

WHISSENDINE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of Parish Council Meeting on **Monday 7 March 2022**
7.15 pm, held in the Village Hall, Whissendine.

Present.

Mr Will Farr (Chairman)
Mrs Lake, Mr Greenlay, Mrs Wilkins, and
Mrs Lake, Mr Comber.

In attendance

Also in attendance.

Dr S Lammin (Parish Clerk)
County Councillor Rosemary Powell
Two members of the public

Chairman opened the meeting at: 19:15 hours.

- 13515** To take any questions or comments from the public: Mr Richardson felt his comments on 7 February 2022 had been summarised wrongly. He wanted it recorded that in addition to upstream attenuation he favoured dredging downstream of the village.
- 13516** Apologies for absence: Mrs Arnold, away; Mr Harris, unwell and Mrs Moss unwell.
- 13517** Declaration of any pecuniary interest in any matter on the agenda: None
- 13518** To approve minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2022: With one amendment: change of the word 'prevented' to 'attenuated' in line 10 of Minute 13505b; the minutes were proposed by Mr Hatton and seconded by Mrs Lake, approved and signed by the Chairman.
- 13519** Reports from Councillors:
- a. Reports of meetings attended by Parish Councillors: None
 - b. Report from Mrs Rosemary Powell, Rutland County Councillor: RCC budget approved with 4.99% council tax increase. The £150 'fuel' rebate will be automatically provided to eligible Council Tax payers who pay by DD, others should receive a letter from RCC. RCC also have discretionary funds that may be available to those in financial-need.
- 13520** Planning matters
- a. Report from the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group (22/2/2022):
The Group last met on Tuesday 22 February 2022. The plan timetable has been updated. The draft Housing Needs Analysis has been received. Design codes may take 2-6 months to deliver. 8 policies have been drafted so far and dropped into the template. The template will now need populating with the research results. Still plan to finish by June 2023.
 - b. To consider plans received between 8 February 2022 and 7 March 2022:
2022/0271/FUL: Tpot Cottage, 21-23 Stapleford Rd -addition of balcony to rear elevation. No comments offered.
 - c. Planning updates received: **2021/1187/FUL** Cherry Tree Cottage, 22 Oakham Rd – double garage and storage. Permission granted by RCC, with conditions.
- 13521** Any issues requiring attention on The Banks, etc.

Any member of the public may view copies of letters and documents held by the parish council by appointment with the Clerk: whisspcclerk@gmail.com

- a. Request from neighbouring landowner to use the pedestrian-gate and public footpath [E142] across The Banks to access the same path across his land by ride-on mower/compact tractor-mower for the purpose of cutting the grass on the footpath where it crosses his land. This limited access was AGREED.
- b. Other issues: The Working Party on Banks Furniture has yet to report.

13522 To consider request from landowner for support in developing a leaky-dam scheme: A landowner, west of Oakham Road, is considering the Government's Woodland Creation Scheme and the possible attenuation of flow in Whissendine Brook, upstream from the village. The scheme can be complex. A scheme that is more attractive to him would be provision of a leaky dam system. This would require full co-operation of nearby landowners. The landowner wishes to know if the Parish Council would organise or support the adoption of such a scheme. The landowner has been advised that the Parish Council is not the local Drainage Authority and permission would be required from RCC; he has also been provided with the links to the relevant web-pages. The Parish Council considered such a scheme would be beneficial to the village; and if he requires any specific assistance they would be happy to receive details.

13523 Highways and village maintenance matters for report and to agree any necessary action: None.

13524 To consider the information supplied by the Flood Action Group in support of their request for a 'Highways Concerns' form to be submitted to RCC in relation to temporary signage during flood events. [Information supplied 3 March 2022].
The Group are seeking provision of permanent triangular flood signs at 4 locations in the village; on the approaches to the brook/village green [precise locations not specified]. It is intended these signs should be covered except during times of flood, when identified, trained volunteers will uncover them. They are also seeking a depth gauge be located on the corner of Main Street and the Village Green.
Also they are seeking 4No. 'temporary amber warning signs' to be placed in times of flood at additional locations [not specified] on approach roads (again to be placed by identified, trained volunteers).
It was AGREED the 4 permanent (covered) 'Flood' signs and a depth gauge be supported. It was clarified the 4 'warning signs' are actually information signs. It was AGREED information signs should be supported. The Clerk is to submit a highways issues form to RCC, once the necessary supporting information is available from the Flood Action Group.

