

WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 22nd June 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, Mrs. S. Phelan

Unitary Councillor: Mr. Kevin Parker

Clerk: Mr. I Kelly

Public: 6

Minute	Action
23/53 Apologies for Absence:	
Apologies were received from Councillors Mr. W. Hughes, Mr. T. McCullagh and were accepted by the Council.	
23/54 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 25th May 2023	
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 25 th May 2023 were approved	
23/55 To receive an update on outstanding actions and to note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only:	
<p>The Clerk gave the following updates in relation to the action record:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application to WNC for an ACV on The Elizabethan had been wrongly filed by WNC. Cllr. Parker conformed that he had spoken with the Director of Assets who had sent an email in his presence for the ACV to be reviewed and processed • Both Planning Enforcement and Environmental Services have advised that under current legislation they are unable to take any action regarding the land on the corner of Newlands Road and Northampton Road with it only being overgrown. If there was any evidence of vermin, squatters, criminal activity or other danger to the public they could act. • The rough ground to the rear of The Leys by the entrance to the Playing Field has been tidied and grass seed has been laid • The Canal & River Trust have replied in relation to the dog waste bin at the Welford Wharf, they will ask volunteers to empty the bin into their main bins nearby 	
23/56 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	
Cllr. Curtis declared an interest items 6b 6e and 7b. Cllr. Brotherton declared an interest in item 6a i.	
23/57 Public Participation;	
The Chairman opened up this section to those present and outlined the rules for public participation. There were no issues raised.	
23/58 Agenda	
<p>a) i) To approve a revised quote in relation to the trees on the Playing Field at the rear of The Leys to include the removal of a sycamore and cherry tree quote was £1170.00 plus £130.00 VAT and is now £1400.00 plus £176.00 VAT</p> <p>ii) To approve the quote for the reduction in height of the conifers at the rear of the tennis courts £650.00 plus £130.00 VAT</p>	
<p>i) Cllr. Brotherton left the meeting. Councillors approved the additional work to the trees at the rear of The Leys to include the removal of a sycamore and cherry tree for £1400.00 plus £176.00 VAT. Cllr. Brotherton returned to the meeting.</p> <p>ii) The Clerk advised Council that the conifers were considered a hedge by the WNC tree officer Michael Venton and could be reduced in height. Councillors accepted and</p>	

approved the quote for the reduction in height of the conifers at £650.00 plus £130.00 VAT.	
b) To approve the purchase of and installation of a plaque for the Jubilee tree	
The Clerk outlined the proposed plaques to be installed by the tree and recommended the bronze plaque as being the most durable for the site. Cllr. Curtis and Cllr. Brotherton approved of the proposed wording for the plaque. Councillors approved the purchase of a plaque from Anglia Castings at £324.90 inclusive of carriage and VAT. Cllr. Gorrod said that there would be a formal unveiling of the plaque and he hoped that all Councillors would be present when it was unveiled.	Clerk
c) To consider and approve the installation of play equipment on the Playing Field	
The Clerk outlined various proposals to instal Monkey Bars, a trampoline and the see-saw replacement. He said that Cllr. Brotherton had oiled the see-saw and it was now in a good working condition. Cllr. Gorrod said that the current equipment was aimed at younger children and it was important that equipment for older children was improved. Discussions also took place about making a play area in the Spinney, however there would be a lot of costs involved in addressing safety issues if equipment was to be installed in that area. Cllr. Brotherton said that a number of trees in the Spinney were Ash trees and were showing early stages of Ash die back; these trees would need to be removed when they were unsafe. Cllr. Curtis said that their removal would be expensive and it would be necessary to use reserves to do so. The Clerk outlined other large cost items that the Council is or would be considering in the near future to assist the Councillors in their decision making. Councillors agreed to the Proludic Origin Monkey Bars - J4909A with grass mats for £3,570.22 plus VAT from Kettering Playsafe. The purchase of other items of play equipment would be included in the 2024 budget /precept.	Clerk
d) To approve emergency repairs to the noticeboard at the junction of High Street and West Street at a cost of £85.00	
Cllr. Gorrod said that Councillors would have noted that the post for the noticeboard at the junction of West Street and High Street had been damaged and the noticeboard served a useful purpose for the display of posters and other adverts in a tidy manner. It was not known how the noticeboard was damaged. Councillors approved the repairs to the noticeboard at a cost of £85.00	
e) To approve a request to attach a BT phone cable to the lamppost on West End between Newlands Road and Hemploe View	
Cllr Curtis left the meeting. Cllr. Gorrod said that there was a new house being built and a request had been received to attach a BT line to the Parish Council owned street light post outside the property on West End. Councillors agreed to the proposal and that a way leave price would need to be agreed. Cllr. Curtis returned to the meeting.	
f) To receive an update regarding the unused defibrillator and consider disposing of said unit	
The Clerk said that one of the two original defibrillators was in his office. As it was old and out of warranty, it could not be repaired or passed on to another group with assurance that it would work as expected. The Clerk said that the proposal was that the device should be disposed of as electrical waste which was approved by the Councillors. Cllr. Gorrod reminded Councillors of the recent purchase of the iPad defibrillator and that as the previous defibrillators were bought together, they expired at the same time. Cllr. Gorrod said that it had been agreed that another iPad defibrillator would be purchased at a later date to avoid the same happening with the newer devices.	Clerk
g) i) To approve the purchase of a mobile phone for the use by the Clerk ii) To agree and approve an advert for the role of Clerk to be placed in The Bugle	
i) Cllr. Gorrod said that to prepare for future changes in the Clerk's position, it was proposed that a mobile phone be purchased now so that it was set up and ready for use when a new Clerk was appointed. The Clerk said that he had identified a reasonably priced mobile phone with O2 for £69.00 which was approved by Councillors. The Clerk said that there would be a monthly cost of £5 to manage the use of the phone and this would be submitted through normal office expenses	Clerk
ii) Cllr. Gorrod said that the vacancy for Clerk had been circulated through various media, including NCALC and he proposed that an advert be placed in The Bugle. The councillors	Clerk

