

**Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting
held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

Present

Councillors: Malcolm Souter (Chairman), Ian Dalziel, John Emery, Derek Smith. Carl Ponder, John Edwards & Tim Hill. Rosie Humphreys, Regional Councillor.

Members of the Public: None.

Clerk: Julie Finlay

Annual Meeting	Start 07.40 pm
1	Vote was taken to accept Councillor Souter to continue as chairman for the next 12 months. Proposed by Councillor Ian Dalziel Seconded by Councillor John Emery
2	Councillor Ian Dalziel was voted in as Vice Chairman. Proposed by Chairman Souter seconded by Cllr Derek Smith.
3	Blank Declarations of Acceptance of Office will be printed for the Chairman and New Vice Chairman to sign before the next WPC Meeting.
Ordinary Meeting	Start 07.45 Pm
2023.05.01	Apology for absence Eliz Snedker. No members of the Public were present.
2023.05.02	No declarations of interest were received.
2023.05.03	Public Interest. – None.
2023.05.04	The minutes from the meeting of Tuesday 11 April 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting (Proposed Cllr Derek Smith Seconded by Cllr Tim Hill).
	Matters Arising
2023.05.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft letter (To be removed from the action list) • Electric Vehicle Charging Points: To be carried over to the next meeting. • Invoices for Welton News and Views, School and Cottage Parking – Action Completed • Contact to Western Power: Re: Cutting back of the laurel hedge around the electricity substation – awaiting feedback. • Cutting down of trees on Kiln Lane – awaiting feedback • Boundary fence at the end of the bungalow gardens – awaiting feedback. • Missing documents from the Website - to be carried over to the next meeting. • Celebration of the new plaque - • Insurance for the soap box derby. (The derby was cancelled as of 4th May 2023)- complete. • Annual Community Group Updates Meeting Scheduled for 25.05. 2023 07.00 Pm - invites sent out to the local groups.
2023.05.06	<p>Re: Use of the spinney.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllrs Smith and Emery met with representatives from the school. They requested for permission to erect an awning for shelter for the children, a small shed, plus cameras for bird watching and security purposes. Cllr Smith reported that the school will fund these additions and that they plan to use the spinney on a weekly basis. On behalf of WPC, the Mr Emery and Mr Smith accepted their proposals, will advise the school of WPC acceptance. • The Clerk reported that there has also been a request from The Playgroup to use the spinney on sunny days for outdoor activity. It was suggested that the children (toddlers) would bring toys. Cllr Emery advised that the most suitable area would be

	<p>the picnic area, away from any trip or fall hazards, but as special permission and not to be set as a precedent. Chairman Souter requested that a Risk Assessment should be obtained. See Actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Smith advised that The Village Hall Committee have requested to erect a gate in the spinney perimeter. This item should be carried over to the next meeting. • A request was received, via the Clerk, from a Welton resident asking if he could remove of some of the cut down wood in the spinney to be taken away for seasoning. The clerk passed the request to Cllrs Emery and Smith, and the request was denied on the grounds that the wood is left in the spinney as a haven for wildlife and is used by the school. See Actions <p>Cllrs Emery and Smith volunteered to clear the ground ivy to assist the new visitors. Chairman Souter offered to request help from a neighbourly new volunteer.</p>
2023.05.07	Annual Community Group Updates Meeting Scheduled for 25.05. 2023 07.00 Pm - invites sent out to the local groups only limited feedback so far. All councillors are welcome to join.
2023.05.08	The playing field equipment inspection has been arranged for 23.05.2023. It was agreed to not accompany the inspector, and the value was approved so it can proceed. Cllr Smith reported that he still maintains a monthly inspection and report sheet. These are to be shared.
2023.05.09	Re: Annual Audit. The audit normally takes place in May., but it will be delayed to June in 2023. Cllr Souter asked for assistance from experienced Councillors in view of the recent appointment of the clerk. Chairman Souter and Cllr Dalziel to seek assistance from a previous clerk who has experience of audits.
2023.05.10	Planning Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Dalziel has taken over from Cllr Snedker regarding Planning Issues. • Cllr Humphreys provided a printed update regarding planning service improvements. This was reviewed and no ensuing actions were identified. • Discussion took place regarding 2 new barns, GDPR, (Data protection and the issues regarding changing to a new system) and resources available for validating applications for planning. (Planning portal) <p>Cllr Smith reported that there is a <i>potential</i> application for a solar farm at a 19-acre site at Welton Lodge. This item will be carried forward to the next meeting.</p>
2023.05.11	Finance The Council's financial position as at 30.04.2023 Balance £25605.58 The financial position is reviewed regularly via the Web site.
2023.05.12	Payments Village Hall: £19.00 CVS - £431.35 Clerks salary May payroll including £9.60 admin charge. M Freeman - £240.00 (march), £370.00 (April). NCALC – Training - £57.60 The payments were approved, proposed by M Souter and seconded by D Smith.
	Councillor/Clerk Reports
2023.05.13	Electric Vehicle Charging Points: Chairman Souter asked Cllr Rosie Humphreys if it might be possible to obtain guidance from other parishes on the combined issues of electric charging points and parking on pavements. Cllr Dalziel reported that there have been several complaints from the public in various places within the village, including photographs that have been forwarded to the WPC from members of the public. An ongoing discussion must be held with two specific households, regarding the siting of Charging Points on Kiln Lane, as the two cottages rent the parking area from WPC.

