

MINUTES

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A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday 25th July 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Manor Street, Wistow, Cambs.

07.23.01 Present

07.23.01.01 Cllr. C Leaton (Chair) and, Cllrs T Harris, N Simms, G Smith and N Twigden.

07.23.02 In Attendance

07.23.02.01 Mr. M Woolhouse – Clerk to the Parish Council
Cllr. C Lowe – HDC

6 members of the public

07.23.03 Apologies for Absence

07.23.03.01 Cllrs. C Bradford and J Gregory, Cllr. A Costello (HDC) and Cllr. S Corney (CCC)

07.23.04 Resignation of Councillor

07.23.04.01 The Clerk reported that Mr Bradford had resigned due to pressures of work and that the process to seek his replacement would commence immediately.

07.23.05 Declarations of Interest

07.23.05.01 Declarations were noted for all Parish Councillors as Trustees of the Village Hall and for Cllr. G Smith in respect of minute 07.23.09.01.

07.23.06. Public Participation

07.23.06.01 Festival

The landlady of the 3 Horseshoes pub thanked the Council for permitting the use of the playing field for the recent event, adding that from their perspective it had been very successful. Cllr. Leaton stated that she was pleased that it went well and that attendees enjoyed themselves.

The original festival scheduled to be held by the Wistow Village Hall Committee ("Committee") had been cancelled on the 13th July, the evening before the festival was due to take place, because of severe weather warnings. That event was initially intended to be a fund raiser for the village hall but evolved to include The Malcolm Whales Foundation ("TMWF") as a beneficiary of any profits generated.

The individuals who planned the original event as members of the Committee carried on and ran a simplified function under the banner of TMWF, which supplied the equipment and insurances relying on verbal consent given by the then Cllr. Bradford without council agreement. Consent from Hunts DC, as freeholder, was solely for the Committee's and the event took place without freeholder permission, in breach of the Parish Council's lease for the field.

Cllr. Leaton expressed frustration with social media comments that the playing field was not being used but that publicity from the event had brought increased use when the reality was that the playing field was already well used. The event organisers felt that it brought the village together. One of the organisers commented that next year's event would be held on private land on 15 July 2024.

Cllr. Simms observed that the Committee was responsible for the event and its cancellation adding that the Committee vote was 8 to 1 in favour of cancelling. But Mr Hurford corrected him stating the vote was 8 to 2 in favour. He added that the weather and forecast for the day had been assessed on the Saturday morning and the individual planners decided to hold the event.

Cllr. Harris commented that he was happy that the event was a success.

The members of the public left the meeting.

07.23.07 District and County Councillor reports

07.23.07.01 Cllr Lowe

Cllr. Lowe reported that HDC had approved the introduction of garden waste bins at an annual charge of £57.50 but because of public opposition and that of some groups on the council, the matter would be further reviewed by HDC on 12th July.

07.23.07.02 Cllr. Corney

In Cllr. Corney's absence the Clerk reported that CCC committee meetings were winding down for the holiday break and Cllr. Corney had chaired a meeting at which the new Woodwalton Parish Council was inaugurated.

07.23.08 Approval of minutes of meeting held on 27th June 2023

The Meeting considered the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June 2023 and resolved unanimously that they be and are approved and be signed by the Chair.

07.23.09. Matters Arising and Action Log

07.23.09.01 Village Hall

In addition to the previous discussion, a new nominee will be required as the Council's representative to the Village Hall Committee. It was agreed that until a new councillor was elected Cllrs Leaton and Twigden would be the representatives.

07.23.09.02 Flooding

Cllr. Smith reported that there was no further progress since the last update and added that would attend a flood issues conference in September.

07.23.09.03 Local Highways Initiative

Cllr. Simms reported that CCC confirmed that 40mph zones would be introduced in September but the installation date of the SID was still to be confirmed.

He added that he had contacted CCC and Wistow had been added to the list of villages seeking 20mph limits. It was agreed to publicise this on social media.

07.23.09.04 Website

The Clerk reported that AskIT had submitted a written proposal to design and host the website at an annual cost of £250 plus VAT per annum, meaning that the design and build would be effectively free. The proposal was accepted and it was agreed to establish a project sub-committee of 3 councillors comprising Cllrs. Leaton, Twigden and Smith.

07.23.09.05 Playing field

Cllr. Harris agreed to remove the bags of cuttings at the entrance to the playing field.

The Clerk reported that the VHC had returned the unused paint from the gate and submitted the invoice for the materials.

07.23.09.06 Local Plan

It was agreed to form a sub committee comprising Cllrs. Simms and Harris.

07.23.10 Planning

07.23.10.01 Conversion of garage to annex – 24 Kingston Way

The meeting considered the application and concluded that there were no issues and the Clerk was requested to inform HDC.

07.23.10.02 Wistow House Weddings

The meeting noted the properties long-standing use for wedding receptions and concluded any loud party noise was not an issue but enforcement was the responsibility of HDC.

07.23.11 Finance

07.23.11.01 The Meeting approved the accounts for payment: 25th July 2023.

Date	Ref No	Payee	Description	Amount £
25.07.2023	online	Mr. M Woolhouse	Net pay July 2023	240.00
25.07.2023	online	PFK Littlejohn	Certificate of Exemption letter	48.00
25.07.2023	online	LGS	Internal Audit 2023	90.00
25.07.2023	online	TotalEnergies	Electric charges for July 2023	122.01
25.07.2023	online	Wistow Village Hall	Cuprinol and brush	21.85
25.07.2023	online	Mr. R Jackson	Grass cutting	700.00

- 07.23.11.02** The Meeting noted the income and expenditure account for July 2023.
- 07.23.11.03** The Meeting noted the cash book for July 2023.
- 07.23.11.04** The Meeting noted the bank reconciliation for July 2023.
- 07.23.11.05** The Meeting noted bank balances, charges and interest for July 2023.
- 07.23.11.06** The Meeting noted the Internal Audit report and concluded that there were no material issues.
- 07.23.12** **Traffic, Highways & Road Safety.**
- 07.23.12.01** The Meeting noted previously circulated correspondence.
- 07.23.13** **Policing Matters**
- 07.23.13.01** The meeting noted that save for police reports of stolen post boxes there was nothing to report.
- 07.23.14** **Village Maintenance**
- 07.23.13.01** There was nothing to report in addition to items already considered.
- 07.23.15** **Correspondence and Communications**
- 07.23.15.01** The meeting noted the previously circulated correspondence.
- 07.23.15.02** Hedgehog Highways
- It was agreed not purchase any kits but to publicise their availability.
- 07.23.15.03** PECT
- The Meeting noted the letter recently received from Cambs ACRE regarding PECT.
- 07.23.16** Portfolio
- 07.23.16.01** Litter
- Cllr. Leaton confirmed there was nothing to report.
- 07.23.16.02** Playground
- There was nothing to report other than items previously raised.
- 07.23.16.03** Countryside
- In Cllr. Gregory's absence there was nothing to discuss.
- 07.23.16.04** Website
- The Clerk reported there was nothing in addition to items previously raised.

07.23.16.05 Highways

Cllr. Simms reported that there was nothing in addition to items previously raised.

07.23.16.06 Trees and Grass

Cllr. Harris reported that in addition to the points previously raised there were the following matters.

- The coronation tree was doing well.
- Following a complaint from a resident Cadent would establish ownership of the trees hiding the gas substation at Manor Street, inspect them if they were their property then with a view to pruning them.

07.23.17 Monthly Audit

07.23.17.01 Cllr. Harris agreed to be Auditor for September 2023.

07.23.18 Items for discussion at the next meeting

07.23.18.01 There were no items for discussion at the next meeting.

07.23.19 Date of next meeting:

07.23.19.01 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at in the Village Hall on Tuesday 26th September 2023.