

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 14th August 2023 at Thorney Toll Village Hall, Thorney Toll

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

FDC Councillors: G Booth & D Cutler | CCC Councillor: S King

Members of the public: 1

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

- Cllr Diane Cutler as the Co-Ordinator for the Parson Drove & Wisbech St Mary Ward Community Speedwatch (CSW) reported that a roadside session at the new lower speed limit area of Murrow Bank is planned in for the end of August. A feasibility study is being worked on to determine an area in Plash Drove that is both safe for volunteers and has suitable off-road parking before the Police will make arrangements to assess and grant permission for a road side session. CSW has already begun the process for setting up on the grass verge to the front of The Chequers Public House now the road has been changed to a 40mph speed limit. Since 2019 all sessions held on 30mph roads have recorded a greater number of vehicles travelling between 31-34mph than recorded in excess of 35mph, with the exception of one session in Guyhirn from July 2023 when 40% were recorded in excess of 35mph and only 16% between 31-34mph. The Police responded swiftly and attended a CSW road side session in Guyhirn later that same day.

The remainder of July Statistics include:

High Road, Guyhirn - 15% of vehicles monitored were travelling in excess of 35mph with 25% travelling between 31-34mph.

Murrow Bank, Murrow (Near Primary School) - 6% of vehicles monitored were travelling in excess of 35mph with 16% travelling between 31-34mph. With one vehicle monitored at 51mph through the chicanes.

Front Road, Murrow - 2% of vehicles monitored were travelling in excess of 35mph, with 7% travelling between 31-34mph.

The Police continue to support CSW by arranging their own enforcement sessions at areas recorded with high % speeding.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Received and accepted from CCC Cllr S Count

3. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION - Nil

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

- Items 11.3(g) and 12.2 Cllr Knight declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Handyman is his brother.

5. TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING dated 10th July 2023. 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). - Nil

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

- The Clerk read out the report received from Cllr Count which detailed how the opposition group at CCC are drafting a motion to put to CCC Full Council on 18th October 2023 regarding the reversal of roadside weed spraying policy, which should be available for the Parish Councils September meeting. Cllr Count requested support from the Parish Council by way of a letter as well as circulating and signing an online petition.
- Cllr King circulated his report prior to the meeting and was happy to answer any questions relating to it.
- Cllr Fryett noted that the roundels outside Murrow Shop had been completed and the damage to the junction of Plash Drove had also been repaired.
- The Clerk reported that the repairs to Plash Drove had already suffered problems, as heavy traffic and agricultural vehicles have caused erosion to the roadside verge beside the repairs resulting in a dip. The Chairman recommended kerbing was installed at this junction to stop this occurring. Cllr King reported that the LHO was liaising with Milestone over this matter.
- Cllr Fryett reported that the marker posts from Station Avenue, Murrow are still in his possession awaiting collection so they can be repaired and replaced, and due to them being missing; vehicles are starting to park on the verge again.
- Cllr Fryett noted that the roundels on Murrow Bank were replaced as part of the new speed limit, but he was still

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awaiting a response regarding the overgrown trees on Hooks Drove. Cllr King reported that a letter had been sent by the LHO; which received no response from the land owners. A second letter will now be written but before any action can be taken a third letter has to be sent. Cllr Fryett expressed confusion as he had received correspondence from the LHO stating that she was awaiting costs for the job to be done. Cllr King agreed to investigate with the LHO as to the current position.

