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| **2022 – 1 WISTOW PARISH COUNCIL** | |
| The **ANNUAL OPEN MEETING** of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday 26th April 2021 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall, Manor Street, Wistow, Cambs. | |
| **01**  **01.01**  **02**  **02.01** | **Present:**  Cllr. R Waller (Chair), Cllr. C Bradford, Cllr T Harris, Cllr. C. Leaton Cllr. N Simms and Cllr. J Wiltshire.  **In Attendance**  Mr. M. Woolhouse – Clerk to the Council  3 members of the public were present |
| **03**  **03.01** | **Apologies for Absence**  Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Gregory and Cllr. Bull - HDC |
| **04**  **04.01**  **05**  **05.01**  **2022-2** | **Approval of minutes of Annual Open Meeting held on 25th May 2021**  **It was resolved unanimously that the minutes be and are approved and that they be** **signed by the Chairman.**  **Chairman’s report**  The Chairman reported that last 12 months have continued to be a strenuous time for the residents of Wistow. However we are slowly seeing a return to normality not the least being council meetings being held in person not over Zoom. The Parish Council has continued, during this time, to work for the benefit of the local population and will continue to do so.  Despite the terrible flooding the village experienced over a year ago, we continue to attempt to get local government and other agencies to take such action as is necessary to prevent a reoccurrence. The council has cleared the gullies and culverts near the bridge to expedite the flow of water from the village into the brook.  We have funded and installed a second defibrillator in Harris Lane in the hope that it never has to be used.  We have also seen a massive improvement in the quality and regularity of the grass cutting in the village, which is due to the employment of Mr. Jackson, a local man.  In the last couple of years we had 2 resignations from the Council, which were filled by co-options. For the forthcoming election there are two retirements from the council and which will be attempted to be filed by co-options once again. A village we want to see blossom needs people willing to stand as councillors and whilst there are calls on councillor’s time it is a necessary function if the village is to be a great place to live.  As I am stepping down from the Council I would also like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow counsellors and Clerks for their support and enthusiasm over the last 5 plus years. |
| **06**  **06.01**  **07**  **07.01**  **08**  **08.01** | Finance  The Chairman reported that finances continue to be managed efficiently with the caution that the addition of the zipwire in the playground (£10000) and the new street lights (£12000) has used a lot of the reserves built up over a number of years. The precept was kept at £15000 for another year, as it has for 2022-3, the council mindful of the impact of the pandemic and the pressures on family budgets. Total income was £20479 and expenses were £31856.  The change of bankers to Unity Trust had already resulted in a better service, including on line payments.  Playground  Cllr. Bradford reported that the contractor responsible for grass cutting and hedge maintenance is continuing to do a regular good and tidy job.  Repairs and maintenance of the apparatus have been carried out following the annual inspection report.  We are engaging with youngsters in the village to find out what other apparatus they might like in the park as and when the current equipment needs to be replaced.  Highways  Cllr. Simms reported that action was taken as needed to have repairs undertaken.  A Local Highways Initiative application had been submitted to CCC and a decision was anticipated in May. The application covered the introduction of speed signage at the entrances to the village. |
| **09**  **09.01**  **2022-3**  **10**  **10.01**  **11**  **11.01**  **12**  **12.01** | Countryside  In Councillor Gregory’s absence the following report was tabled.  Footpaths – The four main paths, leading from Wistow are clear, generally clean and well used; the hand rail attached to the small bridge leading off Harris Lane has been reported and is awaiting repair.  Litter – Various farm wastes and litter have been collected from the footpaths surrounding the village and were brought back to be disposed of. Litter, albeit still present, remains at low levels, with only the occasional pile on the Raveley Bends that requires cleaning up.  This year has seen no significant issue that needed to be reported.  Village Hall  Cllr. Bradford reported that the works to renovate the Village Hall had been completed with the building being a great improvement but that there was a greater need to find users, especially on a regular basis.    Litter  Cllr. Leaton reported that there is not a great litter problem in issue in Wistow, items being the usual choc bar wrappers, plastic bottles and the odd mask or sock along the verges!  All large items on the out skirts are reported by the Clerk to be removed by the Council.  Playing field bins are maintained and emptied by Councillor Bradford. The usual volunteers undertake the annual clean and tidy up round the village, huge thanks to those selected few that organise and help keep Wistow tidy. The most recent cleanup had occurred earlier in the month.  **Any Other Business and closure**  There was no any other business and the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.12 pm. |