

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 12th MAY 2010 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, Chairman
 Councillors: Mr S Short (SS), Mr S Lawson (SL), Mr V Brealey (VB),
 Mr T Copley (TC)
 District Councillors: Mr M Wylie (MW) and Mrs M Overton (MO)
 Mr M McBeath Parish Clerk
 Mr Richard Thorpe (Village Handyman) and Mr Mark Crosby were present as members of the public.

		<u>ACTION</u>
05.01.00	<p><u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> Mr Thorpe and Mr Crosby had merely come to observe and had nothing to say. There had been a break-in at the church in April and the offertory box had been stolen. Mr Goodhand stopped the meeting at the outset to declare that he was resigning for personal reasons, handed his letter of resignation to the Chair and left the meeting.</p>	
05.02.00 05.02.01 05.02.02 05.02.03 05.02.04 05.02.05	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</u> The Chairman reported from the Village Hall Committee that, due to the delay caused by the need to reroute a power cable at the beginning of construction, the project had overrun its budget. Some billing details were yet to resolved but it was highly likely that there would not be enough funds to meet the final bills. Bollards had been agreed with the Village Hall Committee and ordered and a contractor briefed after competitive tenders. The expense would be more than previously envisaged because the bollards were better. He had taken the new computer to a specialist in Newark and had fitted a memory extension in order to speed it up. It is still very slow, however, but better. He pointed out that this year it would be necessary to review the grass and hedge cutting contracts in the autumn before the season started again. He commented that the insertion of barley straw into the Beck appeared to have been successful in that there was a lot less green weed this year compared with last year.</p>	
05.03.00	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr Gibson was unwell but recovering from his operation; the Police were all engaged elsewhere.</p>	
05.04.00	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007 (SI2007/1159)</u> No interests declared.</p>	
05.05.00	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the last meeting held on Wednesday 14th April 2010, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. Proposed TC. Seconded SS.</p>	
05.06.00 05.06.01 05.06.02	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> <u>Salt Bins</u> The Clerk had advised LCC Highways about the need for a mix of salt and sharp sand in the salt bins and had asked Mrs Cook, who regularly tidied Cow Lane and had been a resident for 8 years, whether she remembered a salt bin there. She did not. Members thought that there had been a bin but, unfortunately, there was no record of one and LCC had already stated that they would not be issuing new bins this year. <u>Lighting</u> The clerk had not yet found a contractor to certify the electrical safety of each street light but, as instructed, had advised AON that Welbourn were not willing to take up their offer to do so.</p>	

05.07.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u> The Clerk reported that he had tried working from home but had found it difficult due to lack of space and so had moved all the Parish Council papers to the IT Room but still had difficulties working from there due to the lack of a toilet. He was in discussions with the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee about access to the Hall.	<u>ACTION</u>
05.07.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The Financial report for 2009/10, which had just been submitted to the Internal Auditor, showed that the Council had spent £14,950 in the previous year and still had reserves of £14,300. This, however included the £2,800 recorded in the Investment Savings account. The Clerk was instructed, in future, to email the financial report to members in time for each meeting.	Clerk
05.07.01	<u>Investment Account</u> The RFO had not yet received an answer to his query with NS&I from March about the missing Investment account. He was instructed to ask again.	Clerk
05.08.00	<u>ANNUAL APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN</u> Mr Storer then resigned as Chairman at the end of his annual term of office and handed the Chair to the Clerk who requested nominations for chairman. Mr Storer was proposed and unanimously accepted as Chairman again. Mr Storer accepted but gave notice that he intended to resign next year. Mr Lawson then volunteered as vice chairman. In the absence of any other nominations, Mr Lawson was appointed. Both duly signed their Oath of Office.	
05.09.00	<u>COUNTY COUNCIL / DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> Councillor Overton had written to the appropriate officer at NKDC seeking to ensure that the matter of the S106 benefits to be agreed from the Brook House site development was not overlooked. She reported that NKDC have a scheme where vulnerable council house tenants would get their gardens tidied free of charge as a one off item and another in which ongoing gardening will be provided at cost.	
05.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	
05.10.01	<u>Highways and Footways and Drains.</u> The drainage project was making good progress. Mr Storer had held a site meeting with the head of LCC Highways, following meetings with Mr Andrews and Mr Overton. All were agreed in principle as to how the project would go forward now that LCC had obtained funds. LCC had agreed to run the project in consultation with the PC and the farmers involved. The landowners concerned would be responsible for maintaining the ditches once built. LCC felt it important to get formal agreement from Mr Andrews before work commenced. The PC might in future have to foot the cost of dredging the ditch next to Mr Andrew's field if and when required.	RS
05.10.02	<u>PC representative on the Village Hall Committee</u> Councillor Short reminded the meeting that he had been the Council's representative on the Village Hall committee and was willing to continue to do so.	SS
05.10.00	<u>PLANNING MATTERS</u>	
05.10.01	<u>Planning Applications</u> There had not been any comments about the proposed extension at 6 Hall Lane. The Council felt that they still considered their previous comments valid about the hipped roof on the garage at 26 The Green.	Clerk
05.11.00	<u>HANDYMAN TASKS</u> The Chairman had drawn up a list of routine maintenance tasks to be accomplished during the year which he had costed in consultation with the Handyman. This cost was within the proposed budget for general maintenance. It was agreed that the Handyman should continue with these tasks at his discretion and should liaise with Councillor Brealey as before if any appeared too large. The Clerk was instructed to write formally to the handyman to instruct him to carry out a formal risk assessment for large tasks, especially those involving powered tools and/or heights.	Clerk

