

Wisbech St Mary Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council held on Monday 13th November 2023 at The Guyhirn Community Room on The Playing Field

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

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

Members of the public: 3

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 the Police have given approval for roadside sessions to go ahead in Tholomas Drove.

October Statistics

High Road, Guyhirn (Session One) - 7% of vehicles monitored were travelling in excess of 35mph with 15% travelling between 31-34mph, which shows percentage of drivers speeding is decreasing.

High Road, Guyhirn (Session Two) - 4% of vehicles monitored were travelling in excess of 35mph with 14% travelling between 31-34mph. This was held at their prime time but during half-term with no school traffic.

CSW focuses on hotspots but also have a flexible approach towards monitoring other areas as needed.

Front Road, Murrow - 14% of vehicles monitored were travelling in excess of 35mph with 10% travelling between 31-34mph conducted during school run traffic following reports of increased speeding.

During a recent all-day session held in Guyhirn; prime times of 8:00am – 9:00am and 3:00pm – 4:00pm resulted in 7% and 6% of vehicles speeding respectively. However, sessions held outside these times resulted in percentages between 16 and 19% showing that CSW is having a positive affect during the prime times. So having a pro-active approach; agreed to hold road side sessions outside prime times after the Christmas break.

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

3. JACOB HOBBS FROM CCC HIGHWAYS – DESIGN & COSTS REVIEW 2023/24 LHI SCHEMES

The Chairman introduced and explained the role of Jacob Hobbs at CCC Highways and welcomed him to the meeting.

Jacob presented and explained the base designs for both the Wisbech St Mary speed limit change and traffic calming, and the Guyhirn road narrowing and traffic calming measures to Councillors.

Focusing on WSM first; explained that:

- The scheme was aiming to extend the existing 30mph limit out to the village gateway near the Bridge Inn.
- The design includes new signage on entering the village and the use of dragon's teeth to enforce the change in speed limit.
- It would also involve the removal of any existing speed limit signage that sits within this proposed zone.
- The locations of the give-way calming measures were designed taking into account access to driveways and the recommended effective distance of 100m (to uphold enforcement) between build outs.
- The proposed location of the first build out is to the front of 'The Shrubbery' and the second is on the opposite carriageway to the front of 'Saffron House'.
- The build outs would also require the movement of the existing MVAS pole which is currently situated on the boundary line of 'The Shrubbery', the future location of which will be decided at a later date.
- Both proposed traffic calming locations have a cycle gap between the give-way feature and the foot path.
- To keep vehicle speeds down along a very wide road, it was proposed to utilise hatchings and central islands mirroring the recently completed changes to the Barton Road end of the village.

Cllr Fryett raised the question whether the features would be physical build outs?

Jacob reported that the design incorporates Rosehill rubberised units made from recycled rubber and that they are the same height (125mm) as standard roadside kerbing.

Cllr Booth raised the question whether these were more expensive?

Jacob believed that they are more expensive as opposed to conventional kerbs and asphalt but did not have a cost analysis between the two at this time.

Cllr Fryett asked whether conventional materials could be used instead?

Jacob replied that this is possible, but CCC prefers to use this material due to its sustainability and ease of removal if there are issues in the future.

Cllr J Humphrey raised the question of whether the central islands would contain bollards?

Jacob replied that bollards will only be included on the physical build outs and not on the islands within the hatchings.

The Chairman raised the question of potential costs for the two give-way features?

Jacob explained that he did not have the detailed costs analysis for individual elements as he had joined both schemes together to apply best cost effectiveness and would be delivered back-to-back on a rolling program. He further detailed that each project has the maximum funding of £25,000 from CCC, with an additional £5,000 contribution from the Parish Council as part of the original application, totalling £30,000 per scheme allowing a combined total budget of £60,000. Jacob went on to detail that both scheme designs combined were showing an estimated cost of £78,000 but noted that this included 15% contingency on top of construction costs. The designs and indicative costs were his interpretation and over inflated based on previous schemes and the current fluctuating market.

The Chairman requested confirmation that the extra £18,000 over budget would need to be met by the Parish Council?

Jacob confirmed that this was correct, however, he had designed the scheme to what he felt was appropriate and worked well on site, but there were options to descope based on cost. He also explained that he wouldn't know definitive costs until the scheme was formally submitted.

The Chairman asked whether the desired effect to reduce speed could be met with only one build out feature, instead of two and if this was possible, could the second build out be placed at the other end of the village where there are currently no physical traffic calming features?

