

## WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

**Also in attendance.** **Mr Keith Fairbrother, Mr Mike Harman,**  
**Anon., Mr & Mrs Wilkins.**

Meeting opened at 19.15hrs

- 13377 Statement from Chairman and vote to deal with any disruption:  
The Chairman referred to the recent problem highlighted in the news media recently where a Parish Council's deliberations were ridiculed and disrupted by some unruly public observers. In the spirit of preparedness he proposed that the Clerk be permitted to remove those people who are not respecting the procedures of the meeting to the waiting room in Zoom, pending a vote on permanent removal or readmittance. The behaviour to trigger removal to include, but not be limited to: making personal or insulting comments to Parish Councillors, the clerk, any guest or observers of the meeting; persistently interrupting speakers or otherwise inhibiting debate; refusing to yield to allow others to speak; failing to respond to the Chairman when requested to allow proceedings to move forward. It was AGREED the Clerk should be so permitted. It was further AGREED that this shall apply to future Zoom meetings and that the matter should be brought to the attention of attendees at the start of each meeting henceforth.
- 13378 Any questions or comments from the public: Mr and Mrs Wilkins enquired about existing vacancies on the Parish Council and co-option processes.  
Mr Cartlidge requested the content of his email of 26 Feb. 2021 12:00PM be conveyed to the meeting in relation to planning application 2021/0111/FUL; so his email was read out verbatim from line 4 to line 13.
- 13379 Apologies for absence: None
- 13380 Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: Mr Harris declared an interest in Item 6b in relation to the planning application for Fosse Hill as Fosse Hill is his immediate neighbour; he undertook not to speak on the item and the Chairman indicated he should repair to the 'waiting room'.
- 13381 To approve minutes of the meeting held on 1 February 2021: proposed by Mrs Moss, seconded by Mrs Arnold and AGREED.
- 13382 Reports from Councillors:
- a. Report from Parish Councillors on meetings attended: Mr Comber reported attending the Parish Forum on 8 February, which covered 'Dying Matters', Design Guidelines for Rutland, and Planning issues such as N. Luffenham Development and the Langham Solar Farm. Next meeting of the Parish Forum 15<sup>th</sup> March.

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- b. Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor: The consultation on the Design Guidelines for Rutland remains open until 12 March 2021. RCC's 2.99% increase in the precept requires £2.4M be taken from their reserve in 2021-22 and thus isn't sustainable. The £29.4M grant for St Georges Barracks comes with conditions, RCC has yet to vote on accepting those conditions. Gordon Brown has stepped down as Deputy Leader of RCC to be replaced by Lucy Stevenson; Karen Payne is also joining RCC's Cabinet.

13383 Planning matters

- a. Report from the second meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group, 24 February 2021: Progress is being made. The current focus is on communications; a survey is being designed, and a dedicated website linked to whissendine.net is being pursued.  
The changes to the Terms of Reference of the Steering Group were AGREED.

Mrs Powell left the meeting.

Mr Harris withdrew to the waiting room.

- b. To consider plans received between 5 February 2021 and 1 March 2021:

**2021/0111/FUL** Extension to Fosse Hill, The Nook. No comments were offered.

Mr Harris rejoined the meeting.

- c. Planning updates received: None

13384 Any issues requiring attention on The Banks, etc:

- a. Notification of slip issues on the stiles when wet: The new stiles are very slippery when wet. It was AGREED the Clerk should source some appropriate anti-slip tape and adhesive and have it applied to the treads.
- b. Confirmation of 2021 cutting contract: The contractor has agreed to continue for 2021 on the same terms as 2020 and this arrangement was AGREED.
- c. Consider request to site a memorial bench on the village green: It was AGREED there is room for another bench next to the existing bench facing away from the stream. The constraints are that it should match the existing bench as far as possible, be placed on paving stones and affixed to the ground. It was further AGREED that the number of benches should be limited to allow space for other activities on the Village Green; this will affect future proposals for benches on the Green.
- d. Any other issue:  
It was AGREED the Clerk should obtain another sign advising dog owners to pick up waste; this will be located on the Cow Lane Gate.  
Mr Hatton advised a volunteer had come forward to oil/re-finish the wooden bench currently on the Green.  
The gate forming part of the boundary of the Banks has been re-opened and walkers are trespassing onto private land via the gate. It was AGREED that once the landowner's details have been passed to the Clerk they will be advised of the issue.

13385 Highways and village maintenance matters for report:

- a. To consider offer from RCC to replace missing grit bin (WHI4 No 250): It was AGREED the Parish Council would pay RCC £216.71 for a replacement bin, delivered full.

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- b. Notification of emergency vehicles having difficulty gaining access to Hall Close in icy conditions: RCC has confirmed there was a grit bin at the junction of Foxhill and Hall Close and has offered to replace it if it is missing on the same terms as the Mill Grove bin (WHI4 No 250). However the existing bin is still in place and is 2/3 full. It was AGREED that the Parish Council would pay RCC £216.71 for an additional bin, delivered full; to be sited at the Hortons Lane end of Hall Close. This is subject to the agreement of RCC to provide another bin.
- c. Any other issues  
The road gully on the corner of Station Road is now dangerous, it has already been reported via Fix-my-street but a picture will be sent to highlight the issue.  
The finger posts continue to deteriorate; RC Councillor Stevenson is aware. The Chairman will contact the Ward Councillor

#### 13386 Financial Business

- a. To receive the details of estimated expenditure to date: as of 1 February 2021 there was £15988.01 available to spend. £10,000 is earmarked for the Burial Extension. There are sufficient funds available for this financial year.
- b. To consider invoices received in February 2021: The following payments were AGREED:
- |                                |                    |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| LARAC (Councillor training)    | £ 40.00            |
| Fields in Trust (Subscription) | £ 65.00            |
| Village caretaking             | £ 52.25 (notional) |

#### 13387 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda:

A suggestion was made that a small commercial unit may be vacated soon and could be used as a village café/hub or produce outlet. Mrs Moss offered to canvass opinions.

The Village Meeting had been set for a Saturday in late May, outdoors due to Covid. It must be held after 6pm. It must be held before June. The Government's roadmap for relaxation of Covid-restrictions seems likely to make a physical meeting unlawful, still. However, the 2020 statute that made virtual meetings lawful expires on 7 May 2021 and there is no indication it will be refreshed. It is therefore necessary to meet virtually, and before 7 May 2021. It was AGREED the Village Meeting will be scheduled for Wednesday 5 May 2021 and held via Zoom from 7pm.

The constraints on meetings will also apply to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council so it was AGREED this will now be held on Monday 3 May 2021, virtually via Zoom from 7.15pm.

#### 13388 Correspondence

Email from a resident 26/2/21 at 7.53pm listing 10 areas of concern. Most matters did not fall within the purview of the Parish Council – a response from the Parish Council will be supplied.

Meeting ended 20.59hrs

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