

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2011 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS) Chairman
 Councillors: Ms S Brown (SB), Mr M R Cross (MC) Dr Adam Paxton (AP), Mr Stephen Short (SS), Mr Tony Copley (TC) and Mr Robert Gibson (BG)

Mr M McBeath

Parish Clerk

		<u>ACTION</u>
11.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> The public did not attend this meeting.	
11.02.00	<u>APOLOGIES</u> Mr Coxe was delayed at a business meeting. The police were all committed elsewhere.	
11.03.00 11.03.01 11.03.02	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u> The Chair welcomed the new member, Dr Paxton, to the Council. A parishioner had complained that the Clerk had been unwise enough to include a highly contentious personal opinion in a letter to a third party about an internal matter. The Chair advised that the clerk had been instructed to clear any such letters in future through the Chairman or Vice Chairman or appropriate councillor. The third party had subsequently been advised of the facts to correct any false impression that might have been given.	Clerk
11.03.03	It was suggested that letters of appreciation be sent to the most recently retired members. This was agreed.	Clerk
11.04.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2010 (SI2010/1059)</u> There were no declarations of interest.	
11.05.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 12 October 2011, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. Proposed MC. Seconded SS.	
11.06.00 11.06.01 11.06.02 11.06.03	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> <u>Road markings.</u> The worn road markings had been reported to Highways as had the poor state of the road at two areas in The Green. <u>Fields in Trust.</u> The application to register with Fields in Trust had been completed. It had since come to light that the playing field is protected against further development by a covenant imposed by the funding of the extended Village Hall. <u>Beech Tree</u> After the previous meeting the Clerk had obtained the owners' version of the issue and the Chairman had discussed the matter with the Tree Officer. A letter had been sent to the complainants (copy to the owners) setting out the position that the tree could not be worked on without evidence from a qualified arboriculturist and hoping that the parties could resolve the issue amicably.	
11.07.00 11.07.01	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> As reported in Councillor Overton's newsletter, the Leadenham tip was again at risk of closure. It was expected that she would oppose this move on behalf of all. It was hoped that Welbourn would join with Leadenham in trying to ensure it remained open if only to reduce the risk and cost of fly tipping.	

11.08.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
11.08.01	<u>Bus Shelter.</u> It had been confirmed that planning permission was not required for the bus shelter but that Highways must be consulted. Highways had carried out a site visit and were concerned about visibility from Cow Lane. An open cantilevered design would be better than a slab sided unit. It would be desirable to set it back to ensure adequate visibility. This might require the consent of the developer. The source and cost of the shelters at Wellingore had been ascertained. An alternative costing had been sought from the makers of the new bench on Castle Hill.	
11.08.02	<u>High Street Parking</u> The Clerk had put a notice in Two Villages asking residents of the High Street to park off road or on the west side of the street to avoid creating chicanes which effectively block the road to emergency and delivery vehicles. Observation had shown that this was a poor solution since the residents of nos 22 to 12 could not park on the school side. Some situations were apparently caused by school staff parking near the school but in the road. It was suggested that the head teacher be advised of the problem and that a notice be put on the Parish Notice board.	Clerk
11.08.03	<u>Wall Repairs.</u> The Clerk had approached the NKDC Estates Officer (EO) about the poor condition of the limestone wall of Manor Close bordering Beck Street because it had at some time been repointed with cement mortar and was starting to break up and, by extension, the current repair to the wall of no 14 was at similar risk. The EO was aware of the state of the boundary wall and had it under review for repair. He had been assured by the contractor that they knew about lime mortar and would repair the new wall properly.	
11.08.04	<u>Council Vacancy.</u> After due procedure had been followed, only one parishioner, Mr Stephen Spedding, had volunteered to join the parish council.	Clerk
11.09.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The Financial Report showed expenditure of £11,910 for the preceding month with a current balance of £18,900. A grass cutting subsidy of £604 had been received from LCC.	
11.10.00	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u>	
11.10.01	<u>Constitution and Village Hall.</u> Work was in hand to obtain the intended new curtains.	
11.10.02	<u>Highways, Footways and Drains.</u> Highways had agreed to insert drains at the bottom of Mill Hill and at the top of Cow Lane to divert run off into the new ditch and thus keep it out of the village. Highways had also agreed to repair the wooden fence around Castle Hill and to investigate the ownership of the metal rail fencing around the Hill by Bell Tree Green with a view to repairing/replacing/resetting it.	
11.10.03	<u>Village Matters.</u> Because of poor surface profiles in Dycote Lane very few of the drains worked properly. The issue of the crab apple trees had been overlooked. RS undertook to find out what the options were on this matter.	RS
11.10.04	<u>Parish Plan.</u> Because the Localism Bill would impose various duties and powers on the Parish Council, it was pointed out that would be very important to have a Village Development Plan to validate any decisions to be made. TC had drafted a proposed questionnaire for public circulation in order to inform a new Village Development Plan. It was agreed that each member would comment on it ready for a future meeting.	All
11.10.05	<u>Police and NHW.</u> There was dissatisfaction that local incidents had not been reported on the NHW system.	
11.10.06	<u>Cluster Group.</u> The role of representation on the Cluster Group and how its meetings were to be reported needed clarification. It was agreed that the parish representative would provide a summary report to Council members after each Cluster Group meeting and that the Clerk would forward the Formal Minutes to members when received. The group were developing the idea of employing a youth worker for the Group and wanted to hold a meeting on 17 November for the purpose. TC agreed to attend. Since it appeared that PGL was suffering from adverse publicity, it was agreed that steps should	BG/Clerk

11.10.07	be taken to publicise it more positively. <u>Health Social and Welfare.</u> There had been a case of fly tipping on Bell Tree green but RS had removed the rubbish and would dispose of it appropriately. A resident had also been fly tipping her domestic and garden waste in the Village Hall skip. The Village Hall Ctte had written to the person concerned asking her to desist.	
11.10.08	<u>Allotments.</u> Enquires had shown that it was probably not financially feasible to install a water main to the Allotments but other options could be examined. Council supported this approach. A letter had been sent to Ms L Turnbull requiring her to give up her allotment since she no longer lived in the village.	SB
11.10.09	<u>Castle Hill.</u> a. A site meeting had been held on Castle Hill after the previous Council meeting where the previously proposed operational guidelines aimed at protecting the Monument had been agreed. b. Fish were trapped in the former outer drain. It was intended to move them to the new moat. The handyman had done some useful work in clearing brash off the mound and had dammed the new moat to make a feature. The nettles on the east wall had been sprayed. Brambles and ivy around the perimeter were now regrowing. Work was in hand to tidy and seed the new rough areas. c. SB pointed out that it was important to assemble a sound costed case for any future application for funding for further development of Castle Hill so in depth research on probable costs was essential. She undertook this task.	SB
11.11.00	<u>NEW MEMBER.</u> It was agreed to co-opt Mr Stephen Spedding to the council.	Clerk
11.12.00 11.12.01 11.12.02	<u>PORTFOLIOS.</u> Experience had shown a need for a portfolio for Council representation on the Cluster Group. TC had accordingly drafted new TORs for this role. It was agreed that existing portfolio allocations would remain extant and that AP would take on Health, Social and Welfare and Castle Hill and work with SB on Allotment matters. TC would take on the new Cluster Group task.	All
11.13.00	<u>BUDGET 2012.</u> The clerk had prepared a draft budget for discussion. It was agreed, however, that next year's precept should remain the same as the previous year so it would be necessary to find savings in the proposed figures. All were requested to consider the options before the January meeting.	All
11.14.00 11.14.01 11.14.02 11.14.03 11.14.04 11.14.05	<u>PLANNING MATTERS</u> <u>Affordable Housing sites.</u> The council reviewed the issues relating to the two proposed affordable housing sites in the village. No decision was made over which was the preferred site. <u>Ash tree.</u> It had become clear that the apparent permission from the tree officer to fell the small ash tree under the sycamore by the bus stop opposite the PO had been an administrative error at NKDC (which had since been accepted as such) and that no such permission had been given since the tree was covered by the planning permission given to Taylor Lindsey. An appropriate way forward was being explored. <u>Revised Proposal for 6 Cow Lane.</u> The council agreed to support the new proposal. <u>Tree Work at 40 The Green.</u> After a site meeting, the council had supported the proposal to remove 3 trees at 40 The Green. <u>Tree work at Welbourn Hall.</u> It was agreed to hold a site meeting at 09.30am the following Saturday to examine the proposal to pollard a plane tree at the Hall.	TC Clerk Clerk All

11.15.00	<u>CHEQUES.</u> Payment of the following cheques was approved: Cliff Villages Property Maintenance playing field, Beck and gullies £253.73 M McBeath - Salary and expenses £160.87 PO - McBeath PAYE £39.20	
11.16.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Budget and precept	All
11.17.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next routine Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 11th January 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.	All

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 10.15pm.

Copies to:

District Councillor Conway, All PC Members. Parish Website.