

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 10th FEBRUARY 2026 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), Miss Harriet Huntsman (HH), Mr Stephen Short (SS), Mr Stephen Spedding (SSg), Mr John Storer (RS), Mr Robert Gibson (BG)

District Councillors: Mrs Marianne Overton (MO)

Mr Malcolm McBeath

Parish Clerk

Mrs Lucy Lumb Ridges & furrows Project PCSO Sarah Kennedy

02.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
02.01.01	The police reported zero burglaries during the previous month but pointed out that, due to PCSO Menezes' accident, they were seriously shorthanded. MO suggested that this should be a matter of concern to the Council for them to bring to notice.	
02.01.02	Mrs Lumb explained the intended way ahead in the Ridges and Furrows project: it was hoped to establish a walking trail from Sleaford to Whisby and, in support, develop points of interest in selected villages along the route, notably Welbourn, Waddington and North Hykeham. It was hoped to develop signage, artworks, literature, information boards and a website with financial assistance from the Arts Council and the Heritage Lottery fund. Such funding would be dependent on proven village participation and support. The idea of the villages joining forces had been mooted - an approach in which R&F was prepared to participate. She sought a letter of support from the Council and suggested that she had uses for the s106 monies which had been agreed in principle with the NKDC officer responsible.	
1.02.00	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS FOR ABSENCE</u> Councillor Conway was at another meeting.	
02.03.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> nil	
02.04.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS</u> The Minutes of the previous meetings held on 13 th and 21 st January, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.	Clerk
02.05.00	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>	
02.05.01	<u>Emergency Plan</u> Due to pressure of other work, no further time had been possible on the emergency plan. The LALC training session had shown that a full committee would be required to draw up a comprehensive and useful plan. An advert in Two Villages for volunteers to assist had not been successful.	

02.05.02	<u>Allotments drain</u> . The clerk had discussed the sewer under the allotments track with the owner of Sycamore Lodge who had undertaken to ascertain the relevant facts and report.	<u>ACTION</u>
02.05.03	<u>Dog warden</u> The dog warden's contract had been renewed for 6 months	JL
02.05.04	<u>Maintenance</u> All outstanding maintenance tasks had been completed. SimpsonArboriculture had not responded to an invitation to discuss the misdirected work on Castle Hill. JL agreed to speak with him on the issue.	
02.05.05	<u>VH phone</u> The phone to the parish office in the Village Hall had been retained so as to be available as an emergency HQ line.	
02.06.00	<u>DISTRICT AND COUNTY MATTERS</u>	
02.06.01	MO reported that her campaign to keep the Leadenham waste recycling facility was continuing in the form of meetings and a petition although the outcome was in doubt despite that the Whisby facility had been reprieved for internal political reasons. She thanked Mr McBeath and Mr Storer for their practical support and work on the issue.	
02.06.02	She went on to state that LCC was £70M short in its projected budget but had made this up by drawing on reserves and making cuts in services. The Brown bin and white goods collection charges were being increased.	
02.06.03	The Central Lincs Local Plan was to be discussed at a public meeting on 14 March. Attendance was urged.	
02.06.04	She had received complaints about dog fouling in Manor Close.	
02.06.05	She had attended a meeting about the way ahead on the Forge where good progress towards a mutually satisfactory outcome had been agreed.	
02.06.06	Mrs Conway reported by email that NKDC had conducted their public consultation on their Budget for 2016/17 and the proposed 1.99% increase of their element of Council Tax. Full Council would vote on these proposals at the next meeting of the Council on February 25 th .	
02.07.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	SSg
02.07.01	The clerk had been much involved in the work to retain the forge and the Leadenham recycling facility. He was working with NKDC on the forge issue.	
02.07.02	The new notice board had been installed. It was agreed that the old one could go in the bus shelter. SSg agree to fit it.	
02.07.03	The clerk was concerned about the blurring of responsibilities over obtaining better children's play equipment for the playing field. He advised that the field was the sole responsibility of the VHPFC but was assured that all parties were well aware of their responsibilities and that ML was working on behalf of the Playing Field Committee on improving the children's play area facilities.	
02.08.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>	
02.08.01	The financial report showed spending of £539 this month with £16,000 in reserves. There was a bill for tree works on Castle Hill to come. The VAT refund claim for the previous year had been paid. A grant from the War Memorials Trust towards the refurbishment of the war memorial had been paid over to the PCC.	

