

# Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday October 12th 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, 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 – Cllr S Mann – Work Commitments

### 2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

The minutes were taken as read and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Britain and Seconded by Cllr Humphrey. They would be signed by the Chairman on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)

The Clerk reported that Cllr Knights concerns regarding the CCC School Streets Scheme closing Church Road at School times had been sent off to CCC but no reply had been received.

Cllr Booth reported that he had raised Cllr Knights concerns to Clarion Housing regarding empty properties on Station Drive, Wisbech St. Mary. The information he received allowing for GDPR was that one property is listed for possible disposal and the other property they believed had been re-let in June, prompting them to chase this up.

Cllr Knight thanked Cllr Booth but feels that there should be an assessment undertaken by Clarion district-wide as to the extent of empty/vacant social housing in light of the current serious level of housing shortages and homelessness.

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

### 5. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda

Cllr D Wheeler Item 9.3 (i) pecuniary interest.

Cllr P Davies Item 9.4 (b) pecuniary interest.

### 6. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

The Chairman brought attention to the application for Fen Falconry (F/YR20/0300/F) and that it had been granted against Parish Councils recommendation. The Clerk to write to FDC Planning outlining the council's disappointment at this decision.

#### 6.2: Planning Applications for discussion.

(a)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0791/F</a>	Erect part single and part first-floor rear extension and apply render to whole of existing dwelling including demolition of existing conservatory at Grandtully The Jetty Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RN <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(b)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0882/F</a>	Erect single-storey rear and side extensions, detached 2-storey swimming pool/office building, alterations to north west side of garage, 2.4 metre high (approx) gates and mesh fencing to front boundary and repositioning of vehicular access of existing dwelling at The Broad Willock Lane Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4UE <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(c)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0896/F</a>	Erect a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at Johnsted High Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RQ <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>

(d)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0893/F</a>	Change of use of land for domestic purposes and erect a summerhouse (retrospective) at Ferreira House Gull Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4ER <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(e)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0898/F</a>	Change of use of existing day room to a dwelling (single-storey, 2-bed) involving the erection a single-storey rear extension and removal of existing mobile home at Ponderosa Farm Garden Lane Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RZ <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Anglian Water Strategic Water Network Programme – Route planning - **Noted**

(b) FDC Revised Statement of Licensing Policy - **Noted**

## 8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

### 8.1. Street Lighting

The Chairman reported that he will be meeting with Electrical Testing later in the week to do a survey of the Parish Streetlights to make sure any that remain as old style are noted and replaced if possible. He asked that Councillors that know of any outages in their villages to email him with codes and locations prior to his meeting.

### 8.2. Highways

Cllr Britain mentioned the poor state of Guyhirn Roundabout and also the deterioration of Gull Road, Guyhirn.

Cllr Knight queried when Speedwatch would be operational again and in their absence could the Police have a presence on the main arterial routes of the villages as they are suffering heavily, especially when the A47 is closed by Police.

Cllr Allen added that he had received updates from the Speedwatch Co-Ordinator and they are still liaising with the Police regarding COVID-19 safety.

Cllr Booth reported that risk assessments are a requirement at each individual site that CSW operate and he added that most sites just don't have the room to facilitate 2m social distancing. However, Wisbech St. Mary's High Road maybe allowed as it has a wide verge/pavement to operate from.

The Clerk mentioned a request from a Parishioner for average speed cameras either end of Guyhirn. Cllr King came in on this item and stated that they would not be allowed in an area such as Guyhirn High Road, they have to be placed on strict road layouts and this would not be allowed by Highways.

## 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 remaining 50% precept received, allotment rental payments and the settlement of the insurance claim for the Guyhirn bus stop from Zurich. The bank reconciliation balanced at £124,034.46 - **Noted**

9.2. To receive the External Audit Report 2019/2020. The Clerk reported that the Council had met all obligations and there were no matters arising. The certificate of completion of audit will be added to all the Parish notice boards and website. - **Noted**

### 9.3 To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	G. Wilkinson Pay Increase April – August 20 <sup>th</sup> 2020	£99.97	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(b)	G. Wilkinson Tax and NI for above	£25.20	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(c)	Clerk September Salary	£643.36	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(d)	Clerk Tax and NI	£27.60	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(e)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (September)	£50.00	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(f)	Clerk Travelling Expenses (August – September)	£32.76	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(g)	Nest Pensions (September)	£14.15	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(h)	E-on Lighting Energy August	£682.92	Parish Councils Act 1957	<b>Agreed</b>
(i)	D. Wheeler – Reimbursement of zoom charges	£14.39	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(j)	Paul Tibbs – Guyhirn Bus Shelter Glass	£384.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1953 S4	<b>Agreed</b>
(k)	Royal British Legion – 3 Wreaths	£60.00	LG Act 1972 S137	<b>Agreed</b>

