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A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday, 28th October 2014 at 7.30 pm, with Mr Carter in the Chair.

2014/15-113 TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2014/15-113.1 There were no apologies for absence

PRESENT: Mr Bucknell, Mr Carter, Mrs Coles, Dr Farrar, Mr Hodson, Mr Leigh, Mr MacInnes, Ms Robinson, Mrs Curtis and Mr Tew. Mrs Gorman, Mr Williamson and Mrs Willis were present as members of the public.

2014/15-114 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2014/15-114.1 Mr MacInnes wished to declare an interest as a member of the Village Hall Committee.

2014/15-114.2 Mr Bucknell declared interests as follows: any items concerning Planning as a member of the Huntingdon District Council, member of the Liaison Committee for Warboys Landfill Site, the Village Hall Committee, and also Trustee of the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust.

2014/15-114.3 All Parish Councillors as Trustees of the Village Hall

2014/15-115 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

2014/15-115.1 The members of the public present did not wish to speak.

**2014/15-116 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING ON 30th SEPTEMBER 2014**

2014/15-116.1 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting, having been circulated prior to the meeting were approved.

2014/15-117 MATTERS FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Items 1 to 6 listed on the agenda were noted with no further comments:

2014/15-118 POLICING MATTERS

2014/15-118.1 Mr MacInnes reported that there was still stalemate with Speedwatch administration, caused by anonymity being compromised. This problem is specific to Cambridgeshire and the appropriate place to discuss our concerns would be at the next Forum meeting. Continuing to carry out the Speedwatch sessions, without the back up administration would be an option as this demonstrates our ongoing commitment to reduce speeding in the village and could act as a deterrent. Mr Carter and Mr MacInnes would liaise on how best to communicate our disappointment with the lack of support from the Police administration.

2014/15-118.2 Crime figures had shown an increase across our area in the last week.

2014/15-119 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

2014/15-119.1 Mr Tew reported on the budget cuts being made at County level. £230,000 had to be cut from the Highways budget, to save street light energy and cost it is proposed to turn them off from 12 midnight to 6am, if a Parish wished to keep a light on there would be a cost of £15 per light per year. Parish Council owned lights would not be affected. Waste management and recycling was being reviewed at Bluntisham and Alconbury, there would need to be a 7.25% reduction on £26.8m contract. Options are to cut opening hours or close down. Library service has to save £1.5m and this will mean that some smaller libraries will close unless the community take over. Winter gritting has to save £730,000 out of a £2.2m cost. Decisions will be made in November and we will feel the impact in the next financial year. Mr Tew stressed the importance of Timebanking, which could help to ease the impact of some of the cuts.

2014/15-119.2 Mrs Curtis had nothing to report

2014/15-119.3 Mr Bucknell reported that the local plan would be delayed until January and there is nothing in there for development in Wistow. Shared services with South Cambs and Cambs City have started. The Legal Team have now gone from Huntingdon. Some offices may be sublet.

2014/15-120 FINANCE

2014/15-120.1 To approve the financial statement and cashflow prediction for 2014/15. This had been circulated to Councillors present prior to the meeting and was unanimously agreed.

2014/15-120.2 to approve payment of outstanding amounts :

CAB donation	£ 50.00 – agreed last month, cheque to be signed
Mr Tew, Laptop for Clerk	£350.00 – agreed last month, now ready for collection
CCC Streetlight power	£369.37
Fergusons, grass cutting	£2064.00

The amounts above were approved and cheques signed

2014/15-120.3 In view of the cuts discussed by Mr Tew discussion centred on how the Parish Council may have to take control of more village maintenance and any financial contributions currently made may disappear. Various options were discussed including working with neighbouring villages, employing someone to do our maintenance who would be identified as being linked to WPC. There are areas, such as social care, where greater awareness would be required. Again, Timebanking was discussed as a possible solution. It was agreed to reconsider the precept and a sub committee of Mr Tew, Mr Bucknell, Dr Farrar and Mr Carter was agreed to look at what challenges are likely to be ahead and formulate a plan going forward.

2014/15-120.4 New model financial regulations had been circulated by NALC, these would need to be adapted to our needs and adopted.

2014/15-121 CORRESPONDENCE

2014/15-121.1 and 2 were noted

2014/15-121.3. Mr Bucknell had attended the South Cambs Parish Council Conference and Funding Fair. He reported that he had requested funding to be made available for a Timebanking scheme to be set up.

