

A COPY OF THESE MINUTES WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE ON THE WISTOW WEBSITE
www.wistovillage.info

2018-1

The Annual Open Meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday, 24th April 2018 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall with Mr Carter in the Chair.

Mr Carter opened the meeting and welcomed Ten members of the public.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from Mr.C.Leigh
- 1.1 Present: Mr Bucknell, Mr Carter, Mr Gregory, Ms Leaton, Mr MacInnes, Mr Tew (Clerk), Mr Waller, Mrs Taverner, Mr Bull, Mr Rogers.
2. To approve and sign the minutes of the Annual Open Meeting held on 25th April, 2017
- 2.1 The Minutes, having been circulated to Councillors and members of the public present, were agreed to be a true record of the meeting and signed.

3. **Finance**

Last year, the Precept was increased by 5% to £11,550 to enable support for a range of forthcoming projects. Combined with other sources of income including allotment rents, VAT Recovery, recycling and maintenance contributions from District and County brought total income to £16,835 against a total expenditure for the year of £17,358. The bank balance has been maintained with a reduced but healthy contingency of £23,503.

For the forthcoming year, the precept has been raised to £15,000 and, with other funding sources; the total income is estimated to be £18,000. The annual routine costs of running the village have increased and are forecast to be £14,000 but provision must always be made for additional costs including streetlamp maintenance/replacement and a significant commitment in the forthcoming year to manage the cash-flow and cost of delivering playground improvements.

Full details of the financial status will be posted on the Parish Council notice board and prior to this may be requested from the Clerk.

4. **Wistow Parish Council Chairman's Report 2018**

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for all their hard work and commitment to this community. In particular, I would like to thank Patsy Coles as she retires after many years of service as our Parish Clerk and extend a very warm welcome to Mike Tew as he takes on the role.

In addition to the routine activities required to manage the Parish, members of the Council have been involved in a number of additional projects and activities.

2018-2

Traffic Calming – The Traffic sensing signs have now been installed and have lived upto expectations in every way. The data capture and download and analysis Capability enables the identification of optimal times and days to operate Speed watch in order to target speeding issues more effectively; in particular, identification of repeat offenders.

Speedwatch - The Speedwatch team continues to work cooperatively with other local councils to maximise the use of the equipment.

Parish Plan – Members of the Parish Council have prepared a list of projects that could be taken forward as part of a Parish Plan. However, a Parish Plan requires community involvement and cannot be undertaken by the Parish Council. We would like to hear from anyone interested in taking this forward.

Village Hall – Village Hall refurbishment options are once again being considered in the light of available funding and the opportunities presented by its Licensed status as part of the Keep Wistow Flowing community project.

Playground – Purchase of new Zip-Wire equipment from Parish Council reserve funds was considered as a means of improving the playground quickly. Unfortunately, cash flow issues prevent this as an option and applications for grant funding are now being finalised. This is part of a comprehensive renovation of the playground and needs to be supported by public consultation.

Keep Wistow Flowing – Following notice from the owners of their intent to close the Three Horseshoes Public House, the Parish Council took action to register the premises, its gardens and its car park as an Asset of Community Value. Members of the Parish Council have also been actively involved in the establishment of a “Pop up Pub” in the Village Hall and in a campaign to raise funds and submit a bid to purchase. This formed a limited company and submitted a commercially viable bid to the owners prior to the ACV deadline. While this bid was rejected, the Three Horseshoes is now protected from development and can now only be sold as a Public House until the ACV expires.

5. **Playground** **Mr MacInnes**

As per previous years remedial repairs have been undertaken by ourselves in line with our yearly inspection recommendations (re-grassing areas of the football pitch, filling in holes in the slide, replacing caps, the intended upgrade to the park has been through the loop and back again, despite decisions being agreed we have decided not to do part works and invest major amounts as a pc, we are in the process of rewriting the funding bid for the whole £35K with minimal investment from ourselves, makes a lot more sense for the parish in the long term.

Speed watch

Speed watch has proved effective and as per previous years there is a reduction in both the amount of speeding offenders and the excessive speeds they are travelling through the village, Our visual speed sign has also shown our village overall does not have a significant speeding problem

6. **Village Hall**

With the closure of the Pub, the village hall has been turned into a part time pub which has proved very successful and makes the Hall ambient more conducive, and the increase in airflow means a less musty and damp smell, broadband and a couple of more effective heaters have been introduced until such time as we know the outcome of the three horseshoes, no major plans for the hall are in the pipeline, Fun day music night is taking place on the 14th July and a cricket/rounder's tournament is arranged for early august

7. **Litter**

Litter continues to be an irritant, mostly from passing traffic throwing rubbish out at both ends of the village as they pass through the village, the Raveley bends endured its usual illegal dumping of builders/plumbers waste, Material / tv units and a caravan. It is planned to try and undertake the annual voluntary Wistow clean up over the weekend of the 12/13 May if we can get the litter grabbers / hi viz and bags from HDC.

