

MINUTES

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www.wistowvillage.info**

A meeting of Wistow Parish Council took place on Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall, Manor Street, Wistow, Cambs.

09.23.01 Present

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

09.23.02 In Attendance

09.23.02.01 Mr. M Woolhouse – Clerk to the Parish Council

Cllr. C Lowe – HDC

2 members of the public

09.23.03 Apologies for Absence

09.23.03.01 Cllrs. T Harris, Cllr. A Costello (HDC) and Cllr. S Corney (CCC)

09.23.04 Declarations of Interest

09.23.04.01 Declarations were noted for all Parish Councillors as Trustees of the Village Hall and additionally for Cllr. G Smith in respect of minute 09.23.09.

09.23.05. Public Participation

09.23.05.01 Ms Robinson raised three points in relation to roads and traffic in the village.

Road Access

Ms Robinson expressed concern about access in and out of the village whilst roadworks were undertaken. Cllr. Simms explained the works were for the 40mph signs indicating the buffer zone between the 30 and 60 mph zones and added that access to the village before the works were finished was via Mill Road.

Ms Robinson expressed concern that speed humps would be used and was worried that one would be installed outside her driveway. Cllr. Simms confirmed that the project did not involve speed humps.

Speed Displays

Ms Robinson enquired as to the reinstatement of the current unused display and Cllr. Simms replied that it was no longer useable and uneconomic to repair. However, the LHI project for the signs also included a new display which captured traffic flows information.

Speeding

There was a general discussion over the level of speeding, its impact and measures which could be taken to reduce it.

Ms Robinson left the meeting.

09.23.06 District and County Councillor reports

09.23.06.01 Cllr Lowe

Cllr. Lowe reported that the Oversight and Scrutiny Committee had undertaken a second review of the proposed green waste bin initiative but had not altered its decision and the scheme would commence in April 2024. Two issues were fly tipping by people who chose not to enter the scheme and the ban on putting food waste in to the garden waste. Cllr. Lowe encouraged the parish council to email the new Managing Director of HDC with its concerns.

HDC had agreed not to spray verges until further notice and the parish council would consider its position in early 2024.

Cllr. Lowe reminded the meeting that Red Tile Farm Trust made grants for community, health and other specified reasons, with the next grant making period being in January 2024.

09.23.07 Approval of minutes of meeting held on 25th July 2023

The Meeting considered the minutes of the meeting held on 25th July 2023 and resolved unanimously that they be and are approved and be signed by the Chair.

09.23.08. Matters Arising and Action Log

09.23.08.01 Charge Card

The Clerk reported that it was operational and working.

09.23.08.02 Flooding

Cllr. Smith reported that he attended a flood resilience conference organised by CCC and that the Flood Group had met at the end of June with another meeting scheduled for tomorrow. The EA had installed the camera at the brook and the flood warning sensor was also operational.

The meeting considered practical measures to stop traffic entering the village when roads were flooded and Cllr. Simms agreed to discuss the feasibility of installing gates (such as those in Earith) with CCC Highways.

Cllr. Smith agreed to contact Ramsey police to inform them of the Flood Group and to build awareness with them.

09.23.08.03 Local Highways Initiative

Cllr. Simms stated that 40mph zone signage was currently being installed with a new Speed Information Display to follow. It was agreed to wait until the effectiveness of the Local Highways Initiative had been proven before requesting a further SID for the other end of the village.

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.

09.23.08.04 Website

The Clerk reported that a front page of the new website was available and he would circulate it to the subcommittee.

09.23.08.04 Vacancies.

It was reported that there had been no interest from the community in being a parish councillor. However, the vacancy for the Parish Clerk had generated interest since being re-advertised with matters progressing.

09.23.08.05 Playing field

Cllr. Leaton reported that Wickstead's annual report had reservations over the safety of the large climbing frame complex. After discussions with the Clerk she had put barrier tape around the climbing frame and signs, explaining that it was out of use until repaired and both Wickstead and Mr Jackson had been asked to quote for the repairs.

09.23.08.06 Mr Jackson was also quoting to tidy the hedge by the road to a height of 7 feet as well as trimming the tree.

09.23.08.07 Local Plan

There was nothing further to report but the sub-committee comprised Cllrs Harris, Gregory and Simms.

09.23.09 Planning

09.23.09.01 Tree in garden of Three Horseshoes PH

The meeting considered the application and concluded that whilst the Council was not in favour of the removal of a healthy tree it supported the idea of reducing the mass of the tree by 50% and the Clerk was requested to inform HDC.

09.23.10 Finance

09.23.10.01 The Meeting approved the accounts for payment: 26th September 2023.

Date	Ref No	Payee	Description	Amount £
26.09.2023	online	Mr. M Woolhouse	Net pay August-September	507.00
26.09.2023	online	HMRC	PAYE for Mr Woolhouse July/Sept	187.60
26.09.2023	online	AJ Gallagher	Insurance renewal 2023/4	1026.62
26.09.2023	online	TotalEnergies	Electricity charges for Aug and Sept	253.04
26.09.2023	online	Zen	Domain name and c panel	112.64
26.09.2023	online	Mr. R Jackson	Grass cutting, tree removal	2050.00
26.09.2023	Online	Wicksteed Leisure	Playground inspection report	158.40
26.09.2023	Online	Cambs Acre	Membership fee	72.00
26.09.2023	online	Cllr Leaton	Tape of climbing frame	4.99

- 09.23.10.02** The Meeting noted the income and expenditure account for September 2023.
- 09.23.10.03** The Meeting noted the cash book for September 2023.
- 09.23.10.04** The Meeting noted the bank reconciliation for September 2023.
- 09.23.10.05** The Meeting noted bank balances, charges and interest for September 2023.
- 09.23.10.06** The Meeting approved the previously circulated resolution regarding the removal of Mr. Bradford from the bank accounts.

RESOLUTION

We confirm this resolution has been recorded in accordance with the rules of the organisation.

The people named in this form will be authorised individuals on all accounts.

We are aware Unity Trust Bank (Unity) may not make enquiries before acting on instructions given by any authorised individual.

We will provide Unity with instructions and changes in line with the mandates

We will send Unity a copy of the Memorandum and Articles, a copy of the company's rules, or registration documents if requested. We will inform Unity of any changes.

We will also inform Unity of any change in the Councillors and membership.

TELEPHONE AND INTERNET BANKING

We agree to use the Telephone Banking Service to authorise transfers between our Unity bank accounts and to request balance and other general account information.

We agree to use the Internet Banking Service in accordance with the Terms and Conditions.

Individuals named on this application form will be our authorised Telephone and Internet Banking representatives.

Trustees of unincorporated entities acknowledge that they will be jointly and severally liable for any of the trust's liabilities incurred by individuals authorised to give instructions.

Responsibility for all transactions performed by our Internet Banking service lies with the final authorising user.

DECLARATION

We acknowledge your rights to suspend operation of these accounts until we have given Unity any requested documentation or information.

We authorise Unity to make any enquiries that it considers necessary to confirm the details in this form. The information we have provided is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

We confirm that we have read the Terms and Conditions for the bank's accounts and agree to and acknowledge that we will be bound by them.

09.23.10.07 The Meeting noted the proposal by NALC to update the Model Financial Regulations.

09.23.10.08 The meeting noted the cash flow budget for the first 6 months of the financial year which showed a likely excess of expenditure over income of c£2,000 due primarily to the electricity bill for the previous 3 years consumption. Ignoring the electricity bill there was a minor surplus for the year.

09.23.10.09 The Meeting discussed the precept for 2024/5 and Clerk referred to the previously circulated note showing that the precept had not increased for 5 years, whilst inflation had risen by 40%. In addition, reserves had been used to pay for the playground improvement and the new street lighting with further costs to be incurred in the next few years.

After some discussion the meeting agreed to increase the precept from the current £15,000 to £16,500 for 2024/5.

09.23.11 Traffic, Highways & Road Safety.

09.23.11.01 The Meeting noted previously circulated correspondence.

09.23.12 Policing Matters

09.23.12.01 Cllr. Smith reported on a meeting held recently between police and local groups and stated that it was clear that police priorities were drugs, knives, and parking issues, none of which affect Wistow and speeding in the village ranks very low.

09.23.13 Village Maintenance

09.23.13.01 There was nothing to report in addition to items already considered.

09.23.14 Correspondence and Communications

09.23.14.01 The meeting noted the previously circulated correspondence.

09.23.14.02 The Meeting considered the email from Cllr. Short (CCC) in the light of the decision by HDC to suspend verge weed killing until further notice

09.23.14.03 The meeting noted the press release from HDC re Green Waste collection.

09.23.14.04 The Meeting considered the request by Upwood PC for Wistow PC to install dog fouling collection bins along the boundary between the two parishes at Valiant Square, Upwood. An Upwood resident had undertaken this work for many years but was no longer able to continue. The Clerk explained that the boundary was to the south of the footpath and so the footpath was Upwood land but practically Wistow did not have the resources and it was of benefit to Upwood and not Wistow residents. The Meeting agreed with this response.

09.23.15 Portfolio

09.23.15.01 Litter

Cllr. Leaton confirmed there was nothing to report.

09.23.15.02 Playground

There was nothing to report other than items previously raised.

09.23.15.03 Countryside

Cllr. Gregory reported there was nothing to discuss.

09.23.15.04 Website

The Clerk reported there was nothing in addition to items previously raised.

09.23.15.05 Highways

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

09.23.15.06 Trees and Grass

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

09.23.16 **Monthly Audit**

09.23.16.01 Cllr. Gregory agreed to be Auditor for October 2023.

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

09.23.16.01 Cllr. Simms referred to the planning course run by CAPALC which he would like to attend as a support for the development of the Local Plan and the Meeting agreed to fund its £50 cost.

09.23.18 **Date of next meeting:**

09.23.18.01 The next meeting of the Parish Council will be held at in the Village Hall on Tuesday 31st October 2023.