

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8th January 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present

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

Members of the Public: None

Clerk: Julie Finlay

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| Ordinary Meeting | <u>11.12.2023 Start of meeting 07.30 Pm</u> |
| 2024.01.01 | Apologies for absence: Ian Dalziel, Derek Egan and Rosie Humphreys |
| 2024.01.02 | No declarations of interest were received |
| 2024.01.03 | Public interest: No new entries for January 2024. |
| 2024.01.04 | Payments listed in December's meeting minutes were discussed, and amendments agreed. |
| | <u>Matters Arising & Ongoing.</u> |
| 2024.01.05 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe spontaneous flooding within and around the location of The Wilderness. Everybody reported being involved with this issue for various reasons. However, it remains unclear whether it is being caused by incorrect use of sluice gates, building regulations, burst water mains, failure of the boundary wall around the lake, lack of attention by the land owners, farmers or builders, insufficient / poorly located run off trenches or pipes etc. Cllr Smith reported seeing a police car in attendance due to water gushing down the hill and flooding the road. This is developing rapidly into an ongoing issue for the village and its residents. Determining responsibility is a priority: Daventry Council, West Northants Council, Builders, Farmers, Land owners, River & Canal Trust or other involved parties. Cllr Ponder offered to arrange a meeting with some of the involved parties, with the aim of moving forward with the matter. |
| 2024.01.06 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting back of the laurel hedge around the electricity substation. This matter has been closed for the time being, until the hedge grows back. |
| 2024.01.07 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting down of the trees at the bottom of Kiln Lane. Some work was undertaken by The Highways Department. Cllr Emery viewed the work as it was being done, and expressed concern at the meeting, that whilst some of the dead wood was removed, a full resolution to the issue was not achieved. |
| 2024.01.08 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary fences at the end of the bungalow gardens at Round Close. As a reminder, there are still 3 fences under scrutiny. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The representative from Futures Housing accepted that they are their responsibility, but a reminder to them seems to be a necessity. 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 still belonging to other property owners. Cllr Smith recommended that contact should be made to the owners, to explain the concerns regarding their fences, should be undertaken as soon as possible. Cllr Derek Smith has completed the preparation of the groundwork, but Futures must complete the work, that the representatives agreed, at the meeting in 2023. |

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| 2024.01.09 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invoices for advertisements in the Welton news and Views. • 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. |
| 2024.01.10 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Annual Community Group Updates Meeting 25.05.2023 <i>It was reminded to the councillors and clerk that the meeting has to be held by law.</i> The date of 16th May 2024 was agreed as a preferred date. It was also agreed that advising the public in the various ways suggested at the last meeting should begin in February 2024 |
| 2024.01.11 | <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 and in the Welton News & Views. |
| 2024.01.12 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training. NCALC has updated their Website with regard to training opportunities for Councillors in 2024. Arrangements for new councillors to attend online “Off to a flying start” training courses will be made. • Defibrillator training will be arranged with assistance from Duncan Webber and Dr’s Sue and Matt Davies. |
| 2024.01.13 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wall adjacent to Wisteria Cottage Item deleted. However, a new concern was discussed regarding overgrown hedges, in the same area, restricting footpaths, which the property owners have not addressed. |
| 2024.01.14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roles and Responsibilities No changes reported at the meeting. |
| 2024.01.15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee • Ashlyn Cottage, Kiln Lane - a side extension is in the process of being built. • Open Reach, in conjunction with BT, have approved the siting of a pole in Churchill Rd to provide internet access for Cllr Carl Ponder. Update to be provided at the next meeting. • New issue: trimming of Yew and Sycamore Trees that are overhanging and obstructing pathways • A new build at 3 Welton Park. A site meeting for councillors had already been arranged, but the general feeling was that a new build of the size proposed would severely congest and not be in keeping with the street. |
| 2024.01.16 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Current Balance £24,957.84 It was agreed that £10,000 should be transferred to a different account with a higher interest rate with no access restrictions. Chairman Souter arranged a separate meeting with Cllr Hill on the 16th January to sign the appropriate forms. |
| 2024.01.17 | <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 December 2023 and January 2024. CVS salary £431.35 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. 3 invoices. 119062 - £145.20 12028 - £145.20 121597 - £145.20 |
| | <u>Councillor/Clerk Reports</u> |

