

# WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL

## Meeting of the Parish Council held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 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. T. Forder,  
Mr. T McCullagh, Mrs. S. Phelan

**Clerk:** Mr. I Kelly

**Public:** 21

| Minute  | Action       |
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| <b>22/11 Apologies for Absence:</b>   |              |
| a. None   |              |
| b. The resignation of Cllr. Robert Esling was noted   |              |
| <b>22/12 Minutes of the Meeting Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2022</b>   |              |
| The minutes of the meeting held on January 27 <sup>th</sup> 2022 were approved  |              |
| <b>22/13 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 gave the following updates in relation to the action record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EV charge point was progressing with WNC</li><li>• WNC legal are working on issuing a draft heads of terms shortly for the lease on the Pocket park</li><li>• The street light survey would run until the end of February when the responses would be assessed</li><li>• No reply had been received from either the Fire or Ambulance Services in relation to the slope in the Spinney</li><li>• The litter bin for the Children's Play Area had been delivered by Glasdon. The proposed installer was behind on his work; a quote for £140 had been received from Nigel Wilson to install the bin which the Councillors approved</li></ul> <p>Cllr Gorrod gave the following statement in response to the scope of the Chairman to undertake a survey:</p> <p>'An action point from the January 2022 minutes was for the Clerk to investigate Cllr Esling's criticism of the Chairman to undertake a survey on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk has found nothing in the Standing Orders that would preclude a Councillor from performing a survey on behalf of the Council. The section on Restrictions on Councillor Activities states that, unless duly authorised, no councillor may issue orders, instructions or directions. The question as to whether the survey was authorised was challenged by Cllr Esling, even though the approved December 2021 minutes recorded a resolution of "consultation with affected residents and to consider the results at Council". Even if the survey was not authorised by the council under the December 2021 resolution, as a survey is neither an order, instruction or direction, it is not an action which would be precluded under the Parish Council's standing orders.'</p> |              |
| <b>22/14 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:</b>  |              |
| None  |              |
| <b>22/15 Public Participation;</b>  |              |
| <p>Oliver Tann discussed his proposal in relation to traffic calming on the A5199 southern entrance to the village, the proposal had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. Cllr. Curtis asked that this was made an agenda item for the next meeting so that it can be fully discussed</p> <p>Cliff Marlow asked that in relation to agenda item 6d, that a sign is also placed at the entrance to the field by the garage</p>   | <b>Clerk</b> |

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| <p>Yvonne Dean asked if the Council could conduct a survey to identify properties at risk from passing traffic. Cllr. Gorrod said that there was an open action with regards to the Neighbourhood Plan which this falls under and the item would be included in those discussions.</p> <p>Alice George said that she had undertaken a quick survey regarding the Cone Climber which was not in favour of the equipment and asked to submit it to the Council. Cllr. Gorrod said that it had been passed for purchase at the last meeting and had been discussed over the last 6 months and under Standing Orders the decision could not be overturned without a Special Resolution. The Clerk said that the order had been placed and was due for delivery at the end of March with installation in April.</p> <p>Four member of the public said that they had concerns about the proposed footpath through the Playing Field. The concerns expressed included that the area was signed for children to play; it could be a trip hazard for people of all ages; if someone fell at night, how long might they wait for help; the proposed path would seem more beneficial to adults; disabilities come in all forms and people with unseen disabilities might not benefit from the footpath. Marcus Miola said that at the last meeting he had submitted a request to move his fence which had been turned down by the Council. Mr. Miola said that the land registry showed a linear line across the rear fence line of the houses in The Leys. Cllr. Gorrod said that he had a copy of Land Registry for The Leys and that was not the case and made the latest land registry map available to Mr Miola. The Clerk was asked to send Mr. Miola an extract from the minutes regarding the decision</p> | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> |
| <p><b>22/16 Agenda</b></p>  |                     |
| <p><b>a) To receive a presentation from Iain Downer of Class Q Developers regarding land on Newlands Road</b></p>   |                     |
| <p>Mr. Downer gave an overview of the proposed development on land at the junction of Newlands Road and the A5199 Northampton Road. He said that at this stage he did not have a proposal for the number of units on the site but it could be up to 10 . He had three questions for the Council to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) What would be considered an appropriate scale of development</li> <li>b) In relation to access, he would like to see this being via the Sports Field access and would look to upgrade the road to be adopted</li> <li>c) In delivering more than 5 units, does the parish have a requirement for affordable housing and, if so, how many units would they like to see delivered? If there is no requirement for affordable housing, then it may be possible for us to make a financial contribution in lieu of an on-site provision.</li> </ol> <p>Adrian Scullion from the Sports Field Association clarified that the Parish Council were the Guardian Trustees for the Sports Field and the beneficial owners of the Sports Field was the Sports Field Association. Cllr. Brotherton said that in relation to the affordable housing, this would need to be raised with WNC. Mr. Downer said that the number of units on the site would be driven by consultation. A copy of a presentation would be circulated to Councillors and would also be placed on the village website</p>  | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> |
| <p><b>b) To discuss the Parish Council's involvement in Queen's Platinum Jubilee</b></p>  |                     |
| <p>Bill Wright from the Welford Queens Platinum Coordinating Group said that a number of events were published in the March edition of the Parish Magazine. This includes the installation of a Hornbeam tree by the Parish Council and trees within the cemetery extension by the Church. Bill Wright had planted three Oak trees by the canal. For the event between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> June, the school was creating a flag and there will be a dinner dance on the Friday night with tickets available in April. There will be a church service of celebration on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. Adrian Scullion said the Sports Field Association was meeting in March and would consider an event for the Saturday. The Clerk was asked to check on the insurance cover for the marquee and events taking place on the Playing Field.</p>   | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> |
| <p><b>c) To receive a report supplied by Alice George in relation to the installation of a footpath to connect the current gated entrances on to the Welford playing field</b></p>  |                     |

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| <p>Alice George referred to the map of the proposed footpaths through the Playing Field provided to the Clerk and circulated to Councillors. Ms. George said that there was 880 sq/m of footpath and the average cost from three quotes to undertake the work was £68,000. Cllr. Brotherton asked if the quote included lighting, which Ms. George said it did not, but that low level solar lighting could be considered. Cllr. McCullagh asked how the money would be raised? Ms. George said that it would be raised from residents and grants from various bodies including the National Lottery. Cllr. Gorrod said that in the feedback from the WYCC Committee there were concerns about privacy and safeguarding of children within the centre if the path passed by the hall and it could also have an impact on bookings. Cllr. Brotherton said that there would need to be adjustments to the route such as the basketball Hoop and towards the garage as it would need an amendment to the public footpath. Cllr. Curtis said he was having trouble visualising the proposal and saw it as urbanisation of the rurality of the village, and that there are alternative routes for pedestrians. To add lighting is taking it out of the rural context and the gain would only be for a few people. Cllr. Brotherton said the Council could vote against the whole path but vote for a path from The Leys to the Children's Play Area. Cllr. Gorrod said that the proposal was for the Council not to agree to a network of footpaths to link the three entrances of the Playing Field which was unanimously agreed by Councillors.</p> |                     |
| <p><b>d) To approve the purchase of a sign for the entrance to the Playing Field at the West End entrance, cost £9.62 plus VAT</b></p>   |                     |
| <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that there is a permissive right of way granted by the Parish Council for users to cross the Playing Field and that should now include no dogs. The proposal was for two signs at £9.62 to be purchased highlighting the route as a permissive right of way, with one placed at the entrance to the Playing Field in West Street and one by the entrance to the field at the rear of the garage. Councillors agreed to the purchase of two signs at a total of £19.24</p>   | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> |
| <p><b>e) To receive an update and consider options in relation to the defibrillators</b></p>   |                     |
| <p>Sarah Gorrod who is the volunteer coordinator for the defibrillators said that she was still waiting for batteries for both defibrillators to be delivered and had been assured by the supplier that they will be available by April. There are two bars on the display for the batteries and they will work for a number of shocks. Mrs. Gorrod said that the options were to wait for the batteries to arrive, or buy one or two new defibrillators, which are available from suppliers immediately. In purchasing one now, when it came to be replaced it would not overlap with the other device in the village unlike now. Cllr. Brotherton approved of the idea in not replacing two defibrillators at the same time. The Clerk said that Primary Care Supplies who undertook the defibrillator training in October have an iPad SP1 AED Fully Automatic defibrillator available which is a nominated device of the British Heart Foundation and widely used by the NHS, Ambulance, Police and Fire Services for use on adults and children and costs £975 plus VAT. Cllr. Gorrod said that this should be a discussion for the next agenda in relation to purchasing a new defibrillator and for the Clerk to undertake research for alternative funding. Councillors were asked to approve the emergency purchase of a new defibrillator at £975 by the Clerk should the current defibrillators fail before the next meeting. This was approved by Councillors.</p>   | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> |
| <p><b>f) To receive an update regarding the Northants CALC Asset Mapping Project (AMP)</b></p>   |                     |
| <p>Cllr. Phelan said that WNC had asked all town and Parish Councils to identify all assets and services owned by WNC from the former District Councils. This is not to pass on those assets in the near future but it might be something that takes place long term. Cllr. Phelan took part in an NCalc briefing and said that relative to other Councils, Welford was ahead of the game in local asset knowledge compared to many other Councils. The completed form would be circulated to all Councillors</p>  | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> |
| <p><b>g) Clerk's update</b></p>  |                     |
| <p>The Clerk said he had received an update from John Hunt in relation to monies committed by Parishes along the route and included the £1,679.23 from Welford. The Clerk said that The Bramptons were not contributing and Creaton, Clipston and Brixworth were waiting on their meetings to finalise any contribution</p>  |                     |
| <p><b>22/17 Planning</b></p>   |                     |

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| No Planning Applications had been received.   |                                     |          |
| <b>22/18 Reports</b>  |                                     |          |
| <b>a) Highways</b>  |                                     |          |
| <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that there were ongoing issues with potholes that were being dealt with by Highways. Cllr. Gorrod said that there was debris falling from Talbot House onto the footpath and road which had been fenced off. Highways have indicated that this is a Building Control matter. A member of the public said that the scaffolding should be lit and the Clerk was asked to check with Building Control.</p> <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that the drain by the Pocket Park was blocked again. Cllr. McCullagh said that there was a problem with a drain opposite Wakefield Drive.</p> <p>Cllr. Brotherton said that there was still an ongoing leak in West Street/High Street. Clerk to contact AWA.</p> |                                     | Clerk    |
| <b>b) Rights of Way</b>   |                                     |          |
| Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no new issues   |                                     |          |
| <b>c) Playing field</b>   |                                     |          |
| Cllr. Brotherton said the Playing Field had stood up well to the bad weather although parts of it were waterlogged.   |                                     |          |
| <b>d) Speed Indicator Device (SID) report</b>   |                                     |          |
| Cllr. Gorrod said that the new SID had been delivered and will be in service shortly  |                                     |          |
| <b>e) Welford Youth and Community Centre</b>  |                                     |          |
| No new reports  |                                     |          |
| <b>f) Village Hall:</b>   |                                     |          |
| No reports  |                                     |          |
| <b>22/19 Finances</b>   |                                     |          |
| a) Councillors approved the 'Statement of Internal Control' for 2022  |                                     |          |
| b) Councillors noted the bank working balance at Unity Trust on the 18th February 2022 £43,696.03   |                                     |          |
| c) Councillors noted the standing order for street lighting paid to SSE on the 16 <sup>th</sup> February, £77.58  |                                     |          |
| d) The following payments were approved   |                                     |          |
| <b>PAYEE</b>  | <b>REASON</b>                       | <b>£</b> |
| Staff costs   | Salaries – February                 | 678.30   |
| A Hickford Lighting   | Repair to light Northampton Road    | 350.00   |
| Glasdon   | Bin for play area                   | 213.38   |
| Print 7   | Signs re 'Turn off engine' campaign | 39.60    |
| TWM   | New SID device                      | 2772.00  |
| <p>The Clerk said that in consultation with the Chairman he had asked Nigel Wilson to undertake an emergency repair to the electric box cover on the street light at the former Shoulder of Mutton PH on the High Street. This had been completed and the Clerk asked for approval to pay his fee of £25, which was approved by Councillors.</p>  |                                     |          |
| <b>22/20 Date of next meeting: Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022.</b>   |                                     |          |
| <b>The meeting closed at 8.52pm</b>   |                                     |          |

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

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