

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2011 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:30PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS) Chairman
 Councillors: Ms S Brown (SB), Mr A Copley (TC), Mr R Gibson (BG), Mr M R Cross (MC)
 Mr Richard Coxe (RC), Mr Stephen Short (SS)
 Mr M McBeath Parish Clerk

Mr Mark Crosby, Mr Andrew Asher and Mr Richard Thorpe attended as members of the public.

		<u>ACTION</u>
09.01.00	<p><u>ALLOTMENTS</u> The Council met initially informally at the allotments so as to see what they were like. Most plots were in very good order.</p>	
09/02/00	<p><u>PUBLIC FORUM</u> The police reported by email that there had been 3 burglaries and a theft of a car in the preceding month. Mr Asher informed the Council that he had discussed with NKDC his intention to create horse facilities on his field next the A607 and that agreement had been reached on appropriate means. He remarked that, long term, he hoped to plant a hedge along the boundary but was waiting for the new ditch to be built first.</p>	
09.03.00	<p><u>APOLOGIES</u> Councillor Overton was away on local government business. District Councillor Conway was unable to attend. The police were all committed elsewhere.</p>	
09/04/00	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (MODEL CODE OF CONDUCT) ORDER 2009 (SI2009/0959)</u> There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
09/05/00	<p><u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 12 July 2011, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. Proposed TC. Seconded RC.</p>	
09.06.00 09.06.01	<p><u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> <u>Coordination with Leadenham over new footpath.</u> The Clerk had been in discussion with Leadenham Parish Clerk about changes to the footpath but there was nothing to report so far. Welbourn's offer of help had been noted.</p>	
09 06 02	<p><u>PV Panels.</u> The need to file an enquiry with NKDC about any intention to fit PV solar panels had been specified in the Parish Website. <u>Site Meeting on Affordable Housing sites.</u> The Council had taken officers from NKDC around the sites submitted for affordable housing. Some sites had appeared unsuitable; others were apparently possible but a formal appraisal was still awaited.</p>	
09.07.00	<p><u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> Nothing to report</p>	
09.08.00 09.08.01	<p><u>CLERK'S REPORT</u> <u>Bus Shelter.</u> The Clerk had met with the Construction Manager from Taylor Lindsay to discuss options on the intended bus shelter. The manager had agreed to submit drawings of what could be done (in local stone) but had advised that they were not allowed to dig footings in the areas designated on the plans as root protection areas (RPAs). A raft might be acceptable however. The drawings were still awaited. NKDC planning had confirmed that planning consent was not necessary for the shelter but that Highways might have an input. A meeting with Highways for this purpose had been</p>	

<p>09.08.02</p> <p>09.08.03</p> <p>09.09.04</p>	<p>pencilled in. This debate had revealed that the ash tree growing under the sycamore by the bus stop was inappropriate so an application to fell it had been submitted.</p> <p><u>Welland House new Cottage.</u> When the Council had been informed of the Planning Officer's intention to oppose the application to build in the side garden of Welland House, the Chairman and Clerk had forwarded a strong letter of support with photos of the area from the road but the application had been refused since it did not meet criteria imposed on new developments in a village.</p> <p><u>Resignation of Councillor Walker.</u> Mrs Walker had resigned due the workload of other commitments. The vacancy had been reported to the Returning Officer at NKDC and the appropriate notice put on the Parish Notice board. If candidates were not proposed it would be appropriate to co-opt someone.</p> <p><u>Dog Fouling.</u> A notice about dog fouling had been put in Two Villages and on the Parish Notice board. When approached about warning offenders who permitted fouling, the Police had indicated that a dog warden might be more appropriate.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p>
<p>09/09/00</p>	<p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The Financial Report showed expenditure of £2740 for the preceding 2 months with a current balance of £20,430. Expenditure included £480 to replace 2 street lamps; if it were the intention to replace all of them this would need to be included in next year's budget.</p> <p>The External Auditor had signed off the accounts without comment. Thanks were expressed to Mrs Fischer for her help and advice as internal auditor.</p>	
<p>09.10.00</p> <p>09.10.01</p> <p>09.10.02</p> <p>09.10.03</p> <p>09.10.04</p> <p>09.10.05</p>	<p><u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u></p> <p><u>Highways, Footways and Drains.</u> The recent repairs to Pottergate were much appreciated but the drainage ditch was delayed while Highways waited for more support.</p> <p><u>Village matters</u> A volunteer had recently refurbished the bench by the Beck. It was now important to make the approach to the Village Hall off the road accessible to wheelchairs as it had become too rough. A number of hedges were encroaching into footpaths and the owners had been reminded to trim them. A drain culvert at the bottom of Mill Hill was still blocked and a road sign was missing approaching Mill Hill southbound. The clerk was to advise Highways of these.</p> <p><u>Castle Hill</u> At short notice since the Contractor was available and since it was in line with English Heritage advice and was possible whilst the ground was still hard, the opportunity had been taken to flail and clear all the perimeter of Castle Hill, to fill in the rutted area and remove heavy timber from the moat. The handyman was confident that he could now maintain it with the tools available which would include spaying to eradicate the nettles and keep down the brambles. There was concern that all this clearance was inconsistent with the aim of preserving and encouraging wildlife but it was eventually agreed that clearance was unavoidable in order to get to a manageable condition where this aim could more readily achieved. It would be necessary to re-grass some areas after weed eradication.</p> <p>Given the intention to continue to maintain the area it would be necessary to budget extra for this work next year. It was estimated that there was about £3000 left in the maintenance budget and it was agreed to use at least £2000 short term to get Castle Hill into a better state. Any further removal of trees might require formal permission from NKDC. RS agreed to check whether this would be appropriate.</p> <p><u>Police and NHW.</u> When the car theft had been reported, the police had reacted very swiftly and had involved Nottinghamshire forces as well. This was highly commendable but the vehicle had not been recovered. Recent known crimes had not appeared on the NHW bulletins. TC would complain to the police.</p> <p><u>Allotments.</u> Councillor Brown was invited to take over the Allotments Portfolio which she agreed to do but pointed out that she was not the most suitable person to hold the Castle Hill portfolio. This matter was deferred pending the arrival of the ninth councillor.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>RS</p> <p>TC</p>

09.10.06	<p><u>Village Hall.</u></p> <p>1. It was considered necessary to fit curtains across the doors of the Meeting Room to enhance the acoustics and give more privacy. It was hoped that the PC would at least part fund these. It was agreed in principle to fund new curtains, within current budget constraints.</p> <p>2. The Playing Fields were being extensively damaged by rabbits. Shooting was considered unsafe but it was hoped that the PC would fund any eradication solution the VHPFC might approve. It was mentioned that Castle Hill had a similar problem so any action should include that area as well. It was fully agreed in principle that the PC would fund rabbit removal measures. RC agreed to find someone to do it.</p> <p>3. The area around the cycle play track now needed maintenance. It was agreed to get the hedge contractor to flail it and the handyman to spray it.</p> <p>4. <u>Jubilee Celebrations.</u> The VHPFC were planning to hold Jubilee Celebrations and would be canvassing the village for support and ideas.</p>	<p><u>ACTION</u></p> <p>SS</p> <p>RC</p> <p>SS/MC</p>																
09.10.07	<p><u>PARISH PLAN</u> It was pointed out that the imminent Localism Bill would require the village to have a Neighbourhood Development Plan with which to combat unwanted development. The existing Parish Plan was insufficient. It would be necessary to canvass opinions throughout the village again in order to develop this document. TC agreed to co-ordinate this task.</p>	TC																
09.11.00	<p><u>PLANNING MATTERS</u> Having looked at the site and the plans, the Council found the proposed garage at 5 Castle Hill acceptable.</p>	Clerk																
09/12/00	<p><u>SPEED INDICATING DEVICE(SID)</u> Whereas the SID had been bought to be controlled by the individual parishes and to provide data to justify the case for speed limits on the A607, its actual use had not worked out that way since it had entirely been controlled and operated by the police: data had not been obtained since the machine's software was incompatible with that held by the police. Overall it was felt that the machine had been a waste of time and money and that it would no longer be appropriate to continue to fund repairs. The Clerk was to so advise the Cluster Group secretary</p>	Clerk																
09.13.00	<p><u>CHEQUES.</u> Payment of the following cheques was approved:</p> <table data-bbox="389 1249 1299 1491"> <tr> <td>Cliff Villages Property Maintenance - playing field, Beck and gullies</td> <td>£87.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E.on – new street lamps</td> <td>£480.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chris Bleaden - grass cutting in August</td> <td>£648.88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Dinning - materials for seat repair</td> <td>£50.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clement Keys - audit fee</td> <td>£162.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>E.on - street lighting power</td> <td>£102.85</td> </tr> <tr> <td>M McBeath salary July and Aug</td> <td>£138.08</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PO - McBeath PAYE</td> <td>£34.60</td> </tr> </table> <p>And authorise transfer of £1300 from savings account to current account.</p>	Cliff Villages Property Maintenance - playing field, Beck and gullies	£87.00	E.on – new street lamps	£480.00	Chris Bleaden - grass cutting in August	£648.88	Paul Dinning - materials for seat repair	£50.00	Clement Keys - audit fee	£162.00	E.on - street lighting power	£102.85	M McBeath salary July and Aug	£138.08	PO - McBeath PAYE	£34.60	
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09.14.00	<p><u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Portfolios</p>																	
09.15.00	<p><u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 12th October 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.</p>	All																

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9:00pm.

Copies to:

District Councillor Conway, All PC Members. Parish Website.