

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 13th June 2022 at The Chequers Public House, Tholomas Drove

Attended by: Councillors D Wheeler (Chairman), M Knight MBE DL (Vice Chairman), J Humphrey, C Allen, M Fryett, G Booth, D Scrimshaw & A Weldon

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

Members of the public: 4

Also Present: Keeley Russell – Galliford Try

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

- The Parish Council's Armed Forces Covenant (AFC) Community Champion reported that
 - I. He had made contact with the AFC Lead at CCC.
 - II. Completed the AFC Training.
 - III. Reached out to the MOD and they are working through the recognition scheme.
 - IV. Armed Forces Day is the last Saturday of June (25th) and showing support for Armed Forces Day brings a much-needed morale boost.
 - V. He would like authority to link AFC blog to the WSM Parish Councils website and to carry on working to obtain the bronze award. ***The Parish Council gave authority for these two items.***
 - VI. To support Armed Forces Day, could the flag be flown anywhere possible and a post be put on website.
- A Murrow resident requested an update on the pavement scheme for Back Road, Murrow. Cllr King reported that the works are estimated at £350,000 and the funding is not currently available.
- A committee member of the Guyhirn Playing Field Association came to give thanks to the Parish Council for the Platinum Jubilee funding which made the Community event possible. She reported the event was well attended by young and old, lifelong residents of Guyhirn and people that were new to the village. New relationships and friendships were made. She also reports that the residents of Guyhirn are keen for more events now!
- A Guyhirn resident gave thanks to the Parish Council (and especially Cllr Allen) for the new solar streetlight on the High Road near Selwyn Cottages. She reported that it's working brilliantly and is such a benefit.
- The Clerk read out the report from the Chairman of Murrow Street Pride (MSP) in her absence. She wished to say thank you to the Parish Council for the funding for their Jubilee Event, it had a lovely atmosphere and was enjoyed by all.
- Also, from MSP she wished to share feedback from residents that they appreciate the cared for look Murrow has.
- The Clerk also read out some of the Co-ordinator's report from the WSM & Parson Drove ward community Speedwatch. The group have been given the opportunity to trial a new piece of equipment on behalf of Cambridgeshire Constabulary which will be time saving due to less paperwork and requires less volunteers at the roadside.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received and accepted from Cllrs Mann & Britain.

3. GUYHIRN ROUNDABOUT IMPROVEMENTS PRESENTATION – GALLIFORD TRY

The Chairman welcomed Keeley Russell – Stakeholder Manager for Galliford Try (GT) to the meeting.

Ms Russell introduced herself and explained that the Guyhirn Roundabout Improvements Project has been worked on for about 5-6 years, it went through multiple designs and then went out to tender, which Galliford Try won.

The improvements were commissioned because of the traffic build up, it being an accident black spot and it was the main road through to the coast.

The improvements also needed to improve capacity as there was a lack of lane space and poor visibility on the approach to the roundabout.

As part of the project GT also wanted to engage with the local community, Parish Council and children.

GT ran a competition for the children of the area to rename the bridge, which has now been renamed 'Tiddy Mun Bridge' after a Fenland bog spirit who was believed to keep the waters at bay and stopped the Fens flooding.

Galliford Try will be doing five schemes along the A47 over the next five years at North Burlingham, Thickthorn, North Tuddenham, Wansford and Gt Yarmouth.

Ms Russell then invited any questions from Councillors:

- Cllr Humphrey asked whether the project went over budget?

Yes, it went about £3m over budget, not helped by an increase of approx. 60% in materials.

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- Cllr Booth questioned whether there will be a follow up scheme to create the X1 Bus Stops on the A47?
Ms Russell was unsure, but will follow this question up and report back via the clerk.
- The Chairman asked whether there were any plans to upgrade the roundabout at Elme Hall, Wisbech A47/A1101, as the traffic issues have just been moved further along the A47.
Again, Ms Russell was unsure, but will follow this question up and report back via the clerk.
- Cllr Knight questioned how the roundabout was to be finished off aesthetically?
Ms Russell stated that GF will be on site for another 12 months doing clear ups, road safety audits and planting.

