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WISTOW WEB-SITE: 'Www.wistovvillage.info' (please note new address)**

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The Annual Parish Meeting of the Wistow Parish Council took place on Thursday 24th May 2007 at 7pm in the Wistow Village Hall, with Mr Franklin in the chair.

1 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Mr Latter, Mr Cook, Mr Leigh and Mr Lucas

1.1 **PRESENT:** Mr Franklin, Dr Farrar, Mr Williams, Mr MacInnes, Mr Ward, Mr Bucknell and Mr Titmarsh (Clerk) together with 10 members of the public.

2 **TO SIGN AND APPROVE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
DATED 30TH MAY 2006**

2.1 The minutes having been circulated around the Councillors prior to this meeting, and them being available at the door for the public to peruse, and there being no further comments, were voted upon and unanimously confirmed as being a true record.

3 **FINANCIAL STATEMENT - MR H FRANKLIN**

3.1 Mr Franklin welcomed the members of the public present, and apologised for there not being a full Parish Council present at this Annual Open Meeting.

3.2 Regarding the Financial Statement for the past 12 months (a copy of the Wistow Parish Council Annual Accounts for the year ending the 31st March 2007, being available at the door for anyone to read), Mr Franklin went through some of entries of importance on these Accounts and stated that the recycling monies were down on the previous year. A member of the public then raised the point about the recycling area in Wistow, and there being problems parking nearby, in order to deposit items for recycling. The Parish Council confirmed that they knew there was a problem in this area, and was aware that a dropped kerb had been applied for, to help one resident park on his own land, rather than the road.

4 **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT - MR H FRANKLIN**

4.1 Mr Franklin then read out a report about the various issues that had been of main concern during the last 12 months. This included the Parish Council Election problems of last year, when the majority of the Parish Council did not stand for re-election, but that this had now been resolved.

4.2 Mr Franklin also mentioned the impending Anglia in Bloom Competition to be held in the village in July, and asking all those present to see if the village of Wistow could be made as presentable as possible during the judging.

4.3 Mr Franklin also stated that many of the local roads lately had been re-tarmaced, and traffic calming had been discussed many, many times in the last 12 months, but as there had been no fatalities, Wistow Parish Council had been told that any extra funding needed for any traffic calming measures was a bit unlikely at present. Many of the traffic calming measures that had been considered was heavily linked to how good surrounding street lighting in the area was.

4.4 Mr Franklin went onto say that all the issues that had been identified in the Wistow Parish Plan, was being constantly considered and discussed, and some of these had already been put into action, but the shop and post office that Wistow once had, was very unlikely to be ever reopened.

Mr MacInnes offered his apologies at this point and left the meeting at 7.20pm.

5 STREETLIGHT REPORT - DR R FARRAR

5.1 Dr Farrar read out the following report -
Action Point 3 on the Wistow Parish Plan of August 2005 was to 'identify a lighting solution which meets conflicting requirements from the village.' As the first towards this, a full survey of the Parish's streetlights has now been completed and passed onto the County Council's Lighting Department for review. Major national government consultation is currently underway to propose a new lighting strategy to meet the conflicting requirements of better street lighting whilst trying to reduce carbon emissions, save energy and reduce lighting pollution. The Parish Council is monitoring this situation as any lighting strategy for Wistow will have to fit in with these eventual guidelines. With the recent commissioning of the Wind Farm at Warboys, a grant is now available for the surrounding villages to fund environmental projects. Wistow Parish Council are now investigating the possibility of using this facility to upgrade the village streetlights to the latest energy efficient types to reduce the village's carbon footprint and save on future electricity bills.

5.2 The comment from the public present was made, that the best streetlights appeared to be in the Grove.

6 PLAYGROUND REPORT - MR H FRANKLIN

6.1 Mr Franklin stated that a Play Matting Grant had been received from Huntingdonshire District Council, and work would be done soon to renew the Play Matting under the swings in the Playing Field, with the other areas hopefully being done when finances allowed.

6.2 Mr Franklin also stated that the goal posts were broken in the Playing Field, and this was due to be repaired as soon as possible.

6.3 Mr Franklin went onto say that it was very sad to report that various picnic tables in the Playing Field had been deliberately damaged in the last year.

6.4 Mr Franklin also went onto say that a new litter bin was being commissioned to go into the Playing Field, nearer the back fence, in the hope that this would prevent litter being thrown into the ditch there. Each Parish Councillor was taking in turns to help empty the litter bins in the Playing Field, but if any member of the Parish wished to help with this, then they would be most welcome.

6.5 A member of the public stated that there was a couple of nails in the fence in the Playing Field running by the bungalows at Oakland's Close, and also a rose bush on that fence needed constant cutting back and trimming. A local resident was currently doing this work, and it was wondered if this bush could be removed. Mr Franklin stated that he would look into these matters as soon as possible.

7 CHURCH WALL REPORT - MR H FRANKLIN

7.1 Mr Franklin stated that the Church Wall work had now completely finished, and an actual small profit had been made. The new-looking coping stones were now starting to weather in a bit.

7.2 A member of the public stated that the step by the Church Wall could be considered as unsafe, as there used to be more steps there, and that also there was a piece of steel material sticking out from where the gate used to be. The Parish Council confirmed that they would look into these matters, as they had not previously been aware of them.

8 ALLOTMENT REPORT - MR H FRANKLIN/ MR J LATTER

8.1 Mr Franklin stated that the situation regarding the Allotment land was still being investigated.

9 TRAFFIC & ROAD ISSUES REPORT - MR H FRANKLIN/ MR C WILLIAMS

9.1 Mr Williams stated that a meeting took place recently of the Wistow Parish Plan Traffic Calming Group, and as already mentioned previously, street lighting was a major factor in many proposed traffic calming measures.

