

Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 March 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present

Chairman Malcolm Souter. Councillors: John Emery, Derek Smith, John Edwards, Tim Hill, Ian Dalziel, Derek Egan, John Edwards

Clerk: Julie Finlay

Ordinary Meeting	<u>11 March 2024 Start of meeting 07.30 Pm</u>
2024.03.01	Apologies for absence: Carl Ponder
2024.03.02	No Declarations of Interest were presented
2024.03.03	No representatives from the public.
2024.03.04	Payments listed in January's meeting were discussed and amendments agreed.
	<u>Matters Arising & Ongoing.</u>
2024.03.05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for a 19 acre solar farm at Crockwell Hill. <p>For a full precis, in addition to this minute item, refer to the brochures provided by RS Renewables Green Energy Investments' representatives to all councillors before the presentation at the meeting.</p>
2024.03.06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Severe spontaneous flooding within and around the location of The Wilderness and Churchill Road. <p>Cllr Ponder had offered to arrange a meeting with some of the involved parties, with the aim of moving forward with this matter, but was unable to attend the meeting due to ill health. This matter is ongoing.</p> <p>Continuous discussion regarding Mr Faulkner (no longer wishes to be involved) and Graham Noden (denies any responsibility.)</p>
2024.03.07	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Application at Welton Park. <p>Clr Dalziel reported that 4 immediate neighbours and WPC have all objected to the application on various grounds. A question was raised regarding how the Planning Authorities decide on who should be informed about planning applications that might affect their own properties. In the case of Welton Park, some properties were informed of the request but others were not.</p> <p>Planning application has been refused for the time being.</p> <p>No new ones have been received.</p>
2024.03.08	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cutting down of the trees at the bottom of Kiln Lane. <p>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 some of the dead wood was removed, but a further visit for tree trimming before the bird nesting season would be advisable.</p>
2024.03.09	<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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two more fences still belonging to other property owners. Cllr Smith reported that fence removal and replacement work had been undertaken by Futures, but there still remains a conifer hedge that needs to be addressed.
2024.03.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invoices for advertisements in the Welton news and Views. <p>It was confirmed that the invoices should be submitted in March 2024. This remains as an agenda item, as a reminder for March 2024.</p>
2024.03.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the Annual Community Group Updates Meeting 25.05.2023 <p><i>It was reminded to the councillors and clerk that the meeting has to be held by law.</i></p> <p>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 previous meetings, should begin ahead of 16th May 2024, to reverse the poor attendance in 2023.</p>
2024.03.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of The Spinney. <p>Currently, this is managed by Cllrs Emery and Smith. They have cleared ground elder and general garden refuse, and following Chairman Souter's request for assistance, 2 volunteers have offered to assist. A date and time for the next working group is yet to be decided. Cllr Smith wants two posts fixing in the spinney and repairs to the Village Notice Board posts. The Saturday proposed was 6th April 2024 for a working group.</p>
2024.03.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training. <p>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. It remains that a decision regarding names of attendees is to be finalised.</p> <p>Defibrillator training has been arranged. Insufficient applicants for the daytime session have been received. Applicants are invited to attend a session on 14th March Am and 15th May 6.30 – 9.00 Pm at the village hall.</p>
2024.03.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wall adjacent to Wisteria Cottage <p>Item closed.</p>
2024.03.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roles and Responsibilities <p>No changes reported at the meeting.</p>
2024.03.16	<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 application: Trimming of Yew and Sycamore Trees that are overhanging and obstructing pathways The new build in Welton Park.
2024.03.17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance <p>Current Balance £24,497.24p</p> <p>It was agreed that £10,000 should be transferred to a different account with a higher interest rate with no access restrictions. Chairman Souter met with Cllr Hill on the 16th January and the appropriate forms were signed.</p>
2024.03.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Payments <p>Chairman Souter confirmed that the approval for other councillors to become approved for seconding payments via Unity Trust Bank, is in progress.</p> <p>Payments for Village Hall - £20.00 for December, January, February & March 2024. CVS salary £431.35 Backdated payment (Clerk) £250.00 for Andy Goodchild</p>
	<u>Councillor/Clerk Reports</u>

