

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 13th APRIL 2016 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. John Lucas (JL)

Chairman

Councillors: Mrs Maureen Lunn (ML), Mr Robert Cross (MC), Mrs Katie Stark (KS), Mr John Storer (RS), Mr Robert Gibson (BG) Mr Stephen Spedding (SSg)

District Councillor: Mrs Marianne Overton (MO)

Mr Malcolm McBeath

Parish Clerk

Miss Sarah Brown, Mrs Alison Short, PCSOs Bell and Kennedy

| 04.01.00 | <u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> | <u>ACTION</u> |
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| 04.01.01 | Council thanked SSg for refurbishing the old small notice board so well and fixing it in the bus shelter for public use. | |
| 04.01.02 | Mrs Short complained that two PCC notices had been removed from the parish notice board. She objected to the request for smaller notices and felt most strongly that everyone should be free to put up eyecatching notices of choice without restriction. | |
| 04.01.03 | The Clerk explained he had removed the unduly large notices in accordance with published and established practice and because they had been placed directly on top of others. The request for smaller notices existed because the boards were too small to support a me-first free for all. He had replaced the second notice by making another in a more suitable format and fitting it in a smaller space. | |
| 04.01.04 | It was agreed that the council minutes would be displayed on the newly refurbished small board in the bus shelter and a note advising of that should be put on the main board. The clerk was not to remove 'offending' notices. | Clerk |
| 04.01.05 | Mrs Short pointed out that if the street lights in the village were to be replaced it was highly desirable to avoid city-type orange lights. As the agenda stated, the council was due to consider LED lights which are white but the point about village character was noted. She went on to say she felt parents ought to be involved in all moves to replace the children's play equipment. She felt that the parish council should be the prime mover in such actions. ML pointed out that the opportunity to participate had recently been offered via a flyer to every house in the village and this project was under the auspices of the Village Hall Committee. ML also pointed out that the present equipment had been extremely well maintained but simply needed some upgrading as per surrounding village playgrounds. | |
| 04.01.06 | Miss Brown regretted the recent clearance of underbrush on Castle Hill and felt it was contrary to the objective of maintaining the site as a wildlife refuge. The clearance had also removed a desirable safety barrier to the water courses. Whilst recognising the constraints imposed by the scheduled monument status, she suggested the site could be better managed to a feasible, competently informed, agreed planting plan. It was decided to seek advice from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on possible planting options and to invite villagers to suggest how move forward and to volunteer to help maintain the site within an agreed plan. | |

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| 04.01.07 | <p>it was also agreed not to mow an area of grass to see how the idea might work. The clerk was to seek advice from the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust on feasible plantings.</p> <p>The police reported zero burglaries in Welbourn during the previous month but mentioned theft of a garden ornament in Wellingore.</p> | <u>ACTION</u> clerk |
| 04.02.00 | <p><u>ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Councillor Huntsman was away on business. Councillor Gibson and Mrs Conway were at a meeting of the Cluster Group.</p> | |
| 04.03.00 | <p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>Mr Lucas pointed out that his property was affected by one of the church-yard trees scheduled for removal.</p> | |
| 04.04.00 | <p><u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u></p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th March, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.</p> | Clerk |
| 04.05.00 | <p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> | |
| 04.05.01 | <p><u>Back up</u> The Clerk had given The Chairman and Councilor Huntsman comprehensive handover briefs and spare keys to cover the possibility of the clerk's sudden incapacity. The Council's Risk Assessment had been revised and updated.</p> | |
| 04.05.02 | <p><u>Emergency Plan</u> Due to pressure of other work, no further time had been possible on the emergency plan.</p> | |
| 04.05.03 | <p><u>Defibrillator cabin lighting</u> Mr McBeath had repaired the light in the former Telephone box. Parts would be charged to expenses.</p> | |
| 04.05.04 | <p><u>Maintenance</u> SimpsonArboriculture had not responded to the reminder to discuss the misdirected work on Castle Hill. Mr McBeath had repaired the latch on the wicket gate to Castle Hill and lowered two dog waste bins at the request of the District Council. NKDC had released the forge maintenance costs which showed as typically £190 annually on average.</p> | |
| 04.06.00 | <p><u>DISTRICT AND COUNTY MATTERS</u></p> | |
| 04.06.01 | <p>MO reported that, despite its closure, her campaign to retain the Leadenham waste recycling facility was continuing in the form of trying to get someone else to run the site.</p> | |
| 04.06.02 | <p>She drew attention to the forthcoming Police & Crime Commissioner election.</p> | |
| 04.06.03 | <p>She and Mrs Conway (by email) reminded that LCC had been unable to formulate a budget for next year but was looking to devolution plus substantial funding from Government to resolve the problem. Devolution could mean a combined Regional Authority under a mayor. The Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority would create a single investment fund that drew together local and agreed national funding streams to deliver its ambitious investment programme across Greater Lincolnshire to unlock its economic potential. The Government had agreed to allocate new additional funding of £15million per annum for 30 years. It had been reported that the Government had agreed to devolve certain powers to this Combined Authority covering the areas of Skills, Education &</p> | |

