

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th MARCH 2013 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS) Chairman  
 Country Councillor Ray Phillips(RP), District Councillor Mrs Laura Conway (LC)  
 Councillors: Ms Sarah Brown (SB), Mr Robert Cross(MC), Mr Stephen Spedding (SSg),  
 Mr John Lucas (JL), Mr Robert Gibson (BG), Dr Adam Paxton (AP), Mr  
 Stephen Short (SS) Mr Richard Coxe (RC)  
 PC P Hanson Lincs Police  
 Mr Malcolm McBeath Parish Clerk

		<u>ACTION</u>
03.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>	
03.01.01	The police reported that there had not been any recorded crimes in the village in the previous month. Constable Hanson thought the risk of the empty Dycote Lane garages site being taken over by travellers to be extremely small.	
03.01.02	<p>Mrs Broadbent was concerned that completion of the Village Neighbourhood Plan before the County Council's Core Strategy and District Council's Local Plan were finalised could be a mistake lest the Neighbourhood Plan did not conform and would thus be worthless and there was also a risk of being unduly prescriptive in that requirements might be declared unnecessarily.</p> <p>Council pointed out, however, that in the absence of any Village Plan, the Planning Authority would be bound only to follow the NPPF's directive in favour of sustainable development when dealing with applications for development in the village. Having a Village Development Plan would give the Parish Council more weight in any discussions with the Planners. The Localism Act obliged senior Councils to take account of any Village Development Plan. Overall it was considered better to be 'in' than 'out'.</p> <p>Mrs Broadbent suggested it might be a mistake to be the front runners in a process in which all were learning. There might be risks in being the guinea pigs, given that NKDC had got such a vital item as the curtilage wrong in one of its documents. It would be prudent to wait until the bodies intended to give us expert advice were able to do so. She pointed out that the Development Plan could not prevent houses being built but could only influence where and what type but recent experience showed there was wide disagreement in the village on these topics.</p> <p>Council agreed in principle with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan. but felt it was important to participate fully in the formation of the District Council's Local Plan to ensure it allowed what we wanted.</p>	

03.03.00	<p><u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u></p> <p>Councillor Phillips was welcomed to the meeting since it had been some time since he had been able to attend.</p> <p>Now that the VH heating system had been repaired it was important to use it to best advantage. To that end, the Chairman had been monitoring power consumption readings which he suggested, although very large, were not unreasonable given the size of the building. The leak under the Hall had been confirmed but a bypass was possible. The plumber was due to visit to discuss.</p> <p>He reminded all that the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council AGM were due and sought ideas for matters of interest to encourage people to attend.</p>	
03.03.00	<p><u>APOLOGIES (reasons for absence)</u></p> <p>Nil</p>	
03.04.00	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></p> <p>JL declared an interest in item 14 in that it was his house.</p>	
03.05.00	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u></p> <p>The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 13 February, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.</p>	
03.06.00 03.06.01 03.06.02 03.06.03	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u></p> <p>There was nothing to report on war memorial cleaning.</p> <p>It was hoped to bypass the leaking pipe under the Hall. Meanwhile Mr Storer was opening and closing the control valve as necessary to minimise losses.</p> <p>A dog warden had offered his services as a self employed person but Council did not see that he could be effective and wanted to learn of the experience of another parish. There was concern as to who would get any fines imposed.</p>	Clerk
03.07.00 03.07.01 03.07.02 03.07.03 03.07.04	<p><u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u></p> <p><u>District</u></p> <p>LC reported that NKDC had decided not to accept the government grant to freeze council tax but to raise the tax as much as was allowed under Government directives in order to avoid the extremely difficult situation when such grants ceased in 2014/15. Taking the opportunity to increase the tax base would place NKDC in a financially stronger position to face the huge uncertainty surrounding local government finance in the years to come.</p> <p>The Cluster Bid for funds for a youth worker had been revised in the light of comments and submitted. LC was reasonably confident it would succeed.</p> <p>It was now possible to pay the charge for brown bins by cheque rather than on line.</p> <p><u>County</u></p> <p>RP pointed out that LCC were no longer involved with the police since</p>	

<p>03.07.05</p> <p>03.07.06</p> <p>03.07.07</p> <p>03.07.08</p> <p>03.07.09</p> <p>03.07.10</p>	<p>their monitoring and control function had been replaced by another non LCC committee. County funding for PCSOs was continuing, however. He had noted that PCSOs wanted a greater role in face to face community work but were seen in other roles by the Police.</p> <p>The Fire Service would continue much as before but the number of fully manned full time stations would increase. This expansion would be funded by not replacing senior retirees and equipment cutbacks.</p> <p>Highways had received extra funds for winter repairs but the priority was for cheaper first aid repairs to mitigate insurance claims.</p> <p>Although Councillors allowances had been increased staff pay had been frozen.</p> <p>The verge cutting contract had run into difficulties with the Contractor so verges were not being cut.</p> <p>LCC had not taken over all the PCT tasks but only public health matters.</p> <p>Following a very successful emergency plan practice last year, another was planned this year and would be a simulated massive train crash in May on the east coast main line. All relevant agencies would be involved.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p>
<p>03.08.00</p> <p>03.08.01</p> <p>03.08.02</p>	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u></p> <p>Those responsible had undertaken to make good the verges damaged during the current works in the Old Rectory, once the works had been completed.</p> <p>NKDC were aware of the poor state of the wall to Manor Close in Beck Street and were trying to find the funds for repairs.</p>	
<p>03.09.00</p>	<p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u></p> <p>The financial report showed expenditure of £2862 for the previous month with reserves at £15,143 and an under-spend of £1828 against forecast.</p>	
<p>03.10.00</p> <p>03.10.01</p> <p>03.10.02</p> <p>0310.03</p> <p>03.10.04</p>	<p><u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u></p> <p><u>Village Hall.</u> The VH AGM was due next month.</p> <p><u>Highways, Footways and Drains.</u> It seemed that many drivers do not know to give way to vehicles coming up a hill on a narrow road so there were problems on Mill Hill with drivers continuing to attempt to force a passage against a farm vehicle coming up. It was suggested that a suitable reminding sign be placed near the top of the hill and a passing place provided. The Clerk was to request support from LCC Highways.</p> <p>The new owners of Highlander Grange should be reminded that maintenance of the ditch beside their garden on the A607 was now their responsibility.</p> <p><u>Village Matters.</u> NTR</p> <p><u>Parish Plan.</u> The Planning Group was seeking more support. It was recognised that there was a continuing need to keep the community informed on what the Group was doing. It was agreed that the Group should report its work to the Council by submitting its minutes to the Clerk. Now that more experience of the process had been gained, the</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>BG</p> <p>Clerk</p>

03.10.05	Council should write clear Terms of Reference for the Parish Plan Group as a subcommittee of the Council.	<u>ACTION</u>												
03.10.06	<u>Cluster Group</u> . NTR													
03.10.06	<u>Planning and Countryside</u> . NTR													
03.10.07	<u>Health Social and Welfare</u> . NTR													
	<u>Allotments</u> . Dogs had been found on the allotments fouling the ground and worrying the chickens. The owners had been spoken to. There was a need for brown bins to stop people from dumping their wastes around the site. It was agreed that two bins be provided and that the Clerk should properly investigate with NKDC getting them included in the regular collection service with the Council paying the fee.	SB/ Clerk												
03.10.08	<u>Castle Hill</u> . NTR													
03.11.00	<u>TREE SAFETY CHECKS</u> There had been disagreement as to which trees should be checked for public safety purposes. It was agreed to check all trees on Council land or on land for which the Council is responsible.	Clerk												
03.12.00	<u>COMPLAINT ABOUT INAPPROPRIATELY LOUD BIRD SCARERS</u> A parishioner had complained that very loud rocket launched bird scarers were highly intrusive and their use was inappropriate close to habitations; he sought Parish Council support to stop their use. Council felt that this was a matter beyond their jurisdiction and noted that any such use was governed by the NFU's code of conduct which was being followed. Nevertheless the point had been made.	Clerk												
03.13.00	<u>FUTURE OF EMPTY GARAGE PLOT ON DYCOTE LANE</u> The District Council had asked whether to close off the empty garage plot at the bottom of Dycote Lane or leave it as a car park. Council agreed that leaving it as a car park was the better option but if the area came to be used as a convenient dump then NKDC should be asked to close it off.	Clerk												
03.14.00	<u>PLANNING</u> The Council supported the proposed extension at Orchard Barn, North End. JL did not participate in the debate nor the vote.	Clerk												
03.15.00	<u>CHEQUES</u> Payment of the following accounts was approved: <table border="0" style="margin-left: 40px;"> <tr> <td>Thorpe Property Services for February</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£125.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Bleaden grass treatment</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£94.20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Eon quarterly maintenance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£104.72</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LALC subscriptions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£197.90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M McBeath salary and expenses</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£60.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PO Ltd McBeath PAYE</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£15.00</td> </tr> </table> And transfer of £600 from savings account to current account was authorised.	Thorpe Property Services for February	£125.00	Chris Bleaden grass treatment	£94.20	Eon quarterly maintenance	£104.72	LALC subscriptions	£197.90	M McBeath salary and expenses	£60.89	PO Ltd McBeath PAYE	£15.00	Clerk
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03.16.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Items for AGM and Annual Parish Meeting	
03.17.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 10th April 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.	All

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.45pm.

Copies to:  
Country Councillor Ray Phillips  
District Councillors Conway and Overton,  
All PC Members.  
Parish Website.