Jacob explained that by only having one build out you would severely limit its effectiveness and the point of the build outs is to cause a disruption to the flow of traffic during peak times. The Barton Road end 2022/23 LHI losing the build outs in the descope wasn't as much of a concern due to the natural bends, whereas the Sandbank end of the village is a straight length of road and without build outs would fail to reduce speeding. As it was introducing a new speed limit the road had to be as self-enforcing as possible.

Cllr Booth raised the question whether the village gateway would have the same white picket fence as the Barton Road end?

Jacob confirmed that the current designs do not include this feature as it increased costs.

It was agreed by Council that this should be added as a feature to mirror the other end of the village.

Outlining the Guyhirn scheme; explained that:

- There would be no amendment to the speed limit as 30mph was already in place.
- The location of build out one was to the front of Bridge House and Southview.
- The location of build out two A&B are either side of the school to the front of Glebelands and on the opposite carriageway to the front of 1 Glebe Gardens.
- The location of build out three was proposed to be to the front of Guyhirn Pond.
- All proposed traffic calming locations have a cycle gap between the give-way feature and the foot path.
- There would be a need to remove some of the existing road hatchings.
- The design also includes New Road Layout ahead signage.

Cllr Allen expressed concern that the build outs either side of the school would cause congestion due to parent and teacher parking, and raised the question of whether these could be spaced further apart to cover more of Guyhirn as it is almost 2 miles long?

Cllr Blackmore raised similar concerns regarding the build outs to the front of the pond due to the amount of traffic at the old Guyhirn Village Hall which is now a church.

Jacob once again referred to the recommended distance between features to optimise their effectiveness, he went on to suggest that the Parish Council undertakes a rolling LHI bid year on year to fully cover the length of the village. Jacob understood Councillors concerns but warned that if the features were stretched too far apart, they simply would not work. Jacob also suggested that the build outs at the pond could be removed from the design, which would also help to bring down costs and these could be included in a future bid.

Cllr Blackmore also asked if the build out locations interfered with the bus stops?

Jacob responded that the bus stops were far enough away and had already been taken into consideration.

* Cllr Booth added that he requested confirmation

Page 2 of 9 THAT THE BUILD OUTS IN WSM HAD
NO ALTERNATIVE LOCATION DUE TO RESIDENTIAL
ACCESS POINTS. JACOB CONFIRMED THAT THIS
WAS CORRECT.

Chairman Initials

CUA

Cllr Blackmore also questioned whether the vehicles that currently park in these possible build out locations would still be able to?

Jacob advised that technically they shouldn't be able to, but currently the design had no plans for restrictive markings.

Cllr Booth surmised that with no restrictive markings this would encourage people to park on the riverbank side of the road? He furthermore recommended including double yellow lines to help with enforcement of parking.

Jacob responded that the costs of adding double yellow lines would be minimal and can certainly be looked at and recommended the inclusion.

The Chairman asked what percentage of effectiveness could be achieved by using

- a) Just road linings*
- b) 1 build out feature only*
- c) A pair of build features together*

Jacob responded that he did not have those statistics available and warned that if the scheme relied on just road linings, it could lose its effectiveness as people soon start to ignore them.

The Clerk raised the question of how much the costs could be reduced by removing the build outs at the pond?

Cllr Allen surmised that removing the build outs either side of the school would be the better option.

Cllr Britain asked whether the build out outside Bridge House/Southview could be moved further back towards Gaultree Farm?

Cllr Booth confirmed that as a Parish Council they had already agreed that multiple bids year on year would be needed to successfully add a traffic calming scheme to the entirety of Guyhirn due to the length of the village.

Jacob responded that an option was available to have just one feature outside the school, but it was designed with two as the aim is to keep speeds as low as possible. He also advised that the build outs needed to be spaced around current school keep clear markings so as not to create a visual cluster and confuse drivers.

Cllr Booth raised the question of whether the same location constraints were applicable to the Guyhirn scheme as they were to the WSM one?

Jacob reported that there was greater flexibility for adjustments on this scheme due to only needing to enforce an existing speed limit.

The Chairman questioned the time scale for the two projects and asked how soon the Parish Council would need to approve the plan?

Jacob responded that the designs would need the Parish Councils input as soon as possible as any changes would need to be approved and resubmitted. The actual delivery of the schemes would most likely be the end of March 2024.

Jacob agreed to put together a costs analysis and breakdown based on tonight's meeting, and any aspects that could be descoped due to costs, which would also include the option of heat lancing rather than hydro blasting for linings removal.

