

WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 25th May 2023 commencing at 7:30pm
in the Village Hall, West Street, Welford

Present

Councillors: Dr. M Gorrod (Chairman), Mr. N Brotherton, Mr. T Forder, Mr. W. Hughes, Mr. T. McCullagh,

Clerk: Mr. I Kelly

Public: 15

| Minute | Action |
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| 23/41 To elect the Chairman of the Parish Council | |
| Cllr. Gorrod was nominated and elected as Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2023/24 | |
| 23/42 To elect the Vice Chairman of the Parish Council | |
| Cllr. Brotherton was nominated and elected as Vice Chairman of the Parish Council for the year 2023/24 | |
| 23/43 Apologies for Absence: | |
| Mr. A. Curtis, Mrs. S. Phelan | |
| 23/44 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 27th April 2023 | |
| The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 27 th April 2023 were approved | |
| 23/45 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"> • Planning Enforcement are dealing with a backlog of cases and will work with the applicant re the fence by the school on West Street • The rough ground on the Playing Field near The Leys needs a further assessment as there is a tree stump in the ground | |
| 23/46 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations: | |
| Cllr. Brotherton declared an interest in item 23/50c where he will give an report on tree work on the Playing Field, some of which affects his property and he would withdraw from the meeting following the report | |
| 23/47 Public Participation; | |
| The Chairman opened up this section to those present and outlined the rules for public participation. Cliff Marlow asked about the painting of the white lines in front of the Playing Field gates as cars were parking in front of the entrance. The Clerk said that this had been reported to Highways who had indicated the painting would be undertaken within 26 weeks of the report being made. | |
| 23/48 Agenda | |
| a) i) To approve the updated MoU version 3.0 for the work undertaken by the Volunteers in the Pocket Park | |
| ii) To consider the budget request from the Pocket Park | |
| i) Cllr. Gorrod said that the Friends of the Pocket Park ceased to be a constituted body when the Chairman and Secretary posts remained vacant. The new MoU reflects that change and recognises the work of the volunteers who will continue to maintain the Pocket Park. Councillors voted to accept the new MoU which was signed by Cllr. Gorrod. The Clerk was asked to remind the Volunteers of the Risk Assessment that had previously been issued. ii) The Volunteers had submitted a budget for works to be undertaken in the Pocket Park. The items they requested were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gravel for path - 1 ton bag - £174 • Timber for two new benches - £120 | Clerk |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.5l Sadolin treatment for the timber - £46 <p>The above purchases were approved by the Council and the volunteers asked to obtain VAT receipts wherever possible.</p> | Clerk |
| b) To note the removal of the dog waste bin at the Marina near to The Wharf Public House. | |
| <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that the dog waste bin at the Welford Wharf is to be removed by the Canal & River Trust (CRT) as it is believed to be a cost saving matter owing to the costs involved in emptying the bin. The bin is not paid for by Husbands Bosworth Parish Council as it is located on CRT land. Cllr. Hughes suggested that as there are volunteers on the canal, could they empty the bin if there was a cost saving being made by CRT? Cllr. Brotherton proposed that contact was made with CRT to ask them to reconsider the proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to CRT expressing the concern of the Council</p> | Clerk |
| c) To receive an update regarding the boundary of the Playing Field around 6a Northampton Road | |
| <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that there was a discrepancy in relation to the boundary record held by Land Registry in relation to the Playing Field and the curtilage of 6a Northampton Road. Cllr. Brotherton said that the tract of land near to the electric substation extended garden with a willow hedge was Council owned. Cllr. Brotherton said that there had been a sale of land allowing for a kitchen to be built at 6a but that this did not include the extended garden. Cllr. Brotherton agreed to identify a proposal to submit to Land Registry to identify the Council land.</p> | Cllr. Brotherton |
| d) To receive an update in relation to the Community Speedwatch programme | |
| <p>Cllr. Forder said that he now had seven volunteers for the programme. He would be making an application to Northamptonshire Police to join the Community Speedwatch.</p> | Cllr. Forder |
| e) To approve the installation of a plaque for the Jubilee tree | |
| <p>Cllr. Gorrod said that a tree had been planted for the Queen's Jubilee without a plaque to mark the occasion. Cllr. Gorrod proposed that the Council should not only commemorate the Queen's Jubilee but also recognise the service of the two long serving Councillors, Cllr. Brotherton and Cllr. Curtis. This was approved by Councillors, the Clerk was asked to agree a form of words with both Councillors and obtain a price for the plaque for approval at the next Parish Council meeting</p> | Clerk |
| f) To consider a request from Green Welford in relation to their planted area in front of WYCC | |
| <p>The Clerk read Cllr. Curtis's statement in which he stated that the land appeared uncared for and there were other locations in the village for the wild meadow. Councillors concurred that the planting in front of the WYCC was unsightly and that a different location should be found for the wild space that Green Welford was asking for. Three members of the public also spoke and agreed with the Council's decision. Councillors agreed that the grass would not be cut by the mowers until after Kidsfest on the 10th June 2023.</p> | |
| g) To consider the installation of an aerial zipwire or other equipment on the Playing Field | |
| <p>A number of Rainbows, Brownies and Guides were present and made representations for various play equipment to be installed. Freya said that the current equipment was too small and asked for monkey bars, a trampoline, a bigger slide, a better see-saw as the current see-saw was very stiff and a zip wire. Molly Frost said that older children do not have much to play on and children at the school echo the proposals above. Cllr. Gorrod gave an overview of the rationale behind the recent equipment replacement programme and that the fenced area should be for the younger children. Cllr. Brotherton said that the presentation by the young people mirrored the feedback he had received regarding equipment for the play area. Cllr. Brotherton suggested that nearby villages be examined to identify their facilities which other Councillors also agreed to undertake. Clerk was asked to create a list of nearby village facilities and provide costed options for replacement equipment.</p> | Clerk |
| j) Clerk's update | |

