

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday August 10th, 2020 via 'Zoom'.

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

Members of the public: 2

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – resignation of Cllr John Fish. The Chairman reported the Notice of Vacancy had been posted. If an election were necessary it would not be before 6 May 2021, otherwise it would be filled by co-option. The Chairman paid tribute to John Fish for his work over many years, he had always worked hard to benefit Thorney Toll. All councillors joined to send their thanks to John and their best wishes for good health.

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Mann – work commitments, D Scrimshaw – work commitments and CCC Cllr S King - illness.

10. RECRUITMENT

The Chairman reported that Sarah Bligh had been offered the post of Clerk and Responsible officer and had accepted. He added that support would be available from a past parish clerk including guidance with the Certificate in Local Council Administration Qualification.

It was proposed by Cllr Britain seconded by Cllr Allen that the appointment be confirmed. **Agreed unanimously. Sarah Bligh then joined the meeting.**

8. FINANCE MATTERS

(I) Guyhirn Football Club - £30,000 grant towards changing facilities and community room.

LG Misc Prov 1976 S19

The Chairman summarised the situation and thanked Guyhirn Football Club (GFC) for their submission. He felt there was support for the proposal in principle but there were serious reservations. During detailed discussions it was clear that more detail was required to make the plan robust and viable; a strong committee with a constitution in place to oversee the project and manage finances both in the short and long term, clarification that all possible costs had been included, a contingency fund, the funding plan to show how potential losses would be mitigated. Potential funding opportunities had not been explored.

In response Mr A Gardner and Mr E Vanhinsberg (GFC) provided further information.

Cllr Davies reported a £5k grant from the Playing Field Association.

The conclusion was that there was clear need for the facility in the village and support for the proposal but the Council must be satisfied that the investment is a sound one. It could not sanction a £30k grant based on the bid submitted.

It was suggested that Cllr Davies and/or Cllr Allen provided guidance to GFC. GFC then submit a revised bid. GFC explained the need to progress rather than waiting for the next Parish Council meeting and offered to develop the plan immediately.

It was proposed by Cllr Fryett seconded by Cllr Booth that an extraordinary meeting be convened, if necessary, to consider a revised bid. **Agreed unanimously**

2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 13 July 2020

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and would be signed by the Chairman 11 August 2020.

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

4. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda

Cllr D Wheeler Items 8 (f) pecuniary interest.

5. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

1. Planning applications determined by Fenland District Council (FDC) were circulated to all members prior to the meeting. **Noted**

2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a) F/YR20/0568/F Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed). Plot 3 Land North Of 15 To 17 Selwyn Cottages High Road Guyhirn. Applicant Mr C Dawson. Agent nil.

Recommend Refusal – over development, flood risk and potentially dangerous access.

(b) F/YR20/0591/F Change of use of land and the erection of stables for equine and agricultural use. Land North East Of Corner Farm Willock Lane Wisbech St Mary.

Applicant Mr Goat. Agent Alexandra Design. **Recommend Approval**

(c) F/YR20/0598/O Erect up to 5 x dwellings involving the formation of a new access (outline application with matters committed in respect of access). Land North Of The Barn High Road Bunkers Hill. Applicant Mr A White. Mr D Broker.

Recommend Approval subject to speed reduction features to be installed in High Road through the Infrastructure Development Policy.

(d) F/YR20/0619/F Erection an office (B1) in association with existing agricultural business. Corner Farm Willock Lane Wisbech St Mary. Applicant Mr Goat. Agent Alexandra Design.

Recommend Refusal – not in keeping with the surrounding area and no evidence of income from agriculture.

(e) F/YR20/0257/F Revised proposals. Conversion of 2no barns to 2-storey 4-bed dwelling including first floor extension and detached garage with gym/games room. 143 Murrow Bank Murrow. Applicant Mr & Mrs Rowell. Agent Swann Edwards Architecture Ltd.

