

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 09th October 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present

Councillors: 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>09.10.2023 Start of meeting 07.30 Pm</u>
2023.10.01	Apologies for absence: Vice Chairman Ian Dalziel, Councillors Elizabeth Snedker, Derek Egan & WNC Rosie Humphreys.
2023.10.02	No declarations of interest were received.
2023.10.03	Public interest: No matters of Public Interest were presented.
2023.10.04	The minutes from the meeting of Monday September 11 th 2023 were approved, signed and Proposed by Chairman Malcolm Souter, as an accurate record of the meeting. Seconded by Cllr Derek Smith.
	<u>Matters Arising</u>
2023.10.05	Cutting back of the laurel hedge around the electricity substation. Western Power is now National Grid. WPC has an enquiry reference number 4770981. No further update from the September meeting was offered.
2023.10.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting down of the trees at the bottom of Kiln Lane. Refer to the minutes from the September meeting. It remains that the work is expected to take place by the first week of December by The Northants Highways Department.
2023.10.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boundary fences at the end of the bungalow gardens. As a reminder, there are still 3 fences under scrutiny. The 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 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 to them to explain the concerns about their fences. Update: A second site visit from Futures Housing occurred 04.07.2023. No further information was discussed at this meeting. It remains an outstanding issue to be resolved.
2023.10.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clerk requested clarification on the frequency of invoices sent out to WN&Vs adverts.
2023.10.09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Annual Community Group Updates Meeting 25.05.2023 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. Advising the public in the various ways suggested at the last meeting should begin three months ahead.
2023.10.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of The Spinney. Currently this is managed by Cllrs Emery and Smith, but any assistance would be very much appreciated. Quotes received £80.00, so far, for work to be carried out in the spinney.

2023.10.11	<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, to be shared with all Councillors for a decision to be made as to which courses would be the most suitable (particularly start up sessions) to attend and the dates agreed. Item carried forward to the next meeting.
2023.10.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damaged wall adjacent to Wisteria Cottage See previous meeting minutes for the history of this issue. At the October meeting, it was confirmed that Francis Jackson Homes or Marcus Potter have the responsibility for the wall maintenance and repair. WPC are not responsible.
2023.10.13	Roles and Responsibilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes reported at the meeting.
2023.10.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Committee A request has been received for a side extension to Ashlyn Cottage at the bottom of Kiln Lane. • Open Reach, in conjunction with BT, have approved the siting of a pole in Churchill Rd to provide internet access for Cllr Carl Ponder. • The WPC concluded there were no reasons for objection to either Planning Application.
2023.10.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance The Council's financial position as at 10.55 Am on the 03.10.2023 £30,720.64p 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.
2023.10.16	<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 October 2023. CVS salary £431.35 for October. Play equipment painting (Tony Hopes) £34.00 Grass Cutting (M Freeman) for June £560.00, July and August £800.00 EON / NPower / Invoiced payments / direct debits must be clarified before payments are authorised. The most recent invoice appears to have increased exponentially from previous costs with no explanation offered to date. See actions below. HCI Data for 2023 £102.00
<u>Councillor/Clerk Reports</u>	
2023.10.17	<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. 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. 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. Cllr Smith read the documents and found two of the four sets to be inaccurate, especially with regard to confusion regarding the four pieces of land. There were items 1 to 14 for each, plus a lot of historical Parish Council data and Cllr Smith

