

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 10th January 2022 at Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank PE13 4HB

Attended by: Councillors D Wheeler (Chairman), J Humphrey (Vice Chairman), M Knight MBE DL, C Allen, P Davies, M Fryett, S Mann, D Scrimshaw, B Britain & A Weldon.

FDC Councillor: S Bligh | CCC Councillor: S King

Members of the public: 3

Also present: Cllr C Boden – Leader of Fenland District Council

In Memory of Mr Geoffrey Wilkinson who sadly passed away in December 2021, the Chairman gave a heartfelt eulogy to his time as Clerk to WSM Parish Council and held a minute silence.

1. OPEN FORUM - Parishioners are invited to address the Council

- A resident of Murrow expressed concern regarding the proposed boundary changes to Fenland District Council wards. The main issues mentioned being fragmented community support, inadequate representation due to potential distance (for example if the Cllr representing Murrow lives in Elm), and finally the fact that Murrow will suffer the most from the proposed changes and faces disenfranchisement.
- The same resident also expressed frustration regarding the poor state of footpaths in Murrow namely on Back Road, Front Road and The Pigeons. He suggests that HGVs are mounting the pavements causing their state of disrepair. They urgently need addressing by Highways.
- The Co-Ordinator of the Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speedwatch reported that CSW will be starting up again next week with a new schedule. However, any investigation into signage that could incur costs will be halted until the outcome of the local boundary changes, specifically due to the proposed splitting of the ward, which is currently the area solely covered and could potentially cause its closure. She reported the possibility that it could continue by being supported by the two Parish Councils of Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary instead. She also expressed disappointment at the lack of consultation for community groups before FDC agreed to the proposed scheme.
- A resident of Guyhirn expressed thanks to the Parish Councillors for arranging for the Jubilee Tree to be planted facing the Chapel of Ease, but is disappointed that many local people are unaware of the play area and football field location, and asks for the entrance to stand out more.
- The same resident also expressed disappointment that her previous requests for an extra streetlight to be placed outside Selwyn Cottages on the High Road has not been successful, and asks that this be looked at again.

2. CLLR CHRIS BODEN | LEADER OF FDC – ELECTORAL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Chris Boden to the Parish Council meeting and asked him to outline the process of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) boundary review.

Cllr Boden thanked the Chairman and gave the following points:

- Review was requested by FDC because of the increase in electors due to development in Fenland.
- LGBCE work six years ahead and the estimated number of electors for Fenland in 2027 would be 85,944.
- Using this figure, a working party was formed to recommend a council size, and it was suggested to be 42 Councillors. This was agreed to by the LGBCE but could potentially be flexed between 40 – 44.
- Once a council size was agreed the next stage would be to work out a scheme based on three rules:
 - I. No parishes were to be split between wards.
 - II. No ward would have greater than 10% electoral variance.
 - III. No parish to be incorporated into part of a town unless completely unavoidable.
- A scheme was created which was not only mathematically achievable but would aim to respect boundaries of natural communities.
- The parishes of Elm and Wisbech St Mary caused some problems due to their size; WSM was projected to have 3379 electors and Elm 3352 electors, which based on an average of 2046 electors per Councillor, both parishes had too few for two councillors but too many for one. So, joining the two parishes together with three councillors met with the mathematics.
- LGBCE will weigh up all the suggested schemes put to them and the proposal will again go out to consultation.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Boden for the explanation and opened the floor to questions.

Q: Cllr Humphrey asked what advantages would the Parish Council have by joining with Elm Parish Council which was not only separated by the River Nene but the A47 too.

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A: Cllr Boden replied that he's unsure of the advantages, but it meets with the rules set out by LGBCE to join the two parishes. He also stated that LGBCE don't make change for changes sake but their criteria can be contradictory and rules can be broken.

Q: The Chairman expressed his concern that following the CCC Boundary review, Wisbech St Mary parish is joined with March North and in his opinion isn't conducive to good local government.

A: Cllr Boden replied that he did not agree with the decision made in the CCC Boundary review, and that there is a possibility that LGBCE may visit to look at the area and look at development. He also wanted to outline what 'communities' meant, he stated that splitting communities is not recommended but joining smaller communities together to make a larger community is allowed. He also mentioned that parish boundaries will also be reviewed in the future to help villages like Murrow and other similar anomalies.