The Chairman suggested that walk throughs of the two locations were undertaken by Councillors.

The Chairman thanked Jacob for his excellent presentation and that all comments from tonight's meeting will be fed back to him.

Jacob thanked the Chairman and volunteered to undertake a walk through with Councillors at a later date, if needed.

4. TO CONSIDER MEMBER REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – None Received

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

- Items 12.3.(g) and 13.2 Cllr Knight declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Handyman is his brother.
- Item 12.4.(a) Cllr Allen & Cllr Blackmore both declared non-pecuniary interests as committee members of Guyhirn Playing Field Association.
- Item 16 Cllr Booth declared a non-pecuniary interest as the Vice-Chairman of Murrow Community Facilities.

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

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

8. 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 to which the Chairman expressed appreciation that the Enforcement Officer was making progress regarding the verge encroachment issues outside WSM Shop.
- Cllr Count reported that the motion to reinstate cyclical weed spraying was defeated but he will keep applying as much pressure as possible regarding this matter.
- Cllr Count reported that he had liaised with the Executive Director for Place and Sustainability regarding increasing LHI Costs, using Christchurch as an example he outlined that two dropped kerbs recently cost £9000. Cllr Count also outlined that a pilot scheme to develop a different approach to LHI projects is being considered and he has put Wisbech St Mary Parish Council forward for this role.
- Cllr Count reported that the Combined Authority's Local Transport Plan including the element of congestion charges was defeated, but is likely to be brought back as it is still in the prospective plan.
- Cllr Booth reported that the next FDC Full Council meeting was scheduled for Monday 11th December 2023.

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/YR23/0836/F	Change of use of 3 x holidays lets (1 x 2-bed, 2 x 1-bed) to 2 x 2-bed dwellings at Trafford Barns Station Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RW The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(b)	F/YR23/0857/F	Change of use of land to form car park, erect an extension to existing building, formation of an access and relocation of office portacabin and container at Sims Contract Furniture Limited Plash Farm House Plash Drove Tholomas Drove Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4SP The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(c)	F/YR23/0859/F	Erect a detached single-storey garage at Danlea House High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(d)	F/YR23/0866/F	Convert existing garage involving the erection of a single-storey front extension to create an annexe (single-storey 2-bed) ancillary to existing dwelling at 155 Front Road Murrow Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4JQ The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(e)	F/YR23/0867/VOC	Variation of condition 11 (list of approved drawings) of planning permission F/YR20/1277/F (Erect a dwelling (2-storey, 4-bed) and detached garage) to enable the repositioning of the detached garage at Plot 4 Pitt Farm Spencer Drove Guyhirn Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(f)	F/YR23/0890/F	Erect a detached garage to front of existing dwelling at Stanford House High Road Wisbech St Mary Wisbech Cambridgeshire PE13 4RA The Parish Council recommended APPROVAL.
(g)	F/YR23/0905/F	Erect a two-storey rear extension to existing annexe to form detached dwelling (2 storey 4-bed) at Land North West of Hollycroft Bungalow High Road Wisbech St Mary Cambridgeshire The Parish Council recommended REFUSAL based on the following discussion: Councillors feel that allowing the annexe to become a detached dwelling would be back door backland development and therefore believe the annexe should remain as it currently stands.

9.3. 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 no further update had been received.

10. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED - Nil

11. HIGHWAYS MATTERS

11.1. Street Lighting

(a) Unmetered Energy Supply – Utilities Aid

The Clerk reported that finding an unmetered energy supplier was proving difficult however with the help of NALC, had been recommended to use Utilities Aid who specialise in such matters. Utilities Aid compared

suppliers and secured a quote from SSE. This would be a fixed term contract until 30th September 2026, and based on their cost analysis between SSE and the current supplier would save the Parish Council over £2000 a year. The Council unanimously agreed to change suppliers and the Clerk to action.

Cllr Allen reported that a tree had become so overgrown on Selwyn Corner that it was overshadowing the Parish Streetlight. The Clerk reported that she had tried both Environment Agency and CCC Highways to cut the tree but without success. The Clerk recommended utilising the Handyman to trim a few branches if the situation was deemed urgent enough. Councillors agreed to this process and the clerk to speak to the Handyman.

11.2. Highways

(a) For the Chairman to report on the Bellamy Bridge Meeting held 30th October 2023

The Chairman reported that a meeting was held between Wisbech St Mary, Gorefield, Parson Drove & Leverington Parish Council representatives as well as Joshua Rutherford (the Group Manager, Design & Delivery for Place & Sustainability at Cambridgeshire County Council) to discuss potential safety improvements to the junction. During the meeting many statistics and various options were detailed and discussed, with Joshua Rutherford being tasked with following up by supplying indicative costs. The Chairman expressed that future meetings will be need to be held to progress the matter further.

