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A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday, 26th March 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall, with Dr Farrar in the Chair

2012/13-216 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2012/13-216.1 Apologies were received from Mr Leigh.

PRESENT: Mrs Coles (Clerk), Dr Farrar, Mr Carter, Mr Bucknell, Mr MacInnes, Ms Robinson, Mr Williams, Mr Pethard and Mr Lucas.

2012/13-217 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2012/13-217.1 Mr MacInnes declared an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

2012/13-217.2 Mr Bucknell declared an interest with regard to any items concerning Planning as a member of the Huntingdon District Council and the Liaison Committee for Warboys Landfill Site, he also wished to declare an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee, and also Trustee of the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust.

2012/13-218 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2012/13-218.1 There were no members of the public present.

2012/13-219 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON 26TH FEBRUARY 2013

2012/13-196.1 The minutes of the above Parish Council Meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. There being no comments, the minutes were approved for signature.

2012/13-220 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

The items as listed on the agenda had been circulated and were covered with no further comments.

2012/13-221 POLICING MATTERS

2012/13-221.1 The policing in Huntingdonshire survey was available for comment.

2012/13-221.2 Dr Farrar had responded to the draft Police and Crime Plan and had received a response from the Commissioner. Mr Lucas reported that the Police and Crime Commissioner had presented a report to the a full meeting of Cambs County Council and had stated that he or his deputy would attend one Neighbourhood Forum per term, rotating round the areas. When he was asked what would happen in Huntingdonshire where there is no forum he asked for comment through his website. He had received criticism that he has not been in touch with Parish Councils or invited comments from the community and made them aware of how to access him through his website. The feeling of the Parish Council is that engagement through the website is not a satisfactory option.

2012/13-221.3 The Clerk would chase PCSO Dan Scott for the information requested. It was reported that Dave Savill will be leaving St Ives.

2012/13-222 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

2012/13-222.1 Mr Lucas confirmed that Sgt Dave Savill will be leaving St Ives and that he had sent an email to the Chief Constable praising Sgt Savill's work in the area. He also reminded us of the Community Transport fund. This will be his last meeting as he is standing down at the County elections in May and he was disappointed that none of the candidates had attended the meeting to introduce themselves. He said he had enjoyed working with the Parish Council and he had issued a letter to go into the local magazines. Dr Farrar thanked Mr Lucas and said that he had worked hard on our behalf and he will be missed, a hard act to follow.

2012/13-222.2 Mr Bucknell reported that the local Census had been released and he would circulate the results. Council tax notification letters and letters advising where benefits have been cancelled have been sent out. The new bin collection schedule was working well with very few problems. The change in rules on under occupation in Council homes is expected to have a big effect. HDC are employing many money saving methods, including generating their own electricity, saving on postage, beating fraud, and reducing postal costs are some.

2012/13-222.3 Mr Pethard reported that the Overview and scrutiny panel had received a presentation from Hinchingsbrooke hospital, the main point of which was that they do not expect to break even this year.. He pointed out that these are open meetings which presently are poorly attended by the public. The lack of publicity is being addressed.

2012/13-223 FINANCE

a) to approve the financial statement

2012/13-223.1 As this had been circulated to Councillors present prior to the meeting, and there were no further comments, it was unanimously confirmed as a true record.

New charges for payroll of £5 per month when no payment is made and £15 per month for quarterly payments, plus VAT, were approved.

b) to approve payments of outstanding amounts

2012/13-223.2 The payments listed were formally approved and the cheques duly signed

Mrs P Coles – March salary (rates as per minute no. 8e	
of the meeting dated the 15/12/09) now paid quarterly	£ 266.24
Douglas Tonks quarterly payment	£ 520.63
Parrot Print, Warbler	£ 45.00
Cambridge Water, standpipe charge	£ 15.16
Ray Burton hedgecutting	£ 585.00
(this includes £40 for clearing left off bill)	

2012/13-224 CORRESPONDENCE

2012/13-224.1 Ms Robinson would attend the Flood Forum on 22nd May.

2012/13-224.2 Cambridge Acre had advised that they would no longer be able to carry out advisory visits without making a charge. As we had a 3 year membership the Clerk had challenged the change but funding has been stopped.

2012/13-224.3 The resignation of the Chief Executive of NALC was noted.

2012/13-224.4 As the resident who mentioned the hedge at Rooks Grove Farm wished to remain anonymous, it was decided that Mr Carter would call in and point out where the brambles overgrow the foot path.

2012/13-225 TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

2012/13-225.1 None received.

2012/13-226 HIGHWAY WARDEN SCHEME/ROAD TRAFFIC ISSUES

2012/13-226.1 Following Ms Robinson's meeting with Tony King from Highways she could report that all ditches are the responsibility of the land owner and any clearing would be their responsibility.

2012/13-226.2 The debris on the verges at the entrance to the village could be moved by Highways off their land onto the landowners at the landowners charge. An effort would be made to find out who had cleared the ditches and ask them to remove it.