Q: Cllr Knight expressed frustration that this system is likely based on rules and regulations set up years ago and lacks common sense. It is driven by numbers and stats and not communities, it has been mentioned that rules are broken, so why try to stick to rules? He feels it lacks a common-sense approach.

A: Cllr Boden agreed with the points made but the system primarily starts with the numbers.

The Chairman allowed Cllr Bligh to speak on this item as one of the current District Councillors.

Cllr Bligh made the following points:

- FDC did agree to the size of the Council being 42, but this was before any data was known as to how this would be worked into a scheme and the possible splitting of the current warding arrangement.
- Cllr Booth submitted an alternative scheme based on the size of the Council being 41, this would leave most of the rural wards intact, with the electoral variation still being under 10% but it was obvious there was a lack of support from the current council.
- The alternative scheme of 41 has been submitted to the LGBCE too.
- The two parishes have been working together in ward for decades and charities and community groups have been established during that time.
- FDC never approached the Parish Councils for their response to their proposed scheme prior to it being put before Full Council to decide on, which she is sure goes against FDC's own policy on consultation.

The Chairman gave the Murrow resident the final word on this item, as to whether his questions had been answered, he replied he was disappointed that the decisions made so far have nothing to do with communities.

3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received and accepted from Cllr G Booth & CCC Councillor S Count

4. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION - None

5. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda

- Item 16 Cllr S Mann declared a pecuniary interest on both items and will be leaving the room for these.
- Item 16 both Cllr P Davies and Cllr C Allen declared prejudicial interests and will not be debating or voting on these items.

6. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 13th December 2021. The Council resolved including any amendments to accept as a true record, the minutes of the meeting. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only)- None

8. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS - Agenda item time limited to 10 minutes

Cllr King circulated his report in writing and was happy to take any questions.

The Chairman asked Cllr King to pick up on the report made by the Murrow resident regarding the footpaths and Cllr King gave his contact details and was happy to follow up.

Cllr Fryett expressed frustration that these pavements have been marked up for repair and have not been completed, and also feels that the HGVs mounting the pavement is a serious and urgent safety risk.

The Chairman thanked Cllr King for the drainage finally being repaired outside WSM Shop.

Cllr King offered to speak to Highways regarding the poles that have been placed in Murrow to hold the MVAS that are too small, he suggested there may be a cost to the Parish Council, Councillors agreed to a financial cost to get the MVAS up and running.

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9. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

9.1. Planning applications determined by the Fenland District Council (FDC). - **Noted**

9.2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a)	F/YR21/1452/F	The temporary siting of a mobile home for farm workers (until 01/01/2031) at Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4HN The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(b)	F/YR21/1458/VOC	Variation of Condition 06 (condition listing approved plans) of planning permission F/YR21/0074/F (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) to allow installation of solar panels at Philmar High Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RA The Parish Council offered no further comment.
(c)	F/YR21/1490/VOC	Removal of condition 3 (materials) and variation of condition 2 (occupancy restriction) and 8 (list of approved drawings), relating to planning permission F/YR21/0425/F (Erect a dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) and detached garage, involving the demolition of the existing glasshouses) to allow changes to elevational details, and clarify extent of 'business operation' on site at Land East of Bank View Gull Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council offered no further comment.
(d)	F/YR21/1479/F	Erect a bus shelter at Land South of Moat Field High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) FDC – Planning Training for Councillors via Microsoft Teams – Logins available from Clerk.

Councillors noted the training. The Clerk supplied all dates and times available for Councillors to email for logins if required.

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

11.1. Street Lighting

(a) Issue with Balfour Beatty (BB) regarding Street Light on Station Road, WSM – Update.

The Clerk explained that she had a conversation with BB and accepted the fact that it appears that the PC contractor has made a mistake and has changed their head to LED (L1BHZ opp Beechings Close) instead of changing FPC4 (on the corner of Station Drive and Station Road). BB consider this to be an error by the PC and therefore require the PC to pay for correcting the error, the clerk has asked for BB to quote for their necessary changes and to then move the head placed in error onto FPC4.

