

# Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

---

## Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday March 8th 2021 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, S Mann, D Scrimshaw & A Weldon. (Cllr Mann was away from the meeting at points due to connection issues)

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

Members of the public: 4 (1 joining at 8:30pm)

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

Murrow Street Pride Chairman Informed Parish Council that they were attracting new volunteers thanks to their publicity in the national press recently and were helping Guyhirn volunteers set up as a Street Pride Group as the two groups share a concern over the adjoining land between the two villages and the amount of litter that accumulates there. Due to the speed limit this wasn't safe to litter pick, so they have approached FDC to clear this stretch.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None**

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

Cllr Steve Count was given prior notice of questions from Councillors and reported back on each one.

#### *1) Poor state of the roads in Fenland generally but particularly in rural areas.*

Historically due to austerity and priorities given to adult social care, children and vulnerable people the highways budget was decreased. They have recognised that Highways have suffered and in the last 2/3 years monies have been increased into the Highways budget with an extra £34m in the last two years for roadways and footpaths maintenance. However, it will take a couple of years to recover and for improvements in these areas to come to fruition. Cllr Count mentioned that Fen Roads are measured against the rest of the County, so improvements will be seen moving forwards.

#### *2) Start date for Cants Drove repairs?*

Cllr Count reported that there is no work in the pipeline with a date currently. The money that was going towards the road repairs from BioCow is no longer happening or has not happened yet. A Highways officer is meeting with a resident of Cants Drove soon and a representative from the Parish Council is welcome to go along. Cllr Count to forward details.

#### *3) Supporting WSM PC LHI bid to reduce the High Road in WSM to 30mph, as a growth village with increased residents comes increased traffic.*

Cllr Count advised the Council that he does not sit on that committee but would happily come and assess any future bids and see if he can offer support.

The Chairman stated that he finds it unfair that as the biggest parish in Fenland with three County Councillors we only have one LHI bid when we have many areas in the Parish waiting for infrastructure improvements.

Cllr Count offered the solution that a constituted group within the Parish (for instance Street Pride) could also apply for an LHI, however Cllr Booth confirmed that that option had been explored and was advised that only one bid per Parish area was allowed.

#### *4) Information on the School at Barton Road, and the effect on the Parish.*

The School has now got funding in place from Government, and Cllr Count recognises that the issues in the past had been around the roads and accessibility. Monitoring has been completed (pre COVID) and the possible solutions to mitigate the concerns are suggested as a footpath/cycleway along Barton Road to link the school to the town rather than being separated by farmland. A separate internal road for cars, buses, taxis and a drop off rather than causing congestion on Barton Road. Other solutions include extending the streetlighting from Town to Campus, reduce the speed limit from 60mph to 40mph, traffic calming as a gateway, a toucan crossing to the B1169 (Leverington Common) and passing places along Gadds Lane. Cllr

Count suggested that there is a need for this School and would give the village children a choice of school that is much more local to them.

The Chairman commented that he feels Highways are missing the point of the problem that Barton Road is not the issue, it is North Brink. This new school will be fulfilled by some town children in practise and with the Grammar School already in situ along the Brink, this is a congestion problem waiting to happen. The roads around here are not fit for purpose and the use of Gadds Lane as a single-track road is ridiculous. Cllr Count assured the Chairman that he will get a Highways officer to meet with the Parish Council over this subject. The Chairman questioned the time scale on the project and Cllr Count believed that a completion date of September 2022 was the target. Cllr Booth mentioned that when the presentation was done at Murrow Village Hall about two years ago, he raised the point about the transport modelling and vehicles around the site and the fact that vehicles will be travelling from both sides of the river and the response from Highways was the modelling would only be done for the catchment area (The villages West of Wisbech) which Cllr Booth reiterated will not happen in practise. Cllr Booth questioned whether this has been reconsidered by Highways as there will always be children likely to go Thomas Clarkson Academy from the villages if their siblings are there. Likewise, there will be children wanting to go to the new school from the centre of Wisbech.

