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A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 7.30pm by video call with the Chair located at Oaklands Close, Wistow, Cambs.

02.21.01 Present:

Cllr. C. Leaton (Chair), Cllr. J. Gregory, Cllr. N. Simms and Cllr. J. Wiltshire.

In Attendance

Mr. M. Woolhouse – Clerk to the Council
Cllr. Bull - HDC
Cllr. Rogers - CCC

02.21.02 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Bradford, Macinnes and Waller.

02.21.03 Cllr. Jill Tavener (HDC)

Cllr Bull informed the meeting of the recent passing of Cllr. Jill Tavener, ward councillor for HDC. As well as district councillor, Jill had been heavily involved in other community activities. The parish council had sent a sympathy card and its thoughts were with her family at this painful time.

02.21.04 Declarations of Interest

Declarations of Interest were noted for all Parish Councillors as Trustees of the Village Hall. Save as stated there were no pecuniary interests to declare in respect of any business to be transacted at the meeting.

02.21.05 Public Participation:

There was no participation from the public or any Councillor declaring a prejudicial interest in any matter to be discussed.

02.21.06 County and District Councillor reports

02.21.06.01 Cllr Rogers (Cambs. CC)

New Shire Hall

The new county headquarters build project at Alconbury Weald was 12 weeks behind schedule but on budget. Design changes included more meeting space but fewer seats, reflecting working practice changes arising from the pandemic.

Elections May 2021

It was anticipated that the local and Police and Crime Commissioner elections due to be held on 6th May 2021 were likely to proceed but with enhanced on site public health measures and reduced canvassing.

Structure

The hub and spoke structure for the delivery of public services was proving effective.

Flooding

Cllr Wiltshire asked about the measures the county council was taking to combat flooding in the wake of the issues in December 2020 and January 2021. Cllr Rogers referred to the Flooding Forum investigating the cause and responses to the floods and added that there was uncertainty regarding ownership of ditches. An unexpected problem was the closing of some tunnels under the railway at Wood Walton which, it transpired, acted as water ways. Cllr. Bull added that if the council had details of specific issues or intelligence to email him for the information to be added to the knowledge of the Flood Forum.

02.21.06.02

Cllr. Rogers left the Meeting

Cllr. G Bull (Hunts DC)

Council Tax

HDC had determined to keep the Council Tax levels at last year's level. However the P&CC precept would rise by c6.5% and the overall charge by c3%, including a separate charge to fund additional adult social care activities.

Planning

An independent review was taking place into the structure and performance of the planning department at HDC. There were a number of vacancies and additional resources were being deployed to speed up processing applications.

A141

Cllr. Bull explained that the A141 heading east from Huntingdon was inadequate for pre pandemic levels of traffic and action was needed to avoid the problem once traffic volumes returned. The Mayor of the Combined Authority had launched a public consultation containing a number of possible solutions to the issue and the parish council was urged to submit its views.

Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE)

Compliance with parking restrictions was a problem and the police, which dealt with on street compliance, had other priorities. In consequence HDC was

-1399- considering employing its own CPE employees if it was cost effective in controlling the problem.

Cllr Bull left the meeting

01.21.07 Approval of minutes of meeting held on 26th January 2021

The minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting and **it was resolved unanimously that the minutes be and are approved and that they be signed by the Chair of the Meeting.**

01.21.08 Matters Arising or carried forward from previous meetings

01.21.08.01 Street lighting

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Balfour Beatty and been informed that the delay on completing the street lighting upgrade was due to difficulties in obtaining the participation of and consents from UKPN. This was the most recent reason given after the pandemic and the required parts not being available.

02.21.08.02 Flooding

The Meeting noted the written response from the Environment Agency regarding flooding and looked forward to the scheduled inspection of Bury Brook and the undertaking of any works identified.

Cllr Wiltshire reported that following a meeting with the Local Highways Officer, it was discovered that CCC owned the tunnel under Bridge Street by the bridge and the associated culvert on the south side of the road but that the culvert on the north side (by the Anglian Water pumping station) probably belonged to the parish council. The LHO had requested that CCC clear the tunnel and culvert with the date to be confirmed. **Separately the Meeting agreed to obtain quotes to clear the northern culvert if parish council ownership was confirmed.**

The Clerk reported that he had received a reply from Rose Homes supplying details of flood alleviation measures. During the construction works trenches had been dug on site to help drain rain waters and part of the planning consent, required attenuation tanks to be installed, with their delivery imminent. Rose Homes also engaged road sweepers to clean their Mill Road access after heavy tipper and delivery trucks had accessed the site.