2023.05.14	Western Power is responsible for the cutting back of the laurel hedge. This is an ongoing issue. Clerk to report at the next meeting.
2023.05.15	<p>Cutting down of the trees on Kiln Lane is also an ongoing issue and must be resolved. Cllr Emery reported that the dead trees are still visible enough to be inspected but must be removed.</p> <p>Cllr Smith advised that “without clear ownership, it is the responsibility of The Highways”. He also advised that a quote could be provided for the work, if the two parties contacted will not take responsibility.</p> <p>Cllr Humphreys advised that Andrew Leighton is the contact for The Highways Department. There is also a Case Number on file with Anglian Water Ref No 23531273. Both Anglian Water and Northants Highways must be contacted again. See “Actions”.</p>
2023.05.16	Cllr Smith reported that some of the bungalow occupants have put a fence inside the existing fence, rendering one side unsafe. The owners of the bungalows, Futures Homes, must visit and meet with Cllr Smith via the entrance to the playing field to discuss a permanent solution.
2023.05.17	Chairman Souter advised that there are training opportunities available for Councillors, attended from home via zoom. Cost £57.60 including VAT per attendee. This will be carried over to the next meeting regarding volunteers and arrangements.
2023.05.18	Re: Village Assets : A review of the costs on the village assets to be registered. Action Cllr Egan to attend meeting with the supplier, arranged for Wednesday 11.05 at 02.30 pm
2023.05.19	Land Registry : Cllr Smith reported that a wall outside Wisteria Cottage is falling down. The Title Deed from The Land Registry may be required to establish whether if the owners have put a gate in the same wall, they have taken ownership of it, or if it is, as the owner claims, Parish Council responsibility.
2023.05.20	Risk assessment: The updated document was reviewed and agreed as being accurate for 2023-2024.

Minute	Action	Who
2023.05.13	Electric Charge Point - Share information / guidance from other Parishes.	Cllr R Humphreys
2023.05.05	Invoicing for all parties. Action: To circulate all outstanding invoices for 2023.	Clerk
2023.05.05	Contact Western Power	Clerk
2023.05.05	Contact Anglian Water and The Northants Highways Department	Clerk
2023.05.05	Contact Futures to arrange a meeting between a representative and Cllr Smith	Clerk / Cllr Smith
2023.05.05	Ensure the Web site is up to date prior to the audit. Contact Steve Becker	Clerk / Chairman
2023.05.05	Contact Welton Academy and Mr Emery towards a plan for the photo.	Clerk / Cllr Emery
2023.05.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirm with W Academy that their proposals are accepted. • Clearance of ground ivy. • Contact the Play Group to obtain a risk assessment. 	Cllrs Smith, Emery Clerk and Chairman
2023.05.17	Confirm with councillors about training requirements. Carried to next meeting.	Chairman Souter
2023.05.18	Share feedback on the meeting with Simon Escriett	Cllr Egan
2023.05.19	Obtain Title Deed from Land Registry for Wisteria Cottage	Clerk
2023.05.08	Obtain Report on the Playing Fields inspection	Clerk
2023.05.20	Co-Opted Councillor enrolment documents to be submitted with Northants Council	Clerk

Meeting closed at 09.17pm. The next meeting will be Monday 12th June 2023 07.30 Pm. Venue: Village Hall