2012/13-226.3 Mr King had asked the owner of Treynon to remove the fencing stored on the Green.

2012/13-226.4 Mr King had informed Ms Robinson that Highways budgets had been cut by 50% for the next financial year which will make things very difficult. Further work is planned on the road to Broughton, there will be more patching and then a topcoat. He looked at Harris Lane and could only support the view that the problems have arisen due to the ditches being blocked to provide vehicular access.

2012/13-227 UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND

2012/13-227.1 Mr Bucknell had sourced the correct gravel at £128 for 875kg and it will need to be whacked down. The weeds will need to be killed on the path and Mr McInnes will organise this. A budget of £350 was allocated and work can proceed within this limit. Any work would be carried out after the Easter holidays.

2012/13-227.2 Risk assessment sheets were not forthcoming for January and February, Dr Farrar explained that these must be done for insurance. Ms Robinson's inspection had been held up due to the weather and would be done as soon as possible.

2012/13-227.3 Hedgecutting had been completed and brambles removed.

2012/13-227.4 The deed of dedication was being dealt with by HDC legal.

2012/13-228 CODE OF CONDUCT

2012/13-228.1 Certificates from the training session were handed out.

2012/13-228.1 Declaration of Interest forms were now published and Dr Farrar had put a link on our website.

2012/13-229 PREPARATION FOR ANNUAL OPEN MEETING

2012/13-229.1 The Annual Open Meeting will be held on 30th April and reports were allocated as follows:

Dr Farrar, Chairman's report, Financial and Allotments, Mr Carter, Countryside and Parish Plan, Ms Robinson, Highways, Mr MacInnes, Litter and Village Hall and Mr Bucknell, Playground.

2012/13-230 HEDGE AND GRASS CUTTING ARRANGEMENTS

2012/13-223.1 The allotments hedges and the playground had been cut and we were waiting for a quote to clear the ditch in front of the allotments. Mr Lane from Harris Lane had approached Mr Williams stating that the hedges should not have been cut after the end of February. The Clerk had been aware of cutting restrictions and had been advised prior to the cut that guidelines state that cutting should be avoided after the end of February but that the area can be inspected prior to cutting and if found to be clear of nesting birds the work can proceed.

2012/13-231 FLOODING IN HARRIS LANE

2012/13-231.1 There is nothing further to add as it is clear that the problems are the responsibility of the homeowners.

2012/13-231.2 Mr Williams had been informed that a resident in Harris Lane had seen sewage in the ditches, and had reported a smell from the drains in the Harris Lane/Oaklands Avenue area. This would be looked into and reported by the Clerk.

2012/13-232 BUS SHELTER

2012/13-232.1 The Clerk had been advised that in order to obtain quotations drawings and the advice of the Planning department should be obtained. Mr Bucknell agreed to take this on.

2012/13-233 PARISH PLAN ACTION PLAN WORKING PARTIES FEEDBACK AND UPDATE

a) Litter – Mr MacInnes – Tyres, UPVc window frames etc are in the ditches on the Raveley bends, it was agreed that if necessary, when the ditch is cleared, the Parish Council will pay for disposal.

b) Countryside – Mr Carter Due to snow, nothing to report.

c) Village Hall – Mr MacInnes The Poker Night had been a great success again and raised approximately £400. Mr Bucknell reported that Katie Andrews from Conservation had visited the hall with reference to change of use.

d) Parish Plan Review – Dr Farrar, Mr Carter, Mr Bucknell and Ms Robinson. Dr Farrar and Mr Carter had still to produce a leaflet.

2012/13-234 ITEMS FOR WISTOW WARBLER AND WEB SITE

2012/13-234.1 The Warbler had been circulated. Mr Lucas had circulated his farewell letter and there was information on choices in social care and direct payments.

2012/13-235 MONTHLY AUDIT – NOMINEE FOR NEXT MEETING

2012/13-235.1 In Mr Leigh's absence Ms Robinson was our auditor, Mr Leigh will be postponed until next month.

2012/13-236 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

2012/13-236.1 These will be linked with our Parish Plan

2012/13-236.2 HACT, community transport, visiting in June

2012/13-236.3 Application for Listed Building Consent for Porch House, Manor Street, removal of window on south end of house.

2012/13-237 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2012/13-215.1 Tuesday 30th April 2013, following the Annual Open Meeting which starts at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9 pm

Finance report:

Mrs P Coles – March salary (rates as per minute no. 8e	
of the meeting dated the 15/12/09) now paid quarterly	£ 266.24
Douglas Tonks quarterly payment	£ 520.63
Parrot Print, Warbler	£ 45.00
Cambridge Water, standpipe charge	£ 15.16
Ray Burton hedgecutting	£ 585.00
(this includes £40 for clearing left off bill)	

Income for March

£1.12 interest from bank

Balances of Account as at 29th March 2013

Current Account	£4830.15	Deposit account	£5018.21
Cambridge Building Society	£10,246.57		