

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2015 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS)

Chairman

Councillors: Ms Sarah Brown (SB), Mr Robert Cross (MC), Mr John Lucas (JL) Mr Stephen Short (SS)

Mr Malcolm McBeath

Parish Clerk

Mrs K Stark

03.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> The police reported by email that there were no reportable crimes in the previous month.	<u>ACTION</u>
03.02.00	<u>ABSENCES</u> Mrs Lunn was on holiday. Dr Paxton was unable to attend due to work commitments. Mr Gibson had an unavoidable prior engagement.	
03.03.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> SS stated that he had what might be perceived as commercial interests in item 12 so would not participate in that item.	
03.04.00 03.04.01	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u> The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) would be due in April or May so it would be prudent to hold it before the Elections. It was agreed to hold the APM immediately before the next Council meeting.	Clerk
03.05.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 February, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.	Clerk
03.06.00 03.06.01 03.06.02 03.06.03	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> The Dog warden's contract has been renewed: his rates had gone up. Permission to trim the trees on Little Green had been applied for. Highways were extremely reluctant to consider the application for a speed limit on the A607 past Hall Lane and wanted to wait until a revised policy was published but had indicated they were minded to refuse the idea. It was agreed that illuminated speed signs might reduce speeds. The Clerk was tasked with requesting them.	Clerk
03.07.00 03.07.01	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> MO reported by email that the issue of the unfair and disparate application of funding of school transport costs in different areas was being raised. She drew attention to the many wind farms being proposed locally. She pointed out an anomaly in the law which would enable anyone, even non-UK companies, to tender and take over services that Councils did not wish to run. It seemed that the cuts in central Government funding and the knock-on impacts on local services would continue.	

03.08.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
03.08.01	NKDC had failed to respond on the Cow Lane site funds application, despite several enquiries including a list of potential options from the Clerk. There had not been any answer on the stainless steel chimney issue either.	
03.08.02	Applications for two private tree works had been approved as had the extension at 23 The Green.	
03.08.03	The wall of Manor Close along Beck Street had been reported to NKDC as falling down on the inside.	
03.08.04	Work was intended to improve the kerb drains along the A607 at the bottom of Mill Lane.	
03.09.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> Spending in January had been £539, leaving £14,552 in reserves. Spending was judged to be more or less on budget although the reserves were too large but could soon be spent on hoped-for facilities.	
03.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	
03.10.01	<u>Constitution/Audit/Village Hall.</u> A new (bigger) cooker was being sought.	
03.10.02	<u>Highways and Drains</u> The verges at the top of Mill Lane were unduly overgrown. The Clerk was to request Highways to trim them back.	Clerk
03.10.03	<u>Neighbourhood Development Plan.</u> The six week statutory six week pre-submission consultation ended on the 27th February. The Steering Group were in the process of collating the comments returned and amending the Plan if so indicated. Planning Aid England would again be consulted before the Plan and associated documents are submitted to NKDC for the external examination phase.	
03.10.04	<u>Cluster Group</u> The Group was next due to meet on 19 <sup>th</sup> March. The October meeting had discussed the Local Plan and the work then in hand on it. It seemed that that growth would happen before infrastructure was developed due to the delay in establishing the Local Plan since the NPPF's presumptions in favour of growth trumped everything else.	
03.10.05	<u>Castle Hill.</u> A lot of tidying up had been done on Castle Hill but the logs placed on the lower dam were considered unsafe. SB undertook to get them cleared away. More work was required to put planings on the lowest level of the path from the causeway. The handyman was to be instructed to do this.	SB Clerk
03.10.06	<u>Allotments.</u> A known person had dumped their rubbish on an allotment and had so far failed to remove it despite requests. It was agreed that the Warden be invited to serve a Fixed Penalty Notice for fly tipping.	SB/Clerk

03.11.00	<u>TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO KEEP THE POND</u> There seemed no point in dredging the pond if it were not worth keeping but Council could not agree so decided to leave the issue open for the next Council after the elections. It was suggested that the volume of water behind the wooden dam constituted a hazard should it give way suddenly but it was accepted that there was no risk on this account.	<u>ACTION</u>
03.12.00	<u>TO AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE PROPOSED 5 WIND PYLONS AT HOUGH ON THE HILL.</u> Council agreed that the wind farms proposed near Hough and Brandon were not an issue.	
03.13.00	<u>TO AGREE THE MAINTENANCE TASKS FOR MARCH/APRIL.</u> It was agreed that the Handyman be tasked with permanently maintaining the outlets to the pond and that he should continue the clearance of the banks above the pond and the small area next the road upstream from the causeway, up to a maximum of 10 hours of work plus adding more plantings to the path between the causeway and the first step. In addition he was to remove the three isolated hazels on the Castle Hill field. He should be reminded not to put more logs on the dam and that he would not be paid for work he undertook outwith his instructions.	
03.14.00	<u>TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR A GRANT FROM THE PRE-SCHOOL.</u> Council wished in principle to support the Pre-School but were aware that the school site was too small for the combined facility so were reluctant to encourage its further growth within the primary school building.	Clerk
03.15.00	<u>TO REVIEW THE ALLOCATION OF THE S106 FUNDS.</u> In the absence of any response from the assigned officer at NKDC Council could not take this issue further but the Chairman would continue to press via the District Councillors for NKDC's participation.	RS
03.16.00	<u>CHEQUES</u> Payment of the following accounts was approved: R Thorpe (maintenance) £791.02 P A Orme (warden duties) £90.00 E-on (lights) £105.66 M McBeath (salary and expenses) £134.90 PO Ltd (PAYE McB) £20.60	Clerk
03.19.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Maintenance tasks	
03.20.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The next meeting of the Parish Council is due on <b>8th</b> April at 7:00 pm in the Village Hall, to start immediately after the Annual Parish Meeting	All

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

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