

WHISSENDINE

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held at Whissendine Village Hall on Wednesday. 20 March 2024 At 7pm

1. Welcome, apologies for absence were accepted from: Mrs Gill Wilkins (Parish Councillor), Ms. Jane Buckley (Parish Councillor), Mr David Penny (Craft & Produce show Committee) and Mrs Michelle Edwards (from Whissendine Good Neighbour Scheme).
2. Minutes of 2023 Village meeting were agreed, subject to a minor clarification within the Ward Councillor's report (on whissendine.net).
3. Parish Council Chairman, Will Farr, gave a report on the work of the Parish Council (WPC) in 2023-24, proposals for 2024-25 and took opinion on proposals: After thanking those who gave their time to the village in the preceding year. The Chairman outlined how the Parish Council's task & finish group worked to consider the best use of CIL, etc. funds and the resulting grants to the Village Hall and the Sports Club. He thanked the Neighbourhood Planning Steering Group for their efforts leading to the successful referendum (29/2/24) and adoption (18/3.24) of the Whissendine Neighbourhood Plan. EM Air Space changes have been monitored and no impact on the village is expected. He confirmed that comments had been provided for: Leics. County Council's Flood Risk Management Plan; Melton BC's Local Development Plan and RCC's Local Plan- re: control of storm-discharges to streams. He also confirmed the deputation sent to RCC's s19 Council meeting to investigate the Jan. 2024 flood-event (Storm Henk). Funding was granted to enable village groups: a loan to the Sports Club for a mower and a grant for drawings for a new building; a grant to the Village Hall for some IR heating and insulation; grants to: Environment Group, Good Neighbour Scheme, Youth Group, Craft & Produce Show, and Grapevine. There were also repairs and improvements on The Banks: anti-bird spikes on play equipment and stabilising the stream-banks near the footbridge. Plans for the coming year include: a new lectern sign for Chapel Walk, new baby-swing seats and restoration of the Village Pump.
4. Rutland County Councillor Mrs Powell gave a report on her role as a Ward Councillor, spending 1-2 days/wk on village issues at RCC. Prime role: representing residents; an access-route to RCC, either explaining decisions or pushing for action. Main concerns in the last year have been: flooding and highways matters. Mrs Powell initiated the creation of Whissendine Neighbourhood Plan and thanked those that worked towards achieving its adoption by RCC. The grant of planning permission (Dec. 2023) for 66 houses on the western edge of the village, by RCC, included many conditions. As the developer applies for discharge of those conditions the details will appear on the RCC Planning Portal and people may offer comments. For the coming year the mitigation of flood-events is a significant matter to follow up, including those steps proposed by the Parish Council.
8. (Item 8 taken out of order at request of the speaker). Report from Mike Dickinson, Chair of VH Committee: some issues had been resolved in the last year- both revenue and regular hire have increased, after the loss of the nursery. Heating represented a significant cost so IR heating was installed in areas other than the main hall, the gas-heating system in the main hall is now more efficient (the ceiling has been insulated and emergency-doors now air-tight) [funded by WPC]. New chairs were funded by user-groups, and Mike offered his thanks. Next project is the roof (possibly with solar panels).
5. Report from Mrs Michele Evans of Whissendine Youth Group: The group started in April 2023 for 11-16 year olds. It is held on Monday evenings in the Village Hall for 90mins. There are 10-12 teenagers attending most weeks (18 for the Christmas party). The leaders happen to be members of the congregation of St Andrew's

WHISSENDINE

Church but it is an open, rather than Church, group. new members and volunteers welcome. The group finances are overseen by Rutland First CIC. The WPC grant secured operations to end of summer-term. The Tesco blue-token fund (Apr-Jun 2024) will provide further funds (min. £500). Children-in-Need have invited a bid for 3 years funding (grant not guaranteed).