*5) Problems with drains o/s Post Office in Wisbech St Mary.*

There are works planned in the next financial year, not due to lack of funding but having to do work in order of urgency following the storms over Winter.

*6) Flooding o/s The Bell Inn in Murrow.*

The Clerk advised that this item had been missed – no response was given to this issue.

*7) Verges being destroyed in rural areas due to weight of traffic (not just agricultural)*

Cllr Count was not aware of a decline in that area and asked that individual cases be submitted over to Highways officers. There was news of a change in the way verges are looked after and money has been put into anti flooding measures and grip cutting.

*Questions to Cllr Count from Parish Councillors:*

The Chairman raised a concern over the reporting mechanism on the CCC website that highways issues that Councillors and residents had reported are being removed from the system without the problem being fixed/resolved.

Cllr Humphrey noted that CCC have been in the Parish jetting the drains and some were sprayed with red dots and some green for whether there was a blockage or a flow, however the drains outside the shop in WSM had been sprayed green when there is a blockage already known. Cllr Humphrey believes the gully is collapsing outside of the shop. Cllr Count will arrange some special attention to this issue. The Chairman mentioned that he found the response unacceptable from Highways to date, as the water settled there gets splashed up onto residents waiting at the bus stop and is ruining the structure of the bus stop itself and this has been an ongoing complaint for four years.

Cllr Knight commented on the Highways reporting mechanism on the CCC website and believes it to be a good tool and easy to use but there is no point it being there if nothing is done with the issues reported.

Cllr Knight used the example of the destroyed verge at the junction of High Road/Galls Drove, Guyhirn which had been cut up badly by tractor and trailer which would cause considerable damage to a vehicle if driven into, and when the issue is still there months later it can be very disheartening for Councillors that have reported it to the correct authority. Cllr Knight would like to see better policing and management of the issues raised from the report through to completion. Cllr Count will follow up on this specific case.

Cllr Allen reported the state of the High Road, Guyhirn and is concerned how bad it will become after the Guyhirn Roundabout Improvements and the diverting traffic, and is frustrated at how long it has been in this poor state. Cllr Count replied that these problems are indicative of austerity and lack of money budgeted for Highways in past years. Cllr Count also advised that pot holes are being dealt with differently in recent years and are sealed and should last well.

Cllr Booth mentioned the dragon patcher that is commonly used by Highways for pot holes in the Parish is used for temporary repairs.

Cllr Booth expressed disappointment that at the virtual meeting with Highways England regarding the Guyhirn Roundabout, CCC Highways wouldn't support a weight limit restriction through the villages whilst

diversions will inevitably be occurring. Has this been investigated and what is the outcome? Cllr Count will get some clarification on the weight limit restriction issue and regarding the dragon patcher, generally speaking the repairs are very good and tends to be for larger areas. Cllr Count asked for examples of where the repairs have failed and will investigate further.

Cllr Fryett asked who would be attending the Cants Drove meeting and Cllr Count advised it will be a senior officer and said he will accommodate Parish Council being able to also meet with the officer. Cllr Fryett asked that Highways come and look at the verges in the Parish and particularly in Murrow the ruts that have been made are considerable and dangerous. Cllr Fryett was frustrated at the time spent painting red and green dots around drains, when he believes the drains are collapsing due to HGVs and tractors. Cllr Fryett wanted to be kept more informed as to when Highways Officers are looking at issues in the Parish, so Councillors could have the opportunity to attend and point out further issues. Cllr Fryett concluded that Cants Drove, Murrow was dangerous and should be closed off to traffic before a serious accident occurs. With no further questions the Chairman thanked Cllr Count for his attendance and Cllr Count left the meeting.

Cllr King emailed a report to Councillors ahead of the meeting with updates and was happy to take questions regarding that.

Cllr Humphrey asked for an update regarding cutting the hedge on Sandbank, WSM which is causing problems for traffic, and is concerned the window of opportunity has been missed due to birds now nesting.

Cllr King apologised for this not being completed as he was assured it would be done in January 2021, the plan was to cut the hedge and invoice the landowner and will chase this up and see if this can still be done legally due to the nesting birds.