(l)	PKF Littlejohn – External Audit Fees	£360.00	Accounts & Audit Regulations 1996 S11996/590	<b>Agreed</b>
(m)	SLCC – Arnold Baker 12 <sup>th</sup> Edition Book	£123.80	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(n)	Wisbech Electrical Ltd – Street light isolation	£68.05	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	<b>Agreed</b>
(o)	Mrs Yvonne Reader – Clerk Training	£150.00	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>

#### 9.4 Grant applications:

- (a) Wisbech St. Mary Community Centre | £5000.00 - Grass Cutting & Maintenance LG Misc Prov 1976 S19  
Application was **granted**. Proposed by Cllr Weldon and Seconded by Cllr Booth
- (b) Guyhirn Playing Field Association | £2500.00 - Grass Cutting & Maintenance LG Misc Prov 1976 S19  
Application was **granted**. Proposed by Cllr Britain and Seconded by Cllr Allen
- (c) Murrow Pre School | Donation - Projects for disadvantaged children LG Act 1972 S137  
Application was unanimously **refused** due to Councillors wishing to see a project that can be reported back to the Council as to its success and a requested sum for the grant. The Clerk to report this back to Murrow Pre-School and invite them to re-apply noting the Councillors comments.
- The Chairman requested that for all future grant applications the applicants fill out a standard request form and provide one year's accounts with the application form before the grant request is included in the Agenda.

### 10. PARISH PROPERTY

#### 10.1. Maintenance

WSM Pond – Cllr Knight had been contacted by a concerned parishioner regarding the possible leaking of sewerage into the pond. The Clerk had arranged for a member of FDC Environmental Health team to visit the pond. Archived files had been discovered regarding an agreement in 2004 for waste to be discharged from a plant connected to Goodfellows Terrace. We are awaiting an update from FDC following their visit and forwarded files.

Cllr Britain stated that the green at Tholomas Drove opposite The Chequers (Shaun Bowles planters' site) will need cutting again. The Clerk to request this is completed.

#### 10.2. Bus Shelters

Cllr Weldon reported that the Bus Shelter on the residential side of the A47 at Thorney Toll was surrounded by weeds and was looking very untidy. The Clerk to speak to Shaun Bowles and request both the Thorney Toll Bus Stops are tidied up.

#### 10.3. Planters

(a) For members to discuss future sponsorship amounts

The Chairman mentioned the possibility of reducing the annual fee for sponsorship. Due to COVID-19 the respective Street Pride groups have struggled to maintain the planters and the Parish Council maintenance contractor has looked after them. As they become maintained by the Street Pride groups again should the annual amount be less? **Item to be deferred until March 2021.**

Cllr Britain mentioned that The Chequers would like a planter on the triangle at Plash Drove, he also mentioned the possibility of The Chequers maintaining the grass cutting of that triangle too. Cllr Davies suggested charging a peppercorn rate for it. – **Deferred until next meeting.**

The Clerk confirmed that Chris Dewey Building Services will be taking over the sponsorship of the planter at the Murrow War Memorial and will arrange for the sponsorship invoice to be sent out and Cllr Britain to arrange the plaque.

### 11. DEFIBRILLATOR FOR THOLOMAS DROVE

The Chairman opened the item and questioned how this would be funded. The Clerk advised that the previous application to Wrydecroft had failed due to poor monitoring but after a discussion with Cambs Community Foundation, if the Council applied again the outcome could be different due to them acknowledging the change of staff and the difficulties successfully monitoring a scheme for defibrillators. Cllr Booth stated that we had missed the deadline for November applications so March would be the next opportunity to apply for funding. Cllr Britain proposed we apply again to Wrydecroft in the Spring and would be happy to provide photographs of the current defibrillators to assist our application.

## **12. DONATED MEMORIAL BENCH POLICY**

All Councillors were circulated the Policy prior to the meeting and with no comments or concerns the Policy was adopted.

## **13. ASSETS REGISTER**

To schedule the Assets Register 2020 assessment – postponed due to COVID-19. Cllr Knight offered to retake photographs of the village assets including the new bus stops at Murrow. The Chairman and Clerk to complete the assessment on a day suitable to them in the future.

