

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 11th July 2022 at The Community Room on the Playing Field, Guyhirn.

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

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

Members of the public: 4

Also Present: Alice Stringer, James Cowley & Jamie Watson- Anglian Water

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

- The Co-Ordinator of the Parson Drove and Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speedwatch group (CSW) reported that CSW continues to obtain good results and is receiving better representation from the Police. The new MVAS/SID device is currently on Front Road, Murrow and is having a positive effect regarding awareness of speed as well as slowing vehicles down. The road side sessions at prime times are showing a decrease in percentage of vehicles speeding, and any third offenders receive their letter hand delivered by the Police. The Police now act on data submitted regarding no MOT or tax, which will make motorist aware that being registered on a speed watch session has a greater 'knock on' effect.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None received

3. ANGLIAN WATER STRATEGIC PIPELINES PRESENTATION – GRANTHAM, PETERBOROUGH & BEXWELL

The Chairman welcomed Anglian Water (AW) to the meeting.

- Following introductions Alice explained that the reason for the pipeline is based on a demand for water due to population growth, climate change, the South being a low-lying region and drought risk.
- James explained it simply as – Wet up North and dry down South results in the need for this pipeline.
- The whole scheme will install 330km of pipe ranging from 900mm – 350mm in diameter nearing the end point at Colchester.
- The Etton to Bexwell section is 52km in distance with no offtakes, it will purely be to transfer water down to the next section. This pipe that runs through the Parish will be 800mm diameter welded steel pipe, with most of the crossings utilising a trenchless technique.
- The entire scheme is a £450m investment and is 'currently' the longest infrastructure project the UK has seen since the A1 was built.
- AW will be circulating a newsletter with a schedule of works in August/September.
- The AW website contains an area specific map to see how the pipeline affects the parish.
- Archaeological excavations, trial trenching and planning applications are already in progress, with a potential start date to lay piping in March 2023 set to avoid laying the pipes during Winter as much as possible.
- Jamie explained that the Grantham to Bexwell route is split into three sections, and the works affecting the Parish are in the middle section. This is projected to complete the major works in December 2023, with testing and clearing in January 2024.
- Plash Drove in Tholomas Drove will be a compound site which will include the works offices and a fabrication yard. Vehicles will be utilising the main route off the A47, Gull Road, Guyhirn to access the site and AW will try to keep the roads clear and clean, especially in Winter.

Questions from Councillors:

Cllr Knight asked whether the volume of traffic to the compound on Plash Drove is likely to be heavy?

- The works will likely incur additional traffic, AW will send out communications when the big deliveries of pipe will be expected.

Cllr Knight also surmised that PR will be very important to AW during these works and asked whether they are prepared to work with the community to make improvements on local projects?

- Volunteering and community projects have already been undertaken in other parishes and AW will be happy to look at any suggestions.

Cllr Booth asked whether the new pipe will help with the water pressure problems in the area, or is it purely to transport water to other parts of the country?

- This will be purely a transition main but there are conversations ongoing to see if it is suitable for any cross sections to be made in the future.
- With regards to the low water pressure the parish suffers from, Alice reported that CCC put back the planning for the

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water main rejuvenation works at Marshalls Bank. She will re-engage with the team to ascertain where the current project is at.

Cllr Booth asked whether they had any information regarding a planned reservoir on the Cambridgeshire/Norfolk border, and was that part of this scheme?

- Not part of this project but the team were aware of conversations regarding it, but these were at a very early stage.

The Clerk made the AW team aware that Black Drove has been put forward for a re-tread scheme, and as this was an area the pipeline runs through, she asked whether they could liaise with CCC so not to disturb a brand-new road surface?

- This is likely to be a trenchless section, but they will liaise with CCC regardless.

Cllr Booth asked what the depth the pipes will be laid at and are steel pipes really best for the future?

- They will be laid up to 12m deep.
- Steel pipes are better from a carbon perspective.

Cllr Mann asked what the thickness of the pipe is?

- The pipes are 6.5-7mm thick.

With no further questions, the Chairman thanked the team for coming and presenting to the Parish Council.

4. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – None received

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

Cllr Humphrey declared a pecuniary interest on agenda item 9.2(e) and will be leaving the room for this item.

6. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 13th June 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). - Nil

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

- **Cllr Count** reported an underspend of £32.6m at CCC, which in his opinion shows that budgeted services aren't being delivered.
- Kings Dyke crossing opened yesterday (10th July 2022).
- The LHI working timeline has been increased from – Bid in Year One, Decision in Year One and Design & Deliver in Year Two to – Bid & Decision in Year One, Design in Year Two and Deliver in Year Three, to give the projects team a chance to catch up as they are so far behind due to staffing issues.
- The new 20mph zone scheme will be open for bids soon, but Cllr Count reports that there is more than twice the amount of 40mph bids, leading to his belief that this scheme is too urban-centric and doesn't take into account the needs of rural areas.
- The now finished Community Capital Fund closed with a £1.1m underspend, and there are still no new criteria for how this money could be utilised.
- Cllr Count reported that the Combined Authority were having problems as Government funding has been suspended and there being a staffing crisis at senior level.
- **Cllr King** had circulated his report and was happy to answer any questions arising from it.
- Firstly, Cllr King asked Councillors to email him their opinions on how the LHI System could be improved, as he was on the review panel.
- Cllr King requested again a letter from the Parish Council stating their request for enforcement action to be taken on the verges opposite the WSM village shop. The Clerk raised her concerns that such a letter would come from her, with her details on and was worried over any backlash. The Chairman agreed with the clerk and stated that CCC should be writing their own letters of enforcement as these verges are their land. The Parish Council were merely pointing out that this enforcement needed actioning. Cllr King to report back to Local Highways Officer (LHO).
- Bellamy's Bridge was down for repair 18th & 19th July 2022.
- Cllr Allen asked for an update as to when the school markings were to be replaced at Guyhirn School. The Clerk reported that she had raised this with the Surface Treatment Manager at Highways, and that the previous LHO was chasing the issue. The Clerk to forward email trail to Cllr King.
- **Cllr Booth** reported his attendance at FDC full council today (11th July 2022) and had raised the issue of Clarion empty homes with the portfolio holder, following Cllr Weldon's report that Thorney Toll now has six properties vacant. He had received reports from Clarion that they faced difficulties getting tenants to move in and that there were some maintenance issues.
- Provisional recycling rates across the district had decreased from 52% to 41%. Cllr Booth claimed that Fenland is the worst authority in Cambridgeshire, even though previous reports had stated Fenland were one of the best.

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- **Cllr Bligh** reported that she too had needed to contact Clarion over many issues which included problems that came from vacant properties.
- Cllr Britain asked for an update regarding the bowl at Tholomas Drove. The Clerk reported that this was being delayed at CCC as their solicitors are currently writing an easement agreement as the drainage works extend across Parish owned land. Once the agreement has been received and signed by the Parish Council, (which also holds the Parish Council responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the drainage/soakaway crates) the materials will then be ordered and works will be programmed in.

9. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

9.2. Planning applications for discussion:

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| (a) | F/YR22/0642/VOC | Variation of condition 3 (list of approved drawings) of Reserved Matters approval F/YR20/1264/RM relating to detailed matters of access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale pursuant to outline permission F/YR20/0703/VOC (Erection of up to 3 no dwellings involving demolition of existing dwelling and outbuildings) relating to the front boundary treatment (replacing hedge with 0.9m high picket fence) at The Laurels High Road Bunkers Hill Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4SQ The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. |
| (b) | F/YR22/0493/O | Erect up to 2no dwellings involving the demolition of existing outbuildings (outline application with all matters reserved) at Land North and East of Goosetree House Selwyn Corner Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL, based on overdevelopment of the site and the area of Selwyn Corner. The Council also noted their concerns regarding access. |
| (c) | F/YR22/0731/F | Erect 1 x dwelling (2-storey, 5-bed), detached double garage with storage above and attached hobby room together with the temporary siting of a caravan during construction at The Dolls House High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. Councillors note that a re-consultation has been received relating to the revised site plan, Street Scene, Elevations and Garage Details and they support development on this plot. |
| (d) | F/YR22/0699/F | Change of use of existing hobby room to 1-bed annex ancillary to existing dwelling (Retrospective) at Hollycroft Bungalow High Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RA The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. |
| (e) | F/YR22/0706/O | Erect up to 4no dwellings (outline application with matters committed in respect of access) at Land East of Sandbank Farm House Sandbank Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. The Council consider these 4 plots to be within the village boundary and not in the open countryside nor an elsewhere location. They would like to request that the footpath up to and including plot four (4) is a condition on planning permission. |
| (f) | F/YR22/0739/F | Erect 1x dwelling (3-storey 5-bed) and poly-tunnel at Land South West of The Orchards Gull Road Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL, based the design not in keeping with the surrounding area, the access and visibility splay inadequacies from a 60mph speed limit, the fact that the site is an old pit and could potentially be contaminated and Councillors feel it is important to protect this green space following mass development along Gull Rd. |
| (g) | F/YR22/0757/F | Erect 2x dwellings (3-storey 4-bed) and detached garage block involving demolition of existing dwelling at Fern House Gull Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4ER The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL. |

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Murrow Primary Academy School Council – Letter of Thanks - **Noted**

(b) WSM Church Wardens – Letter of Thanks - **Noted**

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

11.1. Street Lighting

(a) Incident involving Street Light FPC2 Chapelfield Road, Guyhirn – update.

The Clerk reported that the Streetlight appears to be stable following the temporary repairs from Fishlock, but she has yet to acquire a quote for the permanent replacement of the column from Electrical Testing Ltd. She has made contact with the relevant department at CCC, who have seen the CCTV evidence and agree liability. CCC Insurance department has been in touch and are awaiting our claim details to be forwarded.

(b) For Councillors to note Street Light renumbering document.

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The Clerk reported that the renumbering of Parish streetlights was almost complete with most of the enplates now having been changed over. The new Streetlight asset register has been circulated via the OneDrive for Councillors to refer to moving forward. There is a small snagging list due to overgrown vegetation on or around the column/pole that she will work through.

11.2. Highways

(a) Local Highways Improvements – Bid for 23/24

The Clerk confirmed that the minutes from last years LHI bid consideration and decision stated that the bid for 23/24 will be for Guyhirn regardless of the outcome from the WSM bid for 22/23.

Cllr Allen asked for clarification on the application date as thought will need to go into which part of the High Road will be applied for first. Cllr King advised that bidding starts in October and advised deferring the item until September's meeting.

Cllr Booth suggested measuring the distance of the middle section of the High Road in WSM which had already been improved due to a successfully delivered LHI scheme to get an idea of how far in distance the 23/24 bid could cover on Guyhirn High Road. – **Deferred until September**

(b) LHI 22/23 Complaint – Update

The Chairman advised Councillors that the CCC response to the Parish Councils complaint regarding the poor handling of the WSM application and panel meeting, (which subsequently saw the bid fall below the red line and failed to be successful) had not addressed the concerns of the Parish Council, and the Clerk will write again and escalate our complaint to stage two.

(c) To consider proposed traffic calming scheme design LHI 21/22

Cllr Knight expressed a need to incorporate the Scout Hut into the village entrance, which the Chairman agreed with, as it a high traffic movement area and with children involved this should be covered inside the 30mph zone.

Cllr Count advised that cycle gaps between the chicane/build outs and the roadside edge would be helpful if there was room.

Cllr Booth expressed concern that there may be complaints as to where the build outs are placed, the Clerk advised that the draft design has them placed outside The Wheel Inn (just after the carpark) and outside a grass verge on the other side of the Highway.

Following further discussion, the Clerk was asked to instruct Highways to amend the design to incorporate the Scout Hut and the possible addition of a cycle gap inside the build outs.

(d) To consider a proposed disabled persons parking bay on Murrow Bank, Murrow

Cllr Booth declared that he had already offered his support as a District Councillor for this item.

Cllr Fryett supported the disabled bay but expressed concern that restricting use of this small layby could cause parking issues on the grass verges.

The Chairman expressed his support and said that this was an important scheme.

Following further discussion, the Parish Council offered their full support to the proposal and Cllr King agreed to inform the relevant officer at CCC.

