

WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 23rd February 2023 commencing at 7:30pm
in the Village Hall, West Street, Welford

Present

Councillors: Dr. M Gorrod (Chairman), Mr. N Brotherton, , Mr. A. Curtis, Mr. W. Hughes, , Mr. T. McCullagh, Mrs. S. Phelan

Unitary Councillor: Mr. J Harris

Clerk: Mr. I Kelly

Public: 3

Minute	Action
23/11 Apologies for Absence:	
Apologies were accepted from Mr. T Forder	
23/12 Minutes of the Meeting Thursday 26th January 2023	
The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 26 th January 2023 were approved	
23/13 To receive an update on outstanding actions and to note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only:	
The Clerk gave the following updates in relation to the action record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was only one outstanding action in relation to the Clerk contacting Unitary Councillors in relation to the incomplete and invalid reports in relation to trees. Cllr. Irving-Swift is dealing with this and is waiting for a reply from WNC Officers 	
23/14 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	
Cllr. Gorrod declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7d as he may be making a similar application	
23/15 Public Participation;	
Cliff Marlow commented on the new equipment in the play area and said that it was a good improvement. He asked if there was a national website for EV charge points. He was advised that Zap Map is available on the web and as an app for users and the Welford charge point is marked on this map.	
23/16 Agenda	
a) To receive an update regarding the buses	
Cllr. Harris said that a WNC budget meeting was held on the 22 nd February 2023. A 370 signature petition was submitted at the committee by Cllr. Gorrod and two other Parish Council Chairs spoke to the meeting. The LibDem councillors proposed that the subsidy for the bus service be funded from contingency funds. WNC agreed to include funding for the bus service in the budget and a consultation is taking place which will report to the Bus Group on the Council..	
b) To approve the Dignity at Work, Bullying and Harassment Policy	
Cllr. Gorrod said that at the July 2022 meeting, details were circulated in relation to the national Civility and Respect Project which the Parish Council signed up to. The policy has been written as a result of recent issues within the village. Councillors accepted and approved the policy.	
c) To receive an update from the Chairman in relation to hedge trimming in Butchers Close	
Cllr. Gorrod asked Councillors if this item should be held in an open or closed session of Council. It was agreed that it should be held in open Council. Councillor Gorrod said that in relation to Butchers Close which is a public right of way DU/022, the Parish Technician and a volunteer cleared part of the hedge along this footpath. A complaint was submitted to the Clerk which he was unable to resolve and as Chairman, Councillor Gorrod spoke to those involved before sending a reply to the complainant. Cllr. Gorrod then read out a statement outlining the facts. Councillors agreed with and approved the letter that had been sent to the complainant. After Cllr. Gorrod read out his statement and Councillors expressed approval of his statement, a member of the public who identified herself as 'The wife of the complainant'	