9.2 Mr Bucknell went onto say that another meeting was going to take place soon, with someone from the Highways Department. A further speed check had also been undertaken recently, and findings from this would be reported soon.

9.3 It was stated that many considered the new Kings Ripton traffic calming measures as dangerous, as there was still a risk of accidents there. Also, due to the amount of car parking on the road in Bridge Street, many cars in the rush hour were now using Manor Street and Parsonage Street as a 'rat run'. It was considered by many people present that police action was the only real deterrent, with regards to fines and putting points on licences.

9.4 It was stated that before any specific traffic calming measures were decided, a full Public Consultation process would be made.

9.5 It was also asked about the temporary Bridge posts that had appeared after a Road Traffic Accident some months ago. The Parish Council confirmed that they had been told that new Bridge posts were to be recast, but that it may take some time for this to be done.

10 PEDESTRIANS, FOOTPATHS AND COUNTRYSIDE REPORT - MR R COOK

10.1 Mr Franklin read out Mr Cook's Report in his absence - Regarding the public footpaths in our Parish, Mr Cook had been in touch with the County Council regarding the clean up of downed trees, barbed wire, and various grass cutting issues. A meeting was due to take place soon, with the Footpaths Commission and Mr Cook, and providing we can put everything back into order and keep within the county budget, we have their support. There was no further news as regards pedestrians ways being resurfaced, and fly tipping is still a problem, and contact is once again due to be made with the District Council about this constant issue.

10.2 A member of the public stated that 2 trees that had fallen onto a footpath recently actually was in the Broughton Parish boundary.

11 VILLAGE HALL REPORT - MR C WILLIAMS/ MR C LEIGH

11.1 Mr Williams stated that the future of the Village Hall was currently being discussed, but that the public would be consulted before any definite decision was to be made.

12 YOUTH CLUB REPORT - DR R FARRAR/ MR C WILLIAMS

12.1 Dr Farrar read out the following report - Action point 16 on the Parish Plan was to 'set up a Youth Forum to address youth issues' and to 'identify an enthusiastic youth forum leader/ supporter'. Action point 10 on the plan was to 'seek volunteers to promote activities, sports, clubs, societies etc.'. In addition, in the youth section of the Parish Plan, there was a general desire for a Youth Club. A Youth Club had now been set up in the village and runs every Thursday evening in the Village Hall from 1800-2130. The Youth Club began on the 19th April 2007 after over £3000 in grant money was obtained by the local village children. Veronica Barker and Samantha Newton are the key leaders of the new Youth Club.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS FROM THE PARISH

13.1 A comment was made by a member of the Public that with regards to the Anglia in Bloom Competition, they felt that the village had deteriorated over the last couple of years, in particular leaves needed to be cleared in the autumn, in order to help the grass stay of a good quality.

13.2 It was also asked if people's hedges could not be cut at this time, as birds were currently nesting, in particular from the 1st March to the end of July.

13.3 A comment was made that it was very disappointing that only three members of the Parish Council were present at this Annual Open Meeting.

13.4 It was asked if the litter bin by the Bus Shelter could perhaps be moved to make the Noticeboard more accessible for reading, and this was agreed to be looked into by the Parish Council, but it was uncertain whether it had a concrete base or not.

Mr Ward made his apologies at this time, and left the meeting at 7.55pm.

13.5 It was also asked why the new extra road sign at the end of Harris Lane, had not been put against the wall, and the Parish Council confirmed they was unsure why this had occurred.

13.6 A pavement was also requested along the other side of Harris Lane, and as this had not been asked for previously, and it was agreed for the Clerk to check on this possibility.

13.7 It was asked what the latest was on the new Village Sign, and Mr Franklin informed the public that funding was still being sought for this to be constructed.

13.8 It was stated that the bushes outside a property in Bridge Street, was overgrowing the road signs in that area. The hedge by Wistow Toll was also stated to be very overgrown at present, and Mr Bucknell stated that he would try to follow this matter up with Mr Lucas, the County Councillor.

13.9 A member of the Public asked if a letter could be written to Mr Richard Cracknell's widow offering her the Parish Council's condolences, and asking if a possible gift or tree planting could be suggested, as a kind of memorial to Mr Cracknell, who had done a lot of work for the Parish over many years. It was agreed that this would be most fitting, and for contact to be made with Mrs Cracknell about this.

13.10 It was asked what the latest situation was regarding the Flagpole, proposed to go in the village Churchyard. The public were advised that a Faculty was still awaited from the Ely Diocese, so that this could be erected. Thanks was made to the member of the public who was responsible for the upkeep of the Church Clock, but it was admitted that sometimes professional help was also needed to keep it fully functional. It was stated that Grant Monies were sometimes available for this kind of maintenance cost, if the Parochial Church Council asked for it.

13.11 It was stated that on the road to the Broughton/ Upwood Crossroad's, some reflectors that were on the Bridge there, were now missing. Mr Bucknell agreed to follow this matter up, as it may actually be in the Broughton Parish.

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13.12 The poor visibility at the junction from Upwood, by the Allotment Hedge was also mentioned. The Parish Council confirmed that this had already been raised as a problem, and contact had already been made with the Highways Department about this.

Thanks was made to the members of the public for their attendance tonight.

There being no further business, the Annual Open Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

THIS IS PRINTED PRIOR TO BEING CERTIFIED AS A TRUE RECORD BY THE PARISH COUNCILLORS. Page 6 of 6