

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2027 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Mr. Mr John Lucas.(JL) Chairman
 Councillors: Mr John Storer (RS), Mrs Maureen Lunn, Mr Robert Gibson (BG), Ms Harriet
 Huntsman (HH) Mr Stephen Spedding (SSg) ,Mr Stephen Short (SSt)
 District Councillor: Mrs Marianne Overton (MO). Mrs Catherine Mills(CM) {arrived after the
 meeting }
 Mr Malcolm McBeath Parish Clerk
 Mr David Close

02.00.00	<u>INTRODUCTION</u> The meeting had started earlier than normal to accommodate a request by Mr Peter Overton for time to explain a planning matter. In the event Mr Overton was unable to attend.	<u>ACTION</u>
02.01.00 02.01.01 02.01.02	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> The Police reported by email the theft and recovery of a mobile phone at SWRA. Mr Close expressed his concern about the condition of the Jubilee chestnut tree but he accepted in the circumstances that it would be reasonable to remove it, although highly regrettable. He offered suggestions for a replacement and possible sources.	
02.02.00	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS FOR ABSENCE</u> Mr Cross was unable to attend. Mrs Stark was on holiday. Mrs Mills had been delayed by her husband's late arrival home.	
02.03.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> nil	
02.04.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u> The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 11th January, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.	Clerk
02.05.00 02.05.02 02.05.02 02.05.03 02.05.04 02.05.05	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> <u>Castle Hill.</u> Advice from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Historic England (HE) was still awaited on the most appropriate way forward on the care and planting of Castle Hill. <u>Emergency Plan</u> Due to pressure of other work, no further time had been possible on the emergency plan. <u>Drains</u> Not all drains had been properly cleared. JL had reminded the Llamyman manager of the need to maintain certain ditches. The danger from blockage of the culvert at the bottom of Hall Orchard Lane had been recognized but due to infill development there was no access for maintenance. Silting up was perceived as the major risk. <u>Precept</u> The precept demand had been duly submitted to NKDC. <u>Handyman</u> An attempt to contact the suggested handyman had been	

02.05.06	<p>unsuccessful.</p> <p><u>Forge</u> The purchase of the forge was nearing completion. NKDC were continuing to offer support. They had been thanked for their work on the building and the documentation for the transfer of ownership.</p>	<u>ACTION</u>
<p>02.06.00</p> <p>02.06.01</p> <p>02.06.02</p> <p>02.06.03</p> <p>02.06.04</p> <p>02.06.05</p>	<p><u>DISTRICT AND COUNTY MATTERS</u></p> <p>MO reported that she had had a meeting with senior representatives from BT and NKDC about better broadband coverage and had discovered that there was considerable demand for a good service even in a rural area. She advised that grants were available for improving the service. Interested parties should discuss their ideas and problems with the appropriate officer in NKDC.</p> <p>She mentioned that LCC faced a very serious shortfall in its budget so were keen on the idea of a unitary authority, mostly because it was perceived as a way of operating more efficiently and saving money.</p> <p>NKDC, however, had set up a number of small enterprises with the objective of making money so as to cover their own shortfalls and thus avoid cutting services.</p> <p>CM reported after the meeting by highlighting the new highways online defect reporting facilities. She drew attention to the community speed watch system which had been introduced in the summer of 2016 with promising results. She provided technical data and guidance on how to join the scheme. She also stated that the dog waste bin clearance charges were being discontinued.</p> <p>As a result of the example of the poorly sited skip in the High Street she had researched the permit scheme and produced a copy of the regulations. Unfortunately in 50 pages of regulations there was nothing about whom to contact about them to highlight any oversights.</p>	
<p>02.07.00</p> <p>02.07.01</p> <p>02.07.02</p> <p>02.07.03</p> <p>02.07.04</p>	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The clerk reminded members it is unlawful for any one councilor to seek to or purport to act on behalf of the council without specific authority. It followed that councilors could not make public statements about council policy until the matter had been decided in Council.</p> <p>Following the decision to refuse the mast offer, a parishioner had sought to offer another site and had asked the clerk for contact details but he had been refused so the offer had been relayed but was not taken up.</p> <p>The Ridges & Furrows (R&F) Project was still running. They wanted to have information boards in the village to engage walkers on their inter village walk but were not clear about what & where. Plaques had been suggested similar to the one on Sir William Robertson's cottage. Mr Goodhand had been invited to contribute ideas from his historical trail and had offered some ideas which might be included in due course.</p> <p>A builder's skip had been placed in The Green outside no 6. Because it was unlit and was behind a blind bend to speeding incoming traffic, the clerk had invited the police to deal with it. They had declined since it</p>	Clerk

	<p>was considered a matter for highways. In fact, skip placing is a matter for highways: but having an unlit skip in the highway is an offence. The repeated disinclination of the police to act on obstruction of the highway had been referred to the PCC. The complaint had been acknowledged and was accompanied by an undertaking to have greater presence outside the primary school at peak times to inhibit thoughtless, obstructive parking. CM had had the skip properly lit by contacting the licensee. The licensing of the skip showed a clear lack of local knowledge since apparently no account had been taken of the farm traffic that uses the lane. The clerk intended to take this procedural weakness up with Highways.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p>
02.07.05	<p>Fungi had been noticed sprouting out of a major limb, in a wound and at the base of the Jubilee chestnut tree. With council's consent, the clerk had called in an arboriculturalist to examine the tree and report. The specialist had condemned the tree as rotten and dying and recommended total removal. Council had been most unwilling to lose such a favoured tree without a second opinion. The second opinion had confirmed the diagnosis. Meanwhile, it had been realized that, as a tree in the verge, the tree was most probably the responsibility of the County Council. On our enquiry, the County Council had acknowledged responsibility and had taken over the issue. Their tree officer was due the following week to make his own assessment. Meanwhile much work had been done to obtain quotes and investigate the problems and constraints associated with felling.</p>	<p>clerk</p>
02.07.06	<p>Two service buses had met beside the Jubilee green. One had mounted the verge next to The Old House and had got stuck in the soft ground causing significant damage to the verge. Mr David Close as owner of the Old House had complained to Stagecoach about the damage to the verge, claiming damages and suggesting adjusting the timetable to obviate these scheduled conflicts. The clerk had followed up to complain about the scheduled conflicts in our narrow streets. He suggested to Council that bollards should be installed at the spot as in Little Lane. It was agreed the idea could be put to Highways.</p>	<p>clerk</p>
02.07.07	<p>The clerk noted how individuals had been contributing to the common good: Mr Cross by clearing the waste generated by the construction of the access steps to the embankment: Mr Lucas by having the gate post on Castle Hill replaced: Miss Sarah Brown by supporting the allotments and maintaining the pond outlet and Mr&Mrs Storer by litter picking.</p>	
02.08.00	<p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The financial report showed spending of £1114 last month with £31,870 in reserves. Overall spending was within budget although Castle Hill was significantly overspent. The annual grass-cutting subsidy had not yet been paid. The whole of the s106 money (£10827) had been received.</p>	
02.09.00	<p><u>PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' REPORTS.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. <u>Compliance.</u> A recent complaint was being dealt with i.a.w. the new complaints policy. b. <u>Environment and Highways.</u> it had been noted that some chickens in the village were not being housed in a way that complied with the current avian flu regulations. RS agreed to follow up. c. <u>Drains.</u> - Topic covered in matters arising. d. <u>Planning.</u> ML reported that The Neighbourhood Development Plan 	<p>RS</p>