- The Clerk expressed concern that all the current and outstanding highways issues are kept updated due to the changing over of LHO's at CCC. Cllr King confirmed that this was to take place and advised that the new LHO will introduce himself in due course.
- Cllr Wheeler expressed frustration over the length of time it was taking to get repairs completed at the Bellamy Bridge junction. Cllr Wheeler reported that on 14/11/22 the PC were told the red lines would be refreshed within 3 months, on 13/03/23 the PC were told they would be done by the end of March, on 17/04/23 the PC was told they would be completed by the end of April, and yet they have still not been completed in August. Cllr Wheeler questioned as to whom was answerable for this completely unacceptable failure in service? Cllr King responded that there were two issues as to why the red lines refresh has taken so long. 1) The weather has to be just right, particularly with this type of material and 2) It needs a specialist crew to do the work. Cllr King reported that a previous attempt to complete the works a few months ago had failed due to being one crew member short, and the works had to be cancelled. Cllr King believes that the sub-contractor Milestone is failing to deliver an adequate service and assured Cllr Wheeler that the works will be completed this month.
- Cllr Wheeler thanked Cllr King but expressed frustration that all previous assurances had failed, and who do the PC complain to? Cllr Wheeler continued to state that Bellamy Bridge itself was supposed to be repaired on 10/08/23 and has still not been repaired to date (14/08/23), which is surely a health & safety risk.
- The Chairman expressed frustration that there seems to be no overarching ombudsman to complain to when the authority fails to deliver an adequate service. The road closures surrounding the parish are bringing traffic to a standstill with Barton Road, A1101 Sutton Road and Bevis Lane all due to be closed at the same time. With North Brink being one of the locally known alternative routes to access the town, it is being heavily used by traffic but currently has overgrown hedging that is stopping two cars being able to pass safely. Cllr King explained that Barton Road should have been finished earlier but the developer had requested an extension, to which CCC granted. The works on the A1101 are part of the development of homes on Sutton Road and was unfortunate that the two closures coincided.
- Cllr Wheeler expressed frustration as to why the A1101 works weren't postponed due to the extension offered to Barton Road works? Cllr King offered to investigate why this wasn't done.
- Cllr Humphrey reported that three accidents had already occurred outside Leverington Shop due to HGVs coming through the village via Parson Drove Lane. Cllr King agreed that this wasn't acceptable and the haulage firms should not be doing this.
- Cllr Wheeler reported that both the closures divert town traffic onto Leverington Common to the junction past Little Dowgate on Sutton Road, which is causing chaos and long delays to drivers; and is concerned that a closure on the A47 would cause the area to be completely grid locked.
- The Chairman also expressed frustration over the length of time the enforcement action is taking regarding the verge encroachment opposite WSM Shop on the High Road, he feels any further delay to this matter is no longer acceptable and requested that a site visit was undertaken by an enforcement officer as a matter of urgency. Cllr King reported that out of all the properties contacted, only one is still non-compliant and remains an issue. The Chairman offered to meet an enforcement officer on site to help progress the matter to a conclusion.
- The Chairman summed up all the issues mentioned and requested that Cllr King reports back with how unsatisfied the Parish Council are with the highways and street works service.
- Cllr King recommended that the Parish Council write to the Chief Executive Stephen Moir explaining that the PC feels it is not getting the service it is entitled to.
- Cllr Booth noted that CCC will have a 3 stage complaints process, and Stephen Moir will be at the top of that process, so it will most likely be deferred to a Service Director in the first instance.
- The Chairman requested that a letter is sent outlining all the issues discussed as well as including the Parish Councils displeasure over the roadside weeds issue.
- Cllr Wheeler requested that the gully clearing on Barton Road be chased up as that hasn't occurred yet. Cllr King reported that this team travels on a circuit around the county and just hasn't come back to the area yet.
- Cllr Booth reported that the pavement repairs at Sayers Crescent can be crossed off too as those works have also been completed.
- Cllr Booth reported his attendance at Full Council of FDC on 17th July 2023, which covered three main points. A member allowance review for District Councillors, which the Terms of Reference failed to give details relating to Parish Councillors, the Conduct Committee has successfully appointed two new Parish/Town Council representatives and the three new Committees for Rural Affairs, Projects & Culture have been agreed but will only function in an advisory capacity with no set timetable for meetings.
- Cllr Booth gave an update regarding Planning Application statistics. Major applications have been completed within a 13-week timetable, but only 35% of the minor applications have been dealt with within the 8 weeks.

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8. TO CONSIDER PLANNING MATTERS

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

8.2. Planning applications for discussion:

(a)	F/YR23/0584/F	Erect a detached single garage for existing dwelling, involving demolition of existing garage at 7 St Marys Close Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RS The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(b)	F/YR23/0663/F	Erect a detached annexe (single-storey 2-bed) at rear, ancillary to existing dwelling at Red Berry Manor Mouth Lane Guyhirn Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4EH The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL; however, should the LPA be minded to approve the application Councillors recommended conditions be imposed that sees the Annexe remain ancillary to the main property by occupation only by family members and unable to be sold or let independent of the main property.

8.3. Planning Enforcement (ENF/257/19) Land south east of Gore Villas, Mill Road, Murrow relating to a breach of condition 6 of planning permission F/YR18/0190/VOC – Complaint Update

The Clerk reported that the Agent told FDC that a designer had been appointed, but no new submission has yet been made to Highways for technical approval; however, a draft S278 agreement (and technically approved drawings) has been uncovered by Highways that wasn't signed off originally due to the financial bond not being forthcoming. The unsigned agreement should only need a few small changes to make it acceptable for signing.