Cllr King added that he will also chase up that the drains outside the shop are completed, and again apologised for the delay.

The Chairman thanked Cllr King for his attendance and Cllr King left the meeting.

Cllr Booth reported that FDC had a full council meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 and the main points covered were that the FDC portion of the council tax will be frozen at 0% increase and was unanimously agreed by FDC Councillors. The Council Tax support grant had been raised from 14% to 20% contribution by the claimant, which he was concerned this will affect those on the lowest incomes and was opposed to this but it was voted through by majority. There was also a motion regarding conservation areas and although there are currently no conservation areas in the Parish, should the Parish Council ever want to have any the content of that motion means that FDC will be asking the Parishes to pay half towards the consultation, and again Cllr Booth argued against this motion and it was passed by majority vote. Also, a culture and creativity policy which was adopted by FDC but originates from Arts England funding and Cllr Booth argued that there needed to be more in the policy for the Villages and make more use of the village halls. The Hackney Cab Licensing Policy was revised very slightly and was agreed.

Cllr Bligh agreed with everything Cllr Booth had reported, echoed his comments and mentioned that she supported his objections on the Council Tax Support and The Conservation Policy and due to large agenda ended her report there.

**3. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING** dated 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. The minutes were taken as read and agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Weldon and seconded by Cllr Allen. They would be signed by the chairman as soon as COVID lockdown restrictions allow.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES** (information only)

The Clerk advised that Cllr Knights query from last month regarding the MVAS/SID for Bunkers Hill was now not going ahead due it not meeting CCC Highways requirements, she assured Councillors that the agent had pushed for its placement and were keen assist with the traffic management.

Cllr Humphrey commented whether the speed sign at the Barton Road/Bevis Lane junction, (where there is an approved planning application for a new development) would still go ahead and not fall foul to CCC Highways denying it? The Chairman advised that we couldn't possibly comment at the moment but it was part of the planning consent.

Cllr Booth asked whether the Council should write to CCC Highways and outline the frustration felt as a Parish Council trying to keep their residents safe. The sign at Bunkers Hill was agreed and the Parish Council was expecting it to happen and thanks to their response saying it's not required we are going to lose something that would help the community. The Chairman agreed. The Clerk to reply to CCC Highways Officer.

Cllr Knight commented that he feels it's very short sighted of CCC to take this approach and if they consider the national speed limit the problem, they have it in their power to decrease the limit down to 30/40mph to meet their conditions and feels it is another example that they are not listening to the views of Parish Councils.

## 5. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION - None Received

## 6. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda – None Received

## 7. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

7.1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council (FDC).

7.2. To note planning applications from **February (Cancelled Meeting - Responses via email) - Noted**

(a)	<a href="#">F/YR20/1243/F</a>	Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) and detached garage, the formation of a new access and siting of temporary accommodation during construction at Land East of Roans Devon Gull Drove Guyhirn Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL by majority; however, a couple of Councillors did flag up that it was overdevelopment of the site.</b>
(b)	<a href="#">F/YR20/1277/F</a>	Erect a dwelling (2-storey, 4-bed) and detached garage at Plot 4 Pitt Farm Spencer Drove Guyhirn Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL</b>
(c)	<a href="#">F/YR20/1264/RM</a>	Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission 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 <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL</b>
(d)	<a href="#">F/YR21/0039/VOC</a>	Variation of Condition 9 (list of approved drawings) relating to planning permission F/YR16/1077/F (Erection of 4 x 2-storey 3-bed dwellings) to allow alterations to design at Land at Chapelfield Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL</b>
(e)	<a href="#">F/YR21/0064/F</a>	Siting of a mobile home for annexe ancillary to the main dwelling and erect a detached summerhouse at Woodlands Sandbank Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4SE <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL</b>
(f)	<a href="#">F/YR21/0063/F</a>	Erect an industrial building and portacabin (part retrospective) at Sims Contract Furniture Limited Plash Farm House Plash Drove Tholomas Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4SP <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL</b>
(g)	<a href="#">F/YR21/0074/F</a>	Erect a 2-storey extension to rear of existing dwelling, convert loft and install dormer to side to form additional living accommodation, install render to all elevations, erect a detached garage and widen existing vehicular access, involving demolition of existing conservatory and stores at Philmar High Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RA <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL</b>
(h)	<a href="#">F/YR21/0080/O</a>	Erect up to 9 x dwellings (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land North West of Peace and Quiet Cottage Bevis Lane Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommend REFUSAL based on overdevelopment of the site.</b>