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| 04.06.04 | <p>Employment; Accelerated Growth, Business Support & Innovation; Transport; Housing & Planning; Water; Public Protection and Health but it seemed there was confusion over which activities the Treasury was actually prepared to fund. The final form of devolution had not yet been agreed but was due for ratification in May 2017.</p> <p>Mrs Conway reported that NKDC had announced that it had been successful in the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund to bring Mrs Smith's Cottage back into use as a Heritage Attraction in the District. The first phase of the project would involve completely removing the roof of the Cottage to establish the extent of the damage and what was required to make the Cottage structurally sound. The overall ambition was to have a restored Cottage fit for purpose as a Visitor Venue. It was hoped that the funding would allow the Council to revamp the Visitor Centre with interactive exhibits to enhance the overall experience.</p> | <u>ACTION</u> |
| 04.07.00 04.07.01 04.07.02 04.07.03 04.07.04 | <p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The clerk had been much involved in the work to take over the forge. It was now proposed that, to clarify the process, the Council should buy the facility outright using donated funds. NKDC had prepared a schedule of the intended timeframe of the takeover and had indicated their intention to continue to support the facility. The clerk was concerned about the running costs: insurance, council tax and on going maintenance. He had been seeking to obtain a quote from the insurers on the facility but so far without a response. He was also working with ArtsNK on the Ridges & Furrows project. How that project might develop was unclear at this stage since it depended on funding.</p> <p>He was continuing to liaise with Highways over potholes, supported by KS via 'Fix my Street'. The majority had recently been patched although the very poor state of Moat Lane remained a concern. LCC had proved very prompt in fixing one of their street lights.</p> <p>The new notice board was proving very useful but there was still pressure on space. The old left hand notice board was so warped that one of the glass panels was at risk of falling out: the board should be replaced.</p> <p>It was agreed to take this board down and use the refurbished notice board in lieu.</p> | RS/SSg |
| 04.08.00 04.08.01 | <p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u></p> <p>The financial report showed spending of £2495 this month with £31,915 in reserves. The bill for tree works on Castle Hill was still to be paid pending resolution of the work outstanding. The cheque for the playing field hedge cutting was yet to be cashed. The internal auditor was working on last year's accounts and would report shortly.</p> | |
| 04.09.00 04.09.01 | <p><u>PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORTS</u></p> <p><u>Compliance</u> RS observed that the work of parish councils was becoming increasingly bound up in regulation but he felt the clerk was well on top of the task. He pointed out that the Gov't assumption that everyone had a computer meant the need to put minutes on the parish</p> | |

