

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 14th February 2022 at The Chequers Public House, High Rd, Tholomas Drove

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

Members of the public: 3

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

- A Murrow resident reported that the footpath problems he had raised concerns for last month had either been repaired or was in the process of being repaired, to which he expressed thanks for.
- The same Murrow resident presented the Parish Council with a dossier regarding Back Road, Murrow, which outlined issues including a lack of investment into infrastructure, narrowness and being a 'rat run'.
- The Co-Ordinator of the Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speedwatch (CSW) reported that CSW will be trialling a more targeted approach by focusing all day sessions in a specific village and rotating between villages, and if successful this will most likely be the way the group moves forward.
- The Chairman of Murrow Street Pride (MSP) has approached Highways regarding the Back Road Planter Plot in Murrow and have requested a high kerb to stop vehicles destroying the grass verge and to protect the volunteers working on the land.
- A Guyhirn resident expressed frustration that residents in Guyhirn are no longer receiving the postcards from Highways England regarding the closures to the Guyhirn Roundabout and Bridge. Cllr Fryett offered help by outlining that the closures are on their website, but understood that not every one has access to the internet.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received and accepted from Cllr G Booth and CCC Cllrs S Count & S King.

3. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION - None

4. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda. - None

5. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 10th January 2022. The Council resolved including any amendments to accept as a true record, the minutes of the meeting. These were duly signed by the Chairman.

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

7. REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS - Agenda item time limited to 10 minutes
Cllr Bligh reported on behalf of Cllr Booth that he had attended the Fenland District Council (FDC) Overview and Scrutiny meeting to which he raised issues surrounding road safety and speeding.

Cllr Bligh reported that she has been in touch with the Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) Office and a new role is being funded by the PCC to work with the Community Safety Partnership, it will be funded for three years and will be a problem-solving role. There was also a £190,000 community fund from the PCC for urgent safety issues and hoped that FDC make good use of it as it is available for all of Cambridgeshire.

Cllr Bligh reported that she has approached the PCC to fund an MVAS/SID for the High Road, WSM and will report back.

Cllr King gave his apologies and circulated his report in writing.

The Chairman referred to item 4 on the report regarding the pending planning application for the SEMH School on Barton Road and implored Councillors to make individual comments alongside the Parish Council official comment.

Cllr Knight reported that there had been another accident at Bellamys Bridge and expressed frustration that the current measures fail to work, and feels that this subject needs to be addressed again. Cllr Knight made reference to Pidley in Huntingdonshire that has speed bumps, so queried why they have been refused on Leverington Common?

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Cllr Fryett questioned item 8 on the report regarding the Murrow MVAS/SID poles and wanted clarification over what costs had been incurred to date. The Clerk reported that so far there has been no cost to the Parish Council, but there would be once the new ones are installed.

Cllr Humphrey expressed concern regarding item 13 that the start date for Sandbank closure had passed with no works commencing.

8. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

8.2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a)	CCC/21/241/HZS	Application for Hazardous Substances Consent for the storage and use of Liquefied Natural gas as a fuel for 2 combined heat and power engines, 3&4, providing heat and electricity for the plant and the production of biogas in six vessels / AD tanks to feed into combined heat and power units and export the power generated to the grid or use to heat/power the plant at Somerset Farm Cants Drove Murrow PE13 4HN The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL based on concerns regarding the sites continued expansion. Councillors noted that this application (if granted) could lead to more HGV/Agricultural traffic which is having a major impact to the roads that connect the site to the A47, namely Cants Drove, Murrow and Gull Road, Guyhirn.
(b)	F/YR21/1503/RM	Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale (for Plots 1 and 2 only), pursuant to outline permission F/YR19/0038/O, to erect 2 x dwellings (2-storey 4-bed) at Land South of Trafford House Station Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(c)	F/YR22/0027/F	Erect a stable block and the formation of a manège at 4 Clarks Cottage Rummers Farm North Brink Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4UH The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(d)	F/YR22/0041/RM	Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR19/0002/O to erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 3-bed) at Land North West of Long Acre Gull Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(e)	F/YR22/0051/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, to re-position garage and clarify extent of 'business operation' on site at Land East of Bank View Gull Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL as Councillors feel any conditions placed on the original planning permission should remain.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) FDC – Invitation to Chairman's Civic Reception on Friday 18th March 2022 – RSVP 4th March 2022 - **Noted**

10. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

10.1. Street Lighting

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

The Clerk reported that the quote of £387.77 (exc VAT) from BB to remove and correct the head that had been placed onto one of BB streetlights in error, and to place the head onto the correct Parish Council Streetlight (FPC4) had been accepted following consultation with the Chairman, and the works should be completed soon.