Cllr Fryett raised the question whether the Parish Council could see the drawings as there is a potential for flooding on this road, and wanted to make sure there was adequate drainage included. The Clerk to follow up with FDC.

9. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

(a) Npower Electricity - Price increase from 33.80p/kWh to 50.188p/kWh starting from 1st September 2023. Cllr Wheeler expressed confusion as to why the price is now going up, when in his opinion energy prices were decreasing. Cllr Booth stated that there is the possibility to look at alternative energy suppliers. The Chairman asked for correspondence to be sent to Npower asking for justification of the price rise. The Clerk agreed to follow up, but expressed caution regarding changing suppliers as there's not many that offer the unmetered energy required to run the streetlights.

(b) CCC Winter Gritting Scheme 2023/24– Request for volunteers.

Cllr Allen advised that the Parish Council had been members of the scheme in previous years and had undertaken training and he also holds equipment for community gritting. Cllr Weldon reported that she has the equipment to grit the paths in Thorney Toll. The Clerk advised that the deadline for signing up to the scheme was 31st October 2023. Following further discussion, the Parish Council decided not to join the Community Gritting Scheme as a group, however the Chairman suggested adding the information to the Facebook page for any potential volunteers to contact CCC directly.

10. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

10.1. Street Lighting

The Clerk reported a possible loose connection on Streetlight 134 on Front Road, Murrow that has been reported to go on and off during the night, which she has asked the Streetlight Maintenance Contractor to investigate.

Cllr Britain expressed concern regarding trees and hedging overgrowing the streetlights, the Chairman asked Councillors to be vigilant and report any found to be like this to the Clerk.

10.2. Highways

(a) Completion of PFHI for Sandbank, Murrow Bank & Tholomas Drove.

Cllr Fryett reported that the roundels placed on Murrow Lane/Silt Pit Lane are too close to the road and will likely be hit by agricultural machinery very quickly; and that the 40mph terminals situated at the gateway to Tholomas Drove are at different heights. The Clerk to follow up with Highways.

The Clerk reported that the 40mph white road markings had been left on Murrow Bank road surface after the 30mph roundels had been installed, which caused confusion and even a press story; she contacted CCC and the 40mph was hydro-blasted off the road the next day.

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The Clerk also reported that the four bus stop poles had been installed but were unfortunately not high enough, and was waiting for the extensions to be fitted before the bus stop flags could be added.

The Chairman expressed frustration that the speed limit to Tholomas Drove should start sooner and Cllr Fryett felt that dragon's teeth markings should have been included on Murrow Bank, however Cllr Booth and the Clerk stated that the Parish Council would have approved the drawings and these are issues that should have been raised at the design stage.

(b) Update on 21/22 LHI Application for WSM Barton Road Speed Reduction.

The Clerk reported that Highways have had to delay the start date (programmed to be the end of August) to the 23rd October 2023 (next school half-term) due to Street Works refusing the road closure application because of the existing closure outside the new school on Barton Road, Wisbech.

Cllr Wheeler asked whether the newly approved 23/24 LHI Application to change the speed limit at the other end of the village could be completed at the same time. The Clerk to raise the question with Highways.

(c) Update on 23/24 LHI Applications for WSM High Road & Guyhirn School Traffic Calming.

The Clerk reported that both of the applications were successful for LHI funding and initial discussions with the design engineer at Highways were positive and he considers that there is potentially enough room at both sites to incorporate the chicanes and traffic calming measures that the Parish Council applied for.

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from RKM Utilities requesting permission to place a cable box onto Parish Council land at Tholomas Drove. Cllr J Humphrey expressed concern that any box near to the highways would be a visibility issue and possibly set a precedence for other cables in the future. The Clerk advised that any placement of cables on the Parish Council land would need the permission of the Parish Council whether now or in the future on a case-by-case basis. Following further discussion, the Chairman recommended a site meeting to clarify where the box would be. The Clerk to follow up.

(d) For Councillors to discuss Roadside Weed Spraying Issues.

The Chairman expressed concern that Wisbech St Mary was starting to look extremely untidy due to the newly introduced CCC policy of not spraying roadside weeds. Cllr Britain agreed that parts of Guyhirn are also looking untidy, some of which is CCC but is the same on the A47 which come under National Highways. The Chairman asked whether the Parish Council would support a motion for the reversal of the no roadside weed spraying policy, this was unanimously agreed. The Chairman agreed to obtain photographs of the weeds and forward to the Clerk.