(b) Flooding on High Road, Wisbech St Mary

The Chairman reported a major flooding issue to the front of 'Corbiere' and 'Saffron House' on High Road, WSM, he expressed concern over sewerage problems experienced during heavy down pours of rain.

Cllr J Humphrey expressed frustration that this was not a Parish Council matter and was likely caused by historic home owners filling in drains.

The Chairman agreed that it wasn't directly the Parish Councils responsibility but felt brokering the situation between the residents and the flood authorities would be beneficial to the community.

Cllr Booth as a board member of North Level IDB reported that he had spoken with an engineer who confirmed the likelihood of the problem was caused by historic home owners filling in old riparian drains. The engineer expressed caution that this was a highly complicated and extensive investigation to locate any outflows and would require a vast contribution from homeowners. The Clerk to contact CCC as the LLFA to investigate the matter further. Cllr Booth added that CCC have initiatives regarding localised flood schemes, but expressed caution that any works to be carried out would require agreement from all home owners concerned.

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

Cllr Fryett expressed frustration regarding some matters from Cllr Kings CCC report

1. The overgrown trees outside 'Primula' Hooks Drove, Murrow have not yet been cut back as the matter has now been outstanding 18 months.
2. The Marker Posts from Station Avenue which are in his possessions have been waiting for collection for months with no arrangement from CCC, who have all his contact details.
3. The Passing Place signage and junction signage on Back Road, Murrow are also still outstanding.

The Clerk recommended opening new cases on the reporting tool and forwarding the references to the new LHO, who had specified that this is his preferred method rather than keep waiting for the previous LHO to complete these outstanding matters.

12. FINANCE MATTERS

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

The bank reconciliation of 2nd November 2023 balanced at £133,635.47 which was between the Barclays Current Account of £58,635.47 and £75,000.00 invested with the CCLA PSDF. The Clerk drew attention to the income of £1328.81 received from HMRC for the second quarter VAT126 return, £1920.50 from Zurich as settlement of the insurance claim for damaged street furniture at Front Road, Murrow as well as remittances from tenants for the 2023/2024 Land Tenancies. The report was agreed to and signed off by Cllr David Scrimshaw.

12.2. 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 £1948.12 since its inception on 17th March 2023 with a current yield of 5.2562 %.

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

The Clerk reported that the investment had made £1799.80 since its inception on 16th May 2023 with a current yield of 5.1591%.

12.3. To approve payment of outstanding accounts:

Item	Description	Total Amount	Power	
(a)	Clerk October 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 (October)	£78.04	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(d)	Nest Pensions – October (Direct Debit)	£93.78	LG Act 1972 S112	Agreed
(e)	Npower Lighting October Energy	£818.76	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 October Work	£455.05	Open Spaces Act 1906 S9-10	Agreed
(h)	Brewers Decorator Centres – Handyman Materials	£32.10	LG Act 1972 S232	Agreed
(i)	The Chequers Public House - October Room Hire	£40.00	LG Act 1972 S134	Agreed
(j)	RBL Poppy Appeal – 3 x Wreaths	£82.50	LG Act 1972 S137	Agreed
(k)	KBS Depot – Replacement Bench in Murrow	£1167.00	Parish Councils Act 1957 S1	Agreed
(l)	Clerk & Council Direct Magazine – Annual Renewal	£170.50	LG Act 1972 S143	Agreed
(m)	Sutcliffe Play – Inclusive Picnic Table for Guyhirn	£2365.20	LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19	Agreed
(n)	Richard King Memorials Ltd – David Wheeler Plaque	£96.00	LG Act 1972 S137	Agreed
(o)	Waverley Nurseries – Winter Pansies for Planters	£343.20	Highways Act 1980 S96	Agreed
(p)	Fiona Davies – 50% Balance Thorney Toll Sign	£318.50	LG Act 1972 S144	Agreed
(q)	Viking Direct – Office Consumables (Toners)	£119.26	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(r)	Viking Direct – Office Consumables (Files)	£33.66	LG Act 1972 S111	Agreed
(s)	Kevin Clarke Carpentry – War Memorial Cleaning	£187.00	War Memorials (LA Powers) Act 1923 S1	Agreed

12.4. Grant Applications

(a) Guyhirn PF Association - Grass, Hedge & Dyke Cutting / Insurance- £3000 LG (Misc Prov) Act 1976 S19

Following discussion, the grant application was approved with the amount requested awarded. Proposed by Cllr Booth, seconded by Cllr Scrimshaw and unanimously agreed.

