

WELFORD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of the Parish Council held on
Thursday 26th October 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, Mrs. S. Phelan

Clerk: Mr. I Kelly

Public: 4

Minute	Action
23/84 Apologies for Absence:	
Apologies were received from Cllr. McCullagh	
23/85 To receive and approve for signature the minutes for the Parish Council Meeting Thursday 27th July 2023	
The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Thursday 28 th September 2023 were received and approved	
23/86 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 fence in West Street which has been refused Planning Permission is due for attention by the owner prior to the end of October 2023 according to WNC • Cllr. Gorrod has checked the Way Markers on Hall lane and three have been reported to WNC as faded • Cllr. Brotherton has identified a candidate for the Welford Educational Trust and this work is progressing • Regarding the land on corner of Newlands Road /Northampton Road, the Clerk has written to the landowners in relation to any assistance that might be offered by the Council and is awaiting a reply • The Clerk reported that the tap is flowing freely for the spring water on the High Street 	
23/87 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations:	
None	
23/88 Public Participation;	
The Chairman invited members of the public to raise any issues. Cliff Marlow said that recently a children's entertainer had parked their car across the gates to the Playing Field. Cllr. Gorrod said that he had spoken with the entertainer who said that she had been advised by the event organiser that she could park there. The entertainer gave their apologies for doing so. Cllr. Gorrod to follow up with WYCC in relation to parking.	Cllr. Gorrod
23/89 Agenda	
a) To approve the appointment of the new Clerk	
The item was deferred to confidential item 22/94	
b) To approve the replacement of the light head by E.ON opposite the phone box in West Street at a cost of £290.00 plus £58.00 VAT	
The Clerk said that the light opposite the phone box had been repaired but continues to fail. It was one of the first LED lamp installed about 8 years ago. Councillors approved the spend of £290.00 plus £58.00 VAT to replace the lamp	Clerk
c) To consider and agree two delegates for the West Northamptonshire Council Planning Briefing taking place on Thursday 30 November 2023	
Councillors discussed the merits of the online briefing and suggested that a face to face briefing would be more meaningful as online briefings can be sterile. Cllr. Gorrod agreed	Clerk

to join the online briefing and Cllr. Hughes said that he would also join the briefing if he was available on the day	
d) To consider and approve the removal of a tree near to the church doors	
Cllr. Gorrod said that the tree next to the Church door appeared to be dead and had not leafed for some time. As the land was now managed by the Council, they had a duty to maintain the area. Cllr. Brotherton agreed that the tree was dead as he had broken off an overhanging branch which had snapped in his hand. As the tree is in a conservation area, it was agreed that a quote should be obtained for its removal and the WNC Tree Officer informed.	Clerk
e) To approve annual hedge trim on Newlands Road at a cost of £350 plus £70 VAT	
The Clerk indicated that it had been recommended that the hedge along Newlands Road adjacent to Millers Lock should be trimmed in the autumn. It was noted that there were some dead areas within the hedge. The trim was approved with the observation to ask David Cliffe to remove any dead hedge and note where the foliage was removed from for replanting. Helen Dyson said that Trees for Welford had access to various trees and bushes to replace the dead areas.	Clerk
f) To consider support for the Climate and Ecology Bill	
This item was deferred to the December meeting to allow Councillors to undertake further research	
g) To approve the dates for Parish Council meetings in 2024	
Councillors approved the dates for the meetings in 2024.	
h) To note changes to the ongoing coordination of the bus services for the route 59/60	
Cllr. Gorrod informed Councillors that John Hunt who was the Chairman at Spratton Parish Council had stepped down from that role and had also stepped down as the Parish Councils coordinator for the 59/60 bus service. Councillors agreed that they would continue to support the service. Cllr. Gorrod to send a letter of appreciation to John Hunt for the work he has undertaken in maintaining the service.	Cllr. Gorrod
i) To consider and approve request from Welford Volunteers for the Parish Council to pay the hire fee of £40.00 for the fundraiser for Welford Food Bank on 11th November 2023	
Cllr. Gorrod gave an overview of the event being organised by the Welford Volunteers and that any monies raised would go towards the foodbank. By paying the hall hire fee additional funds would go towards the project. Councillors agreed to the request to pay the event hire fee.	
j) Clerk's update	
The Clerk reported that an email had been received from Yvonne Dean requesting a chevron sign be installed at the north end of the High Street at the junction with West Street. Ms. Dean suggested that traffic speed was an issue and wished to highlight the bend. The Clerk had raised the matter with WAG who would undertake some research into the speed of vehicles in that area using the SID device.	
23/90 Planning	
a) To note updates from previous Planning Applications	
The Clerk had previously circulated updates regarding outstanding applications prior to the meeting.	
b) Pre- planning consultation re proposed base station installation upgrade of mobile phone mast at Welford Pig Company, Court Lane, Welford	
The Councillors considered this application and noted that the mast height would increase from 16m to 21m. There were no comments or observations to make in relation to the proposal	
c) To consider further reports submitted by Mick George at their Husbands Bosworth site in relation to noise measurements and traffic routings	
Councillors discussed the additional information provided by Mick George Ltd. They highlighted a number of issues in the reports such as the location of the noise measurement, alternative routing suggested by Mick George and the early morning noise	Clerk