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| <p>04.09.02</p> <p>04.09.03</p> <p>04.09.04</p> <p>04.09.05</p> <p>04.09.06</p> <p>04.09.07</p> <p>04.09.08</p> <p>04.09.09</p> | <p>notice board was now considered less important since they were on line anyway.</p> <p><u>Environment and Highways.</u> There was too much litter around the village especially on the footpath under the railway bridge beyond Bridge Cottages and in particular on the footpath under the rookery in the grounds of the Hall. MO stressed the need to use the District Council's litter collection service and to note how long it took the system to react. The clerk was tasked to write to SWRA about the problem of too many pupils dropping litter and to ask the Hall Manager to get their gardener to clear the footpath.</p> <p><u>Drains</u> The drain on the A607 northbound opposite SWRA was blocked. The clerk was to so advise Highways.</p> <p><u>Planning.</u> ntr</p> <p><u>Cluster group.</u> Nil</p> <p><u>Village Hall.</u> The litter bin by the tennis courts damaged by vandals last year had been replaced, as had the missing netting above the eastern entrance gate. By dint of being very careful, the Caravan Club had not caused significant damage to the field on their recent visit. More such well-paying bookings had been made.</p> <p><u>Communications</u> The portfolio holder was asked to monitor the clerk's responses to mid month planning and tree works applications lest they be overlooked.</p> <p><u>Allotments</u> All plots were now let. Some rents were outstanding and were being pursued. Work was in hand to repair the faulty sewer cover in the track.</p> <p><u>Castle Hill</u> Village opinions were very divided on the worth of the recent extensive clearance. A sycamore tree was growing out of the manhole housing opposite the village hall entrance. See also para 04.01.06.</p> | <p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> |
| <p>04.10.00</p> | <p><u>TO AGREE TO PURCHASE THE FORGE</u></p> <p>It was agreed to go ahead with the purchase of the forge.</p> | |
| <p>04.11.00</p> <p>04.11.01</p> | <p><u>TO APPOINT SOLICITORS TO HANDLE THE FORGE PURCHASE.</u></p> <p>It was agreed to appoint Wilkin Chapman LLP as solicitors to deal with the forge purchase on behalf of the Parish Council.</p> | |
| <p>04.12.00</p> | <p><u>TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON CASTLE HILL MAINTENANCE</u></p> <p>The situation on Castle Hill was satisfactory.</p> | |
| <p>04.13.00</p> | <p><u>TO DISCUSS CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS THE COST OF THE GAS BEACON TO BE USED FOR THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CEREMONY</u></p> <p>It was agreed to contribute £175 to the cost of the beacon at Leadenham as 50% of the cost, on the understanding that Welbourn would be able to use it in future events of their own.</p> | <p>clerk</p> |
| <p>04.14.00</p> | <p><u>TO CONSIDER UPGRADING OUR STREET LIGHTS TO LED DEVICES</u></p> <p>In view of the adverse cost v saving comparison it was considered there was no advantage in upgrading the village's street lights so it was decided not to. However, it was agreed to repair a lamp (No 8) which</p> | |

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| | had been advised by the contractor as unduly corroded. | clerk |
| 04.15.00 | <u>TO DISCUSS ACTION ON A RECENT SLANDER ON THE COUNCIL</u> It was being alleged that the council was under police investigation for spreading false information about a potential building plot in the village. The police had confirmed that no such investigation was taking place. | <u>ACTION</u> |
| 04.16.00 | <u>TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO REMOVE TREES FROM THE CHURCH YARD</u> Mindful of the Parish Plan's call for the preservation of mature trees, council noted that one of the trees was diseased and so should be felled and saw no reason to oppose felling the others since the PCC considered it necessary. | clerk |
| 04.17.00 04.17.01 | <u>TO AGREE THE MAINTENANCE TASKS FOR APRIL/MAY</u> The tasks to be done were set as: 1. Continue to maintain the outlet to the pond. 2. Continue to clear the beck. 3. Inhibitory on the trees on Castle Hill opposite North End and Welbourn Place | |
| 04.18.00 | <u>TO CONSIDER A RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION FOR THE MODULAR EXTENSION CLASS ROOM AT THE PRIMARY SCHOOL</u> The council had no comment to make on this application. | |
| 04.19.00 | <u>CHEQUES</u> Payment of the following accounts was approved: E-on (street lights) £186.31 Lincoln Construction Ltd (embankment access) £600.00 W E Smith (hedge cutting) £87.00 BDG Mowing (maintenance and grass cutting) £1280.00 P A Orme (dog warden) £96.00 M McBeath (Mar wage and expenses) £268.91 PO Ltd (McB PAYE) £63.80 | |
| 04.16.00 | <u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Maintenance tasks. Terms of reference. APM Any planning applications. | |
| 04.17.00 | <u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 11th May at 7:00 pm in the Meeting Room. This would be the Annual Parish Meeting to be followed by a Council meeting. | All |

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.40pm.

Copies to: District Councillors Mrs Conway, Mrs Overton, All PC Members, Parish Website.