

## WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of the Parish Council held on  
Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 commencing at 7:30pm  
in the Village Hall, West Street, Welford**

**Present**

**Councillors:** Dr. M Gorrod (Chairman), Mr. N Brotherton, Mr. A. Curtis, Mr. R Esling, Mr. T. Forder, Mr. T McCullagh, Mrs. S. Phelan

**Clerk:** Mr. I Kelly

**Public:** 1 plus WNC Cllr. Jonathan Harris, Cllr. Kevin Parker

Minute	Action
<b>21/88 Apologies for Absence:</b>	
None	
<b>21/89 Minutes of the Meeting Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2021:</b>	
The minutes were approved by the Council.	
<b>21/90 To receive an update on outstanding actions and to note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only:</b>	
<p>The Clerk said that, Cllr. Irving-Swift had advised that the work was progressing with the EV charge point. Cllr. Harris told the meeting that the money was ring fenced and that WNC was seeking alternative pricing for the installation.</p> <p>The Clerk had been in contact with LGSS regarding the lease to the Pocket Park. WNC has offered to sell the land to WPC, but would require an external valuation of the land which WPC would have to pay for. The Councillors agreed to defer a decision to the January meeting.</p> <p>The Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner has awarded the Parish Council £2,310 for a new SID device. The device will be ordered once the money has been received.</p> <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that the ownership of the land by the water pump would require further correspondence with the Land Registry to determine ownership.</p>	
<b>21/91 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>	
Cllr. Esling in relation to item 6i. ii regarding safety repairs in the Pocket Park	
<b>21/92 Public Participation;</b>	
<p>Alice George asked the Council for a footpath to be installed around the edge of the Playing Field connecting the three entrances. Alice George said she was willing to set up a committee to raise funds to create a double width path as a number of children cross the Playing Field and it is quite muddy. Cllr. Gorrod asked if Alice George had consulted groups who use the Playing Field such as the Scouts and Guides. Alice George said that there was interest from parents at the school. Cllr. Gorrod said that input would be required from users of the Playing Field as well as a more detailed proposal and costings. It was agreed that the matter would need further consideration at future meetings once this information was made available.</p>	
<b>21/93 Agenda</b>	
<b>a) To discuss and consider any response to the consultation for the West Northants Strategic Plan</b>	
<p>Cllr. Curtis said that WNC had set up consultation regarding a new Strategic Plan for the area. Cllr. Curtis said it was important to state our case as it will set housing policy against our Neighbourhood Plan. Rural areas have contributed more to the house building due to a shortage of land. Cllr. Curtis suggested the response should be that the Council believes it should be focused in the future (as detailed in the Joint Core Strategy) on development around the main urban centres. It was agreed that Cllr. Curtis would produce a response on behalf of the Council.</p>	Cllr. Curtis
<b>b) To review and approve the grass cutting tender bids for 2022/23</b>	
<p>The Clerk said that grass cutting tenders went out to 5 bidders in October. The closing date for replies was Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December when only one bid had been received. Cllr. Brotherton opened the sealed envelope which was from R &amp; G our current provider.</p>	

The tender bid was £9,494 plus VAT which the Councillors agreed to accept. One other bidder delivered their bid on the 8 <sup>th</sup> December which the Councillors agreed not to include as this was after the deadline	Clerk
<b>c) To approve the electricity contract for 2022</b>	
The Clerk said that the current electricity supply contract was due to expire on the 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2022. Clear Utility Solutions who work in partnership with NCALC had provided a recommended supplier whose credentials were 100% green, YU energy could provide a supply for £1,725 per annum. The Clerk had received an offer from SSE for a 2 year contract which would cost £1,500 per annum. The Councillors agreed to accept the SSE offer and continue with our current supplier given the current uncertainty in the electricity supply market.	Clerk
<b>d) To discuss and consider street light improvements to unlit areas</b>	
Cllr. Gorrod said that he had produced and circulated a map of the location of street lights in the village and highlighted potential dark/unlit areas, some of which were also mentioned in the Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk said that the cost of a new installation through Zeta would be about £1,840 per lamp. Cllr. Gorrod proposed for there to be a consultation with affected residents and to consider the results at Council.	Cllr. Gorrod
<b>e) To consider the first draft of the budget for 2022/23</b>	
The Clerk presented the draft budget for consideration by Councillors. It was agreed to limit any rise and not exceed inflation or £1,000. The final budget will be agreed at the January meeting and the Precept submitted to WNC finance	Clerk
<b>f) To review and update the Reserves Policy</b>	
The Clerk said that as part of the insurance renewal, he had calculated the cost of replacing assets and their life expectancy, The Clerk had added a section to the Reserves Policy allowing for the creation of an Asset Replacement fund. Cllr. Gorrod said that in the past, the Precept had been too low and this policy would ensure that reserves would be evenly and fairly accrued to ensure future asset replacement costs could be met out of the replacement fund rather than the annual precept. Councillors approved the amended policy.	
<b>g) To receive an update and consider options in relation to the defibrillators</b>	
The Clerk said that Sarah Gorrod who now oversees the defibrillators has identified a supplier who can provide a battery and pad pack although there is a national shortage and it could take up to 6months for delivery and an order had been raised. Cllr. Gorrod said that the defibrillators would soon be out of warranty and require replacement within the next 3 to 4 years.	
<b>h) To discuss the proposed weight limits proposed for Church Lane, West Street and West End</b>	
The Clerk had circulated a paper from WNC proposing a weight limit in West Street, Church Lane and West End to the junction with Newlands Road. Councillors were in favour of the restriction. Cllr. Curtis said that there was a 7.5t weight restriction sign on Court Lane from the A5199. The Clerk was asked to reply to WNC approving of the weight limits and pointing out this anomaly	Clerk
<b>i) i. To discuss the issue of ownership and responsibility for Stacey's Bridge</b>	
The Clerk said that following the October meeting, he had reported the condition of Stacey's Bridge to Leicestershire County Council. A reply had been received indicating that the bridge was their responsibility to maintain and repair.	
<b>i) ii. To consider and approve safety repairs in the Pocket Park</b>	
The Clerk had received notification from WNC of a report of the bridge and decking in the Pocket Park being slippery. Paul Smith has identified a repair using 50mm black anti-slip glass fibre strips, one to each tread, to the pocket bridge and to the viewing platform at a cost of £1,337.50 plus £267.50 VAT. The Councillors approved the repair without the requirement for additional tenders in order to urgently address this safety issue.	Clerk
<b>j) To discuss and approve the Parish Council plans for Operation London Bridge</b>	
The Clerk circulated a paper prior to the meeting outlining the Council's protocol in the event of the death of a senior member of the Royal Family. This was a cut down	

and local version of a confidential national plan. Cllr. Gorrod asked that in the event of the Chairman being unavailable, the Vice Chairman should take on the roles mentioned in the document, to be added to the plan. Councillors approved the protocol.	
<b>k) To consider and approve the tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a wood - donate a tree in memory of loved ones - do this in the spinney?</li> <li>• Plant wild flowers in some of the grass areas around the village - maybe a wildflower area in the park</li> <li>• Recycling of more materials</li> </ul>	
Cllr Brotherton said that he had priced out a Hornbeam tree at a local nursery at a cost of £145 plus delivery for a 10' tall tree. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase with a budget of £200 to additionally include a commemorative plaque Cllr. Gorrod said that another suggestion had been the planting of wildflowers and trees in The Spinney. Cllr. Curtis said that there was little light to support saplings in The Spinney and wild flower meadows had similarly proved problematic. It was however agreed to add an agenda item to discuss access to/from the Spinney to the January agenda.	
<b>l) To approve payment of £705 for the annual fee for the use of 2Commune for the website and email services</b>	
The Clerk said that the subscription fee of £705 plus VAT for the website and email was due to be paid. The Clerk said that Community Groups were submitting material for the website and the email provided security of information in relation to GDPR requirements. Cllr. Gorrod said that 2Commune ensures WCAG 2.0 accessibility compliance as legislated by the Equality Act for public bodies. Councillors agreed to renew the subscription with 2Commune.	
<b>m) To consider entering the Village in the Northamptonshire ACRE Village Award scheme</b>	
The Clerk had circulated a paper from ACRE inviting the village to enter the Village Award Scheme and that he had been contacted by the WI in relation to the contest. It was agreed with the limited number of Councillors and other demands placed on them , that the WI would be invited to enter the village in the Award Scheme if it chose to do so with the Parish Council meeting the entry fee and any reasonable costs for cleaning materials. Clerk to inform the WI.	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>n) Clerk's update</b>	
The Clerk had circulated a paper to Councillors with a suggestion for equipment to be added to the Children's Play area on the Playing Field. It was agreed to defer any decision to the January meeting	
<b>21/94 Planning</b>	
a) WND/2021/0721 The Glebe, Elkington Road, Welford Removal of existing building and replacement with commercial building for chemical storage and biomass plant. Cllr. Curtis said that the application was to erect a small building to keep materials dry. Although the building would be in open countryside the application is permitted under planning policy. The Councillors expressed concern that similar buildings on the Hemphoe have changed use and agreed to support this application but wanted to highlight in the response that further expansion on site should not be permitted. The Councillors also asked for the site lines into Elkington Road to be considered	<b>Clerk</b>
<b>21/95 Reports</b>	
<b>a) Highways</b>	
Cllr. Gorrod said that the clearing of drains was quite hap-hazard and he would raise it in his next Fix-My-Street entry	<b>Cllr. Gorrod</b>
<b>b) Rights of Way</b>	
Cllr. Gorrod said that the path warden scheme has been rejuvenated under WNC	
<b>c) Playing field</b>	
Cllr. Brotherton said that the equipment was in good order	
<b>d) Speed Indicator Device (SID) report</b>	
The old device has been returned and being used around the village to highlight vehicle speeds, although it is not able to record this data	
<b>e) Welford Youth and Community Centre</b>	

Cllr. Gorrod said that despite Covid restrictions and lockdowns, the financial position of WYCC is quite healthy																												
<b>f) Village Hall:</b>																												
Cllr. Esling said that a local builder had been contacted by the Village Hall to undertake work on access to the hall																												
<b>g) Pocket Park</b>																												
Cllr. Esling said that Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> December will be a major hedge planting day in the Pocket Park																												
<b>21/96 Finances</b>																												
a) Councillors noted the bank working balance at Unity Trust on the 3rd December 2021, £44,790.48																												
b) Cllr. McCullagh confirmed that the bank balances were checked and are correct																												
c) Councillors noted the standing order for street lighting paid to SSE on the 16th November 2021, £85.31																												
d) The following payments were approved																												
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The Councillors noted the increased cost of the memorial cleaning due to the additional name painting The main meeting closed																												
<b>21/97 Confidential business held in accordance with Standing Order 2d, Public and Press to be excluded from this section</b>																												
• To discuss work undertaken by the Clerk																												
The Clerk left the room, the Councillors discussed the Clerk's workload and agreed to increase the hours of the Clerk to 10 hours each week from January 1 <sup>st</sup> 2022.																												
<b>21/97 Date of next meeting: Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b> <b>The meeting closed at 9.47pm</b>																												

**Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record**

<b>Signed by Chairman</b>	<b>Dated</b>