 4.2 (d)

Item 4 - Cllr Booth declared that he was now a substitute member for FDC Planning Committee although he had not yet been called, and as such if called to attend the Committee he would keep an open mind on Parish Council Planning Matters discussions.

4. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR20/0396/F Erect a single-storey side extension to form store to existing garage. Walnut Cottage High Road Bunkers Hill. Applicant Mr M Ludlow. Agent N/A **Recommend Approval**

(b) F/YR20/0402/VOC Variation of condition 13 (list of approved plans) of F/YR13/0268/F and condition 10 (list of approved plans) of F/YR18/0652/VOC (Erection of 9no 2-storey dwellings) for Plot 5 only - change of house type. Plot 5 Land North West Of Greenacres Gull Road Guyhirn Applicant Mr L Willis. Agent Peter Humphrey Associates Ltd. **Recommend Approval**

(c) F/YR20/0415/F Erect a 2-storey side and rear extension involving demolition of existing single-storey elements and detached shed and siting of a temporary mobile home during construction. 7 Selwyn Cottages High Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr Johnson. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd. **Recommend Approval**

Cllr Humphrey left the meeting, The Chairman took no part in discussion of the following item.

(d) F/YR20/0416/O Erect up to 2 x dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access). Land South East Of The Poplars Bevis Lane Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Messrs Humphrey & Spooner. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd.

Recommend Approval

Cllr Humphrey re-joined the meeting

(e) F/YR20/0423/F Erection of 4 x dwellings (2-storey, 4-bed) and the formation of 2 new accesses. Land South East Of Mole End Gull Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr A Munden. Agent Anglia Building Consultants. **Recommend Approval**

5. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Email concern regarding the poor condition of Guyhirn Cemetery.
The Clerk referred to an email received complaining of the condition of the cemetery, the complainant had been referred to the appropriate authority. Councillors shared the complainants concern. It was reported that some action had recently been undertaken. **Noted**

(b) Letter of thanks – Murrow Book Café. **Noted**

6. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting

The Chairman reported that some work had been completed in May and the remainder anticipated to start 22 June.

(b) Highways

Cllr Humphrey reported that CCC had programmed work to cut back overgrown vegetation at Sandbank.

7. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) Internal Audit Report to 31 March 2020 and reappointment of internal auditors. Item deferred from last meeting.

The Clerk referred to the Report circulated and to the only action required, Item 7(b) below refers. It was proposed by Cllr Allen seconded by Cllr Booth that the Report be noted and the internal auditors be reappointed. **Agreed**

(b) Ratification of decision made 13 January 2020 minute 8 to increase the precept by £25,000 to £80,510. Item deferred from last meeting.

Proposed by Cllr Knight seconded by Cllr Humphrey. **Agreed**

(c) Review of the effectiveness of systems of internal control and Resolution to approve the Annual Governance Statement 2019/20.

The Clerk had circulated copies to all. Following a review of the statements it was proposed by Cllr Scrimshaw seconded by Cllr Booth that the Annual Governance Statement be approved. The resolution to accept the Annual Governance Statement was **Approved unanimously**.

The Clerk and Chairman were authorised to sign the Statement.

(d) Resolution to approve the Accounting Statements for 2019/20.

The Clerk had circulated copies to all. Following review it was proposed by Cllr Humphrey seconded by Fryett that the Accounting Statements be approved. The resolution to accept the Accounting Statements was **Approved unanimously**. The Chairman signed the Statement.

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(e) Clerk May salary

£743.76 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

(f) Tax and NI

£213.29 LG Act 1972 S112 **Agreed**

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| (g) E-ON Lighting Energy April | £ 660.90 Parish Councils Act 1957 | Agreed |
| (h) Electrical Testing Ltd street lighting Phase 2 | £3040.03 Parish Council Act 1957 S3 | Agreed |
| (i) K Clarke – War Memorial maintenance | £160.00 War Memorials (LA Powers) Act 1923 | Agreed |
- The Chairman took no part in discussion of the following item
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| (j) D Wheeler – reimbursement of Zoom charges | £14.39 LG Act 1972 S112 | Agreed |
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Grant applications: NIL

8. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance

Cllr Knight reported that some work had been completed at the Wisbech St Mary Village Pond, the side nearest the village had yet to be completed.

Cllr Bligh reported that some planters required attention. Maintenance would resume when coronavirus restrictions permitted.

9. GUYHIRN FOOTBALL CLUB

Cllr Davies referred to the enquiry received from the Manager Guyhirn Football Club circulated to all. The Playing Field Committee had discussed the request but felt that the infrastructure could not cope with a significant increase in the number of games that would be played. The increase in maintenance required and noise were also factors to consider. Following discussion, it was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting.

10. RECRUITMENT

The Chairman explained that it had not been possible to hold interviews due to social distancing. He thanked the Clerk for continuing in the role. He proposed to explore with candidates the possibility of holding interviews by Zoom, alternatively to hold interviews by middle of July if social distancing restrictions were relaxed. The Clerk will contact the candidates. **Agreed.**

11.2 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

CCC Cllr King:

- (a) Congratulated Cllr Booth in his efforts delivering prescriptions.
- (b) CCC have commenced clearing the backlog of larger schemes, a high number of minor repairs have been completed during the lockdown.
- (c) In response to Cllr Davies request he agreed to chase the replacement of the missing bus stop sign.

FDC Cllr Bligh reported:

- (a) StreetPride ceased due to the coronavirus restrictions.
- (b) Charities have received financial support from FDC.
- (c) Full Council meetings are due to be held by FDC 17 June and in August.

FDC Councillor Booth reported:

- (a) FDC Planning Committee is meeting via Zoom.
- (b) Freedom Leisure has received loans from FDC.
- (c) Anglian Water have been invited to FDC to explain why low pressure issues keep occurring particularly as large developments are planned in and around Wisbech.
- (d) Helping Hands – approx. 20 people have volunteered to work with pharmacies to help 200 people.
- (e) Help with shopping is available through FACT.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Booth for his efforts.

12. POLICE MATTERS None received

Cllr Booth reported that some reports of vehicles speeding had been reported to Police.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)

(a) Cllr Knight volunteered through NHS to talk to those in isolation who may be in need of someone to talk to. He encouraged others to do the same.

(b) Cllr Scrimshaw reported a problem caused by vegetation overgrowing the highway obscuring visibility. Cllr King offered to attend a meeting.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING These are subject to possible change due to Coronavirus
Monday 13th July 2020 Murrow Village Hall or by Zoom.

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21

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 8.20 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman