

# Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2022 at Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank PE13 4HB

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

FDC Councillors: S Bligh

Members of the public: 1

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

- The Co-Ordinator of the Parson Drove and WSM Ward Community Speedwatch Group (CSW) reported that the group have remained active in all of the four villages it covers as well as managing the new Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign/Speed Indicating Device (MVAS/SID), positioning it between three locations in Murrow. The WSM PC poles are also being utilised to temporarily hold the MVAS/SID purchased on behalf of Parson Drove Parish Council whilst they wait for their poles to be installed. CSW also reported that they are providing speeding data to Murrow Primary Academy to support their application to Highways for enforceable measures to be provided outside the school due to continuing parking issues.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received and accepted from Cllrs Weldon, Booth and CCC Cllr King.

### 3. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – None received

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

5. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 11<sup>th</sup> July 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).

- (a) The Guyhirn Village sign will be painted both sides included in original quoted cost.
- (b) The Guyhirn Church of Mary Magdalene has now been cleared of vegetation protruding onto footpath.
- (c) The Clerk also reported that the steps/slope that join the High Road of Guyhirn to the Guyhirn (Tiddy Munn) Bridge are still needing attention, however National Highways are now claiming they are not their asset, the Clerk to continue looking into ownership.

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

- Cllr King sent his apologies for the meeting and circulated his report via email, which received the following comments:
- Cllr Allen expressed frustration that the hedging encroaching onto the Highway and obstructing visibility at the Horseshoe on The Gull has not yet been resolved.
- Cllr Knight expressed frustration that the enforcement on the High Road, WSM is still ongoing having been 18 months since this was first mentioned to the LHO at the time.
- Cllr Bligh reported that she remains busy with the community and residential issues but has no specific report regarding FDC.

### 8. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

#### 8.2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a)	<a href="#">F/YR22/0770/F</a>	Erect a single-storey extension to existing building at Home Farm Hooks Drove Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4HH <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.</b>
(b)	<a href="#">F/YR22/0772/F</a>	Formation of a surface water reservoir at Volmary Limited Station Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RY <b>The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.</b>

8.3. Whittlesey Town Council draft [Neighbourhood Plan](#) – Councillors are invited to give comments by 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. – **Noted**

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The Chairman reported that planning application F/YR22/0832/F (Erect a two-storey linked extension to existing industrial warehouse (retrospective) at Tranz Tech Limited Thorney Road Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4AD) had been received from the LPA after the publication of the August agenda, but the Parish Council had been refused an extension of time to the September meeting to be able to comment. He requested that should any Councillors have a comment to make that they submit that independently to Fenland Planning via the portal.

## **9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

### **(a) Guyhirn Primary School – Request for lifebuoy at Guyhirn Pond**

The Chairman opened the item up for discussion by reporting that this subject had previously been dismissed due to evidence that a lifebuoy will typically get abused and removed.

Cllr Britain concurred by stating that the previous lifebuoy at the Guyhirn pond ended up in the river Nene by vandals.

Cllr Humphrey stated that the Parish Council have a duty of care to provide lifesaving equipment.

Cllr Knight expressed the opinion that as the school has raised the issue, the Parish Council really should provide one. He also stated that he felt that WSM pond should have one too.

The Clerk recommended a housing cabinet for the lifebuoy to do everything possible to prevent it being tampered with.

Councillors agreed to this suggestion and asked the Clerk to look for quotes for two lifebuoys with housing cabinets for consideration at next meeting.

## **10. HIGHWAYS MATTERS**

### **10.1. Street Lighting**

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

The Clerk reported that a copy of the invoice from Fishlock for emergency repairs has been sent to CCC Insurers along with a quote from Electrical Testing for the permanent replacement of the column. The Parish Council will be paying for the emergency repairs and the insurers have agreed to reimbursement.

#### **(b) Renumbering Snagging List – Actions**

The Clerk reported that the Chairman had given her permission to instruct David Rowell to cut, trim and uncover the pole/columns that were too overgrown to attach the new enplates to. This will be completed at a quoted cost of £30 per hour. This was supported by Councillors.

The Chairman expressed concern that many of the streetlights are being rendered useless by overhanging trees, and suggested asking David Rowell to also trim any overhanging foliage/growth away from the Parish Council streetlights. He appreciated the fact that most of the trees will be on Highways verge and therefore CCC responsibility to keep cut but felt that as the streetlights were Parish Council assets that they should be maintained well and kept in good condition.

This suggestion was agreed to by Council and the Clerk to follow up.

### **10.2. Highways**

#### **(a) LHI Scheme 21/22 – For Councillors to note revised drawings.**

The Clerk reported that due to the conditions placed upon the planning permission for the development at Trafford House, WSM the developers (Richard Knight Homes Ltd) were required to install new road markings at the village gateway on Barton Road. These markings would conflict with the proposed drawings of the Parish Councils LHI Scheme so the CCC Projects Team had revised the LHI Scheme drawings to incorporate the new markings, which also included moving the start of the 30mph speed limit to include the Scout Hut. This was understood and supported by Councillors.

#### **(b) LHI 22/23 Complaint – Update.**

The Clerk reported that the second stage complaint letter had only just been sent to CCC and will update Councillors once a reply is received.

#### **(c) 20mph LHI Scheme – Back Road, Murrow**

Due to the absence of CCC Councillor King, this item was deferred.

#### **(d) Overhanging Trees within the Parish. – Discussion took place under agenda item 10.1 (b)**

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(e) High Road, WSM surface dressing – Highways works at Beckett Hamlet.

Following Cllr Fryett's concern expressed at last month's meeting regarding the temporary road surface at the Beckett Hamlet development, the Clerk reported that CCC enforcement had stopped works to a sewer connection due to the correct S50 licenses not being in place. The officers at CCC are satisfied with the temporary surface and anticipate that it will be rectified very soon.

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

- The Clerk had circulated the draft deed of easement which had been received from CCC Solicitors for the works to the bowl on the green at Tholomas Drove, the only section to point out was that the Parish Council would be responsible for the soakaway crates/drainage in the future, which Councillors were already aware of. Councillors unanimously agreed to the draft so materials could be ordered. The Clerk to follow up.
- Cllr Britain requested an update on the resurfacing of Gull Road, Guyhirn. When is this likely to occur, what parts are being completed and what kind of resurfacing will be implemented? Clerk to forward to Cllr King.
- Cllr Fryett expressed frustration at the poor parking alongside the development at Dove Cottage, Gull Road, Guyhirn, the parking is creating a chicane effect and is not leaving enough room for larger vehicles to get through. The Clerk to speak to LPA at FDC.
- Cllr Fryett requested an update regarding the replacement streetlight on Front Road, Murrow. The Clerk reported that it is in hand with Electrical Testing but lead times for streetlighting materials were currently very long.
- Cllr Knight requested a date for when the road sweeper will be coming through WSM to clear the dead weeds along the High Road. The Clerk to enquire with FDC.

## 11. FINANCE MATTERS

11.1. To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2022/23 to date. The bank reconciliation of 1st August 2022 balanced at £112,687.82 which was agreed to and signed off by Cllr Barry Britain. The Clerk drew attention to the income of £4660.00 received from FDC for Concurrent Functions and that following invoicing the £50.00 Planter sponsorship monies had started to be received.

11.2. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk July Salary (Includes extra hours)	£1664.94	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£16.81	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (July)	£130.13	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions – July (Direct Debit)	£97.06	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Npower Lighting July Energy	£480.08	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	Agreed
(f)	Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£11.32	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(g)	Fishlock – Emergency repairs to damaged streetlight	£240.00	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	Agreed
(h)	Guyhirn Community Room – Hall Hire	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed

The Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of July totalling £2680.34. The invoices and schedule of payments to be made were checked and signed off by the Chairman and Cllr Knight.

11.3. Grant Applications - Nil

## 12. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) Guyhirn Playing Field – New Car Parking Area

Following discussion, it was agreed to form a working group for this project moving forward. Cllrs Fryett, Allen, Blackmore and Britain would meet and decide on the size of the extension, devise drawings for the clerk to be able to obtain quotes and report back at the next meeting.

(b) Land Tenancies Inspection report

The Clerk reported that there was only one plot that needed to be contacted following inspection, the tenant of the land on the South side of Mouth Lane has advised that he is trying to eradicate the weeds but current chemicals were not working and that he will persevere.

Cllr Knight noted that the middle tenancy of the land classed as Murrow Pit was starting to look untidy with dead grass cuttings and weeds. He felt it wasn't worthy of a formal letter but needed to be kept monitored.

12.1. Maintenance

(a) To consider the purchase of graffiti wipes.

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The Chairman opened the item up for discussion by stating that in his opinion individual Councillors nor the Clerk should be responsible for cleaning off graffiti and that it should be left to the district council.

Cllr Knight expressed the opinion that it does open up the question as to whether the Parish Council should employ a handy man for such tasks.

After consideration Councillors agreed not to purchase graffiti wipes and would monitor the need for a dedicated 'Handy Man'.

(b) To consider quote from K Clarke to build a new Guyhirn Pond Gate.

The quote received to make a new gate the same size as the current one complete with new posts for £388 was agreed unanimously by Councillors. The Clerk reported that Kevin Clarke had stated that he couldn't rout the 'Guyhirn Pond' back into the gate as he didn't have the necessary equipment, so circulated a mock-up of a sign that could be purchased that states 'Guyhirn Pond' for £22. Councillors agreed to this purchase and for that to be given to K Clarke to add to the new gate.

(c) To consider options for Swarco Maintenance renewal for Guyhirn MVAS

The Chairman asked the clerk to request from Swarco a combined maintenance policy for both the Guyhirn and Murrow MVAS at a Silver level. The Clerk to follow up.

(d) To consider Quote from ADC for Guyhirn Pond

The quote for removing the green weed laying on the top of Guyhirn pond and the disposal of removed matter for £1550 (exc VAT) was considered fair by Councillors but as the pond is currently dry due to drought weather this was currently not possible.

