

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12th FEBRUARY 2024 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS)

Chairman

Councillors: Ms Sarah Brown (SB), Mrs Maureen Lunn (ML), Mr Robert Cross (MC), Mr John Lucas (JL), Dr Adam Paxton (AP), Mr Stephen Short (SS)

PCSO Meneses

One member of the public.

Mr Malcolm McBeath

Parish Clerk

		<u>ACTION</u>
02.02.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> PCSO Meneses reported that the previous month had been crime free. The Police team were currently undermanned in that only 2 of the 4 assigned PCSOs were available for duty. The two available were working longer hours and more days to try to make good the shortfall. He pointed out that the police only went to incidents and made a point of being around where there were known to be problems. So their lack of visibility in Welbourn was actually a good sign.	
02.02.00	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Councillor Gibson was on holiday. Mrs Conway was involved in an unexpected family emergency.	
02.03.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> Nil	
02.04.00	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u> The Chairman reported on the gist of the recent public meeting in Navenby to discuss Council Tax: faced with restrictions imposed by central government the Councils had little choice but to draw on their reserves whilst setting the largest tax rise allowed. There simply wasn't enough money anywhere to repair all the roads so short term first aid was the only practicable solution. There seemed to be a feeling that ancillary services should be provided by the parishes themselves.	
02.05.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 January, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.	
02.06.00	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>	
02.06.01	<u>War Memorial.</u> The PCC had decided to get involved in the process of refurbishing the war memorial so nothing could be done until they had approval. The Chairman was in the process of applying for a grant. Two tenders had been received for cleaning and repairing.	RS
02.06.02	<u>Fly Tipping</u> The fly tipping incident had been resolved in that the householder had cleared his verge.	
02.06.03	<u>New HandyMan</u> The post of handyman had been advertised and enquiries made but so far without success.	Clerk

02.07.00	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> Mrs Conway reported by email that although she had sought to get full child maintenance payments excluded from the calculation of income for council tax support assessment the idea had been refused so the scheme would go ahead as originally proposed using a blanket notional sum for child maintenance income.	<u>ACTION</u>
02.08.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	
02.08.01	The bid for the precept had been submitted to NKDC.	
02.08.02	Highways had been reminded again to maintain their ditches in the loop opposite Welbourn Hall, meantime they were being cleared locally.	
02.08.03	A lot of maintenance work had been accomplished: the last of the three front information boards on Castle Hill had been replaced whilst the original text of the remaining board had been identified but need updating; considerable tidying up of waste timber, ivy on trees and rubbish had been done near the tennis court and around the margins of the playing field.	
02.08.04	NKDC had approved the tree works on the playing field and Castle Hill; English Heritage had agreed in principle to tree works on the Hill but wanted a method statement and two weeks' notice.	
02.08.05	The Council's Code of Conduct had been made available to the public on the Parish website.	
02.09.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>	
02.09.01	The financial report showed expenditure of £682 for the previous month with reserves at £12,490 but £860 was committed for the playing field tree works.	
02.09.02	There was some concern about the intention to spend from the reserves during the coming year but this was inherent in the plan for next year anyway.	
02.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	
02.10.01	<u>Village Hall</u> . Hirings were still looking encouraging. The new acoustic panels had proved their worth at the recent supper when they had successfully absorbed the noise of a room full of people so that conditions were most pleasant.	
02.10.02	<u>Highways and Drains</u> . A meeting was expected with Highways in the near future to resolve a number of issues. SB and JL had been clearing the Beck outfall. SB had cleared a major blockage of the pond outfall.	
02.10.03	<u>Castle Hill</u> . It had been noted the dam was leaking but it seemed sound enough. It would be monitored.	
02.10.04	<u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> . The Neighbourhood Plan was on schedule and would be revealed to the public in March/April for consultation after all members and the advisers were happy with it.	
02.10.05	<u>Allotments</u> The chippings had been duly spread in the entrance track but not taken further down for fear of complicating maintenance issues. The licences for the brown bins used by the allotments were due for renewal.	
02.11.00	<u>TO CONSIDER REALLOCATION OF THE PARISH PLAN PORTFOLIO</u> Mrs Lunn agreed to take over the parish plan portfolio.	
02.12.00	<u>TO CONSIDER THE FURTHER ENGAGEMENT OF THE DOG WARDEN</u> It was agreed to continue the dog warden but on reduced hours.	Clerk

02.13.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER THE QUOTES FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE WAR MEMORIAL</u></p> <p>Since the position re grants was as yet unclear and Church permission had not been received, it was not sensible to accept either quote at this stage. The clerk was to delay the issue as necessary.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>Clerk</p>														
02.14.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER THE QUOTES FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE REMAINING FENCING ON CASTLE HILL AND THE EMPTY SECTION IN MOAT LANE</u></p> <p>It was agreed to accept the lower of the two quotes but to seek a discount if the existing fence were first removed locally.</p>															
02.15.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE HEDGE IN MOAT LANE</u></p> <p>Since both specialists consulted agreed that the existing hedge was not yet tall enough to be laid properly it was agreed to hold off but that, in any event, it was important to close the gaps after the tennis court had been refurbished.</p>															
02.16.00	<p><u>CHEQUES</u></p> <p>Payment of the following accounts was approved:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">P Baumber - hedge cutting</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£273.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">LALC - annual subscription</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£200.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">NKDC - dog bins emptying</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£471.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">Apollolmaging - information board</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£76.32</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">P A Orme - warden services Jan and Feb</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£180.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">M McBeath - salary</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£84.44</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">PO Ltd - PAYE McB</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£21.00</td> </tr> </table> <p>and Transfer £900 from deposit account to current account.</p>	P Baumber - hedge cutting	£273.00	LALC - annual subscription	£200.72	NKDC - dog bins emptying	£471.44	Apollolmaging - information board	£76.32	P A Orme - warden services Jan and Feb	£180.00	M McBeath - salary	£84.44	PO Ltd - PAYE McB	£21.00	<p>Clerk</p>
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02.17.00	<p><u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Choice of contractor for tree work on Castle Hill.</p>															
02.18.00	<p><u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 12th March 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.</p>	<p>All</p>														

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

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