

WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 27th April 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. T Forder, Mr. W. Hughes, , Mr. T. McCullagh, Mrs. S. Phelan

Unitary Councillor: Mr. J Harris

Clerk: Mr. I Kelly

Public: 6

Minute	Action
23/31 Apologies for Absence:	
None	
23/32 To receive and approve for signature the following minutes:	
a) The Parish Council Meeting Thursday 23rd March 2023	
b) The Planning Committee Meeting Thursday 5th April 2023	
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 23 rd March 2023 and the Planning Committee meeting held on Thursday 5 th April 2023 were approved	
23/33 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"> • An entry has been made on FixMyStreet in relation to the white lines outside the entrance to the Playing Field on West End • The tree surgeon will examine the tall trees next to the kissing gate at the Northampton Road entrance to the Playing Field 	
23/34 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	
None	
23/35 Public Participation;	
The Chairman opened up this section to those present and outlined the rules for public participation. Cliff Marlow said that he was concerned about the wall to the new cemetery bowing out near to the house in West Street. Clerk to contact PCC. Cllr. Harris said that it had been agreed to bring all Planning Policies under one document. A member of the public said that she had made objections at a Planning Meeting when decisions are being made by Councillors who do not live on that area. Cllr Harris explained the process and selection of Councillors onto such committee. Cllr Brotherton highlighted that he felt that planning should have remained within the district regions of WNC until the district planning policies have been merged.	Clerk
23/36 Agenda	
a) To receive an update regarding the Friends of the Pocket Park	
The Clerk said that an updated MoU with the volunteers who manage the Pocket Park has been written and is with the volunteers for comment; the Clerk intends to bring the MoU to the next meeting of the Parish Council. The Clerk said that as there is no Chairman or Secretary for the Committee, the Friends of the Pocket Park had become unconstituted, and therefore the savings account held by the Friends of the Pocket Park has been closed, the balance of £146.70 has been given to the Parish Council and will be made available for future Pocket Park expenses.	Clerk
b) To consider and approve a height reduction of fir trees situated on the playing field between the Chapel and the play area.	
Cllr. Brotherton said that in relation to the tall leylandii trees between the tennis courts and a house on West End there had been a request from the occupant of the house behind the trees for them to be lowered. Cllr. Brotherton said that he would speak with the occupant in relation to how much tree they felt should be removed. The Clerk to advise	Cllr/ Brotherton/ Clerk

the tree surgeon of further work in the Playing Field and to seek advice from WNC Tree Officer regarding their views on height reduction or removal.	
c) To consider an agreement with owners to manage green space WP 4/6 off Newlands Road in accordance with Neighbourhood Plan Policy W4 - Allocation of New Public Spaces.	
Cllr. Brotherton said that matter is in relation to the green area between Millers Road and Browns Meadow with a gated access from Newlands Road which is highlighted as open space WP4/6 in the Neighbourhood plan. He has spoken with the owners of the land with a proposal to install a wildflower meadow and three trees. The owners would look to make use of this land only if any further planning took place where this access was required. Cllr. Brotherton will approach the owners of the land to reach an agreement in relation to the maintenance of the space and a proposal for costs for any legal or other work and how this would be allocated across the parties.	Cllr. Brotherton
d) To consider signing the Armed Forces Covenant	
The Clerk had circulated the a briefing paper from NCALC in relation to the Armed Forces Covenant. Councillors agreed that Welford Parish Council should be a signatory to the Covenant.	Clerk
e) To consider a bid from Welford Congregational Chapel for a grant towards their Coronation event	
The Clerk said that a request had been received from Welford Congregational Chapel for a grant from the Coronation Fund towards a Coronation Coffee Morning on Monday May 8th in the Schoolroom from 10am until midday. It is open to everyone and they anticipate between 30 to 40 attendees. All proceeds from this event will go towards maintaining the fabric of the Chapel. Cllr. Brotherton proposed a grant donation of £100 which was approved by all Councillors.	
f) To consider a report from Trees for Welford	
A reply had been received from Trees for Welford in relation to the expense claim from the 'Right Tree Right Place event held on the 2 nd March 2023 which had been circulated to Councillors. Cllr. Gorrod referred to the previous discussions at the last Council meeting. The Clerk gave an overview of the spend from the event. Cllr. Gorrod said that at the last meeting, Councillors agreed that all future spends need to be agreed by the Council. Cllr. Gorrod referred to the Lottery Grant application and he was concerned that areas of spend might not match that detailed in the application. Cllr. Phelan said that there have been misunderstandings about the spend; the members are volunteers who work very hard for the project. Councillors agreed that the following be points are raised with the Trees for Welford volunteers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ask 'Are you satisfied that your spend for March matches the application submitted to the Lottery Fund. • To contact the insurers who issued cover for the event on the 22nd April 2023 to try and obtain a refund on the premium as the event was covered by Council insurance • To remind them as to what the application referred to in relation to a budget • All future spends to be approved by the Parish Council and will be clarified against the criteria made in the application to the Lottery Fund Councillors agreed to pay the outstanding amount of £182.50 that is not referred to in agenda item 23/39c Payments	Clerk
g) To consider having a Parish Council display at the WYCC event on the 8th May 2023	
Cllr. Gorrod proposed that the Parish Council has a display at the event taking place in the WYCC on the 8 th May 2023. Cllr. Gorrod said that it would be an opportunity to promote the Parish Council and to help co-opt more Councillors. There would be no cost to the Council. Councillors agreed to the proposal.	
h) To receive an update regarding potholes within Welford	
Cllr. Gorrod said that both he and the Clerk had surveyed and photographed all potholes in the village and recorded them on a spreadsheet which had been circulated to Councillors. The survey had been used to make reports to FixMyStreet in relation to the 104 potholes that had been recorded. The survey had been updated with Highways	

replies whereby Newlands Road would be repaired by the 25 th July 2023 and potholes at the north end of West Street would be repaired more promptly. Cllr. Harris said that he would discuss the issue with the WNC Director of Place when he meets him next.	
i) To approve the renewal of the Northants ACRE membership at £35 plus £7 VAT	
Councillors approved to renew membership of Northants ACRE at £35 plus £7 VAT	
j) Clerk's update	
<p>The Clerk reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In relation to the Coronation event organised by the WSSES PTA, Niamh Bland, wrote to thank the Parish Council for agreeing to provide funding for the Coronation Event on 6th May which is appreciated enormously. The tickets sold out for the event in 24 hours and they will have 100 people attending, including a number of children, making it an all age event. An invoice for the Welford contribution to the bus service has been received. A consultant has been appointed to conduct a review and John Hunt and Jonathan Harris are fairly confident that the funding is secured for the route for 2023/2024, but they await to see the impact of the bus review. 	
23/37 Planning	
a) To note updates from previous Planning Applications	
<p>The Clerk had previously circulated updates regarding outstanding applications prior to the meeting. Cllr Curtis highlighted that as the appeal for planning application WND/2022/0518 had been dismissed some time ago that the fence height at the location should have been reduced. Clerk to contact WNC Planning Enforcement.</p> <p>Cllr. Curtis said that a further report had been submitted by the applicant in relation to WND/2022/0633, the Slurry Lagoon in relation as to how the SSSIs might be affected by the chemical odours. Cllr. Curtis asked that a similar report should be submitted in relation to any odours that might affect people living closer to the site. Cllr. Harris said that he was looking into that matter.</p>	Clerk
b) WND/2023/0255 Proposal: Renew and lay a concrete pad of 3840 square metres including underground pipe work and inspection pits Location: Court Lane Farm, South Kilworth Road, Welford	
<p>Cllr. Curtis said that the applicant was looking to contain pig manure. Currently the pig manure escapes from the property in an uncontrolled manner. The proposal is to create a concrete pad and allow the deposits to gather in pools. The contents will then be cleared in local water courses. There is a concern that water impregnated with pig waste can have a detrimental effect on water courses. Cllr. Curtis said that the application was lacking in clarity as to what happens to the liquid waste and its dispersal into water courses. Reference was made to Local Plan Policy ENV 5 and its impacts downstream of the run off on biodiversity. Cllr. Curtis said that it should be referred to the Environment Agency and the Rivers Authority for their assessment</p>	Clerk
23/38 Reports	
a) Highways	
<p>Cllr. Gorrod said as a result of the closure of the M1/M6/A14 on Monday 24th April, there had been significant traffic issues on the High Street which resulted in damage to some of the drains, These had been reported to FixMyStreet.</p>	
b) Rights of Way	
<p>Cllr. Gorrod said that there was the ongoing issue with an obstruction at Hemploe Farm.</p>	
c) Playing field	
<p>Cllr. Brotherton said the play area is being well used. The Jubilee Tree is now in leaf. The Clerk said that the annual inspection of the Children's Play area had been carried out by Wicksteed Leisure and no major issues were identified.</p>	
d) Welford Youth and Community Centre	
<p>Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no updates.</p>	
e) Village Hall:	
<p>Cllr. Phelan said that bookings for the Village Hall were back to pre-covid levels</p>	

23/39 Finances

a) Councillors noted the following bank working balances at Unity Trust on the 21st April 2023

- i. Current account: £13,955.19
- ii. Savings account: £20,107.90

b) Councillors noted the standing order for street lighting paid to SSE on the 18th April £106.26

c) Councillors approved the following payments

PAYEE	REASON	£
Staff costs	Salaries	783.77
NCALC	Membership which includes £51.20 VAT	802.74
Village Hall	Hire of rooms March – July 2023	72.00
Wicksteed Leisure	Annual inspection of children’s play area	288.00
Northants ACRE	Annual Membership fee – includes VAT	42.00
Helen Dyson	Trees for Welford expenses	497.69

22/40 Date of next meeting: Thursday 25th May 2023
The meeting closed at 9.39pm

Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record

Signed by Chairman

Dated