Cllr Humphrey commented that he felt strongly that Cllr Booths reasoning (In his role as an FDC Councillor) for calling in F/YR21/0080/O to committee (should the planning application be recommended for refusal), was inaccurate and should be withdrawn.

7.3. Planning applications for discussion:

(a)	<a href="#">F/YR20/1243/F</a> <b>RECONSULTATION</b>	Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) and detached garage, the formation of a new access and siting of temporary accommodation during construction at Land East of Roans Devon Gull Drove Guyhirn Cambridgeshire <b>The Parish Council recommend APPROVAL by majority; however, a couple of Councillors did flag up that it was overdevelopment of the site.</b>
-----	--	---

(b)	<a href="#">F/YR20/0952/VOC</a>  <b>RECONSULTATION</b>	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. They also note the disappointment in regards to lack of S106 monies.</b>
-----	--	---

## 8. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) The Connections Bus Project - Noted

(b) Guyhirn Roundabout Scheme Update Postcard

The Chairman advised that all the Parish villages have now received scheme update literature in the post.

## 9. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

### 9.1. Street Lighting

The Chairman advised that the clerk has accepted the quote for £4155.20 for changing the Streetlights at Thorney Toll over to LED and will be completed one weekend as soon as they receive the parts.

Cllr Davies reported that there are three left in Guyhirn as you come into the village from WSM direction, the Chairman to follow up.

(a) Waverley Close, Guyhirn – Ownership and Responsibility of six lights – Update.

The Clerk advised that Clarion Housing have accepted ownership and will maintain the six lights in question

### 9.2. Highways

(a) Any Highways issues to be raised by Councillors.

Cllr Davies asked whether the temporary roundabout on the A47 proposed to be placed during the Improvements would remain once all works are completed? The Chairman advised that it will not remain once works are completed. Cllr Booth mentioned that the junction at Gull Road with the A47 will be replaced exactly as it was once improvements are complete.

Cllr Weldon reported that the machine that came to repair issues with flooding had knocked down lots of signs on the side of the carriageway as you travel westbound from Guyhirn towards Peterborough. Clerk to report to Highways England.

## 10. FINANCE MATTERS

### 10.1. To receive the Budgetary Control Report for 2020/21 to date.

The Clerk reported that due to the successful implementation of online banking we mostly no longer have uncleared cheques and that the bank reconciliation balanced at £76,171.50 - **Noted**

### 10.2. To receive the Allotment Account Statement for 2020/21 - **Noted**

### 10.3. Internal Audit Arrangements

The Clerk advised that due to COVID this cannot happen face to face and will be sending everything required over to the auditors remotely in the required time frame.

### 10.4. To note and ratify payment of accounts from **February (Meeting Cancelled)**

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk January Salary (Sick Pay)	£643.36	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Noted</b>
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£27.60	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Noted</b>
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (January) Inc Zoom Charges	£123.84	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Noted</b>
(d)	Nest Pensions (January)	£14.15	LG Act 1972 S112	<b>Noted</b>
(e)	E-on Lighting Energy (December)	£682.92	Parish Councils Act 1957	<b>Noted</b>
(f)	Paul Tibbs Ltd (Morrow Bus Shelters)	£420.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1953 S4	<b>Noted</b>
(g)	Rapier Signs (Church Road WSM Planter)	£15.00	Misc Prov 1976 S196	<b>Noted</b>
(h)	Geoff Wilkinson (BullGuard Reimbursement)	£49.99	LG Act 1972 S111	<b>Noted</b>
(i)	Tamar IT (Domain Hosting Package)	£84.00	LG Act 1972 S142	<b>Noted</b>
(j)	Electrical Testing Ltd	£6069.84	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	<b>Noted</b>
(k)	ACRE Membership Renewal	£57.00	LG Act 1972 S143	<b>Noted</b>

