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A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Manor Street, Wistow, Cambs.

**10.22.01      Present**

**10.22.01.01**      Cllr. C Leaton (chair) and Cllrs C Bradford, N Simms, Smith and N Twigden.

**10.22.02      In Attendance**

**10.22.02.01**      Mr. M Woolhouse – Clerk to the Parish Council  
Cllr S Corney - CCC

**10.22.03      Apologies for Absence**

**10.22.03.01**      Cllr. J Gregory and Cllr. A Costello – HDC

**10.22.04      Declarations of Interest**

**10.22.04.01**      Declarations were noted for all Parish Councillors as Trustees of the Village Hall. There were no other pecuniary interests to declare.

**10.22.05.      Public Participation:**

**10.22.05.01**      There were 9 members of the public present.

**10.22.05.02      Flooding**

Cllr. Smith introduced this item by referring to a Flood Forum organised by CCC that he and Cllr Lowe (HDC) had attended. He explained that the success of flood mitigation (absolute prevention being impossible) turned on matters such as risk assessment, flood management and emergency plans.

The Forum included presentations from the Environment Agency (EA) and case studies of Broughton and Alconbury – where Flood Groups had been established to drive Flood Plans to minimise impact on people, infrastructure and farmland. Whilst CCC was the lead agency regarding flooding matters, it had limited funds and resources. The EA can offer advice and resources and sometimes grants of up to £1,500 to communities which have established a group and developed a Flood Plan specific to their locality.

Communities which have had a least two properties affected by Flooding would be considered for additional support through advice and guidance on Flood mitigation and risk assessment. It was clear that in both case studies it was the local community coming together to understand the risks and what could be done at a local level which will help the villagers organise and implement a plan, supported by Councils and the Environment Agency

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Cllr Smith explained that, in the first instance, a core group could develop a mitigation plan with perhaps a larger group to implement and respond to flood events and other emergencies. The success of any initiative would depend on the local community and volunteers stepping up, albeit with the help of available local government resources.

The EA and CCC had resources available, and Cllr Corney referred to his experience in Ramsey adding that there is also an EA fund for cleaning “unowned” water courses. The Chair suggested that anyone interested should email the parish clerk with their details. Mr Pye offered to lead the Group if enough residents came forward.

After further discussion it was agreed that the initial group would comprise

Mr G Pye (captain)  
Lizzy Bance  
Brian Layman  
Debbie Robinson  
Cllr. G Smith.

Cllr. Smith offered to establish a WhatsApp group to enable information sharing and co-ordination of initial activities.

## **10.22.06 District and County Councillor reports**

### **10.22.06.01 Cllr S Corney – CCC**

#### Stagecoach bus withdrawals

Cllr Corney reported the proposed withdrawal of Stagecoach services was now a Combined Authority issue, rather than as a county council matter. The proposal from CCC and district councils to fund services until the end of March had been rejected.

#### Budget 2022/2023

The budget was currently being prepared but in addition to existing caps on council tax increases there was concern that the new government would impose additional restrictions on public services.

### **10.22.06.02 Cllr. Lowe - HDC**

#### Temporary traffic restriction – Mill Road

Cllr Lowe reported on the proposal to close a section of road for one week in February 2022 to allow Cadent to undertake works.

#### Grants

Cllr Lowe reported that the HDC website had details of grant making bodies within the council.

Warmer Spaces

Cllr Lowe reported that HDC undertook a survey of local councils to identify available facilities. The parish council had responded noting that there was little perceived demand but the village hall and pub were available.

**10.22.07      Approval of minutes of meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

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

**10.22.08      Action Log and Matters Arising carried forward from previous meetings**

Village Green Flower Box

The intent was to allow wild seeding and some bulbs would let nature take its course.

**10.22.08.01      Playground equipment repairs**

The Clerk reported that the matter was still outstanding but had arranged a Zoom call with Ramsey Rotary to discuss funding opportunities.

**10.22.08.02      Local Highways Initiative**

Cllr Simms reported that the order for the Speed information Display was proceeding and also that the SID near Harris Lane was defective. He would establish if it could be repaired or whether it needed to be replaced.

**10.22.08.03      Internal Audit**

The Clerk reported that his contract of employment was ready for signing and added that a narrative accompanied each item of expenditure in the Finance spreadsheet.

**10.22.08.04      Highways generally**

Cllr Simms reported that he had spoken with the Local Highways officer regarding the matter of road signs at the toll and explained that sight lines were within limits for not requiring signs but the undergrowth needed to be cut regularly.

**10.22.08.05**      The LHO reported that the bridge did not meet the standards for traffic lights.

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Bury PC providing contact details for Cllr Bradford who held the equipment and he commented that he had yet to receive a reply. It was explained that the Clerk at Bury had been unwell recently.

Cllr. Leaton reported that the no parking sign recently erected at to the wider stretch of road by the bridge had been removed and it was agreed to erect a replacement sign but placed higher to make it harder to remove.

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**10.22.08.06**     Jubilee Tree

The Clerk reported that the plaque commemorating HM Queen Elizabeth 11 had been ordered. Cllr Leaton commented that the tree had not been planted and Cllr Bradford agreed to contact Mr Jackson.

**10.22.08.07**     Village Hall

The Clerk reported that following Mr MacInnes resignation he had been in contact with the Secretary but had yet to receive a reply.

**10.22.08.08**     Flooding

See minute 10.22.05.02 above

**10.22.08.09**     Insurance renewal

The Clerk reported that the premium was £1149.59 and because it was within £50 of the draft amount discussed at the September meeting, had processed the invoice.

**10.22.08.10**     Warmer spaces

See minute 10.22.06.02 above.

**10.22.08.11**     Allotment Rent

The Clerk reported that the demands had been issued.

**10.22.08.12**     Church grass cutting and water charges

**10.22.08.13**     The Clerk reported that the demand had been issued and had received a response querying the amount.

**10.22.09**         Planning

**10.22.09.01**     The meeting noted that apart from the temporary road closure in Mill Road next February there were no applications to consider.

**10.22.10**         Finance

**10.22.10.01**     The Meeting approved the accounts for payment: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

Date	Ref No	Payee	Description	Amount £
25.10.2022	online	Mr. R Jackson	Grass cutting	350.00
25.10.2022	online	Mr. M Woolhouse	Zoom reimbursement and expenses	62.34
25.10.2022	online	Mr. M Woolhouse	Net pay	300.00
25.10.2022	online	Mr. G MacInnes	Dog fouling bags	31.98
25.10.2022	online	Source for Water	Cemetery water charges	43.19

**09.22.10.02**     The Meeting noted the income and expenditure account for October 2022.

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**09.22.10.03**      The Meeting noted the bank reconciliation for October 2022.

**09.22.10.04**      The Meeting noted bank account balances for October 2022.

**09.22.10.05**      Bank Account Signatories

The Clerk reported that Cllrs. Smith and Twigden had been added as signatories of the accounts and agreed to establish how they could access on line banking.

**09.22.10.06**      Contract of Employment

See minute 10.22.08.04 above.

**09.22.10.07**      Bank Interest Rates

The meeting noted the increase in interest paid on the deposit account to 0.95%.

**09.22.10.08**      Asset Register

The meeting noted the previously circulated 2022 Asset Register.

**09.22.10.9**      Church Grass Cutting

See minute 10.22.08.12 above.

**09.22.10.10**      Insurance Renewal

See minute 10.22.08.09 above.

**09.22.10.11**      Commemorative Plaque

See minute 10.22.08.06 above.

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

**10.22.11.01**      The Meeting noted previously circulated correspondence and discussions earlier in the meeting.

**10.22.11.02**      20mph limit

Cllr Simms agreed to investigate whether 20mph limits could be introduced at the approaches to the village.

**10.22.12**      **Policing Matters**

**10.22.12.01**      The meeting noted that there was nothing to report. Cllr Leaton commented that she had registered for a NALC training session on Councillor safety. Cllr Smith reported that e cops bulletins were posted on social media as relevant.

**10.22.13**      **Village Maintenance**

**10.22.13.01**      In addition to ensuring that gullies and culverts were clear there was nothing to add.

**10.22.13.02**      It was noted that some of the Neighbourhood Water notices attached to lampposts needed replacing or re-fixing.

**10.22.14**      **Correspondence and Communications**

**10.22.14.01**      In addition to the following item the meeting noted the previously circulated correspondence.

**10.22.14.02**      **Anglian Water proposed reservoir**

It was reported that Anglian Water was consulting about constructing a new reservoir near Chatteris in order to ameliorate water supply issues.

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

**10.22.15.01**      **Litter**

Cllr Leaton commented that the tidy up was still outstanding.

**10.22.15.02**      **Playground**

The Clerk reported that the council did not have a policy or rules for use of the playground and had prepared a previously circulated draft. **It was unanimously agreed that the Rules and Regulations be and are adopted by the Council.**

**10.22.15.03**      **Countryside**

In Cllr. Gregory's absence there was nothing to report.

**10.22.15.04**      **Village Hall**

Cllr Simms reported that Mrs. Waller had asked Caroline Pritchard Simms if she was interested in becoming Secretary to the Village Hall Committee.

**10.22.15.05**      **Website**

The Clerk reported that there was nothing to mention.

**10.22.15.06**      **Trees/Grass**

In Cllr. Harris's absence there was nothing to report.

**10.22.15.07**      **Highways**

Cllr. Simms reported that there was nothing to additional to report.

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**10.22.16.      Monthly Audit**

**10.22.16.01**      Cllr. Bradford agreed to be Auditor for November 2022.

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

**10.22.17.01**      There were no items for discussion at the next meeting.

**10.22.18      Date of next meeting:**

**10.22.18.01**      The next meeting will be held at in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2022.