

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12th OCTOBER 2016 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30 PM

PRESENT

Mr. John Lucas (JL)

Chairman

District Councillor Mrs Marianne Overton.(MO)(arrived at 9 pm)

Councillors: Mrs Maureen Lunn (ML), Mrs Katie Stark (KS), Mr Robert Cross (MC), Mr John Storer (RS), Mr Robert Gibson (BG), Miss Harriet Huntsman (HH)

Mr Malcolm McBeath

Parish Clerk

10.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
10.01.01	The Police reported 3 crimes: Both number plates stolen from a motor vehicle in Dycote Lane, a metal gate to a field in Dycote Lane cut with an angle grinder and theft of a trailer in Dycote lane.	
10.02.00	<u>ACCEPTANCE OF REASONS FOR ABSENCE</u> Councillor Overton was delayed and Mr Short was at work	
10.03.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> Mr Lucas declared an interest in item 12 in that he, as a farm manager, had been approached with a similar offer. But this was not considered prejudicial. Mr Lucas took no part in the mast debate.	
10.04.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</u> The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 14th September, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved.	Clerk
10.05.00	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u>	
10.05.01	<u>Consultations on Castle Hill.</u> Advice from Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Historic England (HE) was still awaited on the most appropriate way forward on the care and planting of Castle Hill.	
10.05.02	<u>Emergency Plan</u> Due to pressure of other work, no further time had been possible on the emergency plan.	
10.05.03	Mr V Brealey did not wish to charge for his materials used to repair parish property.	
10.06.00	<u>DISTRICT AND COUNTY MATTERS</u>	
10.06.01	Mrs Overton drew attention to the Devolution plans. She remarked that they did nothing to ameliorate the serious shortfall (£78M) in the county council's finances but added yet another layer of administration to be paid for. She pointed out that LCC had recently accepted one of the worst regional finance settlements in the country. She advised that the Central Lincs Local Plan was going to an inspector at a public hearing the next month and hoped many would attend. It appeared that the local NHS trust had prepared a master plan - details were still confidential but it seemed very likely that cuts were inevitable.	

10.07.00	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u>	<u>ACTION</u>
10.07.01	Negotiations over the takeover of the forge had been delayed by NKDC's hesitation over repairs but all works sought were now agreed so the solicitors would be instructed to proceed with the transaction. A rateable value had been established for the forge but it was below the charging threshold.	
10.07.02	The Ridges & Furrows Project continued. The event was being called a Horkey. It was intended to demonstrate threshing on Castle Hill and have some displays of agriculture-related themes in the village hall using artifacts made in the village schools plus a hog roast on the playing field. A cookery competition was also planned.	
10.07.03	The NKDC Enforcement Officer was taking a hard line over the unlawful chimney in the grounds of Welbourn hall.	
10.07.04	The Council had not wished to comment on recent applications for tree works.	
10.08.00	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The financial report showed spending of £1178 last month with £28,810 in reserves. Overall spending was within budget although Castle Hill was significantly overspent. The claim had been submitted for the previous year's VAT refund. The external audit report had been received. The report was on line as required by the transparency regulations. The auditors had commented that the chronological order of recorded approvals on the audit proforma was incorrect and that a tick box had been left empty. They were concerned that it appeared that the council needed to improve its financial procedures. Council noted the comments but considered its budgetary controls were sound since spending was checked against budget each month.	
10.09.00	<u>PORTFOLIO HOLDER'S REPORTS</u>	
10.09.01	<u>Compliance</u> There was nothing new to report on compliance.	
10.09.02	<u>Environment and Highways.</u> There were a number of potholes at the bottom of Dycote lane which needed attention. The footpath verges on the A607 were excessively overgrown. The clerk was seeking significant resurfacing in Moat Lane lest both access roads off the A607 became unserviceable at the same time.	
10.09.03	<u>Drains</u> Although there had not been much rain, the drains appeared to be working well.	
10.09.04	<u>Planning.</u> ML complained that the clerk had mishandled a recent letter to the Council about alleged procedural errors by the Council in the run up to last year's referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. She objected most strongly that the Clerk, on his own initiative, had shared the incident with other clerks as a warning to them to avoid similar perceived pitfalls. She felt that the disclosure discredited the Council and all those who had worked on the plan. Council accepted that sharing knowledge and experience between clerks was a proper and legitimate practice which benefited everybody and, having seen the text of the note that clerk had sent out, did not see that any discrediting had occurred. Nevertheless, they were concerned at the clerk's tendency to be a loose cannon and decided to issue a formal written warning	

10.09.05	advising him to show more discretion in future. It had turned out that the letter writer had got his facts wrong and that the Council had followed all procedures correctly. The allegations had had no effect on the referendum and NKDC were ignoring the letter.	<u>ACTION</u>
10.09.06	<u>Cluster group.</u> Nil	
10.09.07	<u>Village Hall.</u> Bookings remained buoyant. The leak over the small kitchen was apparently repaired.	
10.09.08	<u>Communications</u> nil	
10.09.09	<u>Allotments</u> Most of the rubbish on one tenant's plot had been removed but some remained. He had recently undertaken to remove it.	
10.09.10	<u>Castle Hill.</u> Mr. McBeath had refurbished the fourth display panel frame on Castle Hill. It now carried a Horkey event poster. The mowing contractor had cleared the NE bank. It was agreed that the term "the NE bank" should include the margin between the waterway and the outer fence. This strip was yet to be cleared. JL intended to clear the long grass in consultation with the Hill Committee. A tree contractor was scheduled to coppice the first hazel clump. Councilor Spedding had convened the Hill Ctte to obtain their views. They wished to retain the embedded tree in the first hazel clump by the gate and to retain the willow bower but pollard it. Mr. McBeath had been prevented from refurbishing the Donoghue bench by other tasks, its size and the weather. It was otherwise in good condition however.	Clerk JL
10.10.00	<u>Forge</u> NKDC had made reasonably good job of trimming the side hedge by the forge. Repairs had been promised to the side fence plus repointing the central chimney and filling the trip hazards in the forecourt so it was hoped to continue with the takeover.	
10.10.00	<u>TO DISCUSS MAINTENANCE OF THE BECK</u> Mr Moon of Beck Street, who had done some research on this subject, advised the council that the most likely cause of the apparently poor condition of the water and all the weed problems were most probably due to excessive nutrients in the water. It was likely that decaying weed and the numerous ducks also added to the pollution problem. He suggested thorough cleaning out and replanting with perhaps bullrushes and water lilies. Council accepted the advice but wanted a proper water analysis first to ensure that any new planting might survive. Mr Moon agreed to see what he could ascertain through Mrs Overton who might have a suitable contact.	Clerk MO
10.11.00	<u>TO AGREE TO FUND NEW PLANTS FOR CASTLE HILL</u> A sum of £25 was agreed for primroses for Castle Hill	Clerk
10.12.00	<u>TO CONSIDER AN OFFER TO LEASE SPACE ON THE PLAYING FIELD FOR A COMMUNICATIONS MAST</u> An agency company had offered to lease space on the playing field for a communications mast. It was generally agreed that the offer was tempting and that the village needed a much better mobile signal but it was queried whether the council had the power to grant such a lease since the field was pledged to Fields in Trust (FIT) and its management was vested solely in the VHPFC. It was agreed to take advice from FIT and seek the opinion of the VHPFC before responding and consult the	Clerk/KS

	village once details were known.	<u>ACTION</u>										
10.13.00	<u>TO UPDATE THE HANDYMAN SITUATION</u> JL had been unsuccessful in finding someone to take on the handyman job so the clerk would have to continue his enquiries	clerk										
10.14.00	<u>TO AGREE A RESPONSE TO THE RECENT PROPOSALS ON FUTURE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE</u> Given that there wasn't any money available there seemed no alternative to the capping option suggested as a mechanism for limiting local government spending so Council had no response to make to the proposals.	clerk										
10.15.00	<u>TO NOTE A RECENT TREE WORKS APPLICATION</u> Council had no objections to the proposals to remove 4 trees in the grounds of the archdeacon's house	clerk										
10.16.00	<u>CHEQUES</u> Payment of the following accounts was approved: <table style="margin-left: 40px; border: none;"> <tr> <td>E-on (streetlights electricity supply)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£218.75</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BDG Mowing (fields, verges and orchard)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£345.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>G W King and Sons (churchyard mowing)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£220.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M McBeath (September wage)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£315.26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PO Ltd (McB PAYE)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">£78.60</td> </tr> </table>	E-on (streetlights electricity supply)	£218.75	BDG Mowing (fields, verges and orchard)	£345.00	G W King and Sons (churchyard mowing)	£220.00	M McBeath (September wage)	£315.26	PO Ltd (McB PAYE)	£78.60	
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10.17.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Any planning applications. Communications mast.											
10.18.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 9th November at 7:30 pm in the Meeting Room.	All										

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.35pm.

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