#### 10.5. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk February Salary	£643.36	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£27.60	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (February) Inc Zoom Charges	£64.39	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions (February)	£14.15	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	E-on Lighting Energy January	£682.92	Parish Councils Act 1957	Agreed
(f)	T A Blackamore Ltd (Verge Cutting)	£3772.80	Highways Act 1980 S96	Agreed

#### 10.6. CCC LHI – Project Feasibility Summary

For Councillors to note the report received and the amount of contribution requested.

The Clerk confirmed that the amount of contribution requested from the Parish Council would be £5878.84 and Cllr Booth confirmed that he had attended the briefing meeting and outlined the community support the scheme had and the LHI panel meet in June for the final decision.

#### 10.7. Grant Applications:

(a) Service by Emergency Response Volunteers – £500.00 LG Act 1972 S137

Councillors felt that this charity does not operate enough within the Parish to award them a grant under S137. – **Grant Refused**

(b) Village Voices – Donation LG Act 1972 S137

Cllr Booth declared a personal interest at this point as one of the deliverers.

Councillors recognised how important the Parish magazine is for getting information into parishioners' homes which includes the Parish Council Quarterly newsletter. Cllr Knight mentioned that there's a shortfall of around £1000 between the costs and the revenue and suggested we help them meet that cost. As the magazine covers a few different parishes Cllr Knight proposed a figure of £350. The Chairman reminded Councillors that the Parish was the largest covered by the magazine. Cllr Weldon stated that Village Voices was so important to the residents of Thorney Toll for a way of communicating that it needs to be supported. Cllr Fryett suggested we grant a larger amount. The Chairman suggested a figure of £500 and Cllr Knight amended his proposal to £500 and that was seconded by Cllr Fryett and unanimously agreed. – **Grant for £500 approved.**

### 11. ANNUAL REVIEW

(a) Review of Standing Orders

(b) Review of Financial Regulations

The Clerk proposed that due to there not being new amended versions that the Council re-adopt the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as they currently stand. This was agreed by the Council unanimously.

### 12. PARISH PROPERTY

#### 12.1. Maintenance

(a) General Maintenance 21/22 Tender.

Following discussion and reviewing all the different tenders, the Parish Council have a duty to obtain best value for money and on that basis awarded the contracts to T A Blackamore Ltd- £4612.50 and Kevin Clarke - £939.00 – The Clerk to make sure the existing contractor is thanked for his service to the maintenance of the Parish, that all unsuccessful tenders were informed and the new contractors are contacted and sent their contracts accordingly.

(b) Verge Maintenance Renewal for 21/22.

The current contract was extended for a further year, and was confirmed by the contractor to be at the same rate as this year.

(c) For Councillors to approve upgrading the wooden benches within the Parish.

Following Cllr Knights completion of the asset photographs, the Chairman felt the benches were in need of an upgrade to the same material as the new replacement at the Village Sign in WSM, this would have a saving long-term as they wouldn't need maintenance. Councillors approved that the clerk obtain some quotes. Cllr Knight suggested that the name of the village is also added so they all match the look of the one in WSM? With Councillors agreement the Clerk will look at this cost too. Cllr Fryett mentioned that Murrow only has

one bench and the Chairman suggested that Cllr Fryett comes back with some location suggestions next meeting.

#### **12.2. Bus Shelters**

The Chairman noticed that the Bus Shelter O/S WSM Shop now has two plastic chairs and Councillors discussed whether a bench is now needed to be built into this shelter. This item was deferred to the next meeting and the plastic chairs to be removed.

#### **12.3. Planters - No Issues**

### **13. WISBECH ST. MARY CHURCH GATES**

For Councillors to approve maintenance by shot blasting.

Cllr Knight advised that he and Cllr Humphrey volunteered to repaint the gates but after inspection realised that a professional finish was needed and shot blasting them could achieve this but came with a cost and they had been quoted £420. Councillors discussed whether the Parish Council could help with the costs involved but as the gates are not a Parish Council asset, they could not arrange maintenance and invoice the Council, this needed to be paid for by the Parochial Church Council.