05.12.00	<p><u>PAYMENT OF BROADBAND ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT</u></p> <p>BT was billing the council quarterly for the new broadband hub at £48.10. Since this was a regular payment and cheques would be cumbersome to implement and BT would impose charges for late payments, it was proposed to authorise this specific charge by Direct Debit. The Clerk advised that direct debits were barely lawful but Council agreed to set one up for this account.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>Clerk</p>																		
05.13.00	<p><u>CORRESPONDENCE</u></p> <p>Since the Agenda had been published Mr Benton had written to the Council complaining about the way the issue of his hedge had been handled but offering to cut it back properly in the autumn. Council did not agree with Mr Benton's version of events as he had been informally approached in the first instance. The clerk was instructed to write back to Mr Benton informing him that, in the circumstances, he could be liable for any untoward event involving a wheelchair caused by the hedge.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																		
05.14.00	<p><u>ANNUAL INSURANCE POLICY</u></p> <p>The Clerk reported that the insurance policy schedule still included items that had since disappeared and included the Cluster Group Speed Indicating Device. (SPID). He had found a letter from the Insurers stating that the SPID would not be insured whilst it was not being controlled by the Council. He had taken advice from the relevant officer at NKDC who advised that the status quo should be maintained as the arrangement was working in other areas. He proposed to replace these items with the new computer equipment in the IT Room. Council Copley added that the SPID had been added to our insurance on the basis that the Council would still have nominal control of it but in practice this was not happening and the police had de facto daily control. Council agreed with the Clerk and asked him to advise the Police that they should take over the insurance of the SPID.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>																		
05.15.00	<p><u>CHEQUES.</u></p> <p>Payment of the following cheques was approved:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To JR Storer for repairs to flag pole and computer upgrade</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£84.38,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To M McBeath re salary April</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£163.13,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To PO re PAYE McBeath</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£40.80,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To C Bleaden for grass cutting in April</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£532.18,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To Data Cabling Ltd for extra computer wiring in Village Hall</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£120.00,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To P Baumber for hedge cutting on Playing Field</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£123.38,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To Broxap Ltd for bollards</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£1480.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To BT for broadband rental</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£48.10,</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">To Lincolnshire CPRE for annual affiliation</td> <td style="text-align: right; padding-right: 20px;">£25.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>Transfer of £2300 from deposit account to current account was approved.</p>	To JR Storer for repairs to flag pole and computer upgrade	£84.38,	To M McBeath re salary April	£163.13,	To PO re PAYE McBeath	£40.80,	To C Bleaden for grass cutting in April	£532.18,	To Data Cabling Ltd for extra computer wiring in Village Hall	£120.00,	To P Baumber for hedge cutting on Playing Field	£123.38,	To Broxap Ltd for bollards	£1480.50	To BT for broadband rental	£48.10,	To Lincolnshire CPRE for annual affiliation	£25.00	<p>Clerk</p>
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05.16.0	<p><u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>It would be appropriate to consider a grant to the Village Hall in lieu of rent.</p>																			
03.16.00	<p><u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council Meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 9th June 2010 at 7.00 pm at the allotments and thereafter in the Village Hall.</p>	<p>ALL</p>																		

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