<p>raised her hand and said ‘Why were we not given a notice when others were given a notice signed by the Chairman?’.</p> <p>Cllr. Gorrod replied ‘I have never signed a hedge cutting notice , I am a non-executive officer of the Council and I would ask you to retract the allegation’</p> <p>The lady refused to withdraw the allegation.</p> <p>Cllr. Gorrod said ‘This Council does not issue hedge cutting notices’.</p> <p>She was again asked to withdraw her allegation and declined. Another member of the public asked why the Council did not give them a letter and was told the same reply.</p>	
d) To consider activities in relation to the Coronation of King Charles III	
<p>Cllr. Brotherton proposed that a fund be set up for events surrounding the coronation of King Charles III. Councillors agreed to a fund of £500 being made available to suitable applicants and the Playing Field to be available for Village events.</p>	
e) To consider initiating a leaf blow and weed spray along Butchers Close	
<p>Cllr. Hughes said that Butchers Close suffers from leaf build up. The Clerk was asked to obtain a quote from the grass cutters to undertake leaf blowing in the autumn and for this to be considered at a future council meeting.</p>	Clerk
f) Clerk’s update	
<p>The Clerk reported that the hedge along Newlands Road had been cut back by David Cliffe who recommended that it be cut each autumn after the nesting season had finished. The Clerk said that he had received emails acknowledging the new equipment in the children’s play area. They indicated that there was not a lot of play equipment for children over 8. The Clerk said that the annual inspection will take place in May and Councillors can then review the equipment needs for the play area.</p>	
23/17 Planning	
a) To note updates from previous Planning Applications	
<p>The Clerk had previously circulated updates regarding outstanding applications prior to the meeting.</p>	
b) WND/2022/0980 Single storey and two storey extension to rear, two storey side extension, extend single storey protrusion to front and install new roof over	
<p>Cllr. Brotherton said that he felt there was need for additional windows to the front of the property. Cllr. Curtis recommended the approval of the application and it was approved by Council</p>	
c) WND/2023/0047 Installation of front porch	
<p>The application was approved by Councillors</p>	
d) WND/2023/0014 Construction of wooden gates (retrospective) and side wall	
<p>Cllr Gorrod left the meeting prior to the discussion. The retrospective application was approved by Councillors. Cllr. Gorrod returned to the meeting.</p>	
e) WND/2023/0050 Work to tree subject of Tree Preservation Order DA 490	
<p>Cllr. Curtis said that the Council was unable to make a decision as the application was invalid due to there being no written report submitted by a qualified tree surgeon as to the state of the tree and supporting the proposed works, only a summary of a conversation between the tree surgeon and the tree officer. The Council was unable to approve or object to the works based on the application submitted and considered the application invalid. The Clerk was asked to raise issues with the application with the Unitary Councillors</p>	Clerk
23/18 Reports	
a) Highways	
<p>Cllr. Gorrod said that the main issue remains the potholes around the village. There is more money being made available by WNC in relation to potholes as part of the new budget. Cllr. Gorrod said that WNC is also making match funding available for certain road projects, however as a diversion route the village is limited as to what can be put in place on the A5199. Cllr. Gorrod also reported that there was a 20mph sign missing on the northern end of West Street which has been reported.</p>	
b) Rights of Way	
<p>Cllr. Gorrod said that parts of the Jurassic Way to the east of the village had been cleared</p>	
c) Playing field	

Cllr. Brotherton said that in relation to the new equipment, there was a small snag which was dealt with promptly. Cllr. Brotherton said that he was looking at the trees to the rear of the tennis courts that overlook properties on West End as they are in need of cutting back and sit on Council land.																
d) Welford Youth and Community Centre																
Cllr. Gorrod said there had been no recent meetings																
e) Village Hall:																
Cllr. Phelan said that most of the Village Hall Committee members had received Trustee training delivered by Northants ACRE																
23/19 Finances																
a) Councillors noted the following bank working balances at Unity Trust on the 17th February 2023																
i. Current account: £32,814.73																
ii. Savings account: £20,013.97																
b) Councillors noted the standing order for street lighting paid to SSE on the 16th February 2023, £95.49																
c) Councillors approved the following payments																
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>PAYEE</th> <th>REASON</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staff costs</td> <td>Salaries</td> <td>777.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R & G</td> <td>Laying turf, Roundhouse Close</td> <td>384.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Creative Play</td> <td>New play area equipment (includes VAT£2,599.80)</td> <td>15,598.80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Barry Jones</td> <td>Install defibrillator cabinet in kiosk</td> <td>100.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	PAYEE	REASON	£	Staff costs	Salaries	777.47	R & G	Laying turf, Roundhouse Close	384.00	Creative Play	New play area equipment (includes VAT£2,599.80)	15,598.80	Barry Jones	Install defibrillator cabinet in kiosk	100.00	
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22/20 Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd March 2023																
The meeting closed at 8.21pm																

Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record	
Signed by Chairman	Dated