Cllr Allen discussed the streetlight mentioned by the Guyhirn resident in the public forum, he reported that a lot of work had gone into trying to arrange this extra streetlight. The Chairman advised that the Council was quoted £10,000 to provide a power line, which he felt was an unreasonable spend of public money. The overhead powerlines were also a problem when UK Power Networks came out to assess. Cllr Allen asked whether this could be looked at again by Electrical Testing as there are currently three other new streetlights being put forward.

Cllr Knight suggested whether solar powered streetlights could be an option here, if we could solve the overhead power line issue. The Chairman agreed to speak to Electrical Testing.

Cllr Britain queried whether the streetlight needed on the corner of the Gull was being progressed and the Chairman confirmed that this location was one of the three already being looked at.

11.2. Highways

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

Cllr Davies expressed frustration that the service covers on High Road, Guyhirn are still uneven and causing a nuisance. Clerk agreed to report to Anglian Water if Cllr Davies could provide all locations.

Cllr Britain expressed disappointment that an overgrown hedge protruding onto the highway on the Gull has yet to be cut back. The Clerk advised that this item was given to Cllr French to report to Highways. Clerk to chase up.

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12. FINANCE MATTERS

12.1. To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2021/22 to date. The Clerk drew attention to the income received of £3087.40 received from Cambs Community Foundation on behalf of Wrydecroft Windfarm in payment of a grant awarded for new bins in the parish. The bank reconciliation of 3rd January 2022 balanced at £116,764.04.

12.2 Budget Review 2021/22- Draft Precept

To agree budget and Precept as per attached Draft Budget and Precept.

The Chairman opened the item for explanation from the Clerk. She drew attention to the Clerks salary, Tax/Ni and Pension going over budget due to a pay rise during the last financial year and therefore being increased for the following year. Insurance is considered to only increase marginally due to the Parish Council still being within a five-year long-term arrangement but other general admin items came in under budget warranting the slight decrease in budget for the following year. Capital expenditure remained the same as previous year due to there not being any major projects currently planned in the following year. Community grants and maintenance budgets also remained the same as the previous year. It was suggested by Cllr Knight and agreed by Council that the S137 budget be increased to allow for an extra £3500 for any potential grant applications from the Parish Community Groups wishing to celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The training budget and election costs remained the same, both of which are good practice to have within the budget. It was suggested during the December meeting by Cllr Booth and agreed by Council that the LHI and PFHI budgets increased accumulatively due to the likelihood that the Parish Council contribution could be higher for the 2022/23 LHI bid and to allow for the forthcoming PFHI application to improve the speed limits with Tholomas Drove. The Community Projects budget wasn't exhausted in the previous year mainly due to successful grants from Wrydecroft Windfarm however, Councillors felt allowing another £10,000 gave the chance to be more proactive should any major issues arise during the coming year. It was noted that Energy was a hard forecast to make during the current energy crisis but this will be monitored carefully during the year. With a projected end of year bank balance of £93,035.00, the allocated cash reserves for the following year would total £34,000.00:

New Streetlights	£18,000.00
Over flow for LHI and PFHI Schemes	£8,000.00
Election Costs Pot	£1,000.00
Unspent Community Projects	£7,000.00

Cllr Davies seconded Cllr Britain's proposal to accept the Clerks estimate of a precept of £77,074.00 and the allocated cash reserves for the year 2022/23 and was unanimously agreed by the Parish Council.

Expenditure	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Clerks Salary	£8,127.00	£13,600.00	£14,500.00	£15,000.00
Clerks Expenses	£800.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Insurance & General Admin	£4,700.00	£4,560.00	£5,300.00	£5,500.00
Capital Expenditure	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£6,000.00	£6,000.00
Section 137 grants	£4,500.00	£8,000.00	£4,500.00	£4,500.00
Community Grants	£14,000.00	£14,000.00	£14,000.00	£14,000.00
Allotment Expenses	£12.00	£14.00	£14.00	£15.00
Street Lighting new	£10,000.00			
Street Lighting repairs and maintenance	£5,000.00	£2,500.00	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Energy costs for street lights	£8,600.00	£7,000.00	£8,000.00	£9,000.00
Maintenance & Risk Management of Assets	£13,000.00	£13,000.00	£14,000.00	£14,500.00
Clerk & Councillor Training	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Parish Council Election Costs	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	£2,500.00	£1,000.00
Local Highway Improvement schemes	£3,504.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Privately Funded Highways Improvement Schemes	£4,000.00	£8,000.00	-	
Renumbering Streetlights and Signage	£5,000.00	-	-	-
Planter Policy		£1,100.00	£1,100.00	£1,100.00
Community Projects	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	£10,000.00
Total	£98,243.00	£94,774.00	£89,914.00	£90,615.00