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| <p>The Clerk reported the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denise Bott from Welford Congregational Chapel advised the Council that their coffee morning was a great success and they raised nearly £300 for chapel funds. They were very grateful for the cheque from the Parish Council The Clerk made a number of suggestions for the Councillors to consider when a new Clerk is appointed including a Parish Council work phone and use of a PO Box address for Parish mail. | |
| 23/49 Planning | |
| a) To note updates from previous Planning Applications | |
| The Clerk had previously circulated updates regarding outstanding applications prior to the meeting. | |
| 23/50 Reports | |
| a) Highways | |
| Cllr. Gorrod said that the repairs to Newlands Road had required a thermal road repair machine to complete the work which had made a major difference to the road surface. Cllr. Gorrod said that he also had a meeting with the Asst. Community Liaison Officer, Matthew Clarke regarding the barriers at either end of Butchers Close with large push chairs. Cllr. Gorrod said that the barriers needed to remain for safety reasons and any modification to them would be difficult and could reduce their effectiveness in preventing children from running out onto the road. | |
| b) Rights of Way | |
| Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no new updates | |
| c) Playing field | |
| Cllr. Brotherton said that he had undertaken a general inspection of the play area and found it to be in good order. Cllr. Brotherton said that he had spoken with Joe Hutchinson, tree surgeon regarding the conifers on the Playing Field at the rear of a property on West End and it was agreed they would be reduced in height by about 2m, a quote would be sent to the Clerk. Cllr. Brotherton had also discussed the work to the rear of The Leys properties and Joe Hutchinson said that a cherry tree and a sycamore tree were close to properties and in discussions with the WNC Tree Officer, it had been agreed that they needed to be removed. Cllr. Brotherton left the meeting. Councillors discussed the work and agreed that it should be an agenda item for approval on the June agenda. Cllr. Brotherton returned to the meeting. | |
| d) Welford Youth and Community Centre | |
| Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no updates. | |
| e) Village Hall: | |
| The Clerk said that he had been made aware that Geoff Newman Chairman of the Village Hall Committee would be speaking with Highways as there was no need for the barrier on West Street at the foot of the steps when the new entrance is constructed, as it would not face on to the street. He would be asking if the barrier could be removed. | |
| 23/51 Finances | |
| a) Cllr. McCullagh confirmed the bank reconciliation undertaken on the 5 th April 2023. | |
| b) Councillors approved the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting statement 2022/23 | |
| c) Councillors noted the Internal Audit Report 2022/23 and the end of year AGAR report for signing by the Chairman. The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his hard work and highlighted that no issues had been raised in the Internal Audit Report. | |
| d) Councillors noted the following bank working balances at Unity Trust on the 19th May 2023 | |
| i. Current account: £37,998.30 | |
| ii. Savings account: £20,107.90 | |
| e) Councillors noted the standing order for street lighting paid to SSE on the 17th May 2023 £95.49 | |
| f) Councillors approved the following payments | |

| PAYEE | REASON | £ |
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| Staff costs | Salaries | 783.77 |
| R & G | March grass cut | 1,370.40 |
| R & G | April grass cut | 666.89 |
| Spratton PC | Contribution to bus service | 1,679.23 |
| 22/52 Date of next meeting: Thursday 22nd June 2023 | | |
| The meeting closed at 8.54pm | | |

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