

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12th JANUARY 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 & Mrs Wallbutton. Ms Freda Burrows, Mr Simon Robinson, Mr Mark Crosby, Mr Rick Thorpe and Mr Jim Gemmell attended as members of the public. Mr Robinson left halfway through the public session. PC Pete Hanson represented the Police and left after the Public Forum.

		<u>ACTION</u>
01.01.00	<p><u>PUBLIC FORUM</u></p> <p>The police reported that there had not been any recorded crimes in the village in the preceding month and that the use of Facebook as a communications tool was proving very successful. Investigation of the fatal accident on the A607 in October at the bridge had been delayed by weather and was only now underway.</p> <p>Mrs Wallbutton complained that the work that had recently been carried out on The Moat and Castle Hill was most inappropriate. She asked why the original management plan and its guidelines had not been followed. She pointed out that previously planted saplings had been destroyed and that the use of heavy plant had damaged the surface. She was deeply concerned that significant wildlife and their habitats had been destroyed.</p> <p>SL, as leader of the previous Castle Hill Management Group, responded that the original plan had lapsed over the years for lack of interest and support and that its function had defaulted to the Parish Council. Mr Thorpe, as village handyman, reminded the meeting that since the management plan had been created, the culvert draining the beck had become blocked and had proved to beyond economic repair so that water had been allowed into the moat thus changing its nature and to the detriment to the self sown mature sycamore and ash trees already there. Some had since died. He pointed out that over years many of the willow trees had matured, become top heavy, rotted and fallen over or both and had become hazardous so it was necessary to cull them to ensure the safety of children playing in the area. He added that removal of the dead wood made it essential to clear away the undergrowth to enable safe and sensible access. Mr Wallbutton stated that he had complained to English Heritage about this work on an ancient monument but the Chairman responded that he too had made contact with the local English Heritage Officer whom he described as being broadly supportive of the work being carried out in that it was undesirable to have trees on the site.</p> <p>The Chairman pointed out that it was felt by others that tidying the unkempt and unsightly site was a welcome move and that the undergrowth was no loss and would soon re-grow; that the only heavy plant on the site had had low pressure tyres and that any perceived damage to the surface would soon make itself good. The Tree Officer himself on visiting the site had specifically indicated how the remaining trees should be pollarded. The contractor had claimed that this pollarding was more extensive than he had intended. Mr Wallbutton rejected outright the ideas of re-growth.</p> <p>MO was at pains to point out just how much extra work the Chairman had been forced to undertake on this issue and wished to express her appreciation on everyone's behalf.</p> <p>SB noted that it was clear that mistakes had been made and that it there was no point in allocating blame since the damage had been done. She suggested the experience be used to start again.</p>	

	At about 8pm the Chairman closed the public meeting and moved on to the Parish Council meeting.	<u>ACTION</u>
01.02.00	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u> Nil	
01.03.00	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr Brealey was unwell. Mr Copley was attending a pre-booked family function.	
01.04.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2007 (SI2007/0159)</u> Nil	
01.05.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2010, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. Proposed SS. Seconded MO.	
01.06.00 01.06.01 01.06.02 01.06.03 01.06.04 01.06.05 01.06.06 01.06.07	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> <u>Cycle Play Track</u> At a site meeting in November between the PC, Aaron Patchet and Ian Batchelor it had been agreed that Mr Batchelor should clear and lay out the site according to a new drawing produced by Aaron. The weather had halted this process but there was concern that the new area was much larger than Mr Batchelor had first envisaged and that the cost would increase. Council agreed to limit their contribution to £1000 incl VAT. <u>Allotment Notice Board</u> There was no progress to report on the allotment notice board. <u>Welcome Pack</u> The Clerk had created and publicised his new welcome pack but it had not yet been called for. <u>Bridleway 5 path covering.</u> With help from Mr Crosby, Mr V Brealey had successfully cleared a length of the path by Orchard House and laid planings in it which he had then had compacted. Weather had since held up further work. Offers had been made to assist him since he had found the work rather too much. <u>New Dog Waste Bin</u> A new dog waste bin and been supplied, paid for and fitted. <u>Emergency Planning</u> There had been no responses to a notice asking for volunteers for equipment and first aiders for emergency purposes. The effective and spontaneous responses to the snow storms in early December had perhaps proved there was no need for paper plans at all. <u>Overgrowth on Footpaths.</u> The overgrowth on the Green at Hunt House had been removed. A similar request had been made to the owner of No 33 High Street.	Clerk
01.07.00	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> MW and MO reported that that NKDC were looking to save £1m and that removal of the subsidy to the Leadenham Tip had been proposed but was successfully defended in view of the extra cost of recovering the ensuing fly tipping. Despite other plans, at least one Care Home had been retained. Bus passes, the roads maintenance budget and PCSOs would be retained. As the owner was retiring, Navenby PO might close unless an acceptable substitute site could be found. This would have knock on effects at Welbourn PO and shop whose owner was looking to expand the premises. The Navenby Access Point might be cut back. MW advised on whom to write to about desired projects for the S106 benefits accruing from the Brook House development.	

01.08.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
01.08.01	<u>Tree Works on the Moat.</u> Since the previous meeting, a schedule of works on the trees in the moat had been submitted to the Tree Officer and approved. Copies of the schedule had been emailed to the contractor with confirmation of the permission. Unfortunately the Clerk had been unwell at the time the contractor came to site and he had apparently started work unchecked and without any reference to the approved work.	
01.08.02	<u>December Snows</u> Copies of the LCC guidance on clearance of frontages had been put out just before the snow arrived. Many villagers had cleared their own fronts and the Clerk had invited some who had not to do so whilst a few volunteers had cleared paths not their own, such that it was, in general, possible to walk to the shop and school in safety by the end of the week. A list citing those who had voluntarily done more than their share had been put up in the Shop. The Chairman had established contact with Stagecoach so that we might know when the buses would not be running through the village. The Clerk had corrected a misapprehension at Highways as to where the bus route actually went so that Beck Street could be salted as a secondary route.	
01.08.03	<u>Stepping out Walks</u> The Clerk had recently discussed minor maintenance matters with the ranger from Hill Holt Wood responsible for out the Stepping Out Walks in our area and had agreed a few minor repair items with him in conjunction with VB. A confirmatory map of the area and paths that the rangers would be covering this year was expected.	
01.08.04	<u>Letter of Thanks</u> Mr Goodhand had written to the Council thanking them for the farewell dinner and gifts for him which the Council had hosted in December. Mrs Goodhand had in particular appreciated her lovely bouquet.	
01.09.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The Financial Report showed expenditure of £1510 for the preceding months with a balance of £16,400.	
01.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	
01.10.01	<u>Police and NHW</u> Nothing to report but the next Cluster Meeting was due the following evening.	
01.10.02	<u>Highways, Footways and Drains</u> Highways had announced their intention to close the A607 during the first week of February so as to build the culvert. Once this was done, work would continue on the rest of ditch when it was hoped that the runoff into Cow Lane would be stopped. Stagecoach had been asked what effect this closure might have on our buses but they had yet to respond.	
01.10.03	<u>Environment and Village Matters</u> The School would like formal permission to remove logs from Castle Hill for use at the school as outdoor classroom seating. Council agreed.	Clerk.
01.10.04	<u>Allotments</u> AW reported that she intend to maintain allotment rents to £20 per large plot and pro rata for smaller plots. She sought Council approval to do so. This was agreed unanimously.	AW
01.11.01	<u>CASTLE HILL</u> AW had obtained copies of the original management plan for Castle Hill from Mr Goodhand and had asked him for his comments on the current situation. Mr Goodhand deplored the wholesale destruction of the undergrowth at one fell swoop. AW and SB had also set out a survey in the Village shop on the issue. The survey, which included some 59 names, tended to support the position stated by Mrs Wallbutton. AW proposed the reformation of a new Castle Hill Management Group to take matters forward from this point. After much discussion it was agreed to reform a Castle Hill Management Group as a subcommittee of the PC using volunteers, to be chaired and recruited by SB. The Clerk undertook to draft terms of reference for the new sub Committee (hopefully reflecting those of the original but recognising the new situation.)	SB Clerk
01.12.00	<u>BUDGET</u> Council noted that the current year's precept had proved sufficient for the year, the size of the reserves and that there should be no more capital expenditure on the	

	village hall; it took into account the sums already committed to the Moat, the Beck, the Cycle Track, the expected election expenses and the current state of the economy and decided to leave the precept at the same level as last year.	<u>ACTION</u> Clerk												
01.13.00	<u>PLANNING MATTERS</u> Council had no comments on the recently proposed alterations at Househams and in general, like Leadenham, supported the Company to the full.													
01.14.00	<u>CHEQUES.</u> Payment of the following cheques was approved: <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">E-on for electricity charges</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£179.46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NKDC for dog waste bin emptying</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£450.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cliff Villages Property Maintenance for December</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£62.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M McBeath for salary and expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£103.97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PO - McBeath PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£24.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>To BT by direct debit for broadband services to VH</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£52.87</td> </tr> </table> Transfer of £850 from savings account to current account was authorised.	E-on for electricity charges	£179.46	NKDC for dog waste bin emptying	£450.00	Cliff Villages Property Maintenance for December	£62.50	M McBeath for salary and expenses	£103.97	PO - McBeath PAYE	£24.00	To BT by direct debit for broadband services to VH	£52.87	Clerk
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01.15.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Terms of reference for new Castle Hill Management Committee. Items to be sought with S106 monies for Brooke House site.	Clerk Clerk												
01.16.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 9th February 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.	All												

There being no further matters to discuss, the chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.50pm.

Copies to:

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

Parish Website