02.09.00	<u>PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORTS</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
02.09.01	<u>Compliance</u> nil	
02.09.02	<u>Highways and maintenance.</u> The poor state of Moat Lane, Cow Lane and of Dycote Lane opposite no 40 was of continuing concern. They had been reported to Highways. The resident who had been causing severe damage to the verge in Dycote Lane by repeatedly parking in the same place had been spoken to by the dog warden. RS and JL agreed to work together to remove the fallen tree from the Beck	
02.09.03	<u>Drains.</u> nil	
02.09.04	<u>Parish plan.</u> nil	
02.09.05	<u>Cluster group.</u> nil	
02.09.06	<u>Village Hall.</u> The roof was still leaking. Better equipment was being sought for the children's' play area. It had been suggested that extending the car park and the new play equipment be considered in one funding bid: the Clerk had advised that this was unwise since different criteria might apply to such totally different purposes and the conjunction could serve to confuse matters. In any case, the very large sums involved might preclude some sources. The committee proposed a party on Castle Hill to mark the Queen's official birthday in June rather than the suggested date in April. It was hoped to get village participation in and support for the bigger projects.	
02.09.07	<u>Communications.</u> nil	
02.09.08	<u>Allotments.</u> Some rents had been collected. A new application for a plot had been received.	
02.10.00	<u>TO CONSIDER PARTICIPATION IN THE RIDGES AND FURROWS PROJECT</u> The council welcomed the suggestions put forward and endorsed the idea of using the s106 monies to support the project but up to a maximum of £5,000 since part of the funds had already been spent on the Dycote Lane access ramp.	Clerk
02.11.00	<u>TO REVIEW PROGRESS OF THE FORGE HANDOVER INITIATIVE</u>	
02.11.01	The parties involved had jointly reviewed their options on the projected handover of the forge to the village. Using the community asset takeover path under the Localism Act was costly, unduly complex and did not necessarily hand over full control of the facility to the village. A local resident, who wished to remain anonymous, had, however, offered to buy the forge at its valuation price and make it over in some suitable way to the Parish Council on the understanding that the Council would continue the existing arrangements where the Friends actually ran the forge, preferably as formal managing trustees. NKDC had agreed to fund the expenses arising out of these transactions and provide specialist advice to facilitate the changes. Such operating costs as might fall on the parish council, eg, insurance, would not, on enquiry, exceed, at worst, £40 pa. NKDC had indicated that grants might be found to support maintenance costs. All had agreed that this was the better option. If the project were approved then NKDC would need to undertake a public consultation operation to protect the transaction from later challenges.	
02.11.02	Council agreed to the proposal as described and expressed their warm appreciation to the Friends for the continuing existence of the very old facility.	

02.12.00	<p><u>TO DISCUSS PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS IN APRIL</u></p> <p>In view of the VHPFC's intention to organise a party on Castle Hill in June for the Queen's birthday and the impracticality of the ridge and Castle Hill for a beacon it was decided not to have beacon in April as had been suggested.</p>	<u>ACTION</u>								
02.13.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO PLANNING APPLICATION 16/0086/OUT RE 2 LITTLE LANE</u></p> <p>Council recognized the applicant's response to previous concerns but remained concerned about over development and traffic issues. The application had claimed justification from the Neighbourhood Plan: Council considered that this claim misrepresented the Plan.</p>	clerk								
02.14.00	<p><u>TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THE EMERGENCY PLAN</u></p> <p>See para 02.05.01 above.</p>									
02.15.00	<p><u>TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON CASTLE HILL MAINTENANCE</u></p> <p>BDG had yet to start the intended clearance. There had not been time to remove the hazel clumps as had been intended and now the ground was too soft for both operations.</p>									
02.16.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL'S OBJECTIVES AS DEFINED IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN</u></p> <p>Examination showed that all the objectives apart from the speed limit past the village were being addressed. It was noted that a previous application for a lower limit had been blocked.</p>									
02.17.00 02.17.01	<p><u>TO AGREE THE MAINTENANCE TASKS FOR FEBRUARY/MARCH</u></p> <p>The tasks to be done were set as:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue to maintain the outlet to the pond. 2. Continue to clear the beck. 									
02.18.00 02.18.01	<p><u>TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A SPEED LIMIT ON COW LANE</u></p> <p>It was felt that the poor state of Cow Lane rendered this concept meaningless, nevertheless the council would seek urgent repairs to Cow Lane to make it fit for use and inhibit damage to the verges by pothole avoidance.</p>									
02.19.00	<p><u>TO DISCUSS A RESPONSE TO SWRA'S CONSULTATION ON CHANGE OF TRUST STATUS</u></p> <p>Council felt it had no place to comment on the internal operations of the Academy so had no view on the consultation.</p>	Clerk								
02.20.00	<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;">Welbourn Farms Ltd (materials for embankment ramp)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£289.48</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">P A Orme (dog warden)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£96.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">M McBeath (Jan wage)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£144.55</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">PO Ltd (McB PAYE)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£57.80</td> </tr> </table>	Welbourn Farms Ltd (materials for embankment ramp)	£289.48	P A Orme (dog warden)	£96.00	M McBeath (Jan wage)	£144.55	PO Ltd (McB PAYE)	£57.80	
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02.21.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Maintenance tasks. Any planning applications.	<u>ACTION</u>
02.22.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 9th March at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room.	All

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

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