

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday September 14th 2020 via Zoom Video Conferencing.

Attended by: Councillors D Wheeler (Chairman), J Humphrey (Vice Chairman), M Knight MBE DL, C Allen, P Davies, B Britain, S Mann, D Scrimshaw, G Booth, M Fryett.
FDC Councillors G Booth & S Bligh | CCC Councillor S King
Members of the public: Nil

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

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None received.

2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 10th August 2020 and extraordinary meeting dated 27th August 2020.

The minutes were taken as read, agreed as a true record and would be signed by the Chairman on 16th September 2020.

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

4. TO CONSIDER MEMBERS REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – None Received.

5. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda
Cllr D Wheeler Item 9.2 (h) pecuniary interest.

6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

6.1: Councillors noted the report that is now publicly available on our website for planning applications determined by Fenland District Council.

6.2: Planning Applications for discussion.

(a)	F/YR20/0697/F	Erect a first-floor side extension to existing dwelling at 4 Mayfair Gardens Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4XA The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(b)	F/YR20/0703/VOC	Variation of condition 4 (footpath) of Planning permission F/YR18/1095/O (Erection of up to 3 no dwellings involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings (outline application with all matters reserved)) at The Laurels High Road Bunkers Hill Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4SQ The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(c)	F/YR20/0708/F	Erect a single-storey 1-bed annexe to rear of existing dwelling at 14 Selwyn Cottages High Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4EQ The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(d)	F/YR20/0737/F	The temporary siting (until 01/01/2031) of up to 4 x mobile homes for farm workers at Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4HN The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL on the condition it refers to existing 4 mobile homes and not additional.
(e)	F/YR20/0743/VOC	Removal of condition 4 (agricultural occupancy) relating to planning permission F/YR05/0749/O (Erection of a 4-bed house and garage) at Land South Of GB Mushrooms Gull Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL

(f)	F/YR20/0752/F	Change of use of land to domestic curtilage Land North Of Hollycroft Bungalow High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(g)	F/YR20/0300/F	Erect a dwelling (3-storey 3/4 bed) in association with existing business, an aviary and lecture/office building involving the demolition of existing aviary Fen Falconry Centre Station Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL as per previous versions of this application.

6.3: Cllr S King – Email regarding Planning Application FMW/061/19 for BIOCOW.

The Chairman opened the item up for discussion by stating he had spoken at length to Cllr David Connor who is Chairman of Planning Committee at CCC regarding this application. Cllr Connor advised him that the official HGV route for access to Biocow is via A47-Gull Road-Cants Drove and should this application be refused it would likely be overturned at appeal based on Highways approval.

Cllr Booth asked whether there was a particular reason in this instance that CCC were so keen for Council to withdraw their objection?

Cllr King was brought into the discussion and stated that he recognised the great contribution that the Parish Council make to their community and he would rather see the Council withdraw their objection than to have it ignored. Cllr King also mentioned that he had tried hard to find a compromise for both the Parish Council and Biocow by securing £300k of improvements to Cants Drove (East).

The Chairman along with Cllrs Allen and Britain stated that there are far too many vehicle movements currently along Gull Road and it would make more sense for vehicles to continue along the A47 until the junction of Black Drove, then entering Cants Drove. However, this would be a further distance.

Cllr King maintained that Gull Road is more suitable and would also depend on direction of traffic for Black Drove to be more accessible.

The Chairman along with Cllrs Allen and Britain collectively disagreed with this.

Cllr Britain stated that Gull Road is not a straight road, whereas Black Drove (at the point in connects to Cants Drove) is.

Cllr King questioned why these concerns and points weren't raised years ago when Biocow first began to operate.

Cllr Scrimshaw stated in reply to Cllr King, that when Biocow first began to operate and they addressed the Parish Council they were told there would only be a small number of vehicle movements.

The Chairman mentioned that this was more of an issue due to the application involving movements of gas tankers, hence why the request for a routing agreement via Black Drove is being strongly recommended now. He also stated that we need development and improvements in the Countryside to allow for employment but not at the expense of local residents.

Cllr Booth confirmed that these concerns were raised at Parson Drove Parish Council and routing via Black Drove was queried, he also stated that they were raised at Wisbech St. Mary Parish Council similarly.

In summary the Councillors agreed that the current route of Gull Road – Cants Drove has become unfit for purpose due to the continued growth of Biocow and a routing agreement to use Black Drove to access the A47 needed to be approved.

Cllr Britain proposed the Council do not withdraw their objection, this was seconded by Cllr Allen and unanimously agreed.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Letter from Parishioner – Light pollution from new streetlight.

The Chairman explained that this was regarding the splay from a new light on St Marys Close, Wisbech St. Mary and that he would follow up and visit the parishioner to discuss options.

(b) Cllr S King – Reinstated Bus Stop at Folley's Drove Junction on High Road, Guyhirn - **Noted**

8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

8.1 Street Lighting

(a) Cllrs to note a report of FPC25 fault – Outside 'Cosy Nook' High Road, Guyhirn.

The Chairman confirmed that he is dealing with this one, along with FPC8 on Front Road, Murrow which was reported by resident as constantly flashing, the fuse was removed the same day as reported and is now down to be fixed.

The Chairman requested that any other Street Light faults should be emailed with the Clerk copied in.

