

# Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday November 9th 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, G Booth, M Fryett.

FDC Councillors G Booth & S Bligh | CCC Councillor S King

Members of the public: 2

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

A Murrow parishioner addressed the Council regarding a road accident that had occurred in Murrow on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020. She raised concerns for her safety and for that of her neighbours as there have been previous similar accidents at the Front Road/Murrow Bank junction in the past.

The Chairman thanked her for her input and brought Agenda Item 11 forward for discussion so to allow her an opportunity to listen to Councils debate on the accident.

### **11. ROAD ACCIDENT AT MURROW BANK/FRONT ROAD JUNCTION**

The Clerk informed Councillors that she had spoken to a Highways Officer who visited the site and had suggested black and white posts with reflectors be placed around the grass to highlight the junction approaching.

Cllr Fryett was disappointed that he hadn't had the opportunity to discuss solutions with the Highways Officer and the Clerk agreed to arrange another site visit. Cllr Fryett also mentioned the lines around the junction are in need of repainting and that extra posts may act as projectiles in the event of another accident. Cllr Booth raised the point of revisiting the extension of the 30mph limit on Murrow Bank. He advised that it had previously been brought to Council and the cost of an application for a Traffic Regulation Order had recently been brought down by half. In light of these facts, the reoccurring accidents, and the variety of different speed limits he asked for this item to be discussed at the next meeting.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs S Mann, A Weldon and D Scrimshaw

**2. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETINGS** dated 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

The minutes were taken as read and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Booth and Seconded by Cllr Allen. They would be signed by the Chairman on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

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

(a) TRIANGLE OF LAND AT THOLOMAS DROVE, PLASH DROVE JUNCTION – To note the update that the Parish Council is still awaiting an official request by the local publican. - **Noted**

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

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

Councillor Wheeler – Item 9.2. (g) – Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Davis and Allen – Item 6.3. (Guyhirn Site) – Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Booth – Items 7. (a) and 7. (b) – Personal Interest as a Member of both groups

**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.

6.2: Planning Applications for discussion.

(a)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0703/VOC</a>	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 <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(b)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0962/O</a>	Erect 2no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land West Of Hollycroft Heights High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(c)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0952/VOC</a>	Variation of conditions 10 (surface water drainage) and 20 (list of approved drawings) relating to planning permission F/YR17/1217/F (Erection of 76 dwellings: comprising 29 x 2-storey 4-bed, 6 x 3-storey 4-bed, 29 x 2-storey 3-bed and 2 x blocks of flats (4 x 1-bed and 8 x 2-bed) with associated garages, parking, play area and landscaping involving the formation of a new access road) at Land North Of Orchard House High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL based on concerns regarding the proposed changes to the drainage. Also noting the issue with the bus shelter and the visibility splays.</b>
(d)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0965/F</a>	Erect a 2-storey extension and part loft conversion including insertion of 4no dormers to front/rear to form a 3-bed annexe to existing dwelling at Willow Lodge Cants Drove Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4HN <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(e)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0930/F</a>	Erect a 2-storey rear extension to rear of existing dwelling at The Spinney Galls Drove Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4UF <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(f)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0970/F</a>	Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 5-bed) including demolition of existing dwelling at White Lion Farm Cants Drove Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4HN <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(g)	<a href="#">F/YR20/1015/F</a>	Erect a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling involving the demolition of existing extension at 5 Selwyn Cottages High Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4EQ <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>
(h)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0988/F</a>	Erect a single-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling at 9 Station Drive Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire PE13 4RX <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL</b>

### 6.3 FDC – SHELAA (Addendum) – Parish Council Views on Submitted Sites

Parish/Settlement	Reference No.	Site Name/Address	Support
GUYHIRN/ Wisbech St. Mary PC	40486	Land East of Gull Road	YES
MURROW/ Wisbech St. Mary PC	40435	Land adjacent 34 Mill Road, Murrow	YES
OPEN COUNTRYSIDE/ Wisbech St. Mary PC	40492	Agricultural land South of Mouth Lane. Land between Newbury Lodge and Cherry Cottage, Mouth Lane	NO
WISBECH ST. MARY/ Wisbech St. Mary PC	40493	Agricultural land and redundant barn adjacent to Rummors Lane, Rummors Farm, Rummors Lane	NO
WISBECH ST. MARY/ Wisbech St. Mary PC	40494	Redundant Farmyard at Mouth Lane. Rummors farm land at Mouth Lane	YES

Councillors discussed the SHELAA Addendum and as well as their recommendations they also raised concerns regarding infrastructure, schooling and surgery provision and S106 arrangements. The clerk will forward their recommendations over for the emerging Local Plan.