Following questions, Ms Russell asked for any constructive feedback, as this will help them deliver the remaining schemes:

- Cllr Allen expressed his support for GT and thanked them for a job well done, and said it has made such a difference to Guyhirn.
- The Chairman stated that GT needed to be more honest with residents regarding the shutting of the road, as the back-to-back weekend closures had a huge impact on the villages.
- Cllr Booth suggested that rather than giving details on a phased approach, the Parish Council and community just need an honest bigger picture.
- The Chairman expressed frustration that due to the official diversion being too long, there was increased speeding as traffic came through the villages. He suggested that MVAS/SID devices need to be placed temporarily in any areas that could potentially suffer whilst works are carried out.

Cllr Knight concluded by expressing a big thank you to GT for everything they have done and thanked Ms Russell for coming to present to the Parish Council; the new roundabout is a credit to everyone involved.

4. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – None received

5. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST for items on this agenda. – None received

6. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 9th May 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.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (information only).

The Clerk reported that the 2022/23 LHI bid complaint had not been completed yet and asked for clarification from Cllrs Wheeler and Booth whether at any point they had agreed to any time table changes, they both confirmed that no changes had been agreed to.

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, but had two extra items to discuss first.
- Cllr King reported that the Parish's Local Highways Officer (LHO) had requested written permission from the Parish Council to write to home owners enforcing the removal of objects from the highway verges.
Cllr Booth questioned as to the necessity of such an action, as verge enforcement is Cambridgeshire County Councils Highways responsibility. He was unsure why there was a need to give permission as the Parish Council initiated the enforcement action. These comments were reiterated by the Chairman.
Cllr King speculated that this was to protect the Parish Council should there be any reprisal from residents.
The clerk was instructed to write to the LHO giving permission.
- Cllr King reported that he had been working with the LHO to improve Black Drove and that local carriageway overlay could improve the surface, but ideally it needs a re-tread scheme.
- Cllr Knight questioned whether Bellamy's Bridge had been included in his report? Cllr King responded that it was not, and asked whether the Parish Council had completed the 'Draft Fenland Transport Strategy' and made mention to Bellamy Bridge junction realignment. The clerk confirmed that this had been completed.
- Cllr Knight clarified that his concern was regarding the dangerous metal and concrete still there following a collision with the bridge months ago. Cllr King agreed to follow up.
- Cllr Allen requested that the 'Guyhirn Community Hall' direction signs are removed from the village. These were the responsibility of Galliford Try (from their official opening of the Guyhirn roundabout) and as their Stakeholder Manager was present at the meeting, she assured Cllr Allen this will be followed up.
- Cllr Booth reported that at the May 12th 2022 meeting of Fenland District Council Full Council, the proposal for splitting Parson Drove & WSM ward was pushed through. However, in complete contrary, the previous changes to Wimblington and Doddington were dismissed as the new ward would be too large and the current ward was preserved. The LGBCE consultation ended on the 6th June 2022, with the final decision expected around the 6th September 2022.
- Cllr Booth also reported that at FDC Full Council he questioned the portfolio holder for refuse regarding fly-tipping. The

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portfolio holder claimed that it had decreased in the last year, however Cllr Booth argued that it may be decreasing in towns as it has been driven into rural areas, which doesn't often get reported.

- Cllr Booth reported that the new Local Plan was due to go before Cabinet, but was postponed for a month as government has announced changes to planning policy and this may have an impact.
- Cllr Bligh reported that thanks to the support from Galliford Try and CR Civil Engineering Ltd, the old parts of the Guyhirn Playground equipment will be removed tomorrow (14th June 2022) ready for the arrival of the new playground equipment around the middle of August.