2014/15-122 TO CONSIDER ANY PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
2014/15-122.1 1401295FUL Retention of extensions and alterations to farmhouse (revised plan), Dorringtons Farm House, Cross Drove, Wistow. Approval recommended.

2014/15-123 HIGHWAY WARDEN'S REPORT

2014/15-123.1 The Clerk had been unsuccessful in obtaining any further information from National Grid. She would forward all the information to Mr Carter.

2014/15-123.2 The Clerk reported that the salt bins were solid as the grit had not been used during the mild winter. Mr Leigh agreed to take advice on how to clear and refill.

2014/15-123.3 Mr Leigh reported a very positive meeting with Mr Middleton from Highways. Whitelining and pot hole repairs had been noted, verges and hedges in Harris Lane were deemed acceptable and pollarding on Mill Road would be the PC's responsibility, however, where the hedge is overhanging the road it would be down to the property owner.

2014/15-124 MAINTENANCE ISSUES

2014/15-124.1 Mr Burton had provided a quote for topsoil for the goals and hedgecutting at the playground and allotment, it was agreed to go ahead. Mr Elmore was due to start work shortly.

2014/15-124.2 Mr Carter would be carrying out his playground inspection at the weekend, Mr MacInnes is on the rota for November and Mr Bucknell December.

2014/15-124.3 The grass cutting specification for the next season would be 15 cuts on greens, graveyards and playground, 8 cuts to verges. It was agreed to instruct RJ Warren for one year to give the PC time to ascertain whether other arrangements may be more appropriate in the future.

2014/15-124.4 No further news on PC1, a letter had been received from CCC regarding contact details for the provision of electricity. The Clerk would respond.

2014/15-125 ADMINISTRATION ISSUES

2014/15-125.1 Lap top for Clerk's use was ready for collection

2014/15-125.2 Mr Carter had drafted a letter to Mrs Bance regarding the extension to the graveyard and would deliver it over the next few days.

2014/15-125.3 Allotments rents had been received and paid into the bank.

2014/15-108 PARISH PLAN ACTION PLAN WORKING PARTIES FEEDBACK AND UPDATE

a) Litter – Mr MacInnes, nothing to report

b) Countryside – Mr Hodson, - would be attending a Networking meeting the following day.

c) Village Hall, Mr MacInnes, A report produced by the Building Committee for the Village Hall had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report outlines the findings of the committee and puts forward their recommendations for the Parish Council to support and then, if appropriate, to consult with the village. The Building Group, supported by the Village Hall Committee proposed the new build option.

Mr Bucknell, having attended the Funding Fair reported that there was very little funding available. He provided statistics on the village demographic, supported by the 2011 census, information that is used by funding sources to assess eligibility for funding and which he believed would not work in our favour. He also reported that Huntingdon District Council have stated that if the new build option was to be taken there would have to be a referendum in the village which would be very costly. There was concern that the figures provided did not stand up to scrutiny, the increase of income could not be supported by fact and would depend on bringing users into the village, thereby increasing traffic which would bring opposition from residents in Harris Lane. The options therefore were to proceed to consult the village, but without the support of the Parish Council or to cut the process short. It was therefore proposed by Mr Carter, seconded by Mr Bucknell that we go back to the Village Hall Committee with the decision that the Parish Council cannot support their proposal to build a new village hall for the following reasons:

Lack of availability of funds - Cost of referendum - Lack of credible costings

There were 5 votes in support of this proposal and 1 abstention.

Mr Carter would report back to the Village Hall Committee.

2014/15-127 ITEMS FOR WISTOW WARBLER AND WEB SITE

2014/15-127.1 Mrs Williams had responded asking for any interesting articles and any help with delivery would be gratefully received.

2014/15-128 MONTHLY AUDIT – NOMINEE FOR NEXT MEETING

2014/15-128.1 Mr Carter is our auditor for October, Mr Leigh for November

2014/15-129 MATTERS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION

2014/15-129.1 Request for hedging supplies – Spring 2015. Dr Farrar had been in touch with the Woodland Trust who would supply hedging free of charge. He would apply for 420 plants, not guaranteed, which would arrive in the spring.

2014/15-112 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

2014/15-112.1 Tuesday, 25th November 2014 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall. There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Finance report:

Outgoings –	CAB donation	£ 50.00,
	Mr Tew, Laptop for Clerk	£350.00
	CCC Streetlight power	£369.37
	Fergusons, grass cutting	£2064.00

Income for October – allotment rents - £1103.28

Balances of Account as at 29th October 2014

Current Account	£10,532.65	Deposit account	£5022.16
Cambridge Building Society	£10,514.29		