

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present

Councillors: Vice Chairman Ian Dalziel, Derek Smith, Carl Ponder, John Edwards, Derek Egan & Tim Hill.

Members of the Public: Mariet Tidmarsh representing the “Make, Bake, Grow and Show” Committee.

Clerk: Julie Finlay

Ordinary Meeting	Start 07.40 pm
2023.07.01	Apologies for absence: Chairman Malcolm Souter, Councillors Elizabeth Snedker, Rosie Humphreys and John Emery. Ms Tidmarsh was welcomed to the meeting.
2023.07.02	No declarations of interest were received.
2023.07.03	Public interest: Representation of the Make, Bake, Grow and Show Committee. Mariet explained the aims of the event due to take place on 9 th September 2023 in and around the village hall. She asked for permission to place banners around the village in prominent places and some funding to contribute towards the costs. Vice Chairman Dalziel proposed a grant of £150 which was proposed, seconded, approved and gratefully received. Please see actions below.
2023.07.04	The minutes from the meeting of Monday 12.06.2023 were approved, as a record of the meeting, with the exception of the record of the Roles and Responsibilities. Amendments have been made as shown below.
	<u>Matters Arising</u>
2023.07.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Electric Vehicle Charging Points. Cllr Rosie Humphreys emailed a Website address that provides general guidance. See Actions below. Access obstruction is the main issue, albeit mostly temporary, during building work or vehicle charging times. Speed of vehicles through the village is also a factor. Discussion took place whether the West Haddon 20 mph throughout the village experiment could be helpful in Welton village, especially during the school run times. It was agreed that the issue can be closed, after the links to the Website has been passed to Steve Becker for inclusion in the Website. Vice Chairman Dalziel proposed continuing to place reminders to the villagers in The Welton News and Views not to park on the pavements if at all possible.
2023.07.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Contact to Western Power: Re: Cutting back of the laurel hedge around the electricity substation. Western Power is now National Grid. WPC has an enquiry reference number 4770981. Representatives of National Grid carried out work to clear the laurel, but only to enable access to the substation, especially in the event of a power cut. There remains an issue regarding overhanging laurel around the substation. Councillor Emery attended the site visit. It was reported, on his behalf, that he explained to the representative(s), “East Midlands Electricity Board, the predecessors to Western Power (now National Grid) planted the laurel as a shield for the substation, so the care and attention of the laurel remains with the current electricity authority.”
2023.07.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cutting down of the trees at the bottom of Kiln Lane. It was reported that Anglia Water claims no responsibility for the trees, only for the water leaks down Kiln Lane. See actions below.

2023.07.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary fences at the end of the bungalow gardens. Cllr Smith gave a further summary of the situation. As a reminder, there are 3 fences under scrutiny. The first representative from Futures Housing accepted that they are their responsibility. One fence requires concrete spurs to be erected on the side of the fence adjacent to the playing field. The second fence is actually a hedge encroaching 4ft into the playing field and needs to be addressed. The third fence needs a general tidy up. There are two more fences belonging now to other property owners. Cllr Smith recommended that a “knock on the door” contact (as opposed to anything more formal) to explain the concerns about their fences. Update: A second site visit from Futures Housing occurred 04.07.2023. The second representative made no change to the above summary. See actions below.
2023.07.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing Documents from the Website The clerk has accepted joint responsibility for ensuring the website is constantly updated for Parish Council / Public transparency.
2023.07.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the new plaque. The photos of Mr Frank and Cllr John Emery with Cllr Derek Smith, to celebrate the planting of the tree in the playing field, with the commemoration plaque, was taken on 05.07.2023. The photographs were sent on to Tanya Becker, for inclusion in the next issue of The Welton News and Views.
2023.07.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Annual Community Group Updates Meeting 25.05.2023 At the last meeting, Cllrs Smith and Emery reported that the 2023 meeting was the worst ever for attendees. Reports from invitees were read out at the meeting, but it remains that changes are needed prior to the next community meeting in May 2024. An agenda should be placed on the Noticeboard, circulated to all councillors and added to the Website. Ideas for any other potential incentives for members of the community groups to attend in person would be appreciated. Invitations to the various community groups should also be shared, as a reminder that the meeting is taking place and attendance in person to present their reports of the year 2023/2024 would be most welcome.
2023.07.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invoices: 2 have been received since the last meeting. Village hall payment £19.00 and Wicksteed for playground equipment inspection. £158.40. Both were cleared for payment to proceed.
2023.07.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the spinney. No further update was offered.
2023.07.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training. NCALC has updated their Website with regard to training opportunities for Councillors and new clerks. See actions below.
2023.07.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged wall adjacent to Wisteria Cottage At the last meeting, Cllr Smith reported that the adjacent land to the retaining wall is believed to be owned by Francis Jackson Homes, according to the representative from The Land Registry. The conclusion from this WPC meeting is that it is not the responsibility of Welton Parish Council, therefore neither is the damaged retaining wall. There is currently no change to the above record. It was decided that no further action is required and should be removed from “Action items”.
2023.07.16	<p>Re: Annual Audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both 2023 Audits (Internal and External) were completed successfully. Comments received were minor and easily addressed. • No further action is required for WPC Audits 2023.

