

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY 2010 IN WELBOURN C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL, HIGH STREET, WELBOURN
AT 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, Chairman
 Councillors: Mr A Copley (TC), Mr W Goodhand (WEG), Mr S Lawson (SL), Mr S Short (SS),
 District Councillor M Wylie (MW).
 Mr M. McBeath Acting Parish Clerk.
 Also present for part of the meeting was PCSO S Lingard.

		ACTION
01.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> PCSO Lingard reported that, in December, items had been stolen from a vehicle left on the A607 after an incident and that the vehicle had been damaged. She stressed the need not to leave temptation on view to thieves.	
01.02.00	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u> The Chairman reported that Mr Wildblood had resigned as Clerk w.e.f. 31 December 2009 on the grounds of ill health. The Chair had written a letter of appreciation as part of accepting the resignation. Mr Goodhand proposed that Mr Wildblood be paid up to his retirement date. This was agreed. Mr Goodhand agreed to write an appreciation for the Parish Magazine. It was also suggested that that some form of gratuity be paid in recognition of Mr Wildblood's excellent long service with the Council but members were reluctant in the circumstances to make over money that might be taken by HMRC. Members were asked to consider more suitable forms of recognition . The Chairman had received a letter from the solicitors responding to the earlier query about the legal status of the Parish Council as trustees of the Village Hall and Playing Field now that the Big Lottery had provided a major grant for the Village Hall development. The solicitors confirmed that, their opinion, having taken advice from the Charity Commissioners, the Parish Council's obligations as trustees are compatible with their obligations to the Big Lottery . They had included their bill of £280 for this work.	ALL
01.03.00	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr Gibson and Mrs Walker were absent due to ill health. (Cllr Overton later advised that she had been attending a private function.)	
01.04.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007 (SI2007/1159)</u> No interests declared.	
01.05.00	<u>APPOINTMENT OF NEW CLERK</u> Applications for the post of clerk had been advertised on the parish notice board for the previous month but only Mr McBeath had applied. It was proposed by Mr Storer that Mr McBeath be appointed as Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer (RFO), on the terms of a contract based on the model contract issued by the National Association of Local Clerks (NALC) at NALC rates at a nominal 8 hours per week, starting on 14 October 2009. After debate about 'hours', this was approved unanimously. The Council confirmed that it was satisfactory for the Clerk to use emails for communicating with members.	
01.06.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 11 th November 2009, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. There was no December meeting.	

		ACTION
01.07.00	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p><u>Audit</u> The Clerk reported that the auditors had not produced any adverse comments about the 2007-08 and 2008-09 audits, other than that they had not been approved in time and were late. The effect of the accounts being late was that the Auditors had charged for an extra letter, written to cover the situation. The Auditors had wanted to see copies of the notices advising the public of the completion of the audit. This had only been done for 2008-09.</p>	
01.08.00	<p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u></p> <p>The Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) produced copies of the current balance sheet which showed that the Council were still within the projected annual budget. The Chairman reminded Council that more expenses should be anticipated in setting up the refurbished Village Hall. The RFO pointed out that the internal auditor was supposed to keep a watching brief on the accounts throughout the year. It was suggested that, if she agreed, Mrs Bull be sent copies of the accounts from time to time for this purpose.</p>	RFO
01.09.00	<p><u>APPOINTMENT OF VILLAGE HANDYMAN</u></p> <p>Applications for the role of Village Handyman had been advertised within the parish for some time but only Mr Thorpe of Hall Orchard Lane had responded. He offered the use of his own tools and had his own insurance and relevant licences.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed to offer the role to Mr Thorpe on an ad hoc basis for each job as it arose to be briefed by either the Chairman or Cllr Brealey. As agreed at previous meetings, any one job was to be limited to a fee not exceeding £500.</p>	
01.10.00	<p><u>PRECEPT – 2009-10</u></p> <p>The Chairman produced a summary of the anticipated budget for 2009-10 which came to around £16,500. Although it was anticipated that grass cutting and maintenance costs would rise and the projected income from VAT refunds would be significantly less, the employment of a clerk at a proper salary had been a major factor in increasing the budget. After discussion, Mr Storer proposed, seconded by Mr Goodhand, that the precept for 2009-10 be set at £16,500. This was approved.</p>	Clerk
01.11.00	<p><u>COUNTY COUNCIL / DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u></p>	
01.11.01	<p><u>District Budget 2009-10</u></p> <p>NKDC were anticipating having to restrict their budget for 2009-10 by as much as 30%. Details would be announced in due course..</p>	
01.11.02	<p><u>Affordable Housing Consultation.</u></p> <p>Parish Councils had been asked to respond to a Draft Affordable Housing Strategy document issued by NKDC which sets out how NKDC intends to address the problem. The Council did not have any comments to raise on the document only to record that they would be very willing to participate in any survey required to determine the amount of need.</p>	Clerk
01.11.03	<p><u>Cluster Meeting</u> The next Cluster Meeting was scheduled for 28 January in Navenby</p> <p><u>District matters</u></p> <p>Questions were asked about the benefits expected from the development at the former Brook House site. Cllr Wylie advised that the PC should write to NKDC outlining how they believed the Open Space benefits due should be implemented. It would be relevant to ensure that they were for the benefit of the whole community.</p>	TC/BG
01.12.00	<p><u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u></p>	
01.12.01	<p><u>Police and NHW</u> Mr Copley reported that Trading Standards had recently sought our views on the No Cold Callers signage scheme. The warden in Manor Close had reported that the</p>	All