Estimated Income				
VAT refund	£7,527.00	£7,000.00	£7,000.00	£7,000.00
Concurrent Functions Grant FDC	£4,660.00	£4,660.00	£4,660.00	£4,660.00
CCC grant for cutting roadside verges	£3,177.00	£3,177.00	£3,177.00	£3,177.00
Garden & Allotment Rents	£1,763.00	£1,763.00	£1,763.00	£1,763.00
Planter Policy	£1,000.00	£1,100.00	£1,100.00	£1,100.00
Total Income	£18,127.00	£17,700.00	£17,700.00	£17,700.00
EXPENDITURE LESS INCOME PRECEPT	£80,116.00	£77,074.00	£72,214.00	£72,915.00
Increase/Decrease %		-3.80%	-6.31%	+0.97%

The Chairman asked for consideration that the Parish Council donate to the two charities supported by the previous clerk for his funeral. The two charities are Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and The British Heart Foundation (BHF). The clerk advised that Parish Council can donate to charities under S137. This was proposed by the Chairman that £30 be donated to each charity, this was seconded by Cllr Britain and unanimously agreed.

12.3. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk December Salary	£860.83	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£155.46	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (December)	£102.00	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions - December (Direct Debit)	£43.13	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Npower/E-on Lighting Energy December	£713.60	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	Agreed
(f)	Thorney Toll Village Hall – Hall Hire	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed
(g)	Shelter Solutions – Tholomas Drove Bus Shelter	£5790.00	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1953 S4	Agreed
(h)	Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£11.32	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(i)	SLCC – CiLCA Qualification Registration	£410.00	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(j)	Tamar IT – Annual Website Hosting	£84.00	LG Act 1972 S142	Agreed

The Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of January totalling £8210.34 The invoices and payment schedule were checked and signed off by the Chairman and Cllr Humphrey.

12.4. Grant Applications - Nil

13. PARISH PROPERTY

13.1. Maintenance

(a) General Maintenance Contract Review

For Councillors to consider extending the contract with T A Blackamore for the year 2022/23

Councillors agreed to extend the contract with T A Blackamore for a further year as the Parish has been kept tidy and they found the contractors to be very amenable to any requests. – Clerk to amend schedule of tasks due to the installation of recycled plastics benches and a new glass bus shelter and inform T A Blackamore.

(b) Willows at Guyhirn Pond

For Councillors to note the felling of two mature willows and to approve the purchase of replacements as per the requirements of the TPO.

Cllr Allen expressed appreciation for the trimming of the willows, and commented that the contractor had done a very good job. The Chairman mentioned that it was unfortunate that the two mature willows nearest the road had to be felled but due to health and safety risks, there was no other option. The Clerk asked for suggestions from Councillors for local companies that could provide replacements as it was an obligation on the TPO to replace like for like and she was struggling to locate a company that had stock. The Chairman suggested contacting Barcham Trees in Soham. Councillors agreed to purchase from Barcham Trees should they have stock, due to urgency of getting them planted in the correct season.

Cllr Fryett mentioned that he had spoken to Artistic Metallica (AM) regarding the railings at Murrow War Memorial. AM suggested quoting for both mending the railings and also a complete refurbishment, they mentioned that for the latter, there could be grants available to recover costs to a War Memorial. Cllr Fryett

to arrange a site visit, obtain quotes and grant details.

Cllr Fryett also reported that the Guyhirn Noticeboard had been removed from Gaultree Farm with help from our contractor Kevin Clarke and Cllr Britain. Cllr Fryett requested instructions for where on the Guyhirn pond the noticeboard was to be placed and Councillors agreed for it to be placed near the bench. Cllr Weldon suggested using the poles at Thorney Toll as they were surplus to requirements and could be used to the benefit of Guyhirn. Cllr Fryett to work with Kevin Clarke and get the noticeboard back in place.