(b) Guyhirn High Road Extra Streetlight Request

The Chairman reported that he had tried to contact Electrical Testing but was unsuccessful, he suggested the Parish Council wait until Guyhirn Playing Field have their solar lights fitted and assess whether these would be suitable, and to then seek quotes if they perform well enough.

The Chairman also suggested that solar lights might be an option for the three new ones already being looked into on Gull Road – Guyhirn, Front Road – Murrow and The Recycling Centre, WSM.

(c) Update on Solar Lights for Guyhirn Playing Field

The Clerk reported that as the quote from Wisbech Electrical Ltd to supply and fit two new solar streetlight outreach brackets and heads came in at £1000.00 (exc VAT) and as Councillors had already given financial agreement to this figure, the works were agreed to and are currently being planned in.

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10.2. Highways

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

The Clerk reported that she received a concern from a resident in WSM that had experienced flooding between Sandbank junction and 'Corbiere' on the High Road, and she had asked the LHO to investigate.

The Clerk displayed the drawings and requested Councillor's opinions on the LHI Proposal for 2021/22 that had been circulated via the OneDrive. The drawings included a Gateway Feature at the Village entrance on Barton Road, Speed Changes and Physical Chicane Build Outs on the High Road, WSM. Councillors agreed to the proposal. Cllr Knight raised a concern regarding how the public consultation would be carried out and the clerk will investigate.

The Chairman raised that hedging/shrubbery was still encroaching onto the pavement o/s St Lynne on High Road, WSM, and that the trees and shrubbery were also overgrown at the Recycling Centre on Church Road, WSM. The Clerk to report to Highways and FDC respectively.

Cllr Fryett referred back to the Open Forum and the dossier received regarding Back Road, Murrow and asked for a site meeting to be arranged between himself, both WSM and Parson Drove Parish Council Chairmen, the Local Highways Officer, Cllr Simon King plus the Murrow resident. The Clerk reported that previous site meetings had been held over the years to try and address these issues, but would arrange a meeting.

11. FINANCE MATTERS

11.1. To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2021/22 to date. The Clerk drew attention to the income received of £6810.00 received from Cambs Community Foundation on behalf of Wrydecroft Windfarm in payment of a grant awarded for A1 Information Boards in the parish. The bank reconciliation of 2nd February 2022 balanced at £112,843.76 which was agreed to and signed off by Cllr David Scrimshaw.

11.2. To receive interim internal audit report to 31st December 2021.

The Clerk outlined that the Parish Council had been approached to undertake an interim internal audit up to 31st December 2021, which was agreed to by the Clerk. The report was circulated to all Councillors on the OneDrive and outlined only two areas of concern regarding the signing off of the bank reconciliation and including the report Scribe produces, which has been implemented. Also, that the signing of the invoice payment schedule should include a statement for Councillors to confirm they agree to the accuracy and that all invoices have been checked, which has now also been implemented.

11.3. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk January 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 (January)	£93.29	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions - January (Direct Debit)	£43.13	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Npower Lighting Energy January	TBC	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	
(f)	Andrew Deptford – 5 x Polycarbonate Cabinets	£2970.00	Public Health Act 1936 S234	Agreed
(g)	Andrew Deptford – 2 x Battery & Pads Replacement	£237.60	Public Health Act 1936 S234	Agreed
(h)	Murrow Village Hall – Hall Hire	£30.00	LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed
(i)	Dave Large – Willows at Guyhirn Pond	£2260.00	LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S19	Agreed
(j)	Shelley Signs – 50% Deposit – 5 x A1 Boards	£2715.60	LG Act 1972 S144	Agreed
(k)	Wisbech Electrical – Fitting of 5 x Defib Cabinets	£387.46	Public Health Act 1936 S234	Agreed
(l)	Cambs ACRE Membership Renewal	£57.00	LG Act 1972 S143	Agreed
(m)	ICO – Data Protection Fee	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(n)	Auditing Solutions Ltd – Interim Internal Audit	£264.00	Accounts & Audit Regulations 1996	Agreed
(o)	Long Acre Garden Centre – Gull Rd Planters	£60.00	LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S19	Agreed
(p)	Fishlock Stables & Groundworks – Murrow Paths	£1848.00	Parish Councils Act 1957 S1	Agreed
(q)	Fishlock Stables & Groundworks – Bus Shelter Base	£1164.00	LG Misc Prov Act 1953 S4	Agreed
(r)	Tamar IT Ltd (Microsoft 365 Direct Debit)	£11.32	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed

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11.4. For Councillors to ratify payments made by the Chairman and Clerk using their powers as outlined in the Financial Regulations under **Budgetary Control and authority to spend (4.1)** arranged for the following payments to be made due to time constraints and urgency:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Barcham Tree – Replacement Willow Trees	£235.20	LG Misc Prov Act 1976 S19	Agreed
(b)	Eileen Clarke Reimbursement of Payment in error	£7.70	N/A	Agreed
(c)	Turner & Sons Funeral Directors – Charity Donation	£60.00	LG Act 1972 S137	Agreed
(d)	DAB Graphics Ltd – 50% Deposit Guyhirn Pond	£500.00	LG Act 1972 S144	Agreed
(e)	Impact China – 468 Personalised Jubilee Mugs	£1763.42	LG Act 1972 S137	Agreed

The Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of February totalling £15764.01 The invoices and schedule of payments to be made (and of payments already made) were checked and signed off by the Chairman and Cllr Humphrey. This included item 11.3.(r) for Tamar IT for £11.32 a direct debit that had been missed off the agenda.

The Clerk drew attention to the Npower Streetlighting Energy invoice that had not been received, she had contacted Npower and due to the company looking to review how unmetered energy supply is invoiced the Parish Council would not be receiving an invoice until this review was concluded.

11.5. Grant Applications

(a) Murrow Street Pride | Mole Clearance and Control - £120.00 Open Spaces Act 1906 S15

The grant was unanimously **approved**. Proposed by Cllr Weldon and seconded by Cllr Mann.

12. PARISH PROPERTY

The Clerk reported that a question had been received from a tenant of Murrow Pond regarding the placement of fruit trees and the possible sale of the fruit. Councillors expressed concern regarding the potential wandering of people onto the land, which had previously caused great concern. The Clerk asked for delegated authority to reply to this question based on the terms and conditions already agreed to by the Parish Council on the tenancy agreement.

12.1. Maintenance

Cllr Knight requested that the Tholomas Drove new glass bus shelter be cleaned monthly during winter, and the Clerk suggested that the same is done to the A47 Thorney Toll one as that gets very dirty quickly, the 2022/23 Schedule was currently being updated. Councillors agreed for that change to be made.

Cllr Fryett reported that the Guyhirn noticeboard has now been successfully installed at Guyhirn pond with the assistance of Kevin Clarke. Cllr Allen and the Clerk have keys and Cllr Allen will be responsible for adding paperwork into the noticeboard in future.

(a) Memorial Railings – For Councillors to consider quote received from Artistic Metalica.

The Chairman detailed the quote received and asked for consideration between *Essential Repairs* quoted at £1590.00 and *Full Restoration* at £3390.00.

Cllr Knight also asked that councillors consider deferring to look at costs for brand new railings.

Following discussion of all three options Cllr Allen proposed and seconded by Cllr Mann that the Parish Council agree to full restoration of the current railings at a cost of £3390.00 (exc VAT) as they were of good quality and would be extremely expensive to replace, this was agreed to by the Council.

The Clerk had obtained a quote for lettering restoration to both Memorials, which had previously been difficult to source due to it being a very specific skill.

The quote from Gravestone Care to restore the lettering at Murrow Memorial with 23.5ct Gold Leaf was £585.00 and to also restore Guyhirn Memorial lettering using blackening or black enamel paint was £650.00. Cllr Fryett made reference to the recent agreement to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and expressed a desire to do everything we can to make sure the memorials are maintained to a high standard.

Cllr Fryett proposed that both quotes for lettering restoration be accepted, which was seconded by Cllr Humphrey. This was agreed unanimously.

Cllr Fryett queried as to whether there are grants available for the memorial restoration, the clerk to explore. Cllr Davies raised the point that Guyhirn War Memorial stands on land owned by the Parish Council, but the

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Clerk had no knowledge of this as all the land which includes both the church and the memorial site is unregistered. The clerk to approach Church Commissioners for England to clarify the situation and register the land the memorial is sited on.

12.2. Bus Shelters

The Clerk reported that Cllr King had successfully secured the Bus Stop Sign for Foleys Drove from Stagecoach and this was being delivered in due course to the Clerk.

12.3. Planters

The Clerk reported that the planter requested for o/s The Old Post Office, High Road, Guyhirn was no longer required, and suggested the sleepers remain at Fenland Timber until the land at Silt Pit Lane is cleared and utilise them there. This suggestion was agreed to by Councillors.

Cllr Knight mentioned that the summer plants for the planters should soon be ordered and arrangements will need to be made for purchase, collection, delivery and planting. Clerk to add to next agenda.

Cllr Allen expressed thanks to Cllr Britain for tidying up the two planters at the Gull.

