

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13th November 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present

Chairman Malcolm Souter, Councillors: John Emery, Derek Smith, Carl Ponder, John Edwards & Tim Hill.

Members of the Public: None.

Clerk: Julie Finlay

Ordinary Meeting	<u>13.11.2023 Start of meeting 07.30 Pm</u>
2023.11.01	Apologies for absence: Vice Chairman Ian Dalziel, Councillors Elizabeth Snedker, Derek Egan & WNC Rosie Humphreys.
2023.11.02	No declarations of interest were received.
2023.11.03	Public interest: No matters of Public Interest were presented.
2023.11.04	The minutes from the meeting of Monday October 11 th 2023 were approved, signed by Chairman Souter, Proposed by Cllr J Emery. Seconded Cllr T Hill.
	<u>Matters Arising & Ongoing.</u>
2023.11.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting back of the laurel hedge around the electricity substation. <p>The work has been completed for 2023. WPC was given a new and additional enquiry reference number.</p>
2023.11.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting down of the trees at the bottom of Kiln Lane. • It remains that the work is expected to take place by the first week of December by The Highways Department. See actions below.
2023.11.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary fences at the end of the bungalow gardens at Round Close. <p>As a reminder, there are still 3 fences under scrutiny.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The representative from Futures Housing accepted that they are their responsibility. 2. One fence requires concrete spurs to be erected on the side of the fence adjacent to the playing field. 3. The second fence is a hedge encroaching 4ft into the playing field and needs to be addressed. 4. The third fence needs a general tidy up. 5. There are two more fences belonging now to other property owners. Cllr Smith recommended that a “knock on the door” contact to them to explain the concerns about their fences. Update: 6. A second site visit from Futures Housing occurred 04.07.2023. 7. Since then, Cllr Derek Smith has completed the preparation of the groundwork, but Futures must complete the work that the representatives agreed at the meeting. <p>See actions below.</p>
2023.11.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The clerk requested clarification on the frequency of invoices sent out to WN&Vs adverts and it was confirmed that the invoices should be submitted in March 2024. This remains as an agenda item, as a reminder for March 2024. New adverts may be included before March, for which invoices must be submitted to the advertisers.
2023.11.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Annual Community Group Updates Meeting 25.05.2023

	<p>Following the report from Cllrs Smith and Emery that the 2023 meeting was the worst ever for attendees. <i>It was reminded to the councillors and clerk that the meeting has to be held by law.</i> The date for 16th May 2024 was agreed as the preferred date. It was agreed that advising the public in the various ways suggested at the last meeting should begin before mid-March 2024.</p>
2023.11.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of The Spinney. Currently this is managed by Cllrs Emery and Smith.. Some work has already been done, by the Councillors, to clear ground elder and general garden refuse, but additional help is needed. Chairman Souter proposed placing a request for assistance within the village in the Welton News & Views.
2023.11.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training. NCALC has updated their Website with regard to training opportunities for Councillors and new clerks. In addition, the latest offer from NCALC is for a Training Course Brochure to be sent to the WPC Clerk. Cllrs Edwards and Hill are prepared to attend the online start up training course for new councillors. See actions below.
2023.11.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall adjacent to Wisteria Cottage Item deleted.
2023.11.13	<p>Roles and Responsibilities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes reported at the meeting.
2023.11.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee In the absence of Cllr Dalziel, a report was submitted and read by Chairman Souter. • Ashlyn Cottage, Kiln Lane (a small side extension) was approved. • Open Reach, in conjunction with BT, have approved the siting of a pole in Churchill Rd to provide internet access for Cllr Carl Ponder. • Cllr Emery presented a photograph of the site at Emery Close, (requested by a non resident) for permission to purchase the site and build dwellings. It was agreed by the Council, that the site is not for sale. The Clerk advised the requestor that the land was not for sale.
2023.11.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance It was agreed that £10,000 should be transferred to a different account with a higher Interest rate, but with no access restrictions. See actions below.
2023.11.16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payments Chairman Souter confirmed that the approval for other councillors to become approved for seconding payments via Unity Trust Bank, is in progress. Payments for Village Hall - £20.00 for November 2023. CVS salary £431.35 for November 2023. Grass Cutting (M Freeman) for June £560.00. July and August £800.00. October £290.00. EON / NPower / Invoiced payments / Despite the most recent invoice having increased exponentially from previous costs, the Council decision was to pay the invoices. A breakdown was sent upon request to Chairman Souter Welton. See actions below. Payment to Land Registry £40.00 x 4 dated from 17.11.2023 Total £160.00
	<p><u>Councillor/Clerk Reports</u></p>
2023.11.17	<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. 4 land areas, as opposed to three, were discussed regarding land registration. (1) The playing field, (2) The triangle by Elms Dyke (3) Stockwell (4) The green at the top of Kiln Lane. At the November meeting, Chairman Souter read out a report from Cllr Egan stating that the documents are complete and require a signature from Cllr Smith