13525 To consider advice from The Lord Lieutenant that she has trees available for landowners to plant near hedge-line on approaches to the village; in celebration of The Queen's jubilee. The scheme sounded interesting but it is a matter for the individual landowners and the landowners' details are not known by the Parish Council.

13526 Financial Business

- a. To receive the details of estimated expenditure to date: As of 28 February 2022 the Parish Council had £20477.57 in the current account and available for spending in the financial year 2021-22. This includes grant monies received, some of which may be repayable before the end of March 2022. It also includes the £289.72 settlement of the insurance claim for the loss of the lectern signs (full cost less VAT = £668.72; less excess of £400. The VAT will be reclaimed from HMRC.)

There are sufficient funds to meet planned expenditure. If this month's invoices are all paid and c£1800 of the grant refunded (as estimated) the Parish Council will have spent £61.54 more than they budgeted for the year. There are sufficient reserves and these will be increased this year to allow planned land purchase.

Any member of the public may view copies of letters and documents held by the parish council by appointment with the Clerk: whisspcclerk@gmail.com

b. To receive details of LGA 1972 s137 limits for 2021-22 and eligible expenditure to date. The appropriate sum for the purposes of S137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 is £8.41 per elector. As of 1/4/2021 Whissendine was said to have 1063 electors giving a limit of £8939.83. [Next year the limit increases to £8.82 per elector]. The s137 spending to date is: £4161.12 and is within permitted parameters.

c. To consider invoices received in February and approve payments, as appropriate.

Caretaker (February 2022)	£ 62.73
UrbanVision CIC (NP Consultant)	£ 3780.00
Printing NP Survey report for Village Meeting	£ 89.00
'Medals' for Games for Queen's Jubilee	£ 14.02

d. To consider details of grants received and repayments due before 1 April 2022: In this financial year £7606 grant has been awarded towards preparation of the Parish's Neighbourhood Plan. The terms of the grant limit the areas of eligible expenditure and require repayment of unspent grant funds before the end of the financial year. The expenditure for the year has been £7056.78 of which £5928.56 should be eligible expenditure. It is estimated between £1677.44 and £1856.44 may be refundable (dependent on the flexibility in descriptions/sub-division limits imposed by the funder.) It was AGREED the Clerk make repayments as required under the grant-agreement (subject to the usual two additional signatories being obtained).

e. To consider authorising the Clerk to settle the final invoice from the N.P. consultant (with approval of two signatories), if it is received before 31//2022.: The invoice has been received in time to include it in this month's batch; additional provision is not therefore required.

13527 On-going business not scheduled elsewhere on agenda:

Queen's Jubilee group met on 1 March and arrangements are in-hand for 4 June 2022.

The filing cabinet in the Church holds papers of Village groups. A resident wishes the Parish Council takes responsibility for finding an archivist to facilitate storage and access of the documents (Emails 5 and 6 February 2022). The Parish Council AGREED it would not be appropriate for them to assume responsibility for the retention and management of these documents. It would be preferable if a volunteer village archivist could be found.

13528 Correspondence:

11/2/2022 email from RCCouncillor re parish-online.co.uk

16/2/2022 email from RCC re: Rutland Climate Action notes from meeting 4/1/2022, etc.

17/2/2022 email from resident concerning his views about Whissendine Brook

18/2/2022 letter from resident re proposed fencing near Footpath E142 and permission for access.

21/2/2022 email request for data of informal open access areas in Leicestershire and Rutland.

24/2/2022 email from resident re Woodland Creation and leaky-dams; seeking support.

3/3/2022 email from Flood Action Group with their proposals for flood signage.

6/3/2022 email + letter from residents requesting a letter for inclusion in the QJ Time Capsule.

Meeting closed at 20.44 hrs.