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[www.wistowvillage.info](http://www.wistowvillage.info) ONCE THE COUNCIL HAS APPROVED THEM.**

A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Manor Street, Wistow, Cambs.

**01.23.01      Present**

**01.23.01.01**      Cllr. C Leaton (Chair) and Cllrs. C Bradford, J Gregory, N Simms, G Smith and N Twigden.

**01.23.02      In Attendance**

**01.23.02.01**      Mr. M Woolhouse – Clerk to the Parish Council  
Cllr. S Corney - CCC  
Cllr. C Lowe – HDC

**01.23.03      Apologies for Absence**

**01.23.03.01**      Cllr. T Harris (late arrival) and Cllr. A Costello – HDC

**01.23.04      Declarations of Interest**

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

**01.23.05.      Public Participation**

**01.23.05.01**      One member of the public was present from the start of the Meeting and another joined during the proceedings.

**01.23.06      District and County Councillor reports**

**01.23.06.01**      Cllr S Corney – CCC

Budget 2022/2023

Cllr Corney reported on the progress of the budget discussions mentioning that the Combined Authority was raising its first ever precept at £12 per property. He mentioned a number of proposed cuts to expenditure including winter gritting (3300K), weed killing (£125K) and mental health services (£150K). As currently proposed, CCC council taxes would rise by 4.91% but the budget was not yet agreed.

Cllr Corney added that the minority group had proposed a £2.5m increase in flood prevention expenditure which when combined with matched funding from other sources totalled £7.5m. Ramsey Town Council had applied for £5k of funding to undertake riparian repairs to part of the **NAME OF DYKE PLEASE** with future liability for repairs and management of the affected stretch falling to the town council.

Soft Furnishings

Changes to legislation collection of waste covering domestic soft furnishings meant that they could no longer be collected from residential premises.

**01.23.06.02** Cllr. Lowe - HDC

Photo ID

Cllr. Lowe reported that for elections from 2024 onwards photo ID would be required by candidates.

Temporary traffic restriction – Mill Road

Cllr Lowe reported CCC Highways had approved 40mph speed limits before the 30mph limit at the village entrances. The draft Traffic Order had been prepared.

Green Bins

Cllr Lowe reported that HDC was considering charging for the collection of green bins. The Meeting felt that this was a retrograde step and would lead to increased fly tipping.

**01.23.07** **Approval of minutes of meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**01.23.07.01** The Chair reminded the meeting that the Council had not met since October 2022 but 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.**

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

**01.23.08.01** **Flooding**

Mr Pye (Wistow Community Flood Group Lead) reported on the Group's previously circulated draft report explaining that there were five main elements to consider.

- Flood Mitigation - e.g. keeping culverts clear
- Action – e.g. flood warnings to residents
- Reaction to Flood – e.g. save people and pets first
- Post Flood Recovery – e.g. providing data to EA
- Actions in the Plan- e.g. agree with EA location and funding for flood camera

The Meeting discussed likely issues requiring resolution in order to ensure the Group's success and identified the following strands:

- Establish residents views on the plan and actions
- Obtain EA "thought leadership" with the expertise the group will need
- Obtain volunteers across the village
- Establish a reception centre e.g. church or other higher ground
- Identify who at the local Fire and Rescue service needed to be aware of the group's existence and plans.

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Mr Pye explained that the EA contact had offered specialist expertise advice on the most cost-effective options in deploying the possible £1500 grant.

Cllr Smith agreed to discuss involvement, including funding with the EA contact and also to contact Mr Albury regarding the church's availability as a reception centre.

Mr Pye and Cllr Corney left the meeting.

**01.23.08.02    Local Highways Initiative**

Cllr Simms confirmed that CCC Highways notified him of the planned introduction of 40mph speed limit zones between 60mph and 30mph limits on the approaches to the village from Mill Road and the Toll.

**01.23.08.03    Grant Funding**

The Clerk explained that the Secretary to Ramsey Rotary Club was unable to join the meeting and therefore proposed to respond to Rotary suggesting a grant of £1,000 to part fund the council's contribution to the LHI costs, whilst continuing to explore other grants. He explained that it would be more difficult to obtain funding if the project was paid for e.g. playground repairs. The meeting agreed with his proposal.

**01.23.09        Planning**

**01.23.09.01**    The meeting noted that the following applications had been considered between meetings and that there were no issues to consider.

- 5 Kingston Way – proposed demolition of garage and erection of kitchen extension.
- Straight Grove, Wistow Fen – conversion of barn into residence

**01.23.09.02    Wicklow House, Mill Road – installation of electric gates**

The meeting considered the application and decided that there were no issues to consider.

**01.23.10        Finance**

**01.23.10.01**    The Meeting approved the accounts for payment: 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023.

Date	Ref No	Payee	Description	Amount £
31.01.2023	online	Mr. M Woolhouse	Net pay Dec 2022 and January 2023	327.00
31.01.2023	online	Mr. M Woolhouse	Zoom reimbursement and expenses	28.78
31.01.2023	online	PKF Littlejohn	Assurance review fee 2022	240.00
31.01.2023	online	HDC	Playing field rent 2022-3	100.00
31.01.2023	online	HMRC	PAYE Q3 2022-2023	152.20

**01.23.10.02**    The Meeting noted the income and expenditure account for January 2023.

**01.23.10.03**    The Meeting noted cash book and other files for the three months to January 2023.

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- 01.23.10.04** The Meeting noted the bank reconciliation for January 2023.
- 01.23.10.05** The Meeting noted bank balances, charges and interest from November 2022.
- 01.23.10.06** Contract of Employment
- The Meeting approved the Clerk's Contract of Employment for signing by the Chair.
- 01.23.10.07** ESPO
- The Meeting agreed that the Clerk be and is hereby authorised to sign the Framework Agreement with ESPO for the supply of energy procurement services.
- 01.23.11** **Traffic, Highways & Road Safety.**
- 01.23.11.01** The Meeting noted both previously circulated correspondence and discussions earlier in the meeting.
- 01.23.12** **Policing Matters**
- 01.23.12.01** The meeting noted that there was nothing to report.
- 01.23.13** **Village Maintenance**
- 01.23.13.01** The Meeting noted the tree plaques to celebrate the late Queen's platinum jubilee and commemorate her passing and agreed that they be affixed them securely in the cage housing the commemorative tree.
- 01.23.14** **Correspondence and Communications**
- 01.23.14.01** In addition to the following item the meeting noted the previously circulated correspondence.
- 01.23.14.02** HM King Charles' Coronation
- The Council had received letters from NALC and HDC regarding HM King Charles 3's Coronation. It was agreed to discuss celebrations at the February meeting.
- 01.23.15** **Verbal reports from Parish Councillors on matters arising from their portfolio responsibilities**
- 01.23.15.01** Litter
- Cllr Leaton commented that she and Cllr Twigden had undertaken a litter tidy up in the village recently.
- 01.23.15.02** Playground
- The Clerk reported that Wicksteed completed the work in the quote from last year and the invoice value had been reduced as fencing, waste removal and welfare facilities were not required. The work was undertaken in subzero temperatures giving concern over its resilience and whether the sand spread on the matting

would sink into the matting or dissipate. In the circumstances it was agreed to withhold payment until these points were resolved.

It was agreed to provide the playing field Rules and regulations to Mrs. Simms.

**01.23.15.03**     Countryside

Cllr. Gregory reported that there were no issues.

**01.23.15.04**     Village Hall

The Clerk reported that Mrs. Simms had contacted him regarding co-opting a Councillor onto the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Bradford offered himself for the role and Cllr Smith offered to be his alternate.

Mr. Williams (Chair of the new Village Hall Committee) spoke of changes to Committee members, its ambitions and its need to improve revenues to cover costs of £50 per week and asked if the council was able to contribute to the costs. The Chair responded that the Council needed to consider matters in more detail before committing. Mr. Williams asked if there was a register of skills within the village and it was recalled that one had been produced some time ago but was out of date.

Mr. Williams thanked the Council for its contribution to the costs of the senior residents Christmas lunch.

**01.23.15.05**     Website

The Clerk reported that there was nothing to report but mentioned that the website was looking tired and needed updating in look and operation. There was a brief discussion of possible organisations which could undertake the work.

Cllr Harris joined the meeting

**01.23.15.06**     Trees/Grass

Cllr. Bradford agreed to supply Cllr Harris with Mr. Jackson's phone number.

**01.23.15.07**     Highways

In addition to the item raised previously, Cllr. Simms requested contact details of the resident in Wistow Fen Lane who had asked that signs be erected indicating free roaming animals.

**01.23.16**         **Monthly Audit**

**01.23.16.01**     Cllr. Harris agreed to be Auditor for February 2023.

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

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

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**01.23.18**         **Date of next meeting:**

**01.23.18.01** The next meeting will be held at in the Village Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.