	<p>recommended that the 4 sets of documents should be sent back for correction. Costs were quoted as £40 for each set – Total £160.00, excluding the cost of the solicitor. The solicitor to be appointed is to be decided at a future meeting.</p> <p>No further update was offered at this meeting. It will be held over until November.</p>
2023.10.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Playing Field Repairs The “train” plywood has deteriorated, and the wooden bench needs repair. £50.00 plus vat, Marine ply £87.32 including VAT, Andy the Handyman quoted a maximum of £250.00 (labour) for the work. Other repairs include replacement of bolts, routing, painting (Tony Hopes) and replacement of old with new. need to be undertaken. Potential cost total £400. Invoices have to be provided. <p><i>Discussion then took place whether a second or third quote should be obtained.</i></p> <p>Cllr Smith reported that he also had a meeting a representative from Red Lynch, the company who installed the equipment originally. Replacement of plastic caps was quoted as £24.00. There is also a springer rocker that is currently missing a seat. The representative from Red Lynch offered a replacement seat for £45.00 plus VAT. Chairman Souter agreed for that action to proceed, without a further meeting, but an invoice must be obtained before payment can proceed. A further amount of £56.00 for plastic caps plus £10.00 delivery charge. Again, an invoice has to be obtained before payment can proceed. It was then decided that Duncan Webber should be approached to ask him what repairs / replacements he wishes to undertake. The meeting concluded without a definitive decision as to whether all this work should be undertaken, bearing in mind the users of the playing field equipment.</p> <p><i>The clerk reported at this meeting 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></p> <p><i>Advice provided by NCALC.</i></p>
2023.10.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Police Liaison Concern was aired within the meeting regarding speeding through the village generally. Cllr Egan is receiving updates from the Police and Northamptonshire Talking. Nothing was specifically affecting Welton Parish or Village, but short-term notifications could be useful if notified to the WhatsApp group or Neighbourhood watch. It was agreed that a joined-up approach may be beneficial to the village.
2023.10.20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Aggressive cows in local fields causing injury A copy of the warning notice in the village notice board was included in the October edition of the Welton News and Views. Cllr Smith offered to speak to the farmer but no further information was aired at this meeting and no further incidents were reported after the original two serious incidents.
2023.10.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairman Souter reported on the situation regarding defibrillators’ in the village. There are now three defibrillators’ in the village, one inside the school, one in the village hall and now a third which has to be registered and a location arranged for it. Discussion took place regarding which village group should take responsibility for it. This issue must be held over to the November meeting for a decision regarding role and responsibility for the initial repair to the paddles and ongoing maintenance. The general agreement was that WPC should take over the responsibility and care. • 2 sessions of CPR and defibrillator training took place and proved successful. The suggestion was made that further sessions might be arranged, dates to be confirmed with the trainers Matt and Sue Davies and Duncan Webber. Discussion at the next meeting to be held regarding advertising of how to inform and invite new trainees about the sessions.
2023.10.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Village planters. WPC needs to establish who is responsible for the upkeep of the planter on Station Road. It needs weed care and replanting. There are two other planters in the village that will also need maintenance and seasonal care. Cllr Smith volunteered for the clerk to take on the role of winter planting to add winter colour in the planters.

2023.10.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed cameras. One of the speed cameras is malfunctioning. A question was also raised whether the speed cameras can provide evidence of tracking speeding vehicles, which seem to be on the increase, especially HGV vehicles. Chairman Souter offered to check the manuals of the cameras to research how much data is stored and can be accessed. A decision regarding what should be done with the data, if it can prove helpful, is an agenda item for the next meeting. 	
2023.10.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion took place again regarding overgrown paths, Clearance of overgrowth around the trees at the spinney. Cllr Smith previously suggested organising a group working party, to address the issues at the spinney before winter makes the work more difficult. • Other issues: stinging nettles, emptying of dog bins and since September, an issue of an overflowing bin at the playing field. The clerk reported that WNC had been contacted, a case reference allocated and action to address the bin instigated. • Regarding the other issues, Cllrs Emery and Smith offered to walk around the various affected places in the village to carry out inspections, to establish what further steps are required. 	
Minute	Action	Whom
2023.10.15	Setting up a savings account with Unity Trust Bank (or another Bank) for £10,000 out of the current account to achieve a higher interest rate.	Clerk
2023.10.15	Comparing interest rates offered: Coventry Building Society and Yorkshire Building Society were suggested.	Clerk
2023.10.23	Contact with the supplier of the speed cameras to correct the malfunctioning camera, and investigate cameras provision for tracking speeding vehicles.	Cllr Smith Chairman Souter
2023.10.05 2023.10.06	Contact National Grid (Laurel) and Highways (Kiln Lane trees) again.	Clerk
2023.10.05	Obtain an official quote for the laurel work.	Cllr Smith
2023.10.11	Share the NCalc Website / Brochure for training possibilities.	Clerk
2023.10.21	Contact Duncan Webber regarding further CPR training.	Clerk
2023.10.16	Clarification of increased power charges / payments / invoices / direct debits via EON or Npower must be obtained before any further bank payments are processed for power.	Clerk
2023.10.24	Inspection of the village perimeters for condition of footpaths, invasive weeds (ie Japanese knot weed) culverts and the spinney.	Cllr Emery Cllr Edwards
2023.10.22	Confirmation of responsibility for upkeep of the village planters at the perimeters of the village roads.	Cllrs and Clerk

Meeting closed at 08.59 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be Monday 13 November 2023

07.30 Pm. Venue: Village Hall, Welton.