## **14. CLERK PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Scribe Accounts Package – The Clerk reported that there are other Parish Council Accounts packages available but these were programs downloaded and added to the PC, whereas Scribe was a web-based program. At the time of the meeting no further quotes had been received for the alternative programs. Cllr Davies proposed in light of this information to accept the quote from Scribe and allow the Clerk to approve the order, this was seconded by Cllr Booth.

## **15. ONLINE BANKING**

The Chairman reported that he was now able to access both of the Parish Council bank accounts electronically. The Clerk was still waiting for the card machine to allow her access, but the process was almost complete.

The Chairman also raised the possibility of moving the Charity Account money to an account that would accrue interest should the attempts fail to reclassify the charity to allow spending the capital. – **This item was deferred until the next meeting.**

## **16. COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

For members to discuss options for uniformed email addresses and costs associated with changes. After discussion it was agreed that there were other options available and that the Council would defer this item over to the next meeting to gain greater knowledge and information. – **This item was deferred until the next meeting.**

## **17. WRYDECROFT WINDFARM REPRESENTATIVE VACANCY**

For members to nominate a representative from the Council following John Fish's retirement from public office. Following discussion Cllr Knight was nominated and agreed to take up the post on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **18. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr King reported that a working party was being formed to reassess LHIs, and he was supporting that the Parish Council should be allowed three bids due to having three County Councillors representing the area. In view of this Cllr King has volunteered to be on this working party which was also looking at the possibility to increase the bid to more than £15,000 currently.

The date of the assessment panel for LHI bids has been announced by CCC as March 2021.

He also confirmed he was working to update Councillors on the various casework issues that have been raised with him.

He would be attending Full Council; however, nothing was relevant to the Parish. Attended Highways and Transport meeting which discussed the uncertainty surrounding the budget due to COVID-19.

Cllr Booth reported that Anglian Water were now aiming to attend the December meeting of FDC Overview and Scrutiny meeting and not October as planned, regarding poor water pressure in the area.

He reported that the Local Plan development was progressing and the second round of 'call for sites' known as SHELAA was seeking views on the submitted sites.

Cllr Bligh reported that she was still working with any residents that had problems, however community work was quiet due to COVID-19.

Councillor Planning Training had taken place via Zoom which focussed heavily on LP3 - Spatial Strategy, the

Settlement Hierarchy and the Countryside.

## **19. POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that she attended a 'Teams' meeting with the Police which she felt was helpful, she reported that various issues including Hare Coursing, Drug use/farms and Speeding were high priority problems in rural areas. The meeting will be a regular monthly event to allow Parish/Town Councils a chance to not only report problems but also receive a report as to what problems the Police were seeing happen within the rural areas.

## **20. ANY OTHER BUSINESS (for information only)**

Cllr Scrimshaw reported that he along with Cllr Humphrey and Cllr Fryett met on the Main Road through Murrow (Murrow Bank) to see residents that were concerned with the road being a blind spot due to the hedgerow. – **Cllr King to follow up with CCC Highways due to visibility.**

Cllr Britain asked for an update regarding the Guyhirn Football Club and the new changing rooms, Cllr Davies reported that the buildings are ordered and everything is going ahead as planned. He also reported that GFC has gone up to a new league but finding it tough competition!

The Clerk reported letters of thanks from Guyhirn Football Club and Wisbech St. Mary Parochial Church Council for their respective grants and a letter from FDC requesting representatives come forward for a stop and search panel, the email will be forwarded to Councillors for their perusal.

Cllr Knight thanked Cllr King for helping with an issue he raised regarding the reporting page on the CCC website, namely when problems are forwarded to different authorities or utility company, the issue is removed, leaving it likely to be reported again, or seeming like it's been removed off the site without being solved.

Cllr Knight has again logged the gullies outside the WSM shop as overflowing, as these had been removed from the reporting page without being fixed. He also logged the road sign at Bellamy's Bridge where due to overgrown weeds you can't read the sign. - **Cllr King to follow up.**

Cllr Knight also mentioned there is a group called Cambs 876 Remembered, which is a Royal British Legion Riders group from Wisbech who will meet on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021 in Guyhirn at the Old Chapel they will be doing a service for the final 876 soldier of the Cambridgeshire regiment that died. Likely to be a high-profile event ending in a bun fight at WSM Community Centre.

Cllr Britain reported that a 40mph sign has been knocked down, the Clerk will report via the CCC site.

## **21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING These are subject to possible change due to Coronavirus**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2020 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn

## **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2020/21**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020 Thorney Toll Village Hall

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 Murrow Village Hall

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 Chequers Inn Tholomas Drove

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021 Oliver Twist Country Inn Guyhirn

Meeting closed at 9.00 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman