

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th NOVEMBER 2012 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS)	Chairman
Councillors: Ms Sarah Brown (SB), Mr Robert Cross(MC), Mr Stephen Spedding (SSg), Mr John Lucas (JL), Dr A Paxton (AP), Mr Richard Coxe(RC),	
Mr M McBeath	Parish Clerk

		<u>ACTION</u>
11.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>	
11.01.01	Mr Thorpe asked for direction on leaf clearance. It was considered that this was a task for NKDC. Individuals were already collecting leaves for their own use.	
11.01.02	The police reported by email that there had not been any recorded crimes in the village in the previous month.	
11.02.00	<u>APOLOGIES (reasons for absence)</u> County Councillor Phillips and Councillors Conway and Overton had been invited but were unable to attend. Mr Short was on holiday and Mr Gibson was away.	
11.03.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> Nil	
11.04.00	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u>	
11.04.01	It had been suggested that the war memorial be cleaned up in anticipation of the Great War centenary. Mr Storer intended to meet interested parties to see what could be accomplished.	
11.05.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 10 October 2012, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.	
11.06.00	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> Nil	
11.07.00	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u>	
11.07.01	The Council noted Mrs Overton's report of how, despite local opposition, planning permission had been given for dwellings on the former car park at the Bell Inn at Coleby. This was seen as indicative of NKDC's determination to meet Government targets at any cost.	
11.08.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	
11.08.01	The Clerk had recently been on a Finance for Councils course and had brought back some useful points. Grants were on offer from NKDC to fund a litter picker and a dog warden. It was decided to apply for these grants.	

11.09.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
11.09.01	The financial report showed expenditure of £1,122 for the month with reserves at £20,899.	
11.09.02	It was very desirable to specifically earmark a reserve so as to demonstrate good practice. Support for the village hall was agreed in principle but would be specified In January at the budget meeting.	
11.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	
11.10.01	<u>Village Hall.</u> The village hall was not covering its costs and the committee was short handed. It was agreed to find out what could be done to assist the Committee.	RS
11.10.02	<u>Highways, Footways and Drains</u> Taylor Lindsay's subcontractor had installed the first sewer connection in the wrong place and was having to redo it. Anglian Water (AWA) and LCC had joined the Chairman and Clerk to discuss the village drain overflow problems. It had been agreed that the primary cause of the problem was excessive rain water run-off into the sewers. AWA had identified that some older houses fed their rain water into the public drains. It was unlikely to be possible to alter those. The new A607 dyke had significantly alleviated the worst of the run off problem but street drains were still producing too much water. It was not practicable to upgrade the Welbourn sewage pump because the Leadenham system would not be able to cope but it might be possible to route runoff from lower High Street/Cow Lane into a disused ditch behind Cedar Cottage originally used for this purpose. This option was being explored with AWA.	RS/ Clerk
11.10.03	<u>Village Matters</u> The contractor needed direction as to when to cut the hedge around the playing field. RC would deal with this. Fields in Trust had offered the village an oak tree to mark the Jubilee. It was agreed to accept - position to be agreed.	RC
11.10.04	<u>Cluster Group.</u> NTR (Planned October meeting had been cancelled)	
11.10.05	<u>Allotments.</u> The gate had been sorted and hung. A bill for £12.50 for post mix was presented and agreed.	Clerk
11.10.06	<u>Castle Hill</u> a. Concerns had been raised about the risk of flooding inherent in the placing of weirs made of hessian sacks in the new moat. RS demonstrated that there was enough capacity in the lower pond to absorb any sudden overflow so the situation was safe provided that the lower drain grill leading under Castle Hill was kept clear. This was accepted. b. AP had formulated a maintenance plan for Castle Hill and was confident of being able to achieve it. More sacks were required. It was accepted that sand was not a suitable filling material because it lacks any long term strength. c. It was agreed to remove 3 dead willows from the moat in consultation with the Tree officer. This would be done by the	

	Handyman. d. AP regretted that pressure of work made it impossible for him to continue to hold the Castle Hill portfolio. SSg agreed to take it on.	<u>ACTION</u>
11.11.00	<u>WPG</u> NTR.	BG
11.12.00	<u>NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET</u> A draft budget based on projected costs showed a need for an increase of over 10% in the precept. Council would not agree to this but could not agree on what to reduce nor how to make up the projected shortfall. It was agreed to defer this task until the January meeting whilst various cost cutting ideas were explored.	All clerk
11.13.00	<u>CASTLE HILL SAFETY</u> See para 11.10.06.a.	
11.14.00	<u>PLANNING</u> Council had no objection to an extension at 12 Hall Orchard Lane nor to tree work in Poplar Close.	Clerk
11.15.00	<u>CHEQUES</u> Payment of the following cheques was approved: Chris Bleaden Ground Maintenance - October £284.72 Thorpe Property Services for maintenance October £481.56 BT land line rent £61.92 G W King and Son for churchyard £186.00 M McBeath for salary and expenses October £91.55 PO - McBeath PAYE £16.80 And transfer of £800 from savings account to current account was authorised.	clerk
11.16.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Budget	All
11.17.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 9th January 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.	All

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.55pm.

Copies to:

District Councillors Conway and Overton, All PC Members. Parish Website.