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/YR22/0513/VOC	Variation of condition 1 (list of approved plans), relating to planning approval F/YR21/1312/RM (Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of appearance, landscaping, layout & scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/0962/O (Plot 2 only) to erect a 2-storey 4-bed dwelling) to allow design changes pertaining to materials and fenestration at Land West of Hollycroft Heights High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(b)	F/YR22/0533/F	Erect 2 dwellings (2-storey 3-bed) and widening of existing access involving demolition of existing dwelling at Brynteg Plash Drove Tholomas Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4SP The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(c)	F/YR22/0465/F	Erect an outbuilding to rear of existing dwelling and formation of new access at Applemead High Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4EQ The Parish Council felt that this application should be retrospective as the driveway and outbuilding are already in place. They neither objected nor approved this application, however they do have concerns regarding the visibility splays for the driveway.
(d)	F/YR22/0485/RM	Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/1017/O to erect up to 4 x dwellings and the formation of 3 x vehicular accesses involving demolition of an existing building at Land South East of Dove Cottage Gull Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council offered no further comment.
(e)	F/YR22/0523/RM	Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/1155/O to erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 5-bed) with detached domestic workshop at Land North West of Wingfield Station Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council offered no further comment.
(f)	F/YR22/0579/F	Erect a 2-storey extension to front of existing dwelling at The Mount 43 Murrow Bank Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4HB The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. The Council also recommended considerate construction and ask that no work vehicles block access to other properties or the junction of Mill Road, Murrow during construction.
(g)	F/YR21/1503/RM RECONSULTATION	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 subject to changing the pole locations for the speed calming device approved at outline.
(h)	F/YR22/0614/F	Erect a single-storey side extension to existing dwelling, involving the demolition of existing extension at 15 Chapelfield Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4EE The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(i)	F/YR22/0592/F	Erect a front porch, part single-storey part two-storey rear extension to existing dwelling at Old County Police House High Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4ED The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL
(j)	F/YR22/0632/RM	Reserved Matters application relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR21/0702/O to erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey 4-bed) and the formation of a new access at Land North Of 15 Sandbank Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Council offered no further comment than that submitted at outline.

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Relocation & Upgrade of March Household Recycling Centre – Consultation between 8 June – 6 July 2022 - **Noted**

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(b) Murrow Book Café – Letter of thanks - **Noted**

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

11.1. Street Lighting

(a) FPC8 Back Road, Murrow.

Cllr Booth reported that Parson Drove Parish Council have agreed to adopt responsibility of this asset, he requested that the Clerk inform the assets team at Fenland District Council. The Clerk to follow up.

(b) The Chairman reported that Streetlight FPC2 on Chapelfield Road, Guyhirn was reversed into by the CCC Library Bus at approx. 4:30pm on Friday 10th June, the Clerk has approached CCC for comment as the Parish Council has been provided with CCTV evidence by a resident.

The Clerk reported that she had arranged for Fishlock to attend the incident and set the column upright and concrete it back into place for the safety of residents.

The Chairman expressed concern that the integrity of the column may be damaged and for the clerk to approach Electrical Testing to quote for replacement.

11.2. Highways

(a) Murrow Bank & Sandbank PFHI Scheme Update

The Clerk reported that the application had been delayed at CCC Highways when the case officer dealing with it left. It had not been handed over to another officer and will now be moved forward including looking into what changes can be made to the whole of Sandbank up to Bellamy's Bridge and will include this in their design.

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

Cllr Fryett asked for an update regarding the 'Drainage Bowl' on the green at Tholomas Drove. The Clerk advised that CCC Highways Assets have instructed Solicitors to draw up an agreement for the Parish Council to sign agreeing that the drainage and soakaway (once in place) in the future (should any maintenance be needed) will become the sole responsibility of the Parish Council. Only once this document is signed will the scope of work be finalised and materials ordered. The Clerk had chased this agreement up with Highways Assets team but the document was still in the hands of their solicitors.

Following this agenda item, Cllr King left the meeting.

12. LHI PROJECT HIGH ROAD, WSM 2021/22

(a) To consider proposed traffic calming scheme design. – Due to an oversight, no discussion occurred.

(b) To consider the Parish Councils financial contribution in line with the current budget.

The Clerk reported that there is currently £5000 budgeted for our contribution for the scheme, but there is another £8000 in allocated cash reserves for the LHI and the PFHI schemes if needed. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Booth that the Parish Councils contribution be raised to £10,000, this was seconded by Cllr Weldon and this was agreed by majority vote. Cllr Booth suggested that the Parish Council request that any underspends from projects in other parishes be contributed to the WSM project too.

13. FINANCE MATTERS

13.1. To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2022/23 to date.

The bank reconciliation of 1st June 2022 balanced at £112,880.54, which included income from the VAT Reclaim for the previous financial year, this was agreed to and signed off by Cllr Gavin Booth.

13.2. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk May Salary	£1149.10	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£283.27	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (May)	£90.50	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions - May (Direct Debit)	£76.84	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Npower Lighting May Energy	£538.78	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	Agreed
(f)	Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£11.32	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(g)	K Clarke Carpentry - Noticeboards	£172.50	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(h)	K Clarke Carpentry – 2 x Bus Shelter Re Treat	£180.00	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed

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The Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of May totalling £2502.31. The invoices and schedule of payments to be made were checked and signed off by the Chairman and Cllr Humphrey.

13.3 Grant Applications - Nil

14. PARISH PROPERTY

Cllr Knight expressed concern regarding the newly re-homed fish that are in the WSM Pond. The Parish Council were given around 90 fish but unfortunately about 20 have already died. The pond needs to be oxygenated and Cllr Knight requested permission to buy the elements to create a solar pump, which he feels shouldn't cost any more than £200.00. Cllr Weldon proposed the purchase stating that, the Parish Council have done so much already to make the pond look nice for all, this purchase to protect the fish must happen. This was seconded by Cllr Humphrey and unanimously agreed. Cllr Knight to follow up.

14.1. Maintenance

(a) For Councillors to consider quote received from Fiona Davies to refurbish the Guyhirn Village Sign. Following a brief discussion, the quote received from Fiona Davies for £445.00 to refurbish the Guyhirn sign was proposed by Cllr Fryett, seconded by Cllr Knight and agreed unanimously. The clerk reported that a 50% deposit would have to be paid in advance and Councillors agreed to that process.

(b) For Councillors to consider the need and purchase of WSM Parish Council Hi-Viz vests.

Cllr Allen considered the purchase of the Hi-Viz vests to be a sensible suggestion, especially when Councillors are on the roadside or taking photographs of Parish Assets/Street Furniture, which are often outside people's homes. The clerk advised that a printed Hi-Viz vest costs around £6.99 each. Cllr Fryett agreed with the Council purchasing them but stressed that they must be of the correct standard. The clerk to make sure they meet the required standard before ordering. Proposed by Cllr Allen, seconded by Cllr Knight and unanimously agreed.

(c) The clerk reported that she had received another quote for the re-lettering of Murrow and Guyhirn War Memorials due to the instructed contractor cancelling all work due to ill health. Maynard & Sons Memorial Masons quoted £494.00 (exc VAT) for Murrow and £456.40 (exc VAT) for Guyhirn. Proposed by Cllr Weldon, seconded by Cllr Humphrey and unanimously agreed by Councillors.

14.2. Bus Shelters

(a) For Councillors to note damage to Guyhirn Bus Shelter opposite Tall Trees Leisure.

The Chairman advised Councillors that one pane of glass had been smashed on the bus shelter, he believed it to have been caused from a stone from the highway. The Clerk had already approached Paul Tibbs to measure up and provide the Parish Council with a quote.

(b) For Councillors to note update on Becketts Hamlet Bus Shelter

The Chairman advised Councillors that the concrete base had been put in, ready for the new repositioned bus shelter. The clerk noted that the previous bus shelter had already been destroyed even though the Parish Council requested that the new one be in place before the old one was knocked down. The Chairman volunteered to do a site visit to Beckett Hamlet to discuss.

14.3. Planters

(a) For Councillors to review planter sponsorship renewal charges prior to invoicing in July.

The Chairman opened the item up for discussion, and asked Councillors whether the sponsorship should remain at £50 for the following year? Cllr Booth proposed that it should remain at £50, seconded by Cllr Scrimshaw and unanimously agreed to by Councillors.

Cllr Knight expressed his thanks to all the Councillors that helped to make the planters look lovely in time for the Platinum Jubilee weekend by delivering, planting and watering the plants.

14.4. Defibrillators - No issues raised

15. WSM SPEED CALMING

(a) For Councillors to receive an update regarding proposed pole locations for speed calming measures conditioned to planning application F/YR19/0038/O Land South of Trafford House Station Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire.

During the consideration of planning application 9.2. (g) the Chairman brought forward this item for discussion.

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The Chairman advised that he and the Clerk met with the developers to discuss the revised pole locations and the problems arising from them. The developers are concerned that any movement away from the original pole locations could cause a Variation of Condition (VOC) planning application to be applied for, and that will likely take time.

The Clerk reported that the developers are keen to get their s278 issued from Highways and until the Parish Council agree the pole locations, this can't proceed. So, the situation is going round in circles and the developers can do nothing more than the footings of the houses until this issue is resolved.