8. **Countryside Report – Mr Gregory**

To date other than a broken plank on a bridge leading to Broughton, which has been repaired, I have found no serious issues on any of the paths I have walked. The paths are well signed, clearly marked and easy to follow, offering those that choose the opportunity to see the wonderful surrounding countryside that is available

9. **Website / Facebook- Clerk**

Recently the clerk has taken on the responsibility of taking over the running of the website and the new face book page which will increase the communication with the residents of the village; we are hoping to make it interesting and informative, we aim to increase communications between yourselves and the Council, in addition to the other communication channels we already use. We work to serve our community and strive to do the best for the village. We hope that this medium will enable you to interact with us and enhance our opportunities together. We are planning to include information about village events, Planning applications and Agendas and Minutes and issues that the Council is addressing.

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10. WI report was submitted by the President of Wistow WI, and prior to the meeting WI leaflets were handed out to those that were present.

10. Close of meeting

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.45pm

Annual Report

Wistow WI

2017 - 2018

Last September our total membership was 32, but coming into September 2017 we have 34 members. Members' meetings have been averaging 20 plus. We had 23 visitors over the year and several have become members.

October Susan Normington was re-elected our President at the Annual Meeting. Sara Parker was re-elected as Treasurer, and Esme Render was elected as Secretary, taking over from Jean Duke.

November: We all enjoyed 'Making A Christmas Arrangement' with one of our members, and these beautiful displays lasted well into the New Year. We used winter foliage with a large white candle as the centrepiece in a small basket. Even the non-florists were delighted with their efforts.

December: 26 members and several partners enjoyed our traditional Christmas Party. The food was supplied and prepared by the committee members –. This was followed by games and the evening concluded with presents from 'Secret Santa'.

January: We had a 'Games Night', which was enjoyed by everyone. It was our first meeting back after the Christmas break and gave us time to socialise with friends and to sift through the 2017 resolutions and choose the ones we would like to see debated at the next NFWI Annual meeting.

February: Members' Night - One of our members taught us to make lovely cards for Valentine's Day. They were made of ribands, glitter and beads. **March:** 'The Making of Chocolate' with Sue Stevens. This was a great evening learning how chocolates were made and then the tasting and buying. .

April: Liz Carter gave us a talk about 'Work Houses'. We were brought back to another time. We learnt that although Workhouses were feared, the workhouse helped in times of trouble, providing food and a hospital-come care home for the elderly who might otherwise died of starvation on the streets.

May: A 'Visit to Flag Fen' - a lovely summer's evening walk around Flag Fen with our guide, who brought alive the ancient life of the people who once lived there. Everyone enjoyed the evening.

June: 'Fingerprinting Family Tree'. An artistic member persuaded her fellow members to blow paint on to paper with straws to make the outline of trees. These papers were intended to take home and for members of the family to be asked to put their fingerprints on the branches to make leaves.

July: Our members enjoyed an evening of Chair Yoga' with Linda Garrick and were taught easy exercises which we were encouraged to do at home.

August: No meeting but our Annual Trip was with Robinsons Coaches from Kimbolton. 14 members enjoyed a day out at Kew Gardens. Lovely weather made it a very enjoyable day.

September: A Jigsaw Race'. A member of the Committee supplied the Jigsaws and we had great fun trying to assemble 500 piece jigsaw puzzles; no team/table was an outright winner as no team had actually finished their puzzle.

Competition: We did not hold a monthly competition this year but had a Rainbow Year where each month a special colour was to be worn. This made for some interesting photographs of our meetings.

Christine Bentley has retired as the H & P Federation Treasurer, which has given her more time to join us at our monthly meetings. Jill Wadsworth is Vice Chairman of the Federation's Public Affairs Committee. Every year Jill organises a Big Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Research at Wistow Village Hall, with support from members of our WI, which is always well attended. Fund raising goes on for the Village Hall and the Wistow in Bloom committee, and WI members support village book groups and take part in monthly quizzes. At the beginning of October we will be losing our local village pub where the quizzes were held - so now the Village Hall may play a bigger part in our social lives.

The W.I. Committee would like to thank all the members for their support during the year and to all the hostesses at the monthly meetings for their contributions of lots of lovely refreshments.