

Minutes of the Election Meeting and Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th September 2024 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present: Councillors: John Emery, Carl Ponder, Derek Smith, Derek Egan, Tim Hill, Malcolm Souter and Rosie Humphries

Members of the public - WPC Welcomed Marcus Potter and Jason Carpenter

Clerk: Julie Finlay

9th September 2024: Start of Extraordinary meeting 07:30 pm	
2024.09.01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cllr Derek Smith took on the role of Chairman, after being proposed by Cllr Emery, and accepting a unanimous vote of approval. • Cllr. Dalziel was previously elected as Vice Chairman, but due to his absence, the re-election was held over until the next meeting.
Ordinary meeting 09.09.2024	
2024.09.02	Apologies were received, and accepted by vote, from Cllrs Ian Dalziel and John Edwards.
2024.09.03	No declarations of interest were presented.
2024.09.04	<p>Marcus Potter from Wisteria Cottage is awaiting the outcome of discussions concerning the case for taking on the ownership title, for a wall adjacent to his cottage and the public footpath alongside the wall. (The wall has since been repaired by Francis Jackson Homes).</p> <p>After a show of hands, Mr Potter was given the Council approval to contact his solicitor to draw up the documents for transfer of title of only the footpath. It was confirmed that there would be no cost to the Parish Council for the transfer, and no further cost to Mr Potter, if the council decided to undergo additional investigation.</p> <p>Cllr Egan explained that he had obtained a copy of the title deed and maps but advised that a conveyancer would be needed to provide an expert opinion, should the council deem it necessary.</p>
2024.09.05	Minutes of the previous meeting Monday 8 th July 2024 were approved. Councillor Emery proposed, and with a show of hands, all were in favour. Chairman Smith raised a query about the previous minutes: Items No 8 and 18 appeared to be the same. It was agreed that in future only 1 agenda item would suffice.
2024.09.06	Cllr Rosie Humphreys read out her report. She applauded the support from Welton for the cycling tour and updated the WPC on matters arising from West Northants Council.
<u>Matters Arising & Ongoing.</u>	
2024.09.07	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Japanese knot weed. Harrabin was contacted since the last meeting in July. They commenced work on clearing the knot weed, however, a further issue has not been addressed yet. There is overgrown vegetation on the inside of the wall on their land, obscuring the contour of the road adjacent to their land, causing a danger to passing vehicles. There has already been a Road Traffic Accident on that stretch of road. See actions below. 2. Futures Housing. Nesting season is around again, so this item is still ongoing. 3. Playground equipment. Chairman Smith reported that the annual official playing field inspection drew no concerns. He and Councillor Emery explained that the play equipment is inspected at the beginning of each month, and as there is nothing further to report at this time, this item can be closed.