After discussion it was suggested that the WSM & Guyhirn PCC apply for a grant towards these costs. This will be deferred until an application for a grant is received.

### **14. MURROW BANK/FRONT ROAD JUNCTION**

(a) Update on junction improvements and Speed Limit changes.

Cllr Booth mentioned that the costs for applying for a PFHI (Privately Funded Highways Improvement) was still £500 and not £250 as previously stated in past minutes. The Clerk to continue with the application.

(b) Update on Murrow MVAS/SID (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign/Speed Indicator Device)

The Clerk advised that the funding for this will be decided in April by Wrydecroft Wind Farm and will advise of the result in due course.

### **15. PARISH PONDS**

(a) Update on progress with Environment Agency / NL IDB – Wisbech St. Mary.

The Chairman advised that the drain connections have been rodded and evidence was found of blockages, so a meeting with NL IDB was arranged and they are paying for ADC to do some drain blasting to try and stop the over flow problems. The Clerk advised that no update had been received from the EA and will send a reminder email.

(b) Murrow Pit – Use as a community asset.

The Parish Council had received a report that the Murrow Pond had been mistakenly identified as an area of leisure however this is allotment land and is within lease to three residents. As such anyone venturing on this land is trespassing on a privately rented area. Councillors suggested that this should remain the case as it has been well looked after for many years. The Chairman advised that a sign must be put in place so people are aware that there is no public access. Cllr Booth suggested the Parish Council ask ROSPA to do an assessment on the pond, indeed all the Parish Ponds, to make sure they are considered safe. The Clerk to renew the leases in line with current guidance, have the sign made and contact ROSPA.

### **16. ASSETS REGISTER AND RISK ASSESTMENT OF ASSETS**

Update on progress of Inspection of Assets. – **No further update.**

### **17. THE MIDDLE PIT AND THOLOMAS DROVE WASH PIT CHARITY**

For trustees to arrange a new meeting date.

This will be arranged for a short meeting prior to Aprils Parish Council meeting, and the trustees will be advised.

### **18. POLICE MATTERS – No current update.**

### **19. PARISH CLERK – REVIEW** Confidential item

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

Cllr Knight stated that regarding cutting hedges during nesting season, there is an article online in Farmers Weekly that states that some local authorities follow DEFRA guidance and do not cut hedges between March

and August, however if the hedge is causing an obstruction on a footpath or road that the hedge can be cut back as a safety measure. Cllr Knight to forward the article to Cllr King.

Cllr Booth mentioned whether the Parish would have more allotments in the future as he has been contacted from residents in the Parish approaching Parson Drove, which shows there is a desire for them. The Chairman mentioned the money that is tied up with the Wash Pit Charity possibly being used to purchase some allotment land in the future.

Cllr Humphrey asked the FDC Councillors to contact Planning Enforcement regarding an illegal development in the Parish, details were taken for reporting. Cllr Humphrey also reported some illegal development activities occurring out of Parish on the Parson Drove Parish Council area for Cllr Booth to be made aware of.

Cllr Britain questioned whether traffic calming was being implemented along Gadds Lane as part of the new Wisbech School plans and if it's possible there, then why not in our Parish. The Chairman advised that they would passing places and that the School does not have planning permission as yet and all details will then be discussed as part of the application.

Cllr Britain asked how the defibrillator was progressing for Tholomas Drove. The clerk advised that it is also in the April funding round for Wrydecroft Wind Farm and will inform Councillors of the outcome in due course.

The Chairman suggested that Guyhirn PFA also approach the Wind Farm to help upgrade the play equipment. The Clerk reported to the Councillors that she had been asked to advise them that The Chequers Public House will be placing a temporary structure on the land to the side of the pub which is owned by the Parish Council, it is a 1.8m x 1.8m snug. This was noted by the Parish Council.

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

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

Meeting closed at 10:00 pm

Signed: Cllr. D Wheeler, Chairman