13. PARISH PROPERTY

(a) For Councillors to note Guyhirn Pond boundary amendment and safety fencing discussion.

The Clerk reported that an on-site meeting had been held between The Chairman, Cllr Blackmore, Mr Richard Gilbert and herself to discuss the boundary line of the village pond and the surrounding land. The Clerk stated that the current title deed shows that the Parish Council only own the land of the pond itself up to the waters edge. Over time the land surrounding the pond had been rejuvenated and maintained by the Parish Council albeit included on Mr Gilberts title deed as land he owned. Mr Gilbert agreed for the Parish Council to amend the title deed of the pond to include the land up to the slope and gave permission for a post and rail fence to be erected to comply with the RoSPA inspection. Following further discussion, the Clerk was advised to contact local companies who could complete the works in full (vegetation clearance and fence erection) for quotes. Cllr Blackmore expressed concern that the companies asked to quote were informed that there were utility lines/pipes believed to be running underneath this land. The Clerk to follow up with the solicitor regarding the title deed and obtain quotes for the works.

(b) For Councillors to discuss outstanding issues with WSM Pond.

Cllr J Humphrey reported that he had spoken to North Level IDB who were amenable to connecting the existing discharge pipe directly into the overflow of the village pond which leads under the High Road through a culvert into the North Level drain. The Clerk reported that she had spoken to ADC who had also confirmed that this procedure was acceptable to North Level IDB. ADC advised that their approved contractors would be Warden & Son, and a meeting could be arranged on site to obtain a quote. Cllr J Humphrey volunteered to take the lead and represent the Parish Council at the meeting. The Council agreed to this solution in principle and will await the outcome of the meeting and quotes before further discussion.

13.1. Maintenance

(a) For Councillors to consider Top Soil quotes for Silt Pit Lane Junction

Following discussion, it was agreed that 40 tonne of top soil was required and this would need to be levelled out. The matter was deferred until March when new quotes will be obtained and brought back for consideration. The Clerk reported that Tony Cook from Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT) would be attending December's meeting to discuss the establishment and maintenance of a Wildflower meadow.

(b) For Councillors to consider ADC Quote for monthly water testing of WSM Pond whilst the discharge plant is connected.

The Council dismissed the need for testing whilst an alternative solution is being considered as per item 13(b).

13.2. Handyman

(a) For Councillors to consider any potential work orders

The Clerk reported that the Thorney Toll noticeboard refurbishment was still outstanding due to the potential relocation. The Handyman considered that the movement of the noticeboard to the slope next to the bus shelter was impractical with high labour costs, and recommended a commercial lightweight noticeboard to be added inside the bus shelter as a potential solution. The Clerk agreed to investigate 9 x A4 sized with magnetic back noticeboards and obtain quotes within the agreed region of £300.

The Clerk also reported that she had arranged for the Handyman to create two small walk throughs beside the locked main gate at Guyhirn Playing Field Car Park as it was becoming slippery under foot where people walked between the wooden posts.

13.3. Bus Shelters

13.4. Planters

Cllr Fryett raised the question of whether the planter at the gateway to Murrow on Seadyke was still looking to be moved. Cllr Scrimshaw reported that the sleepers had been ordered around 7 weeks ago and was still waiting for the supplier to get in contact. Cllr Humphrey agreed to follow up with the supplier.

14. GUYHIRN PLAYING FIELD MATTERS

For Councillors to consider CCC Land Licence for Community Room Car Park – Update

The Clerk reported that CCC have confirmed the land licence would need to be renewed annually, and that a quote to maintain the land by the current grass contractor had been received at a yearly cost of between £800-£1000.

The license would allow the Guyhirn Playing Field Association to utilise part of the land as a car park for the Community Room and would also create a pleasant and practical environment for users.

The land licence arrangement was agreed to by the Parish Council. It was agreed by Councillors for the Clerk to arrange a meeting between CCC and Guyhirn Councillors to discuss the requirements of the land clearance and to obtain further quotes.

15. GUYHIRN WAR MEMORIAL RELOCATION

For Councillors to consider the quote received from Gawn Associates for trial pits.