Recommend Approval

(f) Street Naming. The Clerk reported a proposal received form FDC Street Naming and Numbering to name a spur off Spencer Drove. Councillors considered that Crews Close had no local connection and preferred the development to be known as Spencer Drove.

6. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) East of England Building Preservation Trust - Guyhirn Church. The Clerk reported an enquiry received from the East of England Building Preservation Trust asking if there was local support for the retention of the Church. Councillors were aware of the situation and that options were severely limited and were not aware of any such local support.

7. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

(a) Street Lighting

The Chairman reported that Electrical Testing Ltd had commenced work on the modernisation of the remaining street lights.

(b) Highways **Nil**

8. FINANCE MATTERS

(a) To receive the Budgetary Control Report for 2020/21 to date. The Clerk circulated the report prior to the meeting. He drew attention to planter sponsorship payments received. The bank reconciliation balanced at £118,446. **Noted**

To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

(b) Clerk July salary	£936.74 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(c) Tax and NI	£295.00 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(d) Clerk postage and office consumables	£147.45 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(e) E-ON Lighting Energy June	£660.90 Parish Councils Act 1957 Agreed
(f) D Wheeler – reimbursement of Zoom charges	£14.39 LG Act 1972 S112 Agreed
(g) Bowles Tree & Garden Services, shelters/overgrowth	£1482.00 LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196 Agreed
(h) Bowles Tree & Garden Services, grass cutting	£1920.00 LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196 Agreed
(i) Bowles Tree & Garden Services, spray, strim. Planters	£1212.00 LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196 Agreed

Grant applications:

(j) Wisbech St Mary & Guyhirn PCC – WStM Parish Church Churchyard maintenance,
LG Act 1972 S214

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Knight seconded by Cllr Humphrey to grant £2,500.
Agreed unanimously

(k) MAGPAS Air Ambulance - £1014 contribution to costs.

LG Act 1972 S137

Following discussion it was agreed to defer the item to the next meeting

9. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Maintenance – Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS), Maintenance Contract Offer 2020/2021. The Clerk reported that SWARCO, the MVAS supplier, provided maintenance contracts, Silver at £123 and Gold at £287. Following consultation with the operator it was recommended that Silver cover would be adequate. **Agreed**

(b) Bus Shelter, Gull Road, Guyhirn – vandalism.

The Clerk reported a quotation had been invited for the replacement of the glass panels. Cllr Fryett suggested P Tibbs as an alternative supplier. The Clerk to obtain a quotation.

11. ONLINE BANKING

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Booth seconded by Cllr Britain to move to Online banking. The new Clerk to explore the procedure.

The Chairman suggested that Vice-Chairman should be added to the Mandate as a signatory. Proposed by Cllr Booth seconded by Cllr **Agreed**.

12. THE MIDDLE PIT AND THOLOMAS DROVE WASH PIT CHARITY

Cllr Britain has identified land that may be a suitable investment. It was proposed the Clerk make an offer of £82,500. **Agreed unanimously.**

13. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

FDC Councillor Booth reported:

- (a) FDC Budget update - £3m short due Covid 19 associated costs.
- (b) Neighbourhood Plan progressing. As a result, there could be more plans going to Planning Committee

FDC Cllr Bligh reported:

- (a) Play Equipment at Guyhirn – questionnaire out.
- (b) FDC Full Council meeting was last Tuesday.
- (c) During a recent fire there was insufficient pressure in Anglian Water mains to tackle the fire. Fire & Rescue used a water tender.
- (d) Cambridge Regiment Rose initiative - a contact is required.

14. POLICE MATTERS Nil

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) Cllr Humphrey reported Wisbech St Mary Pond improvements were progressing.
- (b) Cllr Booth reported there were concerns as Murrow Pond had dried out.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his six years of service and in particular for agreeing to stay on during the recruitment process which had been complicated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Geoff thanked the Chairman and Councillors and wished the very best for the Parish Council.

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING These are subject to possible change due to Coronavirus

Monday 14th September 2020 Chequers Inn Tholomas Drove

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21

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

Meeting closed at 8.50 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman