

WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL

NOTES OF THE MEETING OF WELBOURN PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2012 IN WELBOURN VILLAGE HALL AT 7:00PM

PRESENT

Mr. J.R. Storer, (RS)		Chairman
Councillors:	Mr Robert Cross(MC), Dr Adam Paxton (AP), Mr Stephen Short (SSt), Ms Sarah Brown and Mr John Lucas (JL)	
District Councillor Mrs Laura Conway (LC)		
Mr M McBeath		Parish Clerk

		<u>ACTION</u>
09.01.00	<u>PUBLIC FORUM</u>	
09.01.01	<p>Mr Alan Brown, Divisional Highways Manager at LCC attended to answer questions on the proposed one way idea for Cow lane and to give his point of view about highway maintenance issues. Seventeen members of the public attended plus the Chairman and Clerk from Leadenham Parish Council.</p> <p>On the one way proposal, whilst remarking that he was in favour of the idea in principle, Mr Brown stated he had already been approached by a villager claiming to have a petition opposing the idea supported by a significant proportion of the village. He was aware of the result of the Parish Council's ballot which supported by the idea by a clear majority vote but was unwilling to put the proposal forward without being sure it had a definite mandate. He had yet to see the petition and wanted to be sure of all the facts before deciding. He remarked that the cost of putting up the necessary signs would be less than making good the damage caused by vehicles driving on verges.</p> <p>On maintenance generally, his problem was lack of money. Government funding was indexed for overall inflation but road maintenance costs are directly linked to the price of oil so he simply could not cover his entire area properly and was having to prioritise. Small rural roads came near the bottom of the list unless there was a clear safety issue.</p> <p>In answer to a query, he pointed out that 'No Entry to HGVs' signs are simply advisory. He agreed with a point from the public that prior notification of the recent closure of the railway bridge had not been well done. He strongly advised against the idea of self help in pothole mending because of the liability implications. Asked about the (mis)use of surplus road material to reinforce a field access recently when potholes still existed, he stated that disposal of material surplus to requirements was a matter for the contractor who would otherwise have had to dump it at a cost.</p> <p>The public session closed at 7:35 pm.</p>	
09.01.02	PCSO Denby reported 3 instances of burglary and one case of theft of diesel from a vehicle in the previous 2 months. She was running a Facebook page which was proving popular. The police were aware of the problems at the VH.	
09.02.00	<u>CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS</u> The Chairman asked whether more ballots and public body visitors would be a good idea. There was general agreement that more ballots would be useful and more guest speakers would be welcome.	
09.03.00	<u>APOLOGIES (reasons for absence)</u> County Councillor Phillips had been invited but was on holiday. Mr Cox was unwell. Mr Spedding and Mr Gibson were on holiday.	
09.04.00	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> Nil	

09.05.00	<u>MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING</u> The minutes of the previous meeting held on Wednesday 11 July 2012, copies of which had been circulated earlier to members, were approved. Proposed AP, seconded JL.	<u>ACTION</u>
09.06.00 09.06.01	<u>MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES</u> <u>Safety Rail</u> The safety rail had been taken by Mr Coxe for modification but he had been overtaken by events so nothing had been done. It was agreed that SSg should coordinate further work. The Clerk was tasked to write to the John Foster, the blacksmith, to thank him for his voluntary work on this piece.	SSg
09.06.02	<u>Placement of the Savings Account</u> A cheque had been obtained from NS&I to close that account and used to open a new account with Melton Mowbray BS at a higher interest rate.	Clerk
09.06.03	<u>New Street Lamp</u> The old damaged street lamp outside the old co-op had been replaced and the charging agency notified accordingly, in order to reduce operating charges.	
09.07.00	<u>COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS</u> LC explained that the deadline for submissions of comments on the Joint Strategic Planning Committee's Core Strategy had been put back. The bid for funding for a Youth Worker for the Cliff Cluster had failed. Tony Copley had supplied very useful and welcome data from the Parish Survey which could be used to support the case in the intended resubmission.	
09.08.00 09.08.01	<u>CLERK'S REPORT</u> The Clerk had continued to monitor and report that status of some Stepping out Walks to the LCC coordinator. Dumped waste oil in Mill Lane had been reported to NKDC and the police. Recent vandalism at the VH had also been reported to the police.	
09.09.00 09.09.01	<u>FINANCIAL REPORT</u> The financial report showed expenditure of £1,123 for the month with reserves at £18,097. It was agreed to move £5,000 from the HSBC to the Melton Mowbray account and that all members should be designated as co-signatories.	Clerk
09.10.00 09.10.01	<u>REPORTS FROM PORTFOLIO HOLDERS</u> <u>Constitution and Village Hall.</u> The VH had given the PC a cheque for the sale of mugs.	
09.10.02	<u>Village Matters</u> Cars parked on Castle Hill were creating a hazard for vehicles seeking to pull out of Hall Orchard Lane and proceed towards Moat Lane in that drivers were finding themselves on the wrong side of the road without being able to see what was coming due to the vegetation on Castle Hill. It seemed that cars belonging either to residents and their guest or to parents collecting from School or allotment holders were the problem. AP agreed to investigate removal of vegetation from Castle Hill whilst SB was to address the problem of parental parking through the School.	AP SB
09.10.03	<u>Highways, Footways and Drains</u> LCC had received an anonymous complaint about a failure to make good the cross field path from Dycote Lane to the reservoir track after harvesting. The leak from the new dyke into Moat Lane had recently been sealed although heavy rain was needed to prove its effectiveness. Anglian Water (AWA) had yet to sit down with LCC to discuss and resolve the flooding problems in the lower areas off the main sewer. AWA were planning an internal meeting on the issue for later in the month. The Environment Agency and AWA were still trying to identify the nature and cause of the apparent contamination of the Beck.	RS
09.10.04	<u>Parish Plan and WPG</u> See item 11.	
09.10.05	<u>Police and NHW</u> NTR	
09.10.06	<u>Cluster Group.</u> NTR	

09.10.07	<u>Health Social and Welfare.</u> NTR	<u>ACTION</u>
09.10.08	<u>Allotments.</u> An untenanted allotment had become untidy but was now let and would hopefully be tidied. SB had cut the grass where possible. Some apples needed to be harvested. The new gate was too long so help was needed to reduce it. MC agreed to see what he could do to help.	MC
09.10.09	<u>Castle Hill</u> There was still work outstanding on Castle Hill but it was hoped to be able to catch up soon. The dam was yet to be built.	AP
09.11.00	<u>WPG</u> Planning Help England (PAE) had proved very useful in supporting and getting help in preparation of the Plan. PAE had told NKDC that responsibility for helping Welbourn lay with NKDC. It seemed that everybody involved was still feeling their way through the process. PAE were going to lay on a workshop in early December to teach people from numerous local communities what was involved in creating a Plan. Welbourn had done well to get so far and was praised for its questionnaires and the level of responses.	BG
09.12.00	<u>SAFETY RAIL</u> Covered at item 09.06.01	
09.13.00	<u>COW LANE BALLOT</u> All depended on Mr Brown's decision but Council were confident that they had done all they could to involve the village in the matter.	
09.14.00	<u>PLANNING</u> The Council had no comments to make on tree works at Sycamore Lodge and the Church yard but supported the retrospective application to retain the extra classroom at the school.	Clerk
09.15.00	<u>CHEQUES</u> Payment of the following cheques was approved: Chris Bleaden grass cutting July £612.89 G W King and Sons for churchyard £279.00 LALC for Localism Seminar attendance £22.00 BT for telephone services £62.73 E-on for street lighting maintenance £104.72 E-on for new street lamp £240.00 Thorpe Property Services for Repairs to VH £274.18 Thorpe Property Services for maintenance Jun - Aug £231.25 And authorise transfer of £1600 from savings account to current account.	Clerk
09.18.00	<u>ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING</u> Charities	All
09.19.00	<u>DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING</u> The date of the next Parish Council Meeting will be Wednesday 10th October 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.	All

There being no further matters to discuss, the Chairman duly closed the meeting at 9.25pm.

Copies to:

County Councillor Phillips

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