approved the wording of the advert and the cost for the advert would be approved at the July meeting	
j) Clerk's update	
The Clerk reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Papers relating to the early days of the Pocket Park have been unearthed at Brixworth Country Park and forwarded to the Council (there was a small postal charge for doing so which has been paid). The documents are being scanned for archive purposes and will be displayed on the website and shared with the historical society 	Chairman
23/59 Planning	
a) To note updates from previous Planning Applications	
The Clerk had previously circulated updates regarding outstanding applications prior to the meeting.	
b) 2023/5293/FULL Quarry House 2 West End Welford Proposal: Single Storey Extensions to front and rear, proposed garage and replacement gates to entrance	
Cllr. Curtis left the meeting. Cllr. Brotherton said that this was significant development but he had no objections to the proposal. He did however observe that the large metal gates that were proposed to be installed at the front of the property were out of keeping with the area and the current gate, and were adjacent to the conservation area. Cllr. Brotherton asked that WNC Planning note this and that the current five bar gate was more in keeping with the area. Councillors agreed with the proposal.	Clerk
23/60 Reports	
a) Highways	
Cllr. Gorrod said that the repairs to the potholes has significantly improved Newlands Road. Cllr Gorrod also said that Anglian Water had completed the repair to the drain cover on the footpath in the High Street near to Avon Fields. There was also a manhole cover repair in the High Street opposite West Street.	
b) Rights of Way	
Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no major issues. Cllr. Gorrod said that he will check Rights of Way outside the village to ensure they were not overgrown.	
c) Playing field	
Cllr. Brotherton that the Playing Field continues to be well used and the grass cutting is now on schedule to give a good cut.	
d) Welford Youth and Community Centre	
Cllr. Gorrod said that there had been a meeting on the 21 st June 2023. The issues that were discussed by the Committee included the rateable value of WYCC relative to other similar facilities. It was reported that WYCC is being well used with a new Yoga teacher in place and that the Centre is in a good financial position.	
e) Village Hall:	
Cllr. Phelan reported that the next meeting would take place in the week commencing 26 th June 2023.	
23/61 Finances	
a) Councillors noted the following bank working balances at Unity Trust on the 16 th June 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Current account: £33,397.20 ii. Savings account: £20,107.90 	
b) Councillors noted the standing order for street lighting paid to SSE on the 17th May 2023 £98.11	
c) Councillors approved the following payments	

PAYEE	REASON	£	Clerk
Staff costs	Salaries	783.77	
R & G	May grass cut	1475.38	
Barbara Osborne	Payroll services	69.00	
Helen Dyson	Tape for tree planting event 27th March 2023	16.00	
<p>The Clerk was asked to contact Trees for Welford to confirm that that they accepted the spend rules agreed at the last meeting. The Clerk has also been asked by Trees for Welford to confirm the outstanding amount of funds and as part of his response would remind them of the grant proposal and budget breakdown that spending should be for.</p> <p>Cllr. Parker gave an update as follows. There will be two consultations in relation to bin collections and recycling centres. In November there will be a consultation by WNC in relation to the local plan. WNC will be producing a publication called West Northants Life for delivery to all households. They will be published in Jun/July and November/December and the first edition is due on the 10 July. Highways have ordered two vehicles specifically for pothole repairs.</p>			
<p>22/62 Date of next meeting: Thursday 27th July 2023 The meeting closed at 8.52pm.</p>			

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