13.2. Bus Shelters – No issues reported

13.3. Planters

The Clerk advised that the two planters of concern on the Gull will have to be maintained by the Parish Council again as the previous volunteer was unable to continue, and that she had contacted Cllrs Britain and Allen, who had kindly agreed to help. Cllr Britain was advised to purchase new plants and compost for them as a matter of urgency so not to disappoint the sponsors.

13.4. Defibrillators

The Chairman advised that the five new polycarbonate cabinets are hopefully going to be fitted by Wisbech Electrical in the coming week.

The Clerk advised that the replacement pads and batteries for Guyhirn and WSM defibrillators had finally arrived and have both been fitted.

14. LAND AT SILT PIT LANE JUNCTION

For Councillors to receive progress report on Community Project with Galliford Try.

The Clerk advised Council that as Galliford Try (GF) are now reaching the crucial final stage of the Guyhirn roundabout, this project was unlikely to be achieved before the end of February.

Cllr Davies wanted clarification that the Guyhirn Recycling Area dykes were to be cleaned and cleared too, the clerk advised that this was the plan and GF are aware.

15. MILITARY COVENANT

For Councillors to consider signing up to the Military Covenant – Cllr M Knight

Cllr Knight advised that the Covenant is a statement of support between civilian and military communities, the pledges would include values that a Parish Council should support. Following further discussion, the Parish Council unanimously agreed to sign up to the covenant after being proposed by Cllr Fryett and seconded by Cllr Humphrey. The Covenant requires a community champion to be in place and Cllr Knight was happy to take on the role unless anyone from the Parish/Community comes forward wanting to take on the role. The Clerk to liaise with the Armed Forces Covenant Officer at Cambridgeshire County Council.

16. ALLOTMENT TENANCY AGREEMENTS

(a) For Councillors to receive report from Clerk and to consider and agree New Tenancy Agreements.

The Clerk had circulated her report on the future of the rented land for discussion by Councillors.

Councillors unanimously agreed to the restructuring and renaming of the Parish Council rented land from 'Allotments' to 'Land Tenancies' and having four sub sections: Farm Tenancy, Garden Tenancy, Garden Allotment Tenancy and Recreational Tenancy.

The Farm Tenancy agreement refers to the land on the A47 and was drawn up by Maxeys.

The Garden Tenancy refers to the three plots at Murrow Pond and one plot on Mouth Lane.

The Garden Allotment Tenancy refers to the other plot on Mouth Lane that used to be the Parish Councils 'Allotments'.

The Recreational Tenancy refers to the Guyhirn Playing Fields and the Tholomas Drove Georges Field.

Councillors were happy to leave the farm tenancy alone, especially as the Parish Council receives a good rent.

Councillors discussed the Garden Tenancy and understood from the Clerk that these are to be seen as extensions of their gardens.

With regards to the Recreational Tenancies, Cllr Booth had emailed the clerk with his suggestion that the Tenancy Agreement for Guyhirn Football Field not be restricted to the land being used for football only, so it was agreed by Councillors to change this to 'Sport' only. The only other alteration to the Guyhirn

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Tenancy was to include the 'Dog Walkers Field' within the agreement. Councillors felt that both recreational fields should have restrictions for their protection as well as the Parish Councils. Councillors discussed the other piece of land on Mouth Lane and considered whether this should be available as Parish Allotments again. It was agreed for the current tenant to be classed as a Garden Allotment but the Parish Council will be seeking possible options for its future. It was unanimously agreed that the Land Tenancy Agreements are important documents and they are to be implemented.

(b) Tenancies Rent Review

The Clerk had circulated a report on changes to the amounts charged for all the tenancies not only to bring them in line with national fees but to have the rent fairly even between plots. Following discussion, the following revised rents were agreed to by Councillors.