Cllr Knight suggested whether Anglian Water (AW) could be approached to help fund this project similarly to what they did at WSM Pond, however he felt the Parish Council should fund this if AW couldn't.

Cllr Allen queried how much it would be for dredging the pond completely, the Chairman asked the clerk to obtain a quote from ADC. The Clerk also to liaise with ADC to put this on hold whilst we negotiate funding options with AW.

#### 12.2. Bus Shelters

(a) For Councillors to note that an Insurance Claim has been made for damage to Back Road, Murrow bus shelter. - **Noted**

#### 12.3. Planters

Cllr Knight thanked all the Councillors responsible for watering the planters, with the weather being so dry it has been an arduous task.

Cllr Knight asked for permission to pre book the Winter Pansies in with Waverley Nurseries as per last year. These would potentially be delivered around October time. Councillors agreed to the plants being ordered. Cllr Britain reported that the Play2Day planter has now been repaired and thanked Cllrs Fryett and Allen for their help.

#### 12.4. Defibrillators – **No items of discussion**

### 13. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF POLICES

(a) Equality & Diversity Policy – Agreed by Council unanimously

(b) Safeguarding Policy – Agreed by Council unanimously

### 14. LAND AT SILT PIT LANE JUNCTION

For Councillors to receive report on Community Project with Galliford Try and discuss options for progression.

The Clerk reported that Keeley from GT was on annual leave until 22<sup>nd</sup> August and was unable to get an update but will continue to request that the £500 be reimbursed to the Parish Council following the costs incurred for removal of a dead tree on the Silt Pit Lane site.

The Chairman reported that Cllr Mann has restored the bank around the site and that once we secure the £500, we should possibly draw a line under it.

The Chairman expressed thanks however, for their support in removing the old Guyhirn Playground equipment as without their help this could have cost thousands.

### 15. THE MIDDLE PIT AND THOLOMAS DROVE WASH PIT CHARITY

(a) Resignation of Peter Davies as a trustee. - **Noted**

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(b) To appoint a Parish Councillor as a trustee. Cllr Blackmore volunteered keeping the number of trustees at six. Cllr Blackmore duly signed the declaration to be appointed a trustee. The Clerk to update with Charity Commission.

## **16. POLICE MATTERS**

For Councillors to note report following Police Forum on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022.

The Clerk reported that she attended the meeting and has now been shown how to gain access to the data for crimes in the Parish and will be able to create reports for Councillors, however this information will always be two months out of date.

The Clerk also reported exciting changes in the way Neighbourhood Watch will be operating in the future, it will work similarly to the Military Covenant with a community champion that feeds into the Parish Council and will bring this forward for Councillors consideration at a future meeting.

## **17. A1 INFORMATION BOARDS PROJECT**

For Councillors to receive any updates.

The Clerk circulated the final proofs of three of the A1 boards: Wisbech St Mary Village, Wisbech St Mary Church and Guyhirn Chapel of Ease.

Councillors approved these final versions and instructed the clerk to sign them off so they can go into production.

Cllr Knight requested that they are delivered to Cllr Humphrey and distributed from there.

Cllr Knight also requested whether Councillors of the relevant villages would be able to concrete them in place.

## **18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda

- Cllr Mann reported that the road name has been knocked down on Plash Drove – The Clerk to report to FDC
- Cllr Humphrey requested Bus Stop flags on either side of the High Road, WSM at the Sandbank junction as it has become an unofficial stop. – Ask Cllr King to follow up.
- Cllr Fryett asked for an update on the other three A1 boards and the parish flagpoles. The Clerk to liaise with the proof reader and ask for a meeting to be arranged between herself and Cllrs Fryett and Knight to move the remaining A1 boards forward. The Clerk advised that the flagpoles will be delivered w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> August.
- Cllr Fryett also asked whether Guyhirn Memorial was to be re lettered too? The Clerk advised that the Memorial company didn't realise the lettering on the Guyhirn memorial was flush and to repaint it would have taken many more days than quoted, therefore they just oxidised the lettering to make it darker and would be happy to quote for the re-lettering if Councillors wished. The Clerk was instructed to obtain a further quote.
- Cllr Fryett advised that the Parish Councils Military Covenant Champion would be moving out of the area but was still happy to retain the role.
- Cllr Fryett requested confirmation that a Murrow resident was still able to paint the finials of the Murrow War Memorial as previously arranged. The Chairman requested that Kevin Clarke be approached to complete this work if the resident is unable to complete.
- Cllr Britain asked what was happening with the Silt Pit Lane land now and could a village sign be added there.
- The Chairman reported the clerks August annual leave dates.
- The Chairman asked Councillors to consider the future possibility of not having an August meeting.

## **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday 12th September 2022	7:00pm	Thorney Toll Village Hall
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## **DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2022/23**

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

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Meeting closed at 8:55 pm

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Chairman

Cllr David Wheeler