2023.07.17	<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <p><u>The clerk made a few errors in the minutes from June 2023 regarding this item. The errors are being addressed in these minutes. Clerk Finlay apologises for the errors. She got the right names, but in the wrong order.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Souter advised that there are two sub committees: Finance and Planning. • Chairman Souter, Cllrs Hill & Edwards, & Clerk Finlay have taken on issues regarding finance. • Cllrs Dalziel & Emery have agreed to accept Planning Issues. • Cllrs Ponder & Smith, accepted the role for Highways, Street lighting & Speedwatch. More discussion regarding street lighting, speed watch cameras, battery chargers and pavement parking was shared. It remains unclear whether this is an issue for WPC, Highways Department or Police. It is clear, that it is not easy to resolve, given the narrow roads, properties without onsite parking and the increase in use of electric car charging usage within the village. • Cllrs Smith & Edwards accepted the role for reporting on issues regarding Public Open Spaces. • Cllrs Edwards & Emery accepted the role for footpaths and bridle paths. • Cllr Dalziel and Clerk Finlay accepted responsibility for the WPC Website • Cllrs Egan & Hill accepted the role of Police Liaison Representative on behalf of WPC. • Cllrs Egan and Edwards accepted the roles for School Liaison & Church • Cllr Hill also accepted deputy for the role covering potential audit preparation for 2024.
2023.07.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee One planning request has been received for a double storey extension at 38 Ashby Road. The recommendation was to reject the initial proposal and suggest amendments. A full copy of the details of the application is available from Vice Chairman Dalziel. The verdict was that the final decision will rest with West Northants Council. Cllr Smith's report that there is a <i>potential</i> application for a solar farm at a 19-acre site at Welton Lodge remains unchanged, there was no further update so far.
2023.07.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance The Council's financial position as at 11.07.2023 - Balance: £24,045.87
2023.07.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments Payments for Village Hall £19.00. CVS salary £431.35. Play equipment inspection £158.40.
<u>Councillor/Clerk Reports</u>	
2023.07.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Village Assets: At the last meeting, Cllr Egen reported that following a meeting with Simon Escriett, three statements need to be signed, a Declaration sent to Land Registry and evidence of Possession Title will be required. Historical issues dating back to 1962 were raised, but the conclusion at the time, was that the playing field does belong to WPC. Update: 3 land areas were discussed regarding land registration. The playing field, the triangle by Elms Dyke and Stockwell. Costs will be incurred, including £100 for a Land Registry Compliance Plan. (Cost to be paid upfront). It was agreed that an invoice would have to be submitted before the payment process can commence, but the payment was approved and seconded.
2023.07.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Playing Field Repairs Cllr Smith reported that the playing field report resulted in a verdict of very low risk and low risk. Observations included that timber needs replacing in places, a quote for £50.00 to replace two pieces of wood to rectify the situation has been received. A potential quote for approximately £50.00, for paint of various colours for the swings, to improve faded pieces of play equipment. (Labour is offered for free, courtesy of ex councillor Tony Hopes.)

	The front of the train (multi play area) is deteriorating. Update on necessary action is ongoing.	
2023.07.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Police Liaison Cllr Egan reported that he is registered with NCALC as the WPC Police liaison officer. He has attended the first meeting and learnt about a “Beat bus” (Mobile Police Van) Northamptonshire Talking (a police messaging service) and that Police representatives are prepared to talk to councillors and villagers regarding Community Speed Awareness. Concern was aired within the meeting regarding speeding through the village generally and discussion took place about the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. 	
2023.07.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Aggressive cows in local fields causing injury Cllr Ponder reported that several incidents have occurred involving cows in a field with a Public right of way. Cllr Smith offered to speak to the farmer. Post meeting, a laminated poster describing the potential risk to the public, dogs, horses etc has been created to warn the public before they climb the stile or go through the gate to start the walk across the field. 	
Minute	Action	Who
	A form must be sent to Mariet Tidmarsh to instigate the invoice for the £150.00 grant approved by the WPC at 10.07.2023 meeting.	Clerk
	Cllr Humphreys shared a Website for information. Report and Website must be located and shared via email, because there is no WPC Meeting in August 2023	Clerk
	Invoicing Action: To instigate payment for approved invoices and circulate new ones, payable during August, and to clear for payment in September. Proposed and Seconded.	Clerk
	Contact National Grid (Laurel) and Highways (Kiln Lane trees) again asap.	Clerk
	Create a letter to 5 Halford Way regarding the land, retaining wall and potential ownership. Action: Delete	Decision: Council
	Send the Website link for training opportunities for councillors and clerks to all councillors re: Training Opportunities.	Clerk
	Land Registry Forms to be signed and sent to the appropriate authority	Cllr Smith & Clerk
	Cards to be sent to families of two sad reports of the deaths of John Davies and Chris Miles, both ex councillors.	Clerk

Meeting closed at 09.30pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be Monday 11th September 2023 07.30 Pm.
Venue: Village Hall, Welton.