The Chairman reported that the land on which the memorial sits remains in church ownership. It was further discussed that a proposal from the Church Commissioners (CC) is to demolish the church to enable the sale of the site for redevelopment. If demolition was to take place; the CC have agreed to put forward £10,000 to assist with the relocation of the War Memorial subject to completion of site sale. However, CC are having a last attempt at selling the church as a conversion project. The Chairman further advised that if the church was sold as a conversion, it would be of very little value and there would not be any funds available to assist with the relocation of the War Memorial. The CC would however bring this to the attention of any potential buyer for contribution towards moving the War Memorial should they wish to do so. Mr John Thackray - Chair Ely Church Uses Committee advised the Chairman that the relocation could potentially cost around £22,000 (Exc VAT). The Chairman reported that a test pit trial had been recommended by Gawn Associates, which would cost £650 (Exc VAT) which would only be for the inspection, with the actual pits being formed by others. The Clerk drew attention to the fact that contact hadn't yet been made with the land owner of the field that currently has agricultural access through the proposed relocation site. Cllr J Humphrey volunteered to secure contact details.

Cllr Booth expressed caution that the project was starting to accrue costs, when the Parish Council had only approved the relocation if no costs were to be met by the Parish Council.

Cllr Allen expressed the desire to have the War Memorial relocated as the recent Remembrance Service so close to the roadside was a safety issue for all people attending.

Cllr Fryett recommended utilising a more local company as he felt the costs were high. Cllr Fryett also recommended having a structural engineer on site for their opinion on what works would be required. The Clerk to contact structural engineers for further investigation.

Cllr Booth recommended holding a public consultation before the project moves further, as the public may not want to see it moved.

The Clerk to book the Community Room for a public event in February-March 2024 at a weekend, once the date was agreed would produce a flyer for a letter drop throughout the village, which Cllr Allen agreed to get delivered.

Cllr J Humphrey raised the question on whether funding could be acquired from elsewhere, the Chairman responded that a tentative response has been received from the War Memorial Trust, and that there was always the option of applying to Wrydecroft Windfarm

The Chairman recommended moving the project forward with a smaller working group to obtain a greater depth of information from skilled engineers and further quotes.

The Parish Council agreed not to approve the expenditure for the trial pits from Gawn Associates at this point until further companies can be approached.

16. MURROW COMMUNITY FACILITIES

For Councillors to authorise the signing of the transfer document to enable Murrow Community Facilities to hold the title deeds formerly CB212407 (Land on the North East Side of Murrow Bank, Murrow) and CB441571 (Murrow Village Hall, Murrow Bank) held by WSM Parish Council as custodian trustees.

The Chairman and Vice – Chairman; Cllrs Knight & Humphrey duly signed the title deed transfer document as witnessed and signed by Cllr Scrimshaw.

17. REVIEW & ADOPTION OF POLICIES

(a) Co-Option Policy

Cllr Booth raised the question whether it was a legislative requirement that Co-Opted Councillors couldn't receive Councillor Basic Allowance payments. The Clerk recommended that she investigated and confirmed this before commenting, but believed that this was the case.

The Clerk requested confirmation from Councillors that if this matter was proved correct would the policy be agreed and adopted. This was agreed by Councillors and the Clerk will follow up via email.

18. THORNEY TOLL VILLAGE HALL

For Councillors to receive any updates.

Cllr Weldon reported that the Charity has now removed the invalid trustees, as requested by the Charity Commission and is now compliant and correct. It was also noted by Cllr Weldon that should the charity wish to change its governing document or scheme in the future that the Charity Commission would be available for further advice and guidance.

19. POLICE MATTERS

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

The Clerk circulated the Crime Statistics from the month of September 2023, the total amount of crime reported in the Parish was 23; with WSM at 10, having the most reported crime.

20. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

To consider any items for a future meeting agenda.

- Cllr Booth reported that the request to update Murrow War Memorial with the fallen from WWII would not be simple as no official records are held with RBL.

21. EXEMPT ITEM

To agree to entering into a closed session under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to discuss a Staffing Matter.

Cllr Booth proposed to enter a closed session, this was seconded by Cllr Britain and agreed to by all Councillors. Members of the public were asked to leave.

22. CLERK - Confidential Item – Please see confidential Appendix A

- (a) National Pay Scale Review 2023/24
- (b) Clerk Annual Performance Review

23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 11th December 2023	7:00pm	Thorney Toll Village Hall
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DATES OF MEETINGS FOR 2023/2024

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 9:30 pm

Date: 11 - 2 - 23

Chairman

CHARLES CHRISTOPHER ALLEN