Parcels (if app)	Details	Classed As	Current Annual Rent	Revised Annual Rent
	Farming Land 3.39 Hectares (or thereabouts) at Thorney Road, Guyhirn PE13 4AD	Farm Tenancy	£1701.00	£1701.00
A	Land on the North Side of Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ Approx. 0.060 acre - 240m ²	Garden Tenancy	£6.60	£10.00
B	Land on the North Side of Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ Approx. 0.110 acre - 446m ²	Garden Tenancy	£14.30	£10.00
C	Land on the North Side of Front Road, Murrow PE13 4JQ Approx. 0.086 acre - 350m ²	Garden Tenancy	£4.40	£10.00
A	Land on the East Side of Mouth Lane, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4UQ Approx 0.373 acre – 1509 m ²	Garden Tenancy	£11.00	£10.00
B1	Land on the South Side of Mouth Lane, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4UQ Approx. 0.145 acre – 587m ²	Garden Allotment Tenancy	£9.90	£10.00
B2	Land on the South Side of Mouth Lane, Guyhirn, Wisbech PE13 4UQ Approx. 0.145 acre – 587m ²			
	Land on the North Western Side of Plash Drove, Tholomas Drove PE13 4SR Approx. 1.498 acre – 6062m ²	Recreational Tenancy	£7.70	£10.00
A	Land lying to the North West of High Road, Guyhirn PE13 4EF Approx. 0.685 acre - 2773m ²	Recreational Tenancy	£7.70	£10.00
B	Land lying to the North West of High Road, Guyhirn PE13 4EF Approx. 2.819 acre - 11408m ²			
C	Land Lying to The West of High Road, Guyhirn Approx. 2.829 acre – 11449m ²			

17. POLICE MATTERS

For Councillors to note report following Police Forum. - **No meeting occurred.**

18. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE – COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS FOR PRIMARY AGED CHILDREN

For Councillors to consider which design to purchase from samples received.

Following considerations of four samples received from three different suppliers a vote was taken to decide upon the mug to be produced and personalised on behalf of the Parish Council.

By a majority vote the Young Elizabeth Earthenware Mug supplied by Impact China UK was selected at a cost of £1469.52 (exc VAT) for 468 mugs. It was then agreed by majority vote not to order the individual boxes for the mugs to be presented in. – Clerk to place order.

19. QUEENS GREEN CANOPY

Update on proposal from Cllr Humphrey regarding utilising his own land to plant 200+ trees in WSM

Cllr Humphrey gave an update on his Queens Green Canopy (QGC) Project with WSM School. The land is registered as a QGC site and 210 saplings have been ordered from the Woodland Trust. The saplings are due

to arrive late February to mid-March and it is planned that WSM School children will come in classes to help plant them.

The Clerk drew attention to the fact that should the Parish Council agree to maintain the copse by agreeing to a 99-year peppercorn rent agreement (to future proof the site) there is the possibility of future long-term costs and asked Councillors to consider any potential financial risk.

Cllr Humphrey advised that the project will go ahead with or without the Parish Council and stated that there are no costs to be laid out initially.

Cllr Allen queried whether a Parish Council can spend money on land they don't own and raised concern regarding the potential long-term costs to the Parish Council in 20+ years' time.

Cllr Knight in his opinion felt that any potential costs would be outweighed by the benefits, it would be a place to breathe, help mental health, support community spirit and protect the planet.

Cllr Humphrey stated that the copse will be planted and once it is established the Parish Council could then make a decision on whether to go ahead.

The Chairman recognised Cllr Allen's concerns and appreciates we have a responsibility to the future, but feels the maintenance costs would be low.

The Clerk advised that should the Parish Council agree, the next steps would be to agree the terms and conditions of the lease as well as the rent.

20. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda

- Cllr Allen asked for an update for the Solar Lights for the Guyhirn Playing Field to be included.
- Cllr Davies asked for an agricultural covenant be added to our title deed for the right of way to Guyhirn Playing Field land to ensure that it could never be used as a roadway for general traffic should any housing development occur on the land behind the playing field.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 14th February 2022 – 7pm – The Chequers Public House, Tholomas Drove

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2021/2022

Monday 7th March 2022 – 7pm – New Community Room, Guyhirn

Monday 11th April 2022 – 7pm – Murrow Village Hall

Monday 9th May 2022 – 7pm – Parish Assembly/Annual Meeting – WSM Community Centre

Meeting closed at 9.30 pm

.....Date:.....

Chairman

Cllr David Wheeler