	<p>had recently been commended for its quality.</p> <p>e. <u>Cluster Group</u>. The cluster group had not met for some time. it appeared to be defunct. This was regretted.</p> <p>f. <u>Village Hall</u>. The issue of the roof leak was not resolved. A formal meeting with the architect and builder was intended to assign responsibility and agree the way forward.</p> <p>g. <u>Communications</u>. Ntr</p> <p>h. <u>Allotments</u>. It was unclear how long existing tenancies should be. Some rents had been paid.</p> <p>i. <u>Castle Hill</u>. It was agreed to seek quotations on dealing with the moles.</p> <p>j. <u>Forge</u>. The purchase of the forge was nearing completion. All repairs requested from NKDC had been satisfactorily completed. The displays within the forge had been improved and a new A board obtained for the benefit of visitors.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
02.10.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER TREE WORK APPLICATIONS 17/0083/TCA; 17/0069/TCA AND 17/0103/TCA.</u></p> <p>Council had no comments to make on recent tree work applications.</p>	Clerk
02.11.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER PLANNING APPLICATION 16/1665/VARCON.</u></p> <p>The council had no objection to plastic windows on the new build at 19 the Nookin.</p>	Clerk
02.12.00	<p><u>TO DISCUSS WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE MOLES ON CASTLE HILL.</u></p> <p>See 02.09.00. i</p>	clerk
02.13.00	<p><u>TO AGREE A RESPONSE TO REPORTS THAT THE JUBILEE CHESTNUT IS SERIOUSLY ILL.</u></p> <p>This item was superseded by events in that the County Council had taken over responsibility for the tree. It was agreed in principle that, if it were felled, the tree should be replaced.</p>	
02.14.00	<p><u>TO RESPOND TO MR ROBINSON'S SUGGESTION ABOUT A GRILL TO PROTECT DUCKLINGS FROM DROWNING IN THE BECK OUTLET</u></p> <p>It was agreed that this was a good idea and that Mr Robinson should be invited to provide and fit one provided that he undertook to maintain it clear.</p>	
02.15.00	<p><u>TO CONSIDER A FORMAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE CLERK.</u></p> <p>Council had examined the complaint and found the alleged actions unproven so decided there was no case to answer. The chairman would reply. It was further agreed that, in future, complaints should be made to the clerk in accordance with the published complaints policy.</p>	JL
02.16.00	<p><u>TO DISCUSS IDEAS FOR INFORMATION BOARDS WITHIN THE VILLAGE,</u></p> <p>See also 02.07.03. Planned photo montages in the Joiners Arms of historic scenes in the village were suggested to complement the tourist engagement scheme. The PCC's handbook in the church about the church was also mentioned as part of the scheme.</p>	

02.17.00	<p><u>TO BE UPDATED ON THE PLAY & LEISURE PROJECT.</u></p> <p>ML thought it more appropriate to brief the Village Hall committee first about her ideas for the Play & Leisure Project. but acknowledged that her biggest priority was raising enough money.</p>											
02.18.00	<p><u>TO AGREE HOW TO USE THE BALANCE OF THE S106 MONEY.</u></p> <p>It was noted that it had already been agreed to grant £5000 to the R&F project for signage (although how much of this was required was uncertain) and that money had been spent on building the access steps to the stepping out walk on top of the embankment and that these steps required a handrail. Previously it had been agreed to allocate £5000 to the Play & Leisure Project. Any balance from these tasks was conditionally bound to open space development under the original arrangement but the amount was unknown at this stage.</p>	Clerk										
02.19.00	<p><u>CHEQUES</u></p> <p>Payment of the following accounts was approved:</p> <table style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>NKDC (tree inspection)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£109.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mark Hanson (Tree inspection)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£168.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Welbourn Farms Ltd (gate repair)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£120.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M McBeath (January wage)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£503.57</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PO Ltd (McB PAYE)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£125.80</td> </tr> </table>	NKDC (tree inspection)	£109.36	Mark Hanson (Tree inspection)	£168.00	Welbourn Farms Ltd (gate repair)	£120.00	M McBeath (January wage)	£503.57	PO Ltd (McB PAYE)	£125.80	
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02.20.00	<p><u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>Play & Leisure Project. Any planning applications.</p>											
02.21.00	<p><u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 8th March 2027 at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room.</p>	All										

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 8.30pm.

Copies to: District Councillors Mrs C Mills, Mrs M Overton: All PC Members: Parish Website.