It was suggested that the MVAS/SID could possibly be attached to existing street furniture negating the need for the poles, but the Clerk was advised by the LPA that not installing the poles would also need a VOC application.

The meeting was concluded by the developers seeing whether they could attach the revised pole locations to their Reserved Matters application currently being considered by the LPA.

16. LAND AT SILT PIT LANE JUNCTION

For Councillors to receive progress report on Community Project with Galliford Try. – No further updates.

17. OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

(a) To consider locations for flag poles in each village.

The Chairman opened the item up for discussion by expressing concern that if the Parish Council provide flag poles, then they will need guardians that will be responsible for putting the flags up correctly.

He also reported that the flag pole already in situ at WSM Church is an 8m pole and that the 6m we were currently looking at possibly wouldn't be tall enough.

Cllr Allen suggested that the Guyhirn flagpole be positioned within the playing field, somewhere near the jubilee tree, and that he would look after it.

Cllr Weldon expressed concern regarding the future of Thorney Toll Village Hall and requested that the flagpole for Thorney Toll was deferred until there was a safe position for it.

Cllr Fryett suggested that the flagpole for Murrow be situated next to the War Memorial. Cllr Booth raised the concern that it needed to be positioned where it would not block visibility at that junction.

Cllr Knight suggested that the Tholomas Drove flagpole be situated near to the tree with a tree guard on the triangle of land at the Plash Drove junction. The Chairman expressed concern over who would be its guardian.

(b) To consider quotes for 4 x flag poles and 4 x Union Flags plus delivery.

The Chairman requested that new quotes be sought for 3 x 8m Flagpoles, 3 Union Flags (with antifray) plus 4 Armed Forces flags. The Clerk to follow up.

18. POLICE MATTERS

For Councillors to note report following Police Forum on 20th May 2022.

The Clerk attended the meeting but no concerns relating to the Parish were raised. Cllr Booth asked whether reports could be produced to give statistics of crime, as Parish Councils used to receive this information monthly.

19. A1 INFORMATION BOARDS PROJECT

For councillors to receive any updates.

Cllr Knight reported that the project is in its final stages, as representatives from all villages had been involved ensuring the information was correct. The drafts would be given final proof reads, then the boards should be ready to be produced.

20. PAPERLESS PARISH COUNCIL

(a) For Councillors to consider supplying a wi-fi connection to all meeting room premises.

The Chairman expressed support that the Parish Council should be moving with modern times, and access to the internet in all the meeting rooms should be available. The main area of concern being Guyhirn, and the distance from the road for connection. WSM and Tholomas Drove already provide a wi-fi connection, but Murrow may just need to be reconnected as Cllr Booth believed that there used to be phone line at the hall years ago, but this would need to be investigated.

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(b) For Councillors to consider applying for grant funding to supply all Councillors with an iPad.

Cllr Knight expressed his support for submitting a grant application, as having Parish Council iPads would satisfy GDPR regulations and Councillors wouldn't have to provide their own devices. Councillors approved this item in principle and agreed to explore this further. The Chairman requested that the clerk acquire quotes for 11 iPads as well as 11 (non Apple) tablets as a comparison.

(c) For Councillors to consider applying for a grant to provide the clerk with a projector and screen for Parish Council meetings.

Following a brief discussion into the benefits of having a projector and screen available at meetings, this item was also approved in principle for the clerk to follow up.

21. NOTICEBOARDS

For Councillors to consider quotes for replacement noticeboards in the Parish.

Following discussion Councillors decided that this item is not urgent and will be deferred until a later date to allow more thought to be given to whether new noticeboards are actually needed.

22. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda – None Received

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th July 2022	7:00pm	New Community Room – Guyhirn
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DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2022/23

Monday 8th August 2022	7:00pm	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 12th September 2022	7:00pm	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 10th October 2022	7:00pm	New Community Room – Guyhirn
Monday 14th November 2022	7:00pm	The Chequers Public House – Tholomas Drove
Monday 12th December 2022	7:00pm	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 9th January 2023	7:00pm	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 13th February 2023	7:00pm	New Community Room – Guyhirn
Monday 13th March 2023	7:00pm	The Chequers Public House – Tholomas Drove
Monday 3rd April 2023	7:00pm	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 8th May 2023	7:00pm	WSM Community Centre – Sidings Room

Meeting closed at 9:20 pm

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

Chairman

Cllr David Wheeler