

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on **Monday 1 February 2021**
7.15pm, virtually via Zoom

Present. **Mr Will Farr (Chairman)**
Mrs Moss, Mrs Arnold, Mr Greenlay
(19.49hrs), Mr Comber and Mr Hatton.

In attendance **Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk)**
County Councillor Mrs Rosemary Powell

Also in attendance. **Mr Keith Fairbrother, Mr Paul Harris, Mr**
Mike Harman, Mr R Edwards (19.29hrs)

Meeting opened at 19.15hrs

- 13364 Any questions or comments from the public: Mr Fairbrother asked about access to dwellings during road-closures due to RCC's patch repairs.
- 13365 Apologies for absence: None
- 13366 Co-option to fill vacancies advertised since 2 May 2019 election:
Mr Paul Harris was found to be eligible for co-option. His co-option was proposed by Mrs Moss, seconded by Mr Hatton and his co-option was AGREED. Mr Harris then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and consented to complete the Register of Member's Interests.
- 13367 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None
- 13368 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 4 January 2021: proposed by Mr Hatton and seconded by Mrs Arnold.
- 13369 Reports from Councillors:
- a. Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor:
There is now a weekly RCC round-up published so duplication will be avoided. Cottesmore tip is not scheduled to re-open for the foreseeable future. RCC's budget is due to go to RCC Full Council in February with a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, requiring £2.6M from RCC reserves. Horton's Lane flooded in January, when Main St/Cow Ln and The Nook flooded. RCC looking at ditches in the area of Horton's Ln; but likely just a symptom of the general issue. No date yet for RCC's determination of the housing development west of Stapleford Rd.

The Chairman advanced Agenda item 7c as Mrs Powell Chairs the group

- b. Report from the first meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, 26 January 2021:
The following volunteered to serve and were welcomed to form the group:
Mrs Rosemary Powell, Mr Will Farr, Mrs Cynthia Moss, Mr Paul Greenlay, Mr Geoff Clyde, Mr Ed Richardson, Ms, Nicki McCluskey, Mr Tony Law, Mr Conor Nicholl, Mr Richard Drabble and Mr Kevin Thomas. [Mr Drabble tendered his resignation 29/1/2021]. The minutes are available. The next meeting will be 24 February 2021.

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- c. Reports of meetings attended by Parish Councillors: Mrs Moss reported her attendance at the Rutland Tree Symposium; with tree wardens from other villages and RCC's Tree Officer. Most PCs have more village land than Whissendine PC has access to. This enables them to coppice, establish fruit orchards, etc. There is to be a verges group established and Mrs Moss had registered interest on behalf of the Parish Council. It was AGREED that WPC would be represented on the forthcoming Rutland Verges Group.

13370 Planning matters

- a. To consider plans received between 5 January 2021 and 1 February: None
- b. Planning updates received: **2020/1444/NMA** 2 Mill Grove- RCC consented non-material amendment affecting 2 side-windows and the replacement of render.

13371 Any issues requiring attention on The Banks: None

13372 Provision for Burials:

- a. To hear from the PCC the estimated life of the current extension:
The PCC was due to meet in January, that meeting was cancelled but an informal estimate of 20 years life has been offered by the Church Warden. Mr Hatton has begun searching for a suitable plot. It was AGREED Mr Hatton should lead on this.
- b. To hear the legal guidance received regarding taking financial responsibility for improvements in existing burial ground (extension) and the PCC response:
LRALC has confirmed that investment in burial ground improvements is not the business of the Parish Council. This means there is no statutory permission to fund any changes to the path. There may be some ongoing contractual liability, that the PC is unaware of; from the transfer of ownership of the land to the PCC. The PCC has been contacted to ask if they have any documentary evidence of liability falling to WPC. A response is expected after the PCC meet.

13373 Highways and village maintenance matters for report: Subsidence on the edge of Ashwell Road, between Loodal Farm gateway and the drive to Mrs Arnold's home is to be reported on fix-my-street by Mrs Moss.

13374 Financial Business

- a. To receive the details of estimated expenditure to date: During January income was received from a wayleave and VAT rebate totaling £4122.19. Before this month's invoices are paid there is £18963.67 in hand. However, some budget heads are liable to be exceeded this financial year. To regularize budgets, money may be vired from underspending budgets. It was AGREED £310 be vired from the Banks maintenance budget to the professional fees budget to cover the potential overspend arising from the unexpected Covid related Zoom costs and the Internal Audit fees arising twice in one financial year. It was AGREED £800 be vired from the Banks maintenance budget to the Salaries budget as the Salaries budget includes unexpected payment of 'annual average salary' furlough payments in the early part of the year. It was AGREED that from the Banks maintenance budget £10 be transferred to the insurance budget and £30 to the office expenses.

It was also AGREED that BACS payments should continue to be made where appropriate.

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- b. To consider invoices received in January 2021:
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|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| LRALC internal audit fee | £ 250.00 (advance payment) |
| Hosting fees for whissendine.net | £ 78.16 |
| RCC street lights (2020/21) | £1103.25 |
| RCC Q3 Salary + on costs | £1476.25 |
| Long Clawson vouchers | £2400.00 |
| Postage stamps and cert. frames | £ 15.75 |
| Village caretaking | £ 52.25 |

13375 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda:

AGM: Annual Village Meeting for 2021. It was agreed at the last meeting this year's Village Meeting would be on Saturday 20 March 2021. However, the Covid infectivity is not reducing so it is AGREED the meeting be postponed to Saturday 15 May 2021 at 6.15pm and will either be in the open air on the Village Green or by Zoom. The choice will depend on the Covid restrictions and legal duties in force at the time. The draft agenda will be discussed at the April Parish Council meeting.

Tree Survey: Mrs Moss proposed presenting the village tree survey in power-point format and this met with general favour.

13376 Correspondence

8/1/21 request for 'dog bin' down Pickwell Ln, matter for RCC, reply sent
15/1/21 letter from Chairman RCC to Parish Councils re Parish Forum
30/1/2021 email from R Drabble advising WPC that representation submissions on RCC Local Plan set to be published after submission to Sec. of State. The question posed is for RCC.

Meeting ended 19.58 hrs