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

Cllr Scrimshaw reported that the road and junction linings at Turf Fen Bridge/Hooks Drove need refreshing.

Cllr Booth stated that Parson Drove Parish Council had similar issues but due to a possible change in policy at CCC, was having difficulty getting the white centre lines refreshed in residential areas.

Cllr King offered to pursue this matter and requested that photographs be emailed to him for reference.

Cllr Humphrey reported that the 30mph roundels at the junction of Station Road/High Road WSM were still missing following a car accident. Clerk to email Cllr King the details for him to follow up.

Cllr Fryett expressed his concern regarding the surface dressing on the High Road in WSM following the trenching work to the highway by Queensbridge Homes at the Becketts Hamlet development. This has been left as concrete (possibly due to a stop work order as the correct permissions were not in place) which offers no resistance and should be topped by tarmac to alleviate skid risk.

The Chairman expressed his frustration with this development, as the correct access is still not finished and site vehicles continue to use the emergency exit as a full access to the detriment of the footpath.

The Clerk to email planning to determine a situation update.

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12. FINANCE MATTERS

12.1. To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2022/23 to date. The bank reconciliation of 1st July 2022 balanced at £112,352.21 which was agreed to and signed off by Cllr Mark Fryett. The Clerk drew attention to the income of £2247.70 received from Zurich Insurance in settlement of the claim for the destroyed Streetlight at Selwyn Corner, Guyhirn.

12.2. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

| Item | Description | Total Amount | Power | |
|------|--|--------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| (a) | Clerk June Salary | £1114.30 | LG Act 1972 S112 | Agreed |
| (b) | Clerk HMRC Tax and NI | £318.07 | LG Act 1972 S112 | Agreed |
| (c) | Clerk Monthly Expenses (June) | £77.74 | LG Act 1972 S112 | Agreed |
| (d) | Nest Pensions - June (Direct Debit) | £76.84 | LG Act 1972 S112 | Agreed |
| (e) | Npower Lighting June Energy | £TBC | Parish Councils Act 1957 S3 | Agreed |
| (f) | Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit) | £11.32 | LG Act 1972 S111 | Agreed |
| (g) | Viking Direct – Office Stationery | £205.02 | LG Act 1972 S111 | Agreed |
| (h) | Metcalfe Copeman & Pettefar LLP - Murrow PF | £587.20 | LG Act 1972 S111 | Agreed |
| (i) | Wisbech Electrical Ltd – Guyhirn Solar Streetlight | £492.60 | Parish Councils Act 1957 S3 | Agreed |
| (j) | Long Acre Garden Centre – Planter Compost | £200.00 | Highways Act 1980 S96 | Agreed |
| (k) | Waverley Nurseries – Summer Plants | £400.80 | Highways Act 1980 S96 | Agreed |
| (l) | K Clarke Carpentry – Guyhirn Bus Shelter | £295.00 | LG (Misc Prov) Act 1953 S4 | Agreed |
| (m) | Paul Tibbs Ltd – Guyhirn Bus Shelter Glass Panel | £180.00 | LG (Misc Prov) Act 1953 S4 | Agreed |

The Clerk reported that the Npower Electricity Invoice was received on the 6th of July for £475.51 and is included in the schedule for payment.

12.3. 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 invoices to be paid:

| Item | Description | Total Amount | Power | VAT Element |
|------|---|--------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| (a) | Fiona Davies – 50% deposit for Guyhirn Sign | £222.50 | Public Health Act 1875 S164 | |
| (b) | Jax First Aid Ltd – 10 x Hi-Viz Jackets | £51.22 | LG Act 1972 S111 | £8.54 |
| (c) | Mark Knight – Reimbursement Pond Pump | £189.99 | Public Health Act 1936 S260 | £31.66 |

The Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of June totalling £4898.11. The invoices and schedule of payments to be made (and of any payments already made) were checked and signed off by the Chairman and Cllr Knight.