	<p>4. Speed Cameras – Cameras have been installed and are working. Cllr Smith reported that he has 2 suitable spare batteries in storage if required. Cllr Souter undertook to investigate the potential for a third camera to be located at Crockwell Hill Crossroads.</p> <p>5. Upgrade to streetlights. All lights are working fine, item to be removed from agenda.</p> <p>6. Spinney working party. The turnout for 22/06/2024 was disappointing. A poster has been created to advertise the next working party at 09.30 Am 21st September 2024. Cllr Ponder offered to put a poster up in the White Horse, Chairman Smith is planning to put up notices around the spinney and in prominent places and Steve Becker will place a note on the Website. Chairman Smith will undertake to purchase 2 bags of bark and 1 roll of weed membrane, to be delivered the day before the working party. Total cost £166.00. A show of hands confirmed everyone was in favour of proceeding.</p> <p>7. Highways items: Footpaths Following on from previous minutes, after the harvest, the footpath between Ashby St ledgers and Welton is now passable. However, it was reiterated that the Welton parish Council Boundary is the brook. Further than the maise field and beyond the brook is Ashby St Ledgers PC.</p> <p>8. Drains Cllr Emery spoke to representatives responsible for drain clearance and asked why one of the drains had been left out. The reply was “drain too blocked”. Cllr Emery checked and found it was only nettles in the way and easily cleared. This will be ongoing, if refusal to clear continues.</p>
2024.09.08	<p>Update on defibrillator. Chairman Smith put forward the proposal of purchasing a new defibrillator. Final verdict was that one should be purchased as soon as possible with a price cap of £1000.00. A recognised brand, preferably, the same as the one already in the village hall, with assurances that it is waterproof, mains connected and will fit in the existing box. Everyone was in favour, after a show of hands.</p>
2024.09.09	<p>Projects for 2024 to 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 4 flower boxes situated at the entry points to the village that need a facelift. It was previously agreed that WPC would donate the boxes, and then ask for volunteers to help potting them in. Ideas included winter pansies, geraniums, winter bulbs etc to create a colourful display. • A gate has been installed from the Village Hall to the spinney by members of the Village Hall Committee. Now, SWPC takes over the responsibility of installing safe, non slip steps, with handrails, for the far side of the gate, as it is a steep drop. • Cllr Souter asked if a third speed camera could be established at an accident hot spot Crockwell Hill Crossroads, and offered to take the plan on as a project.
2024.09.10	<p>Update from Planning Representative. A report was submitted by Cllr Dalziel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new application for an extension to an existing garage. The report stated that there were no objections. • Two appeals had been received for previously turned down planning applications.
2024.09.11	<p>Electrical supply contract renewal. Previously two quotes had been obtained EON (now NPOWER) and Scottish & Southern (SSE). See actions below.</p>
2024.09.12	<p>Welton Parish Council Insurance Renewal Public Liability etc. Clear Councils, Zurich is a potential quote. See actions.</p>
2024.09.13	<p>To review the council’s financial position. 09 September 2024 Balance at 07.15 Am on day of meeting £19,514.28</p>
2024.09.14	<p>To review and approve outgoing payments for September 2024:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M Freeman – £636.00 for July and August

	<p>Village Hall - £20.00</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £466.75 Clerks Salary. • £91.40 HMRC Tax on clerks salary • £7.00 Christine Andrews Clerks salary administration. • £385.20 EON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly Maintenance Charge (EON) – has been held back, pending responses to requests for expenditure outlay summary. Clerk explained what the payments have covered during the last three years. Outcome from discussions was that WPC would pay the three outstanding quarterly bills for 2024, then following a proposal from Cllr Souter WPC would opt out of the Quarterly Payment Charge effective immediately. A show of hands revealed everyone was in agreement. <p>Standing Orders with Unity Trust. – Unanimous agreement that HMRC, Clerks Admin and Clerks salary can be set up as standing orders.</p> <p><i>Reminder: It was agreed in the July meeting that payments during August could be submitted by the clerk, to avoid delay until the next meeting in September.</i></p>	
2024.09.15	<p>Councillor reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph speed limit signs are in progress. (Clerk) • Checking all entrance gates because some of the posts are loose. (Cllr Ponder) • Notice Boards are also coming loose (Cllr Ponder) 	
Minute	Actions	Whom
2024.09.06	<p>Contact Harrabin Japanese Knot Weed: Cllr Smith reviewed the site and since the last meeting Harrabin have undertaken some work but have not addressed the vegetation by the wall. Decision to have one more attempt to get Harrabin to address all issues on their land.</p>	Clerk
2024.09.06	<p>Contact Futures Housing Work required at Round Close</p>	Clerk
2024.09.06	<p>Spinney working party. Poster has been created, now needs publicising. The date is 21st Sept 2024, 09:30 Am. Gardening material to be purchased.</p>	DS, CP & Clerk.
2024.09.07	<p>Update on defibrillator An identical unit to the village hall Defib was found on Amazon for a reasonable price. Cllr Ponder to measure up and check that it will fit in the cabinet outside the school. Clerk to instigate purchase after all criteria has been confirmed.</p>	CP, Clerk
2024.09.06	<p>Play equipment annual inspection. Chairman DS and Cllr JE agreed to continue to observe the state of the equipment ongoing.</p>	JE and DS
2024.09.09	<p>Work to commence on Projects for 2024/2025 See item 2024.09.09 above.</p>	All
2024.09.10 & 11	<p>Electric supply and Insurance Renewal Follow up quotes and present proposal.</p>	Clerk
2024.09.15	<p>20mph advisory speed signs Chase up, find and receive them.</p>	Clerk

Meeting closed at 09.10 pm.

The next Ordinary Meeting will be Monday 14th October 2024

07.30 Pm. Venue: Village Hall, Welton.