	<p>scheme had proved highly beneficial to the residents. During this enquiry it had been noted that dog fouling in Manor Close is a problem.</p> <p>The Speed Indicating Device, for which Welbourn is responsible on behalf of the Cluster, had been malfunctioning, apparently due to a flat battery. It was currently away for repair.</p>	<u>ACTION</u>																					
01.12.02	<p><u>Allotments</u> Mr Lawson stated that, due to the weather, the new plots had not yet been marked out. Mrs Walker had reported by email that she had prepared a letting agreement form and was trying to avoid accusations of favouritism by allocating plots at random.</p>																						
01.12.03	<p><u>Planning and Countryside</u> Mr Goodhand reported that he had received a very short notice visit from DEFRA about Castle Hill as part of their process of justifying payments. It seemed possible that Castle Hill might not qualify for the Rural Payments Agency support in future.</p>																						
01.13.00	<u>PLANNING MATTERS</u>																						
01.13.01	<p><u>Planning Permissions</u></p> <p>a. Permission had been granted for the rear extension at Brnderwydd.</p> <p>b. 09/0898/HOUS - the resubmission of 09/0640 below - had been approved, subject to provisions concerning protection of the existing trees on the site.</p>																						
01.13.02	<p><u>Planning Applications</u></p> <p>a. Application 09/0640 – alterations and garage at No 26 The Green – had been resubmitted as 09/0898 with the garage relocated away from the trees.</p> <p>b. An application had been made to remove a chimney pot on The Old House, The Green.</p>																						
01.14.00	<p><u>WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT</u></p> <p>The Committee were staging an open event in the Village Hall at 15.30 the following Friday for Councillors and the VH Hall Committee to let them see the state of progress.</p>																						
01.15.00	<p><u>CHEQUES.</u></p> <p>Payment of the following cheques was approved:</p> <table> <tr> <td>M McBeath</td> <td>travel and stationery expenses</td> <td>£27.42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-on</td> <td>quarterly electricity bill</td> <td>£203.63</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E-on</td> <td>quarterly maintenance bill</td> <td>£97.67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Brian Wildblood</td> <td>salary to retirement date</td> <td>£250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wilkin Chapman Epton Blades</td> <td>Legal Fees (VH Deed of Dedication)</td> <td>£280.00</td> </tr> </table> <p><i>The following cheques were paid during the December recess: -</i></p> <table> <tr> <td>BT</td> <td>telephone account</td> <td>£100.21</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clement Keys</td> <td>Audits fees</td> <td>£586.50</td> </tr> </table>	M McBeath	travel and stationery expenses	£27.42	E-on	quarterly electricity bill	£203.63	E-on	quarterly maintenance bill	£97.67	Brian Wildblood	salary to retirement date	£250.00	Wilkin Chapman Epton Blades	Legal Fees (VH Deed of Dedication)	£280.00	BT	telephone account	£100.21	Clement Keys	Audits fees	£586.50	
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01.16.00	<p><u>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 10th February 2010 at 7.30pm in the Primary School</p>	ALL																					

There being no further matters to discuss, the chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.30pm.

Copies to:

All PC Members

County Councillor R Phillips.

District Councillors M Wylie and M Overton.

Beat Manager: PC Hanson, Bracebridge Heath Police Station