6. Whissendine Good Neighbour Scheme's written report was read to the meeting: there are currently 47 volunteers, of which 28 are drivers. Some drivers have limited availability (weekends, certain days/times, etc.). Some client requests could not be met and were passed to VAR. Client list currently 66, an increase from the previous year. In the coming year looking to move to on-line banking and BACS payments. Thanks were offered to those who volunteer.
7. Report from Mr Chris Read of Whissendine Environment Group: the 4 key members of the group are all older than 60 years, the group is looking for new volunteers. The group was established in 2012 but refreshed their ToR in 2021. Funding is from WPC. Now focussed on making areas not under private ownership (no-man's land) tidier and nicer. Areas include: sides of walkways in Hall Close/Foxhill, the tyre in The Banks, Sports and Social club flower-beds and the drive to the windmill. Also working with Trent River's Trust to undertake water-quality testing of Whissendie Brook. This year's big litter pick is 23 March 2024.
9. Report from representative of Whissendine Sports Club committee, Mr Ian Horn. The funding crisis of 2023 is being resolved but sustainability remains a priority; as are reviews of contracts for current users, cost controls, income generation and community consultation. The main cost was grass-cutting but lawn-mower purchased in 2023, with a WPC loan. Membership has increased in the last year. Future plans include: stable finances, new football nets, new basket-ball facility, new smart-meter for electricity, new (cheaper) insurance, repair roof of building, repair/subsidise heating, repair electrics at gable-end, etc. Go-fund-me page set up, to date £3700 raised towards materials. Longer-term: replace existing building (£3K for architect outline footprint of size of development needed (sized to accommodate: badminton, meeting room & kitchen). Planned fundraisers include: Steam weekend, Kiddie Disco, Comedy Club, bingo night, one-off Pilates session. Recent community survey results will be in April 2024 Grapevine.
10. Report from Mrs Claire Streit of the Whissendine Craft & Produce Show Group: Show involves 2 days of activity; it is open to all residents of the village. WPC fund the printing of the brochure. The 2023 show had 91 exhibitors (86, 2022); 607 exhibits (462, 2022); entry fees £115.14 (£114.70, 2022) [capped @ 30 per entry for first 6]. Afternoon teas raised £257.32 (21% increase on 2022). Future focus to increase the number of junior entries.
11. The Parish Clerk reported on the Long Clawson Charity activity in 2023: The charity is currently holding £4453.84, year-end estimate £4460.90 (£4787.65, 2023). The income during the year was £1938.28 from rent and £130 from St Andrew's PCC Charity fund. WPC made a nominal grant of £450 by funding the Ash-dieback survey. 23 applications for vouchers were accepted [vouchers @ 10x £10] 228 vouchers were spent at the Village shop and redeemed at a cost of £2280. As applicant have exceeded 20 there are reduced reserves to carry forward.
12. Report from Dr Susan Lammin for the Grapevine Group: The group was established in 1919 although the publication has been produced since 1880; c560 Grapevine Magazines a month are printed and circulated to each house in the village. Adverts in

WHISSENDINE

the magazine contribute to print-costs. Printed ads are becoming less popular than Facebook/social media ads. so a gap is growing between income and costs.

Print costs 2023 £ 3720.00

Income so far in 2024 £ 1989.16

Expected income for 2024 £ 2789.16

WPC has covered the shortfall in previous years. If £1750 is needed this year it represents 0.5% of the precept. As the demand for financial support is likely to increase the views of villagers are being sought.

13. Questions on any topic from the floor.:

Richard C.: 1) Sought clarification about how much WPC spent in which areas- he was provided with a short grant-summary and directed to the published details on whissendine.net. 2) Questioned whether the village pump could be relocated to the village-green. He was advised it was in its original location and was a registered heritage asset. 3) Questioned whether a physical publication of the Grapevine could be replaced with an on-line mag. He was advised it would involve a different skill-set for the group and some villagers were known to welcome a print-version.

Pat Lake: Stressed the value and history of the Grapevine; she questioned whether moving from monthly to quarterly issues may assist. She was advised some info. needed to be timely but her suggestion would be considered.

Ian Horn: Addressed the Grapevine issues and suggested fund-raising and a possible Go-Fund-Me page.

Martin Powell: Provided information on the history of the Grapevine which was originally a subscription magazine and latterly under-written by WPC.

Rosemary Powell: Sought clarification about decision-making within the Grapevine Group. She was advised that, as per the ToR of the Group, decisions rest with the surviving committee officers, who also accept the financial-risk.

Unidentified resident: The Grapevine is a reference source, that printed information is valued. She suggested 'sponsoring a page' or attracting annual sponsors.

Geoff Clyde: Asked how much in CIL funding was expected. He was advised none was 'expected' but that the 66-house development may yield CIL funds at some point in the future (at a rate about 15% of that which RCC receives).

Meeting closed 20.30 hours