12.4. Grant Applications

(a) MAGPAS Air Ambulance | £1000 - Fuel for Helicopter

LG Act 1972 S137

Cllr Booth stated that a grant under S137 needs to be representative to the number of parishioners it will help, and based on the current figure of £8.82 per elector a £100 grant would be reasonable. Cllr Allen agreed to any amount being granted as the air ambulance is a service the Parish Council should support. Cllr Knight proposed a grant of £250, this was seconded by Cllr Humphrey and agreed by majority vote.

13. PARISH PROPERTY

13.1. Maintenance

(a) For Councillors to note Community Assets & Land Inspections report.

The Clerk reported that this was carried out on 16th June 2022 by the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and herself. Notable actions included:

- Four footpaths in Murrow and WSM to query ownership, these have been confirmed by the Rights of Way Officer that they should be maintained by CCC. He was aware that the two in Murrow needed enforcement action towards the residents living to the sides of the paths as they have overgrown vegetation rendering the path hard to walk through. – Clerk to follow up.
- Consider moving the gate back at the entry to Guyhirn Playing Field to allow more parking, the recycling area looked a mess with what appears to be dumped tarmac. Add to next month's agenda.

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- The possible addition of more mown swathes on the Guyhirn Dog Walkers Field, however the Clerk had been advised that that could mean the Guyhirn playing field association losing some revenue as the grass is sold as hay.
- To obtain a quote from ADC for the weed to be removed from the surface of Guyhirn Pond along with some of the reed bed to clear and clean the pond.

(b) To consider quote from K Clarke to repair Guyhirn Pond Gate.

The Clerk advised that this had also risen from the community asset inspection and that she had received a quote from Kevin Clarke with two options to repair the gate:

- 1) Take gate off and return to workshop. Try to clamp it back together and strengthen. Light sanding and two coats of stain. Rehang with new hinges and bolt. Stain gate posts - £148.00
- 2) As above but add an extra timber brace to the back of the gate and renew the timber boards on the front. Belt sanding to frame and apply three coats of wood stain. Rehang as above - £215.00

Cllr Britain expressed concern that the gate needs new posts, the Chairman agreed and expressed concern that the entire gate needs replacing along with posts, rather than repairing.

The Clerk advised that Kevin Clarke had already stated that was another possible option but didn't have the router to put the wording 'Guyhirn Pond' back onto the gate, this would need to have a plaque bought to make that addition possible. – Clerk to follow up.

13.2. Bus Shelters

Cllr Knight questioned when the two brick bus shelters in WSM, near The Wheel and the shop would be painted to cover the graffiti and damage done from the ketchup. The Clerk advised that they should be completed this coming week.

The Chairman queried when the damage to the Murrow Bank bus shelter was being repaired by Shelter Solutions, as this was supposed to be completed when the new shelter was put in at Becketts Hamlet. – The Clerk to follow up.

13.3. Planters

Cllr Britain expressed concern that some of the planters were starting to spoil from not being maintained properly.

Cllr Britain also reported that the Play2Day planter had been hit by a silage trailer which broke it in half, it currently has been braced as a temporary repair to hold it together. Cllr Allen and Cllr Fryett offered to help source new sleepers and repair the damage.

Cllr Knight requested that as hot weather is expected please can the Councillors responsible for maintaining planters make sure they receive water daily, or the plants will surely perish.

13.4. Defibrillators

(a) For Councillors to note details of the 2022 First Aid Event.

The Clerk advised that the poster is ready to advertise the event which is on Wednesday 12th October 2022 at WSM Community Centre starting at 7:30pm. The poster will not go live until August as the spaces filled up rapidly at the last first aid event. Cllr Knight suggested that some places are offered to the local Scouts to help them complete a first aid badge. The Clerk to speak to the WSM Community First Responders to find out numbers allowed.

14. 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.

The Clerk advised that the developers decided not to try and add the revised pole locations to the ongoing reserved matters application, and that the developers felt they had no choice but to apply for a variation of condition. The Clerk had a Teams meeting with a Highways engineer at CCC to discuss the revised pole locations which were based on Community Speedwatch recommendations. These details had now been submitted to the developers for their VOC application. The locations that Highways agreed to were:

- Utilising Streetlight No. 010 at the WSM pond.
- On boundary between Rose Villa & Ruby Villa, Sandbank
- On boundary between The Shrubbery & Hanover House, High Road, WSM
- On boundary between Braeburn House & Hollycroft, High Road, WSM

The Chairman allowed the Co-Ordinator of CSW to speak on this item, she had been advised by Swarco that

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the radar may not be good enough to swivel the monitor to capture traffic movements on the opposite side of the road to the device. She advised that CSW will monitor the situation with the MVAS/SID in Murrow and report back results.