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

Cllr Wheeler reported a substantial dip in the road at Rummers Lane, Wisbech St Mary, about half way down on the bend. Cllr King agreed to follow up with the relevant Local Highways Officer.

11. FINANCE MATTERS

11.1. To receive the Finance & Budget Report for 2023/24 to date.

The bank reconciliation of the 2nd August 2023 balanced at £103,295.40 which was between the Barclays Current Account of £28,295.40 and £75,000.00 invested with the CCLA PSDF. The Clerk drew attention to the income of £3176.80 from CCC for the Grass Verge Cutting that the Parish Council undertakes on their behalf, as well as some of the planter sponsorship money following invitations to renew and invoicing. The report was agreed to and signed off by Cllr Barry Britain.

11.2. To receive the Investment Reports for 2023/24 to date.

(a) CCLA PSDF – Current yield and return.

The Clerk reported that the investment had made £973.10 since its inception on 17th March 2023.

(b) CCLA COIF – The Middle Pit & Tholomas Drove Wash Pit Fund Charity – Current yield and return.

The Clerk reported that the investment had made £736.56 since its inception on 16th May 2023.

11.3. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk July Salary	£1355.91	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(b)	Clerk HMRC Tax and NI	£275.45	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(c)	Clerk Monthly Expenses (July)	£96.23	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions – July (Direct Debit)	£93.78	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed

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(e)	Npower Lighting July Energy	£484.06	Parish Councils Act 1957 S3	Agreed
(f)	Tamar IT – Microsoft 365 (Direct Debit)	£13.54	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(g)	Mr Stephen Knight – Handyman July Work	£787.95	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10	Agreed
(h)	The Chequers Public House – June Room Hire	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed
(i)	Guyhirn Community Room – July Room Hire	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed
(j)	Amax Ltd – iPads, Projector & Projection Screen	£3894.24	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(k)	Amax Ltd – iPad Covers & Screen Protectors	£204.00	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(l)	CAPALC – Chairmanship Training 18 th July 2023	£50.00	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed

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 invoices to be paid due to time constraints:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Fiona Davies – Thorney Toll Sign Restoration 50%	£318.50	LG Act 1972 S144	Agreed

The Council **resolved** to **authorise** the expenditure for the month of July and **ratified** the payments already made totalling £7653.66.

The Clerk requested that a further invoice of £504.00 (Inc £84.00 Vat) from PKF Littlejohn LLP for the external audit 2022/23 be approved for payment due to time constraints and she would detail this on the September agenda for ratification. This was approved by Councillors unanimously. The Chairman and Cllr Wheeler both congratulated the Clerk on a clean completed external audit.

Cllr Booth expressed concern over the rising costs of the Handyman, and the Clerk confirmed that the amount of work will start to go down as he has been working on jobs that have been waiting a few years and will not need doing on a regular basis.

12.6. Grant Applications - Nil

12. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) For Councillors to receive an update on Wisbech St Mary Pond issues.

The Clerk reported that a letter had been written to the owner of Goodfellows Terrace (which included the results of the Parish Councils water test completed by ADC), and requested a copy of their water test that was understood to have been undertaken independently. The Chairman reported a face-to-face conversation with the owner where he again requested a copy of their water test report, which the owner stated he did not yet have available but would chase up. The Chairman recommended that another letter was sent (either hand delivered or recorded delivery) to again request a copy of the results from their water test and to suggest that [to stop this becoming an ongoing issue] alternative means of discharging sewerage is progressed now that the village of Wisbech St Mary has the availability of a mains connection. The Chairman requested that another water test from ADC be carried out before the next meeting. The Clerk to follow up.

(b) For Councillors to receive a report on Land & Tenancy Inspections 2023.

The Clerk reported that the land inspections were undertaken by herself, the Chairman and Cllr Wheeler on 17th July 2023 and the Parish Councils land (whether that be leased out to a tenant or not) was predominantly maintained and tidy, with a few exceptions. The middle section of Murrow Pit was only being used by the tenant as an area to dump grass cuttings. The land to the south side of Mouth Lane was overgrown and a plan of action soon needs to be developed for its maintenance. The Guyhirn Pond boundary line needs confirming before safety fencing can be installed and one willow was believed to be dead which had a TPO on it and the WSM Pond has the obvious odour and ongoing sewerage issue. The Chairman suggested that no action be taken regarding Murrow Pit nor the land to the South Side of Mouth Lane for now and its noted purely as an advisory. The Chairman recommended that the issue with Guyhirn Pond needs to be addressed before any rejuvenation of the area is undertaken and suggested a meeting be arranged between himself, Cllr Blackmore, the Clerk and the believed owner of the land adjacent to the pond to discuss the boundary line.