2024.03.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re: Village Assets: Land Registry Applications have been lodged with Land Registry and since returned. (1) The playing field, (2) The triangle by Elms Dyke (3) Stockwell (4) The green at the top of Kiln Lane. Invoices have yet to be submitted.
2024.03.20	<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>
2024.03.21	<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.
2024.03.22	Item removed.
2024.03.23	<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.
2024.03.24	<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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LED Street lighting maintenance costs (Lamp No 8 in The Paddock needs to be replaced). 6 more required. Chairman proposes £2268 pounds inc VAT and replace all the remaining LED lights. 2 – 3 weeks to obtain materials and then a few weeks to install. • General power cost • Maintenance . • Defibrillators • Increased grants • Clerk salary <p>It was noted that since 2022 costs have fluctuated up, down but overall down since 2022</p>
2024.03.25	<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 way to the existing one. A decision was not finalised at this meeting. This is in hand with Cllr Egan and Clerk. Work needs to be done ie Motherboards might need changing. 4 to 6 weeks lead time for all work to be completed. Ashby Road, 2 on Daventry road, Kiln Lane, Churchill Road Lampost, Welton Park Lamp post, Lamp post on the Ridgeway. Detailed police reports, current and past were shared. Chairman Souter expressed concern that police figures differ from previous data in the past. They can't both be right. A quotation was provided by Cllr Egan of £835.00 + £140 packing for a new solar camera inc VAT. Further discussion took place regarding new posts. new cameras and a quote to be obtained.
2024.03.26	<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.
2024.03.27	<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. Harrabin is responsible for the maintenance and has taken action before, in 2018, by trimming it back. Cllr Smith reported that the weed is dormant throughout the winter, starts growing in April and should be destroyed in summer when it is in full leaf. The Council was also reminded that it is a legal offence to allow the weed to grow in the wild. The most sensible time for treatment to the weed is the spring/summer when the weed is in full bloom. Preferably before the end of the June.

2024.03.28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soap Box Derby <p>Cllr Ponder reported that the Third Party Insurance had been successfully renegotiated. The clerk reported that the organisers' were asking for a grant of £1000 from the WPC to contribute to the overall cost of the event. Councillors asked if it could be made known what the money would actually be spent on, what contributions would be made and to whom. The council was unanime that any money made should be donated within the village. Extensive discussion took place regarding where the money is used if it is donated from the Parish Council. Answers to all the questions will be provided over the next few weeks. The final verdict for this meeting was that the soap box derby is as an asset to the village and should be supported.</p>	
2024.03.29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant Application from St Martin's <p>The request for £700 was accepted. Proposed by Chairman. Seconded by Councillor Hill. The application for the £700 grant to St Martin's was agreed unanimously.</p>	
Minute	Actions	Whom
2024.03.27	Contact Harrabin re: Japanese Knot Weed	Clerk
2024.03.09	Contact Futures Housing regarding completion of the work at Round Close	Clerk
2024.03.13	Obtain details of the next available applicable training courses. Presented in February. Some people cannot attend May 15 th . Speak to Cllr Ponder independently.	Clerk
2024.03.25	Chairman to obtain quote.	Chairman Souter
2024.03.25	Obtain a quote for changing one of the speed cameras from battery to solar power.	Cllr Egan Chairman Souter
2024.03.28	Provide Grant Application Request Form to Chris Barlow re Soap Box Derby	Clerk
2024.03.13	Contact Duncan Webber to confirm further CPR training in 2024.	Clerk
2024.03.18	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, but to go ahead with the replacement of the 6 LED lights.	Clerk
All	Cllrs and Clerk to follow up on discussions with Graham Noden (Farmer) re the flooding from the lake, Futures housing re the conifer hedge, Stockwell Cottage, Harrabin, Unity Trust Bank.	Cllrs and Clerk
2024.03.28	Councillors asked for a list of where the funds were donated to from the Soap Box Derby from last year.	Clerk

Meeting closed at 09.25 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be Monday 08th April 2024

07.30 Pm. Venue: Village Hall, Welton.