

WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL MONDAY 13th OCTOBER 2014

PRESENT: Councillors Andrew Baugh, Ann Hatcher, David Lees, Eddie Meyer, Carrie Young and Sylvia Michael. Cllr Bruce Laughton attended for part of the meeting. Karen Birks (Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Paul Nuthall and John Harvey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN AGENDA ITEMS

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2014 were read. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Eddie Meyer, seconded by Councillor David Lees and approved by all members.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

- The District Planner has confirmed that County Council Highways provided their initial comments in respect of the Travel Plan and requested additional information on a number of issues. A revised Travel Plan has now been forwarded to the Highway authority for their further comments. Subject to the Highway Authority confirming that they are happy with the revised Travel Plan, the details will be made public at that time.
- The session on 29th September run by PCSO Keith Crowhurst to mark portable items of property went ahead but unfortunately no residents turned up.
- Cllr Laughton has confirmed that the costs for the Parish Council to purchase and install an interactive speed sign would be approximately £4000 plus ongoing maintenance costs. This is too expensive for the Parish Council to consider. Cllr Laughton agreed to support the Parish Council in its attempts to get County Council highways to provide a sign. The first step towards this is to get an updated traffic survey carried out.
- Cllr Baugh reported on the Parish Conference which he attended on 6th October. The emphasis was on how Parish Councils can communicate using online technology backed up by the fact that 80% of the population are using the internet as a source of information and this figure increases to 98% for those under 60. Wellow Parish Council, along with all councils, will ultimately have an online presence. N&SDC can provide a page on their website free of charge. Karen Wakefield, the clerk at Ollerton, has great experience in setting up websites, facebook, twitter etc and would be a useful contact in the future when Wellow Parish Council agrees to move in this direction.
- A quote of £30 + vat per cut has been received from N&SDC for mowing/strimming in the Millennium Garden. This could be carried out at the same frequency as cutting the

play area. Further quotes have been requested but not yet received and the matter will be considered when all the quotes are available.

- In response to Wellow Parish Council's complaint about the amount of dog fouling occurring around the village and in particular in the Churchyard N&SDC has agreed to send a dog warden to patrol in Wellow. This could take place at any time of day and would be in an unmarked vehicle and on the spot fines will be issued to anyone caught offending. The District Council have also said that residents should be encouraged to report any dog waste they come across because the council make additional visits to areas where there is a known issue but they are not aware that there is a problem unless people let them know. The Parish Council were also informed that fines can be sent by post to offenders if details of the date/time of the offence along with a description of the dog and if possible the owners address is reported to District Council – it is not necessary for the dog warden to have witnessed the crime. The District Council encourages residents to report offences, which can be made anonymously, as a means of controlling the problem.

5. PAY DUE ACCOUNTS

In response to a request from the Wellow Celebration Committee it was agreed to increase the donation given towards the Christmas tree this year to £60.00.

Payments to:

Wellow Celebration Committee	Donation to Christmas tree	£60.00
Karen Birks	Clerks Expenses	£145.02
	Apr 14 – Sept 14	

Cllr. Eddie Meyer proposed these payments; this was seconded by Cllr. David Lees and approved by all members.

6. CORRESPONDENCE

- The owners at the Maypole at Wellow have applied to make a change to their premises license. This is to cover the repositioning and extension of the bar and restaurant area which occurred as part of the redevelopment.
- The clerk conveyed information included in an email from Jane Crofts who has contacted the council to raise a number of issues including: asking when the maintenance of the dyke takes place, if the village will benefit financially either from the festival which took place in the summer or from any fines which may be issued for dog fouling offences, who is allowed to attend the NALC AGM and District Council conference and informing the Parish Council that she has met up with both Mr Robert Jenrick MP to discuss the school room and Wellow in general and Mr Graham Smith the County's drainage officer. The clerk has responded to Ms Crofts on these matters. Also raised was the question of the footpath which has in the past been referred to as The Durham Ox footpath and is now referred to as The Maypole at Wellow footpath due to its proximity to the premises. Ms Crofts suggested that the footpath might be referred to by a different name but Parish Council agreed that the current method of reference was acceptable.

- Cllr Baugh has received an invitation from Mr Robert Jenrick MP to attend an evening to celebrate Christmas at Newark Town Hall on 11th December. The chairman extended this invitation to the clerk and members of the Parish Council.

7. 2014 ANNUAL PLAYGROUND SAFETY INSPECTION REPORT

The annual playground inspection report has been received and the overall risk assessment has been categorised as low. A number of actions have been recommended but non are urgent because of the low risk. These include:

Repairs to fencing, lifting and re-laying some areas of matting, securing loose fixings on the spring see-saw, ensuring the large gate is kept locked, providing information signs with emergency contact details at each entrance to the playground and repair or removal of the broken picnic table

It was recommended that some additional areas are monitored for any further deterioration including some chain wear and corrosion on the seat fixing points on the toddler swings and strimmer damage on the wooden post of the bench.

It was agreed that Cllr Meyer will tighten the loose fixings on the spring see-saw and repair the picnic bench. It was not considered necessary to take any action at this time regarding the other issues other than to monitor for further deterioration.

8. CASHFLOW MONITOR FOR 2nd QUARTER 2014 -15

The clerk circulated copies of the cashflow monitor for quarter ending 30th September 2014 showing expenditure to date and a forecast for the remainder of the financial year.

This shows a current account balance of £5,763.85 and a reserve account balance of £5,429.18. The closing balance corresponded with the latest statements from the bank.

9. DATES FOR PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2015

The clerk presented suggested dates for meetings in 2015.

The dates were agreed and will be booked in the memorial hall.

10. REPAIR/REPLACEMENT OF WOODEN BRIDGE INTO PLAY AREA.

Neither Nottingham University or West Notts College have any interest in using the design and construction of a bridge in Wellow as a training exercise for their students.

The clerk has met with Jo Phelan, a representative of Groundwork, on site to discuss the possible involvement of this organisation. They are interested in the project and would be able to provide expertise and labour for both design and construction and also could apply for grants on behalf of the Parish Council. However a fee would have to be paid for these services which would amount to approximately £3000. In addition match funding would have to be provided towards any grant and this is likely to be around 10% of the total amount awarded. It would only be possible to apply for a grant if evidence of community involvement was provided.

Cllr Meyer suggested another possible solution which would be to remove the bridge and not replace it. Instead an alternative entrance could be created further along Potter Lane where the land is flatter and there would be no requirement for a bridge. The existing gate and entrance could be relocated and it is likely that this would be a lower cost option.

There are four possible solutions to be taken forward to the next annual Parish meeting to canvass the opinions of the residents. These are:

- Contract a private company to draw up plans and construct a new bridge. Costs for this are likely to be around £6000 and may require either a grant application or an increase in the precept
- Request Groundwork to take on the project to construct a new bridge on behalf of the Parish Council including a grant application. Costs for this are likely to be around £3000 plus match funding for a grant plus costs associated with community involvement.
- Remove the bridge, close the entrance from the Millennium Garden and create a new entrance on flatter ground further up Potter Lane.
- Remove the bridge, close the entrance from the Millennium Garden and use one of the other two existing entrances.

11. ANY OTHER MATTERS FOR REPORT OR DISCUSSION

Cllr Baugh reported that Severn Trent have erected barriers in Wellow Wood to prevent 4x4 vehicles driving through the wood and damaging the inspection chambers along the water main. He has been informed by Severn Trent that there is human excrement on the road running up to the wood which it is believed may have been left behind after the festival at the end of August.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9:05pm

Chairman

Date