12.1. Maintenance

Cllr Britain reported that the steps and slope that connect the High Road in Guyhirn to the A47 and Bridge had started to look untidy again. The Clerk to follow up with National Highways

Cllr Blackmore reported that the wooden steps up to the riverbank opposite Chapelfield Road had started to become overgrown again. The Clerk to follow up with the Environment Agency.

Cllr Allen reported that the old Churchyard in Guyhirn is overgrown again, with the emphasis on the Willow Tree that needs trimming back. The Clerk to follow up with the Diocese.

12.2. Handyman

(a) For Councillors to consider any potential work orders

The Clerk reported that she had asked the Handyman to remove the WSM School Noticeboard to explore the cost of full refurbishment rather than replacement. The decision to do this was made by herself, the Chairman and Cllr Wheeler due to the Chairmans interest in the matter. On inspection the plywood backboard was rotten, but the hardwood of the main cabinet (once stripped down) was in good repair. It was agreed to replace the backboard at a cost of £20 and paint the main cabinet in a wood suitable black paint at a cost of £20. To upgrade the noticeboards to have a metal magnetic board meant including a very thin galvanised sheet at a cost of £50. The Handyman estimated that the work would take between 4-5hours per noticeboard at a cost of £125.00 being the maximum. Which estimated the total refurbishment of a noticeboard to be in the region of £250.00 depending on how far the paint will go and how long each noticeboard takes to be repaired. The Clerk recommended that these repairs would hopefully see the noticeboards last around five more years, in which time the Parish Council could budget towards the purchase of brand-new ones in 2028.

The Chairman reported that once the WSM one has been completed, it will be available for inspection by Councillors and the decision will be brought to Council on whether to approve the continuation of doing the other five.

Cllr Booth expressed concern regarding the Handyman budget, and would there be enough money left to complete the other five and have some money left in reserve in case of any emergency works. The Clerk reported that there was a total budget available of £6000; with the works completed to date and including the estimated cost of doing all the noticeboards left the Handyman well within budget.

The Parish Council agreed that Kevin Clarke was to cease treating the noticeboards. The Clerk to follow up.

Cllr Weldon expressed concern that the Thorney Toll noticeboard is in the wrong place, and once refurbished could it be relocated next to the bus stop in the layby to the front of Lindens Close. Cllr Weldon reported that there are poles already at the hall that could be moved and re-used. Councillors agreed for the relocation in principle and would be dependant on the agreement to refurbish all noticeboards at the next meeting.

12.3. Bus Shelters – **No Matters of Discussion**

12.4. Planters

Cllr Britain reported that the sponsorship plaques along the Gull are poorly visible down at ground level, and could they either be placed on a pole within the planter or raised higher on the sleeper. Cllr Britain offered to do the work to make the plaques more visible by adding a piece of wood on top of the sleeper to raise the plaque. The Chairman expressed concern that a gap on the sleeper would then be visible and recommended that it will need to be touched up with creocote. This was agreed to by Council and Cllr Britain would follow up.

13. GUYHIRN PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

(a) CCC Land Licence for Community Room Car Park – Update

The Clerk was still awaiting a quote from Trevor Blackamore for maintenance costs and any further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

(b) Purchase of equipment from historic S106 money – Update

The Clerk and Cllr Booth had both been unsuccessful obtaining confirmation from FDC regarding the draw down of S106 money and any further discussion was deferred until the next meeting.

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14. RBL REMEMBRANCE 2023

For Councillors to consider the purchase of Unknown Tommy Statues

The Clerk reported that the order form for 2023 from Royal British Legion had been received and as there was available funding in the S137 budget would Councillors like to consider buying any of the Unknown Tommy Statues.

Cllr Fryett reported that the one in Murrow had been created and donated by a resident and recommended asking whether he would be prepared to make any more for the parish.

The Clerk expressed concern that by doing this the Royal British Legion wouldn't receive a donation.

Cllr Wheeler expressed concern regarding locations for them to be placed, especially as the Guyhirn memorial could be relocating.

Cllr Weldon recommended that the statue could be placed near the flagpole in Guyhirn rather than near the memorial.

Cllr Allen proposed obtaining a quote from the resident that made the Murrow statue, and then making a donation to the RBL charity.