impact on the High Street, Welford. The Clerk will prepare a reply to send to LCC Planning and make it available on the Parish Council website.																
23/91 Reports																
a) Highways																
Cllr. Gorrod said that Church Lane has now been resurfaced in multiple places highlighted in a previous report. A number of potholes in West Street near to Westfield Crescent had been reported to FixMyStreet. Cllr. Gorrod also said there was a blocked drain in the High Street near to West Street which he would report to FixMyStreet.																
b) Rights of Way																
Cllr. Gorrod said that there were no new or major issues to report.																
c) Playing field																
Cllr. Brotherton said that the Playing Field continues to be well used. He had checked the play equipment which was in order.																
d) Welford Youth and Community Centre																
Cllr. Gorrod reported that WYCC had recently held their AGM. It was reported that the centre is being well used and the finances are in good order. The management committee is reviewing the hire charges for the facility and there might be a fee increase in the future.																
e) Village Hall:																
Cllr. Phelan reported that the Village Hall Committee had held their AGM on the 26 th October. Sue Brotherton has now joined the committee as the Bowls representative. Cllr. Phelan reported that the committee is looking for ideas from the village as to how the space previously used by the now empty surgery can be used.																
23/92 Finances																
a) Councillors noted the External Auditor Report and Certificate 2022/23																
b) Councillors noted the bank working balances at Unity Trust on the 20th October 2023																
i. Current account: £26,975.66																
ii. Savings account: £32,920.22																
iii. Total held by Unity Bank - £59,895.88																
c) Councillors were advised by the Clerk that the standing order for street lighting had not been collected by SSE on their usual date. On checking with SSE, he was advised that SSE had moved to a new billing system, and £97.94 would be taken by Direct Debit from the account on the 31 st October 2023																
d) 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>783.77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>R & G</td> <td>September grass cut</td> <td>1369.78</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Village Hall</td> <td>Hire October 2023</td> <td>12.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PKF Littlejohn</td> <td>External Auditor fee</td> <td>378.00</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		PAYEE	REASON	£	Staff costs	Salaries	783.77	R & G	September grass cut	1369.78	Village Hall	Hire October 2023	12.00	PKF Littlejohn	External Auditor fee	378.00
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22/93 Date of next meeting: Thursday 7th December 2023																
The main meeting closed at 8.38pm																
22/94 Confidential business held in accordance with Standing Order 2d, Public and Press to be excluded from this section																
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To discuss the appointment of Clerk 																
All Councillors discussed the candidates for the role of Clerk and made a decision on the appointing process.																
Signed that the Minutes are a true and accurate record																
Signed by Chairman	Dated															