15. LAND AT SILT PIT LANE JUNCTION

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

The Clerk advised that she had received very little notice from Galliford Try (GT) regarding them completing the works, and couldn't attend site to make sure they completed the works as previously agreed. The Chairman expressed frustration that the works completed was not what the Parish Council envisaged, and the simple vegetation strimming could have been completed by our maintenance contractor. The Clerk had contacted GT to express disappointment as the works completed wasn't as discussed at the outset. The Chairman surmised that the situation is still a work in progress. Cllr Knight suggested another site meeting with GF to get the works corrected.

16. OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

To consider quotes for 3 x 8m flag poles, 3 x Union Flags and 3 Armed Forces Day Flags plus delivery.

The Clerk reported that she was struggling to find a single company that provided everything the Parish Council required a quote for. She recommended placing an order for just the flagpoles to get them in the ground, and acquire the flags separately. This was agreed to by Councillors and the quote from Harrisons £1586.00 (exc VAT) for 3 x 8m flagpoles plus delivery was accepted. Cllr Fryett agreed to liaise with Fenland Timber for the installation of the concrete bases at the 3 locations previously agreed to by Council.

17. POLICE MATTERS

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

18. A1 INFORMATION BOARDS PROJECT

For councillors to receive any updates.

The Clerk reported that the proof reader had 'flagged up' some issues. Mostly were due to repetition of information, but also some rewording and punctuation changes were needed. Three of the boards were almost there, but the two Murrow boards and the Tholomas Drove board needed some more work.

Following further discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk would liaise with the proof reader and get the three boards that only needed some minor changes, finalised. Cllr Fryett and Cllr Knight would work with the proof reader to improve the two Murrow boards. The proof reader (who had volunteered to do this) would be asked to speak with another long-time resident of Tholomas Drove to check the facts and come back to the Clerk.

19. EXEMPT ITEM

To consider entering into a confidential session to hold Co-option Interviews

The Clerk advised that as Co-option was neither a staffing matter nor was there any sensitive financial information, she could not find a reason for the interviews to be held in private session.

The Chairman recommended that the public could remain for the interviews and leave for the discussion, secret ballot and result. The Parish Council agreed to this suggestion.

20. CO-OPTION

The Chairman welcomed the two candidates to the meeting and noted that one candidate had dropped out due to work commitments, he also noted that the Parish Council was lucky to have two good candidates wishing to become Parish Councillors.

The two candidates were interviewed separately and were asked why they wished to become a Parish Councillor and what skills could they bring to the Parish Council.

--The Public and press were excluded at this point to enter into private session--

The results from the vote:

Richard Blackmore – 5, Sam Frankham – 4, Abstention – 1

The Chairman announced that Richard Blackmore had been Co-Opted to Wisbech St. Mary Parish Council.

Richard Blackmore signed the Acceptance of Office as a Co-Opted member of Wisbech St. Mary Parish

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Council.

The Clerk provided the new Councillor with a welcome pack which included the register of interests form, current Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Code of Conduct.

21. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda

- Cllr Knight – Inspection of Land Tenancies Report
- Cllr Scrimshaw – Overhanging Trees
- Cllr Booth – Possibility of utilising Murrow MVAS poles to test Parson Drove PC new MVAS/SID
- Cllr Fryett – Possibility of painting both side of the Guyhirn Sign
- Cllr Britain – Update on the Path and Steps between Guyhirn and the A47
- Cllr Wheeler – Guyhirn Mary Magdalene Churchyard needs clearing
- Cllr Weldon – Offered her apologies for next meeting.

22. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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| Monday 8th August 2022 | 7:00pm | Murrow Village Hall |
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DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2022/23

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| 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 9:30 pm

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

Chairman

Cllr David Wheeler