Cllr Fryett agreed to follow up and obtain a quote and questioned whether they would want to be the same height as the Murrow one. Councillors agreed to the process and agreed that they should be of the same height.

Cllr Booth raised the question whether the Parish Council would like him to order the wreaths ready for Remembrance; and these were now £25.00 each. The Parish Council agreed for three to be ordered. Cllr Booth to follow up.

15. VILLAGE VOICES

For Councillors to discuss the potential closure of the magazine and consider any actions to be taken.

Cllr Wheeler reported that he had met with Richard Gilbert to discuss the magazine; a 20-page issue costs £14616 per annum to create, and the advertising is only accumulating £12096 of it therefore, it is currently losing about £2000 a year, which the Church is funding. The magazine is running short of advertisers but there hadn't been any attempt to attract more for some time, it is also starting to lose delivers as they are getting older and not being replaced by younger parishioners that tend to look to social media for local news. Cllr Wheeler expressed concern that although someone had come forward to possibly take over the editorial nothing had been confirmed and, in his opinion, that is where the main problem lies; who is going to bring the magazine together.

Cllr Booth reported that himself and Cllr Unwin from Parson Drove Parish Council would volunteer to join a working a group, if one was formed. Cllr Booth raised the question as to how much work is involved in hours, to put an issue together, and this is information that was needed to appeal to a commercial entity if volunteers could not be found. Cllr Wheeler stated each issue takes three days to put together.

The Chairman raised the point that there are two issues; does the Parish Council want the magazine to continue, and if so the three individual Parish Councils will need to help fund the short fall in a proportionate manner.

The Parish Council unanimously supported the continuation of the magazine, and agreed to financially support it, which the Clerk reported could be done under S137 budget.

Cllr Wheeler agreed to report back to Richard Gilbert.

16. LAND AT SILT PIT LANE JUNCTION

For Councillors to consider sowing wildflower seeds on this area of land.

Cllr Britain supported the idea of sowing wildflower seeds on this area of land, but expressed caution regarding the stumps of trees that need to be removed first so the area is maintainable in the future.

Cllr Booth expressed concern regarding the maintenance of a wildflower meadow, and the Clerk reported that she had spoken to Trevor Blackamore who has other similar areas that he maintains and is knowledgeable on how to make them to flourish.

Cllr Mann volunteered to dig over the area to remove the tree stumps and Cllr Allen volunteered to obtain the wildflower seeds.

The Clerk recommended that both Councillors be reimbursed, Cllr Mann for the diesel of the digger and Cllr

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Allen for the purchase of the seeds. This was approved by Councillors.

17. POLICE MATTERS

For Councillors to note Police Report & Crime Statistics for the Parish.

The Clerk circulated the Crime Statistics Report from the month of June 2023, the total amount of crime reported in the Parish was 17; with Wisbech St Mary at 10, having the most reported crime.

The Clerk reported that the data from the WSM MVAS/SID had been transferred into graph format and posted onto the Parish Council Facebook page, which Cllr Diane Cutler as the Co-Ordinator of CSW commented that this data was in line with roadside sessions which shows that the majority of road users adhere to the speed limits and it's the perception of speed that is incorrect.

18. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda.

- Cllr Fryett reported that two of the Union Flags had become rotten at the cord and had fell from the flagpoles in both Murrow and Tholomas Drove. Cllr Wheeler expressed concern that they were never supposed to be up all year round, and have been exposed to all kinds of weather conditions. Cllr Allen recommended contacting South Coast Flagpoles (where the flags were purchased from) for advice.
- Cllr Allen reported that Guyhirn Playing Field Association are holding a MacMillan Coffee Morning on 19th September 2023, 10am – 12 Noon.
- Cllr Blackmore reported that Guyhirn Playing Field Association are holding a Car Boot this Saturday (19th August 2023)

19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th September 2023	7:00pm	Murrow Village Hall
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DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2023/2024

Monday 9th October 2023	7:00pm	The Chequers Public House – Tholomas Drove
Monday 13th November 2023	7:00pm	Guyhirn Community Room
Monday 11th December 2023	7:00pm	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 15th January 2024	7:00pm	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 12th February 2024	7:00pm	Guyhirn Community Room
Monday 11th March 2024	7:00pm	Thorney Toll Village Hall
Monday 15th April 2024	7:00pm	Murrow Village Hall
Monday 13th May 2024	7:00pm	WSM Community Centre – Sidings Room

Meeting closed at 9:07pm

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Chairman

Cllr Mark Knight MBE DL