	<p>The original quote was £100, for a Land Registry Compliance Plan. (Cost to be paid upfront) Invoice is yet to be submitted but payment was approved and seconded.</p> <p>Further new update at this meeting: Cllr Smith reported that he attended a meeting where Simon Escriett, plus a colleague, brought four sets of documents that must be passed by a solicitor and signed by the Parish Clerk. Costs were quoted as £40 for each set of 4 documents that had to be corrected. Total £160.00, excluding the cost of the solicitor. The solicitor to be appointed is to be decided at a future meeting.</p>
2023.11.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Playing Field Repairs <p><i>The clerk reported previously that £1500 is the ceiling whereby there is no audit condition that more than one quote must be obtained for essential work in the village.</i> (Advice provided by NCALC).</p> <p>Cllr Smith reported that work should be completed before the end of 2023 with the help of himself, Tony Hopes, Andy (The Welton Handyman) and Paul Turland. Work is underway but is weather dependent for outdoor work.</p>
2023.11.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Police Liaison <p>Concern was raised, within the meeting, regarding speeding through the village generally, particularly with regard to lorries speeding from the A361 to the A5 crossroads. Subsequently the clerk has received a suggestion involving the school children creating posters to put up requesting drivers to slow down through the village.</p>
2023.11.20	<p>Re: aggressive cows in local fields causing injury. An item that WPC should keep aware of during 2024</p>
2023.11.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Souter reported on the situation regarding defibrillators' in the village. <p>Re: the three defibrillators in the village, one inside the school, one in the village hall and the third, which has to be registered and mounted in the original position outside the school. This issue must be held over to the December meeting, for a decision regarding role, responsibility and financing for the initial repair to the paddles and ongoing maintenance including batteries and electricity supply etc.</p> <p>The general agreement was that WPC should take over the responsibility and care, but the cost of this must be confirmed and approved by all the councillors.</p> <p>Two possible suppliers have been identified. British Heart Foundation and St John's Ambulance. Total costs and timing for installation, maintenance and warranty vary. Councillors and Clerk must liaise to establish definitive options for costs, work and timing to ensure all three defibrillators are up and running in the New Year 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding defibrillator/CPR training. Update: The clerk reported that the same participants would hold further sessions. Duncan Webber has proposed January 2024 to allow time for sending out invitations, booking the village hall, liaising with Drs Sue and Matt Davies and ensuring training equipment is available on the agreed days.
2023.11.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village planters. • The clerk reported that winter pansies have been purchased and planted.
2023.11.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed cameras. <p>One of the malfunctioning speed cameras has been repaired. The question is still outstanding whether the speed cameras can provide evidence of tracking speeding vehicles, which are on the increase, especially HGV vehicles. Cllr Egan has taken on the task and is in the process of translating the instructions from French to English, and then using the software to peruse what data can be provided from the cameras.</p>
2023.11.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overgrown paths and access around the village. • Discussion took place again regarding checking the overgrown paths, clearance of around the trees at the spinney, overgrown ivy outside Stockwell Cottage and addressing the serious issue of Japanese Knot Weed in the Old Manor Court areas. • Other issues: stinging nettles, emptying of dog bins, and, since September, an ongoing issue of an overflowing bin at the playing field. The clerk reported that WNC had been

	<p>contacted, a case reference allocated and action to address the bin instigated, yet it continues to be a village problem. See actions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regarding the other issues, Cllrs Emery and Smith gained access and walked around the various affected places in the village and carried out inspections. Several concerning issues were identified, that will need addressing. In particular Japanese knot weed. 	
Minute	Actions	Whom
2023.11.15	The forms to approve the setting up of a savings account with Unity Trust Bank for £10,000 out of the current account to achieve a higher interest rate have been initially completed and are awaiting further approval. Coventry Building Society only agree accounts with individuals and couples, not organisations such as Parish Councils.	Chairman Souter and Second signature.
2023.11.07	Contact Futures Housing regarding completion of the work at Round Close	Clerk
2023.11.11	Obtain details of the next available applicable training courses.	Clerk
2023.11.23	Contact with the supplier of the speed cameras to investigate cameras provision for tracking speeding vehicles, particularly lorries. Obtain a quote for changing one of the speed cameras from battery to solar power.	Cllr Egan Chairman Souter
2023.11.05	Contact Highways regarding Kiln Lane trees to remind them of their commitment to completing the work in the first week of December.	Clerk
2023.11.21	Contact Duncan Webber regarding further CPR training. Action completed.	Clerk
2023.11.16	Clarification of increased power charges / payments / invoices / direct debits via EON or Npower was obtained and reported at this meeting. Action: Contact both organisations, to establish what current services are being provided, that the WPC is paying for.	Clerk
2023.11.25	Cllrs and Clerk to follow up on discussions with Peter Noden (Farmer), Jan Robinson, Michael Ventin, Futures housing, Stockwell Cottage, Harrabin, Community Heartbeat.org .uk, National Grid and Unity Trust Bank.	Cllrs and Clerk

Meeting closed at 08.59 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be Monday 11th December 2023

07.30 Pm. Venue: Village Hall, Welton.