12.4. Defibrillators

The Chairman reported that the new cabinets are now in place and should now last well into the future.

Cllr Fryett agreed and stated that they look at lot better.

13. LAND AT SILT PIT LANE JUNCTION

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

The Clerk reported that the work is currently planned in for end of March once works finished at Guyhirn Roundabout.

14. MILITARY COVENANT

For the Chairman to sign and officially adopt the WSM PC Military Covenant.

The Chairman signed the document which will now be sent to the Ministry of Defence and added to the Parish Council website, a photograph was taken and a statement will be released to the press.

15. MURROW PLAYING FIELD

For Councillors to consider being custodial trustees for Murrow Playing Field.

The Clerk reported that due to the likely merger of Murrow Playing Field (MPF) and Murrow Village Hall (MVH), there was a consideration for the Parish Council to become custodial trustee of the Playing Field as they were already custodial trustees of Murrow Village Hall. The Clerk explained that an AGM of MPF had been held and a motion to merge had been successful. Moving forward, both charities will be closed and a new joint one created.

Cllr Knight expressed concern regarding the chances of the trustees leaving both committees and the Parish Council being left with the legalities. The Clerk explained that the likelihood is slight as the MVH committee is currently at full capacity.

Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed to becoming the custodial trustee for Murrow Playing Field.

16. POLICE MATTERS

For Councillors to note report following Police Forum on Friday 4th February 2022.

The Clerk attended the meeting and reported that no items of safety concern regarding the Parish were raised.

17. LEGAL ADVICE & SERVICES

For Councillors to consider allowing the Clerk to seek legal advice and report any financial implications back to Council for the following:

(a) Amendments to Title Deeds

The Clerk explained that whilst working on the new land tenancies there were lots of Title Deeds that needed to be changed from Title Possessory to Title Absolute and she felt they needed to be completed by a solicitor. There were also areas of land not registered at all and wanted to have all the correct documents. The Guyhirn Playing Field's Title Deed, although already Title Absolute the edged red line was incorrect and needed amending

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(b) Adding an Agricultural Covenant to Guyhirn Land registered on Title Deed CB321318

The Clerk expressed uncertainty as to how to add a covenant/charge to the Title Deed and felt this also needed Solicitor's attention.

The Chairman expressed his support and stated that the land Title Deeds all need to be correct, Councillors agreed with the Chairman and suggestions were made to using either Bowers or MCP Solicitors in Wisbech or Chapple & Co. in March.

18. GOVERNANCE REVIEW & ADOPTION

(a) Standing Orders – Agreed and adopted

(b) Financial Regulations – Agreed and adopted

(c) Risk Assessment Policy

The Chairman expressed concern regarding any areas listed as high risk (marked in red), he felt that the two areas marked as high risk (Holiday of a Clerk and Parish Trees) were actually medium risk with the risk mitigations the Parish Council has in place and should be changed as such. This was agreed to by Councillors. The Policy with this amendment was agreed and adopted.

(d) Health & Safety Policy – Agreed and adopted

(e) Model Publication Scheme – Agreed and adopted

19. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE

(a) Update on proposal from Cllr Humphrey regarding utilising his own land to plant 200+ trees in WSM for Queens Green Canopy.

Cllr Humphrey reported that the Half an Acre Jubilee Wood would now be a venture between himself and WSM School, but was hopeful that the Parish Council could come on board in the future.

Cllr Knight explained how the project was hopefully going to move forward, utilising a numbered disc to connect a pupil to a tree and arranging for approx. 30 of the older children to go to the woods and start the planting.

Cllrs Britain and Allen commended Cllr Humphreys decision and suggested that the future custodian of the woods has the option to come to the Parish Council and apply for a grant to help with maintenance.

(b) For Councillors to consider and arrange the distribution of the Commemorative Mugs to school children. Following discussion, it was agreed for the Clerk to email the three headteachers to liaise with the Councillors that represent their respective areas and for those Councillors to attend an assembly to present the mugs. The Chairman raised the possibility of purchasing the boxes for the mugs as he feels they would look better and the mugs would be better protected for the journey home from school.

Cllr Fryett gave his support for this suggestion and agreed with the Chairman.

The Clerk agreed to explore this but was concerned there could now be stock issues.

20. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda

- Cllr Knight – Planter Plants
- Cllr Fryett – Planning Enforcement of Mill Road, Murrow for pavement
- Cllr Britain – Highways Enforcement for Overgrown hedge on Gull Road.
- Cllr Davies – Guyhirn High Road, Drainage Covers.

21. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2021/2022

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

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

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

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

Chairman

Cllr David Wheeler