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| 2024.01.18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Village Assets: As a reminder: Cllr Egen previously reported that following a meeting with Simon Escriett, Four statements need to be signed, a Declaration sent to Land Registry and evidence of Possession Title will be required. It was confirmed that the playing field does definitely belong to WPC. 4 land areas 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 meeting, Cllr Smith passed the four sets of documents to the clerk for signature, copying and despatch to the Land Registry Office. |
| 2024.01.19 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Playing Field Repairs <i>As a reminder, £1500 is the ceiling whereby there is no audit condition that more than one quote must be obtained for essential work in the village. (Advice provided by NCALC).</i> The Council thanked Cllr Smith and acknowledged the contributions from ex cllr Tony Hopes, Andy (The Welton Handyman) and Paul Turland. |
| 2024.01.20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Police Liaison • Vehicles excessively speeding through the village continues to be an issue. Discussion regarding where to locate the posters created by the Welton Academy School children and how much to extend the use of speed cameras will continue at the next meeting. |
| 2024.01.21 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: aggressive cows in local fields causing injury. An item that WPC should keep aware of during 2024. A number of village residents have reported incidents. |
| 2024.01.22 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Souter reported on the situation regarding defibrillators' in the village. • Regarding defibrillator/CPR training. Update: The clerk reported that the same participants would hold further sessions. Duncan Webber has agreed to arrange dates for 2024. |
| 2024.01.23 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precepts and Budget 2024 Precept for 2024 is set at £18047.00 dated 08.01.2024 A detailed report was provided by Chairman Souter, however Cllrs raised enquiries as to why expenditure has increased significantly. Items incurring increased expenditure are listed below. • LED Street lighting maintenance costs (Lamp No 8 in The Paddock needs to be replaced). • General power cost • Maintenance • Defibrillators • Increased grants • Clerk salary |
| 2024.01.24 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed cameras. A Welton resident put a request to Cllr Hill to ask if it might be possible to have another camera at the bottom of the village, facing the opposite was to the existing one. |
| 2024.01.25 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overflowing bin at The Village Playing Field. Further discussion regarding more stringent measures to take to address this issue on a more permanent basis needs to take place during 2024. |
| 2024.01.26 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese Knot Weed Cllrs Emery and Smith reported that the weed is growing rapidly and will soon become an issue for close residents and the village. Harradin is responsible for the maintenance and have taken action before by trimming it back. Further action is required. |
| 2024.01.27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soap Box Derby |

| | Cllr Ponder reported that the Third Party Insurance had been successfully renegotiated. The clerk reported that the organiser's were again going to ask for a grant from the WPC to contribute to the overall cost of the event. | |
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| Minute | Actions | Whom |
| 2024.01.26 | Contact Harradin re: Japanese Knot Weed | Clerk |
| 2024.01.08 | Contact Futures Housing regarding completion of the work at Round Close | Clerk |
| 2024.01.12 | Obtain details of the next available applicable cllr training courses. | Clerk |
| 2024.01.24 | Obtain a quote for changing one of the speed cameras from battery to solar power. | Cllr Egan Chairman Souter |
| 2024.01.27 | Provide Grant Application Request Form to Chris Barlow re Soap Box Derby | Clerk |
| 2024.01.12 | Contact Duncan Webber to confirm further CPR training in 2024. | Clerk |
| 2024.01.17 | Clarification of increased power charges / payments / invoices / direct debits via EON. Action: Contact EON to establish what current services are being provided ie what the WPC is actually paying for. | Clerk |
| 2024.01.05- 2024.01.26 | Cllrs and Clerk to follow up on discussions with Peter Noden (Farmer) and his son Graham, Futures housing, Stockwell Cottage, Harrabin, Community Heartbeat.org .uk, River & Canal Trust, National Grid and Unity Trust Bank. | Cllrs and Clerk |

Meeting closed at 08.54 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be Monday 12th February 2024

07.30 Pm. Venue: Village Hall, Welton.