The Clerk confirmed that the diagram identifying water flows responsibilities had been added to the parish council website.

02.21.06.03 Defibrillator

Cllr Simms reported that British Heart Foundation, which sold the existing device, was less interested in providing a second in a small village. In view of any marginal difference in price it was agreed to obtain an equivalent machine from other sources. The Clerk reported that a price from Balfour Beatty to install power was awaited but it meant obtaining UKPN agreement and works.

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02.21.08.04 Garden Reclaim

The Clerk reported that he had written to Ross Sargant explaining the apparent duplication of works in October and stating that it needed to be clarified before any payment could be countenanced. A response had yet to be received.

02.21.08.05 Grass Cutting

The Clerk reported that the draft contract was almost ready for Cllr Waller to review before it was sent to Mr Jackson for signing.

02.21.08 7 Kingston Way –garage and porch – planning application

02.21.08.06 The Clerk reported that he had written to HDC explaining that there may be an inaccuracy in the location of the boundary line as shown in the plans.

02.21.09 Planning

02.21.09.01 There had not been any new applications to review since the previous meeting.

02.21.10 Finance

02.21.10.01 To approve the accounts for payment: 23rd February 2021.

Date	Ref No	Payee	Description	Amount £
23/02/21		Mr. M Woolhouse	Net salary	243.19
23/02/21		Mr. C Bradford	Reimbursement of purchases	54.00
23/02/21		CAPALC	Training course for Mr. Simms	75.00
23/02/21		CAPALC	Training course for Mr. Woolhouse	250.00

02.21.10.03 Income and Expenditure Account

The Meeting noted the income and expenditure account for February 2021.

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02.21.10.05 Bank Reconciliation

The Meeting noted the bank reconciliation for the month.

02.21.10.06 Bank Balances

The Meeting noted account balances as at 19th February 2021.

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02.21.11 **Traffic, Highways & Road Safety.**

02.21.11.01 The meeting noted the previously circulated correspondence and the highways issues dealt with above.

02.21.12.01 **Policing Matters**

02.21.12.02 Incidents relating to Wistow were included in correspondence and all alerts posted to the Parish Council's Facebook page. The meeting noted the police chase in the village and subsequent arrest for alleged drugs charges.

02.21.13 **Correspondence and Communications**

02.21.13.01 The meeting noted the previously circulated correspondence. An email letter which had been received from Mr. Whales was considered below.

02.21.14 **Village Maintenance**

02.21.14.01 Cllr Leaton reported that she had obtained the requisite litter and rubbish picking equipment.

02.21.14.02 **Letter from Mr. Whales**

The Meeting considered the email letter dated 18th February 2021 from Damien Whales and requested that the Clerk respond to his points as follows

1. The new grass cutting contract should resolve this matter.
2. The Council could not find the fault referred to.
3. Trees are regularly inspected and remedial work taken as necessary. The tree is already due to be removed.
4. All equipment is inspected regularly and also inspected annually for insurance purposes. Remedial work is undertaken as necessary.
5. The missing swing seat was removed having been previously vandalised. There are two other seats available for use.
6. Large holes in the grass – this will be investigated.
7. There are trees in the park but also in surrounding gardens. The Council maintains its trees as necessary.

The council spent over £10,000 on the playground in 2020 replacing the zip wire.

02.21.15 **Verbal reports from Parish Councillors on matters arising from their portfolio responsibilities**

02.21.15.01 **Website**

The Clerk reported that the flooding and water responsibilities diagram issued by HDC had been uploaded to the website.

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02.21.16 **Monthly Audit**

Cllr Gregory volunteered to be Auditor for February 2021.

02.21.17 **Items for discussion at the next meeting**

It was agreed to include the following items for discussion.

- Flooding
- Road conditions
- Local council elections 2021
- Street lighting

01.21.18 **Date of next meeting:**

It was noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday 30th March 2021 via video conference.