8.2 Highways

(a) Proposed Closure - Gull Drove, Guyhirn 06/10/2020 - 08/10/2020 on Behalf of BT

(b) Proposed Closure - New Drove, Wisbech St Mary - 05/10/2020 - 16/10/2020 on Behalf of BT

The Clerk advised that these are now confirmed closures along with another one on Hooks Drove, Murrow 12/10/20 – 14/10/20 on behalf of Anglian Water – **Noted**

9. FINANCE MATTERS

9.1 To receive the Budgetary Control Report for 2020/21 to date. The Clerk circulated the report prior to the meeting. She drew attention to the planter sponsorship payments received and those that are outstanding. The bank reconciliation balanced at £86,584.27 - **Noted**

9.2 To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	G. Wilkinson August Salary	£571.95	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	G. Wilkinson Tax and NI	£142.80	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	G. Wilkinson August Expenses	£22.95	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Clerk August Salary	£361.30	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Clerk Tax and NI	£90.20	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(f)	Clerk Monthly Expenses	£50.00	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(g)	E-on Lighting Energy July	£682.92	Parish Councils Act 1957	Agreed
(h)	D. Wheeler – Reimbursement of zoom charges	£14.39	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(i)	SWARCO Traffic Ltd – MVAS Maintenance	£147.60	Highways Act 1980	Agreed
(j)	Cambs Community Foundation (MVAS Underspend Refund)	£916.00		Agreed

(k) To approve the Pay Award increase of G. Wilkinson from April – 20th August of £125.17 to be paid in Oct 2020 - **Agreed**

9.3 Grant applications:

(a) MAGPAS Air Ambulance - £1014 contribution to costs. LG Act 1972 S137

Following discussion, it was agreed by majority vote to reject the application this year.

10. PARISH PROPERTY

10.1 Maintenance

(a) Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) Contract – Silver Level arranged – **Noted**

10.2 Bus Shelters

(a) Update on damage to Guyhirn Bus Shelter

Cllr Britain stated that the glass had been replaced on Friday 11th September 2020 and asked whether we should be replacing this with glass again as it's the third time it's been vandalised. Cllr Knight explained that there are alternatives that we can look at should it happen again, similar to areas of London that used a thin strong steel mesh instead of glass.

The Clerk advised that we have received the invoice from Paul Tibbs and this had been sent off to the Insurance Claims Team.

11. DEFIBRILLATOR FOR THOLOMAS DROVE

(a) For members to discuss a proposed defibrillator located at The Chequers Public House and how it would be financed.

Cllr Britain confirmed that he asked for this to go onto the agenda to be revisited. Cllr Booth offered to speak to the clerk regarding a previous application to Wrydecroft. The Chairman asked for a quote from Andrew Deptford to look at The Parish Council funding it themselves for the next meeting. **The item was deferred to the next meeting.**

12. VACANCY

(a) Co-Option of a Parish Councillor

The Clerk advised that one application had been received from Mrs Angela Weldon of Thorney Toll and read out her application to the Council. **It was agreed unanimously to offer her the vacant seat.**

13. CLERK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

(a) ILCA Certificate (£99 + VAT) (b) CAPALC New Clerk Training 2 Day Course (£250) and (d) Updated Charles Arnold – Baker book on Local Council Administration (£119 for Twelfth Edition) – **agreed**
(c) Scribe Accounts Package – Quoted at £468 + VAT **agreed for the clerk to explore this option and report back next meeting.**

14. ONLINE BANKING

The clerk reported the changes to the mandate that Cllr Allen & Davies along with the previous clerk had been removed and that herself and Cllr Humphrey had been added. Nothing further had been actioned by Barclays. The Chairman offered to chase if no further action had been seen from Barclays a week prior to next meeting.

15. THE MIDDLE PIT AND THOLOMAS DROVE WASH PIT CHARITY

(a) To note offer of £82,500 for land at Nene Close, Guyhirn was declined – **noted**

(b) Resignation of John Fish as a trustee – **noted**. Cllr Fryett volunteered to become a trustee keeping the number of trustees at six. The Clerk to update with Charity Commission.

16. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

CCC Councillor King reported:

-August was a quiet month, COVID-19 was taking up a lot of officer's time but normality to working was starting to resume at CCC.

Cllr Davies reported to Cllr King that the pavement outside 'Highlander' on the High Road at Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn was uneven. **Cllr King to report back.**

FDC Councillor Booth reported:

-FDC Full Council had occurred and that the main item of a motion regarding a moratorium had been

successful for stopping the sale of FDC owned land in south Wisbech, protecting the future of the proposed Wisbech Railway Site and blocking the proposed incinerator.

-Anglian Water had agreed to attend Octobers O&S.

-Clarion attended O&S in September but was unable to respond to many questions due to lack of information brought with them.

FDC Cllr Bligh reported:

-A list of over 50 residents reporting poor water pressure had been sent in to Anglian Water.

-Guyhirn Playground responses were reasonable and is going over the results and will report further in due course.

17. POLICE MATTERS

PCSO Sue Clarke emailed in a report which referred to a trespasser in a garden overnight in Wisbech St. Mary, GPS tracker thefts from farm machinery and an increase in catalytic converter thefts. It was also reported that speeding continues to be a concern on rural roads. **This was circulated to all Councillors prior to meeting and noted.**

18. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Cllr Booth stated that he has ordered three wreaths from the Royal British Legion for Remembrance Day.

(b) Cllr Knight questioned the service level agreement with Clarion and their timescale for re letting their properties as there is vacant social housing in Station Drive, Wisbech St. Mary and is concerned in times of homelessness that these are empty. Cllr Booth agreed to email Clarion on his behalf.

(c) Cllr Knight commented on the School Streets closure of Church Road and Churchfield Way during school pick up times. He was concerned that there were no advanced warning signs and disappointed that the Parish Council hadn't been informed of the scheme. He is also concerned that the parking problems have just been moved onto the High Road which has more traffic and children are getting in and out of cars under more dangerous conditions. He would like to see this ran for a month and then reviewed as to its benefit. The Clerk to email Cambridgeshire County Council with his concerns.

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

Monday 12th October 2020 Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21

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

Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman