

# WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY 9th FEBRUARY 2011 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

**PRESENT**

Mr. J.R. Storer, Chairman  
 District Councillor: Mr M Wylie (MW),  
 Councillors: Mr S Short (SS), Mrs A Walker (AW), Ms S Brown (SB), Mr R Gibson (BG),  
 Mr Simon Lawson (SL), Mrs Marianne Overton (MO).  
 Mr M McBeath Parish Clerk

Mr N Benton, Ms L Stanton and Mr Mark Crosby attended as members of the public.

		<u>ACTION</u>
02.01.00	<p><u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>                      Since the Bentons were obviously interested in Item 13 on the Agenda it was agreed to discuss this item in open forum. The Bentons were concerned that lowering the Beck water level after the clearance work had driven off the wild life in the (now dry) stream in their garden that they had enjoyed and enhanced for many years. It was pointed out that the stream was a relic of the original sheep wash feed channel which had never been designed to run continuously and that raising the level of the Beck had potential adverse implications for the water table under the Hall and in the fields above the Beck. Nevertheless, after discussion, it was agreed that the Chairman would task the handyman with making a suitable blocking device for the slit in the sump at the north end of the Beck with a view to raising the level sufficiently to create a small flow through the overspill.</p>	RS
02.02.00 02.02.01  02.02.02  02.02.03	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u>                      The Chairman advised that the final reckoning on the Village Hall Project bills was due and that there might be a shortfall of a few hundred pounds in the Grant Account. He would be asking the Council to fund the shortfall when it was known.                      He thanked Councillor Brealey and Mr Crosby for their excellent work in repairing the Hall Orchard House footpath and the damaged verge areas in front of the Village Hall with planings. Mr and Mrs Grundy were also to be thanked for their help on the footpath.                      He observed that other villages were planning to celebrate the Royal Wedding and wondered whether Welbourn should also be doing something but it was felt that this was a matter for the Village Hall Committee.</p>	SS
02.03.00	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u>                      Mr Copley was on holiday.</p>	
02.04.00	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007 (SI2007/0259)</u>                      Nil</p>	
02.05.00	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u>                      The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10 January 2011, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. Proposed BG. Seconded RS.</p>	
02.06.00 02.06.01	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>  <u>Cycle Play Track</u> Since it would have been necessary anyway, the Chairman, in consultation with Ian Batchelor, had arranged for P Baumber to flail the area by the mound as part of an overall clearance of the playing field surrounds. This had revealed an area well suited for the proposed track. Ian Batchelor had advised that he intended to start the track as soon as he had cleared his winter backlog of other work.</p>	

02.06.02	<u>Allotment Notice Board</u> There was no progress to report on the allotment notice board.	ACTION RS
02.06.03	<u>Precept</u> The Clerk had submitted the current year's precept request to NKDC.	
02.07.00	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> MO observed that she was opposed to the many cuts now being proposed at District and County levels in that the cumulative effect might prove too damaging. More cost-effective solutions were necessary in her view. Now that the Post Office at Navenby had closed she was working to raise sufficient support to persuade Post Office Ltd to fund another office, since, without that support, a new outlet would not be viable.  MW reminded all that all public licences could now be viewed on the NKDC website.  He stated that NKDC had decided to continue to subsidise the Amenity Waste Tip at Leadenham to ensure its continued operation. Whether or not to keep it open would be up for review next year.	
02.08.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	SB  Clerk
02.08.01	<u>Road Works.</u> The Clerk had been in close consultation for several weeks with Highways and Stagecoach to ensure that all parties had the same information about the proposed culvert works. To avoid inconvenience to Primary School parents from Navenby/Wellingore etc, the School had been included in the loop.	
02.08.02	<u>Parish Website</u> The Clerk reported that, now that there was much to report on, he had started to use the Parish News section of the Parish Website as a newsletter; the number of hits on the site had doubled in the previous month. He had also put the recent U3A newsletter on the site and had had some very positive feedback about it.	
02.08.03	<u>Stepping out Walks</u> The Rangers had confirmed that they would be maintaining the primary Stepping Out Walks this year. They had agreed to include the short footpath behind the Old House.	
02.08.04	<u>Allotments</u> The opportunity had been taken to put down chippings on the track to the allotments which had become very muddy over the winter. SB intended to take advice from Mr Goodhand about pruning of the fruit trees and then to do so. She would also strim the grass in the orchard when conditions improved.	
02.08.05	<u>Grass Cutting</u> Of the 5 contractors invited to tender for the village grass cutting, 2 had declined whilst 3 had not responded. Only Chris Bleaden was interested and had offered to continue as before but at a 2.5% increase in charges. It was agreed to invite Mr Bleaden to continue.	
02.09.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The Financial Report showed expenditure of £7,688 for the preceding month with a balance of £10,900. This included work so far on the Beck and Castle Hill.	
02.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	BG
02.10.01	<u>Highways, Footways and Drains</u> Work on the new culvert under the A607 was planned for the week beginning 14 February. During the closure of the A607, buses would continue to run through the village but would route via Mill Lane.	
2.10.03	<u>Village matters</u> It was noted that the National Census document was due out in late March and that it was apparently so large that it might intimidate some residents who might need help with it. BG agreed to liaise with the Warden of Manor Close to find where help might be needed. The clerk would put out a notice advising that help would be available from the Census Office to complete the document. Completion was mandatory.	

02.10.04	The fence around Castle Hill was damaged and rotten or both in some areas and needed repairs. VB agreed to source suitable materials and costs and report.	<u>ACTION</u> VB
02.11.00	<u>CASTLE HILL</u>	
02.11.A	SB reported on the public meeting held in the Joiners Arms on 20th Jan to form a new management committee to administer Castle Hill. Some 26 villagers had attended. There was some positive support for the clearance. She had had to explain the role and influence of English Heritage (EH) in the work since, to prevent further damage to the site, they had effectively vetoed any further vehicular access to the area in the middle of the operation thus stranding several tonnes of timber on the Hill. It had come to light that any such works on a scheduled ancient monument (as Castle Hill is) should have been carried out under a Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) which the Council was legally obliged to obtain from EH. EH were threatening to sue the Parish Council for their failure to do this and the resulting damage. The resulting fine could be upwards from £20,000. SB was in regular contact with the EH Officer assigned to the case and had done what she could defuse the situation but remained highly concerned not to make the matter worse since the Officer was regularly monitoring the condition of the site. Indeed it was imperative to avoid further damage to the site notwithstanding that some people did not recognise the problem and did not agree. A longer term management plan had yet to be formulated, pending qualified advice which was being sought. At least 7 people had come forward to join the new management committee and there was considerable interest in the timber as cheap firewood in exchange for voluntary labour on the Hill.	
02.11B	The draft Terms of Reference for the new Castle Hill Management Committee, which had been copied to members in advance, were approved with the addition of 'and wildlife haven' to para 1 and the increase of permitted committee members to 12. The Terms included a provision for ongoing maintenance at Council expense.	Clerk
02.11.C	There remained the problem of getting the timber off the site. It was proposed to have the timber cut up into manageable bits to enable volunteers to take it away in barrows in exchange for labour in the future. Four commercial tenders had been obtained for this work, ranging from £340 plus VAT to £800 plus VAT. After much debate it was decided on a majority vote to accept the lowest tender. It was to be a condition of such work that damage to the site be minimised and that the ban on vehicles be observed. It was anticipated that the numerous footfalls involved in the barrowing would in turn cause some damage so measures might have to be taken to reduce this. There was concern about the public safety issues inherent in such activity; it was agreed that AW would carry out a risk assessment and that all those who wished to come on site to remove timber should sign a waiver to acknowledge that the activity was being carried out voluntarily and at the individual's own risk.	AW
02.12.00	<u>BROOKE HOUSE S106 MONIES APPLICATIONS</u> The Council agreed that the monies due from the Brooke House Site developer under S106 provision should be allocated to: providing a bus shelter, improvement to the Village Hall car park and refurbishment of the dilapidated interpretation boards on Castle Hill.	Clerk
02.13.00	<u>BECK LEVEL</u> This matter was discussed and resolved in the public forum	
02.14.00	<u>SUPPORT FOR THE CLUSTER GROUP</u> As funds for the Cliff Villages Cluster Group were running out, the Group had appealed to the member parishes for financial support. A sum of £200 was suggested. After debate, the council agreed to grant £200 to the Cliff Villages Cluster Group.	Clerk

02.15.00	<u>PLANNING MATTERS</u> Council had no comments on the recently proposed revised planning application at Househams. Extant permissions on 55 High Street and Borfa Wen Farm had been renewed.	<u>ACTION</u>
02.16.00	<u>CHEQUES.</u> Payment of the following cheques was approved:  Simpson Arboriculture for work on Castle Hill £3870.00 Brauncewell Quarries Ltd for road planings collected for BW 5 £55.20 John Martin-Hoyes Ltd for work on the Beck £3345.00 Cliff Villages Property Maintenance for January £234.37 M McBeath for wages £146.49 PO - McBeath PAYE £36.60 Transfer of £7500 from savings account to current account was authorised.	Clerk
02.15.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Grant to VH to make up shortfall in grant funding. Public use of wireless broadband facility..	Clerk Clerk/SS
02.16.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 9th March 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.	All

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

Copies to:

District Councillors M Wylie and M Overton, All PC Members.

Parish Website