6.4 For Councillors to note email sent in to FDC Planning regarding 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 acknowledgment from FDC 3C's Complaints and Planning Officers response. - **Noted**

## 7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

### (a) Murrow Street Pride Report

The Group has continued to look after the village working within COVID-19 restrictions. The Chairman thanked the group for the outstanding work they achieve.

## (b) Community Speedwatch Update – COVID-19

The Group have been advised by Cambs Constabulary that due to Lockdown 2 all activities have been suspended. The Group would look at the possibility of restarting in January and will advise the Parish Council accordingly.

## (c) FDC Polling Districts Review

The Clerk advised that this was a review for whether the venues for Polling Stations were still fit for purpose and could cope with the possibility of social distancing measures should they be needed next May (eg: A door in and a door out.) The Council agreed that all existing Polling Stations are suitable and can be accommodated to be COVID Secure.

## 8. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

### 8.1. Street Lighting

(a) For Members to discuss renumbering of the Parish Street Lights, Signage and costs associated with this change.

The Chairman outlined that over the next 18 months it would make sense to have all the Parish Streetlights renumbered and therefore would have to have new signs. The Clerk showed a draft of how the new signs could look and would explore companies to print and the costs associated with them. They would have a QR code for Smartphone reporting. Cllr Booth suggested that a telephone number is also provided for reporting too. Cllr Knight agreed with Cllr Booth and also noted that sequencing may have issues if we add others in the future.

Cllr Knight also suggested that a list of Councillors and their contact details be added into the notice boards so when parishioners want to report issues with streetlights (or anything else) it can be reported to any member of the Council and not just the Clerk. The Clerk to produce this and distribute.

The Clerk to look at costs associated with signage.

### 8.2. Highways

(a) Flooding at WSM High Road shelter (Outside Shop) – The Clerk informed the Council that Cllr Simon King had confirmed this work is scheduled for completion in January 2021. – **Noted**

(b) Any other Highways issues to be raised by Councillors.

The Chairman open this item by discussing the issues with mud on the highways being left by Pretoria Energy vehicles harvesting the maize. He raised concerns regarding road safety and the destruction of the verges. Cllr Davies also commented regarding the hours of operation and the disturbance to parishioners late into the night. Cllr Humphrey noted that this is not local farmers, these are industrial agricultural vehicles which also includes BioCow. Cllr Fryett also raised concerns regarding who is responsible for repairing the verges that these vehicles are destroying. Cllr King added that those responsible should be held to account. The Clerk to write to both Pretoria and BioCow with the Councils concerns.

(c) Road Closure - Willock Lane/Rummers Lane, WISBECH ST MARY - 7-11 December 2020 – BT Works - **Noted**

## 9. FINANCE MATTERS

9.1. To receive the Budgetary Control Report for 2020/21 to date. The bank reconciliation balanced at £114,806.46 - **Noted**

### 9.3 To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk October Salary	£643.36	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£27.60	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (October)	£50.00	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(d)	Clerk Office Consumable – Stamps	£9.12	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(e)	Nest Pensions (October)	£14.15	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Agreed</b>
(f)	E-on Lighting Energy September	£660.90	Parish Councils Act 1957	<b>Agreed</b>
(g)	D. Wheeler – Reimbursement of zoom charges	£14.39	LG Act 1972 S111	<b>Agreed</b>
(h)	Bowles Tree & Garden Services	£1410.00	LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196	<b>Agreed</b>
(i)	Bowles Tree & Garden Services	£1536.00	LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S196	<b>Agreed</b>

(j)	Electrical Testing Ltd	£1204.92	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	<b>Agreed</b>
(k)	Electrical Testing Ltd	£22389.84	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	<b>Agreed</b>
(l)	Cambridgeshire County Council – LHI Contribution	£107.92	Highways Act 1980	<b>Agreed</b>
(m)	CAPALC – Clerks ‘The Knowledge’ Course	£250.00	LG Act 1972 S111	<b>Agreed</b>
(n)	Scribe Accounts – Annual Charge	£561.60 *	LG Act 1972 S111	<b>Agreed</b>
(o)	Scribe Accounts – One off Set Up Charge	£178.80 *	LG Act 1972 S111	<b>Agreed</b>

\*Following distribution of the agenda an error was identified in these two payments, please note these figures are the correct amounts of the invoices and therefore the amounts paid.

#### 9.4 Grant applications:

(a) Murrow Street Pride | £200 – Maintenance of Planters/Plants LG Act 1972 S137

Proposed by Cllr Fryett and Seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously agreed to **approve** the grant.

(b) Finding Fitness Ltd | £1500 – Sports Holiday Club Proposal LG Act 1972 S137

Proposed by Cllr Britain and Seconded by Cllr Davies and unanimously agreed to **refuse** the grant.

9.5. For members to approve/amend new Grant Application Form

The Council all agreed that a form is needed however it was considered too detailed. Cllr Booth to liaise with the Clerk and amend for next meeting.

### 10. PARISH PROPERTY

#### 10.1. Maintenance – No Matters Raised

#### 10.2. Bus Shelters

Cllr Britain and Cllr Knight are both concerned that the glass shelters are looking dirty and that the future maintenance contract would need them to be cleaned more regularly, especially in the Winter with muddy roads.

#### 10.3. Planters

(a) Murrow Street Pride taking ownership of the WSM PC planter between Back Road and Front Road, Murrow.

The Chairman stated that Murrow Street Pride (MSP) already have 10 planters on the same land where this planter sits, they already tend to it and it would make sense to transfer the asset over to them. The Council agreed to a nominal charge of a £1. The Clerk to draw up an asset transfer agreement to remove it from our asset register and hand over ownership to MSP and return the funds that had recently been paid by MSP for sponsorship.

Cllr Britain stated that the Landlady of the Chequers at Tholomas Drove requested to sponsor a planter and would like one to be placed on the triangle of land near the pub, after discussion the clerk will contact her to obtain her thoughts on taking over sponsorship of one of the current ones rather than building a new one. The Clerk informed the Council that the planter at Wisbech St. Mary Church needs a new sponsor, and Cllr Knight suggested that we place an advert in the Village Voices for businesses to come forward. The Clerk to add this to our next newsletter.

### 12. WISBECH ST. MARY POND

The FDC Environmental Officer had chased the EA on our behalf and it wasn't high on their list of priorities and hadn't been out to look at the pond yet, however they did stress should anyone see or smell sewerage they will of course raise its priority level and come out. No further update at this time.

### 13. ASSETS REGISTER

Cllr Knight to take new photographs of all the assets to start and produce an updated Asset Register. Annual inspection of assets still to be completed.

### 14. THE MIDDLE PIT AND THOLOMAS DROVE WASH PIT CHARITY

Following some legal advice, and speaking to ACRE the Council have decided a plan of action to try and move this forward. A meeting of the trustees will be convened to discuss the aims of the new charity and a public consultation arranged and results submitted to the Charity Commission to reclassify the Charity away from a Permanent Endowment. The Clerk to circulate any paperwork to assist the trustees and defer this until the New Year.

## **15. COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Following the successful utilisation of Microsoft One Drive the Council no longer feel this is necessary and will continue to use their current email addresses.

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

Cllr King reported that he had met with a Parishioner in Murrow regarding a hedge height problem and poor visibility on a corner, he advised that any solutions would have to be an LHI submission for the poor visibility issues on the corner and asked for this to be considered.

Cllr King also reported that he would be attending a Highways Transport Committee meeting and will raise the issue of verges.

Cllr Booth reported that he had received confirmation that Anglian Water will definitely be attending the December meeting of FDC Overview and Scrutiny Panel and will be raising the issue of poor water pressure in the area.

Cllr Booth also reported that he had been informed that Back Road, Murrow would be closed between 16<sup>th</sup> November – 11<sup>th</sup> December by North Level IDB for pipe strengthening.

Cllr Bligh reported that all community work remained quiet due to COVID, but still continues to work with residents on private issues.

## **17. POLICE MATTERS**

The Clerk reported that she had attended the Police Teams meeting and raised concerns regarding the safety of the villages when the A47 is closed by the Police. They suggested an alert system could be created to trigger a presence of High Visibility Volunteers from the Speed Watch and she will keep pressing this issue moving forward.

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

Cllr Britain queried whether the planter on SandBank in Wisbech St Mary should incur sponsorship but as this was arranged by a parishioner at their cost and they maintain it, it was not a Parish Council concern.

Cllr Knight gave an update as the Parish Councils representative on the Wrydecroft Windfarm Committee, he stressed there was a surplus of funds and suggested for these to be granted to Parish Councils for them to give out to worthy causes, this is now being considered by the Wrydecroft Committee. He also recommended that any community group applies for grant funding.

The Chairman advised he had concerns raised by a Parishioner regarding cars parking on the green at Tholomas Drove, he questioned whether we could have signs made and this item will be deferred to the next meeting.

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

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

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

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

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 Thorney Toll Village Hall

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting Wisbech St Mary Community Centre

Meeting closed at 9.05 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman