WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 27th January 2022 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: 2 plus WNC Cllr. Jonathan Harris, Cllr. Cecile Irving-Swift

Minute	Action
22/01 Apologies for Absence:	
None	
22/02 Minutes of the Meeting Thursday 9th December 2021:	
Cllr. Esling raised an issue regarding minute 21/93e regarding the street lighting survey in that it had not been approved by Council and that it would create expectations if it wasn't adhered to. Cllr. Gorrod said that if everyone affected by the proposed light did not want it the Council had no legal obligation to provide lighting, but must maintain it where provided and the decision on whether to provide lighting would be a matter for a future PC Agenda and vote to approve. The minutes were approved by the Council.	
22/03 To receive an update on outstanding actions and to note any matters a	rising from the
minutes not included on this agenda for report only:	
The Clerk said that Cllr. Harris reported that there was no workplan scheduled by WNC for the EV chargepoint. The Clerk had shared various emails with Cllr. Harris indicating work was planned including the identification of a preferred supplier and the EV Parking Order from NCC; Cllr. Harris would make further enquiries. The Clerk had received guidance on the proposed cost of purchasing the Pocket Park which was debated by Councillors. It was agreed unanimously that the preferred option would be to continue leasing the land from WNC The Clerk said that the safety tread repairs to the Pocket Park decking and bridge were due to be undertaken by Paul Smith. Cllr. Esling said in relation to the street light survey that it would create expectations that are not adhered to. Cllr. Gorrod said that the purpose of the survey was to seek opinions on lighting. If everyone affected by the proposed light did not want it the Council has no legal obligation to provide lighting and the legal right to provide additional street lighting would need to be approved by the Parish Council. Cllr. Curtis said that the survey might yield some interesting points and the Council should wait to receive the responses. The Clerk was asked to identify the scope of the Chairman to undertake a survey based on the previous minutes recording approval for a consultation. Cllr. Gorrod said that the land on which the water pump stands belongs to 11 West End and to several other house owners on West End for access to field to the rear of the houses. Cllr. Gorrod said that he had updated previous FixMyStreet reports in relation to drain blockages adding photographs of the site showing the blockage from months ago was still an issue.	Clerk
22/04 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	
None 22/05 Public Participation;	
Cliff Marlow said that lighting is a Health and Safety issue and could not understand why it could not be installed where it is supposed to be. He also asked about the bus service for the future. The Clerk said that WNC had created a Bus Service Improvement Plan which included Government money to maintain the current rural	

services. It was likely that the Council would have to contribute for the next year as no new information had been received about a grant being available for the service. Bill Wright asked for funding of £150 plus VAT for two batteries for the SID device which was approved by Council. Bill Wright said that he was coordinating the Jubilee events and this was currently missing an input from youth organisations. Bill Wright then referred to Green Welford's recycling bins in the bus shelter, it was agreed to allow up to four additional bins to be placed inside the bus shelter.

Alice George informed the Council that she was considering applying to WNC for Public Footpath status from Northampton Road to West End. She informed the Council that she had spoken with several groups and had received favourable feedback in relation to the proposed footpath linking the play area to the entrances of the Playing Field. although this was not in agreement with the feedback received by the Chairman from the WYCC committee. Cllr. Brotherton said that the Council should not spend a lot of time discussing the detail but should if the Council is prepared to support it in principle. Cllr. Gorrod said that the Council has not committed to the plan and is waiting for a detailed proposal to be sent to the Clerk. The Clerk was asked to provide a plan of the Playing Field to Alice George.

Cllr. Irving-Swift said that she had grant monies available for the Scout Group, the Clerk was asked to contact the Treasurer for the Scouts

Clerk

Clerk

22/06 Agenda

a) To discuss the addition of new equipment to the children's play area

The Clerk referred to the December meeting where he provided information on the Cone Climber provided by Tay Play. Cllr. Gorrod and the Clerk had measured the area inside the play area near to the see-saw and found there to be enough space for installation. It is proposed to install it in the spring, there is a line in the 2022/23 budget to allow for this and there is also CIL funds available of £2,026.75. The Councillors approved the purchase and installation of the Cone Climber 2400 at £6,991 including installation plus VAT

Clerk

b) To approve the budget and Precept for 2022/23

The Clerk said that a budget of £44,500 had been identified for the Parish Council for 2022/23. Cllr. Brotherton said that it had been discussed at the last meeting and amended and was now ready to be approved. The Council approved the budget and Precept of £44,500 for 2022/23 which was an increase of 2.3%.

Clerk

Cllr. Gorrod read statements form the Unitary Councillors in relation to the WNC Council tax increase for 2022/23. Cllr. Irving-Swift: said that 'You made a refence to the formation of WNC and the impact on the council tax. This was debated last year. The council tax harmonisation started in March 2021. If you look at last year bill, the first harmonisation took place. This process will take three years in total. We are in our second year and then everyone in WNC will pay the same for the same band.' Cllr. Harris said 'The administration made a decision last year to harmonise council tax between all three legacy councils over a three year period. The process is currently in year two. Not all political groups supported this decision. There was an option to extend this process of harmonisation over up to seven years which would have lessened the impact over a longer period of time but this option was not accepted. From an historical perspective, Daventry District Council aimed to keep council tax low, it could be said for philosophical and/or political reasons. This was arguably an artificial position which is why the differential is now larger.'

The Clerk said that the Northamptonshire Police Fire & Crime Commissioner Stephen Mold is asking for an increase of £5 a year in the council tax precept for Northamptonshire Fire & Rescue Service and an increase of £10 a year in the policing precept.

c) To discuss the removal of Neighbour Comments from the On-line Planning Register

Cllr. Harris said that he had met with the Director of Place at WNC and had been told that such comments were previously shown in South Northants and Northampton websites but not taken place on the Daventry website although they could be shown, Cllr. Harris was told it was likely the facility would be available from June on the WNC website. Councillors agreed that as the Unitary Councillors were dealing with this matter, no further action was required at this time.

d) To discuss soft access/agrees from The Chinney	
d) To discuss safe access/egress from The Spinney	
Cllr. Gorrod said that as the Spinney was cleared of brambles to provide easier	
emergency access,. Cllr Gorrod suggested there was still a need to consider steps	
or improved access due to the steep angle of the slope. Cllr. Brotherton said that	
there were problems with a fir tree and ash trees which are subject to a TPO. The	
Clerk was asked to contact the emergency services for any advice they might offer	
in relation to the maximum angle of the slope for their safe use if required	Clerk
e) To consider a request from a householder to realign a boundary fence	
The Clerk had circulated a request from the resident of 22 The Leys asking to move	
their rear garden fence beyond a tree within the Spinney and to take care of a tree	
which was causing the fence to bow. The Councillors agreed that the land could not	
be sold and the fence not moved as it could set a precedent to other householders.	Clerk
f) To receive an update and consider options in relation to the defibrillators	
Cllr. Gorrod said that the batteries and pads for the defibrillator had been paid for,	
but the supplier was still waiting for stock to arrive. Cllr. Gorrod said that the Council	
might have to consider replacing the current defibrillators in two months if the	
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batteries and pads for the current devices were still not available.	
g) To approve the purchase of a bin for the children's play area	
The Clerk had circulated a paper in relation to a new bin for the Children's Play Area	
on the Playing Field. The cost of the bin from Glasdon was £202.90 plus £40.58 VAT,	
installation is £125 plus VAT. Councillors approved the purchase of the bin.	Clerk
h) To engage with the Northants CALC Asset Mapping Project (AMP) and to app	point an AMP
Working Group comprising the Clerk and a Councillor	
The Clerk said that WNC through NCALC was asking Parishes to map Unitary assets	
within the Parish While it was not thought that the assets would transfer to the	
Parishes in the next financial year, it could not be ruled out in the future. The Clerk	
said that a grant of £285.77 would be made to the Parish Council for taking part. Cllr.	
Esling and Cllr. Phelan agreed to take part in the survey with the Clerk.	Clerk
i) Clerk's update	
The Clerk said that the Allotments had been approved as an Asset of Community	
Value on the 20 th December 2021	
A Grant of £2,088.00 was awarded by National Lottery Together for Our Planet	
programme to the Council for Helen Dyson to undertake a feasibility study to plant	
trees in the Parish area to help the community to take practical climate action	
The Clerk reminded Councillors that the Parish Council is paying for the marquee in	
relation to the Queen's Jubilee from 3 rd to the 5 th June, at a cost of £966 plus VAT.	
A deposit of £350 has already been paid for the marquee.	
The Clerk had received an application from 2 metal detectorists to undertake a	
search on PC land. Having taken advice from the County Archaeological Officer the	
request was declined on the grounds that it is not permitted unless as part of a	
scheme which has been approved by an Archaeological Advisor within the County	
22/07 Planning	
No Planning Applications had been received. However, the Clerk had received an	
email from Class Q Developers in relation to land on Newlands Road and the corner	
of Northampton Road. The developer will be invited to attend the next meeting on	
the 24th February 2022. The Clerk was also asked to invite the Chairman of the	
Sportsfield Association. The email from the developer is to be sent to all Councillors	Clerk
who were asked to send any comments to Cllr. Curtis as Chairman of the Planning	
Committee.	
22/08 Reports	
a) Highways	
Cllr. Gorrod said that the Clerk had recently raised a number of potholes which had	
been actioned. Cllr. Gorrod said that he had again raised issues regarding blocked	
drains which were still in the same condition when previously reported.	
b) Rights of Way	
Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no new issues	
c) Playing field	
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area was being wel				
	Device (SID) report			
The new SID is on o	order and the old SID continues to be used aroun	d the village.		
e) Welford Youth a	and Community Centre			
No new reports				
f) Village Hall:				
Cllr. Esling said that discussions were ongoing regarding an access ramp.				
g) Pocket Park				
Cllr. Esling said that the small team of volunteers had recently planted 300 hedging				
	lary nearest the highway.			
22/09 Finances				
•	d the bank working balance at Unity Trust on the	e 20th January		
2022 £41,950.44				
o) Councillors noted	the standing order for street lighting paid to SS	SE on the 19th		
January £93.03				
c) The following pay	ments were approved			
PAYEE	REASON	£		
Staff costs	Salaries - January	678.30		
R&G	Leaf clearance December	324.00		
Village Hall	Hire for Council meetings Jan - March	48.00		
	Training Sue Phelan	30.00		
NCALC			1	

Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record

Signed by Chairman	Dated