

WELLOW ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MEETING HELD IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

MONDAY 20th APRIL 2015

PRESENT: Councillors Andrew Baugh, John Harvey, Ann Hatcher, David Lees, Eddie Meyer and Carrie Young. County Councillor Bruce Laughton and District Councillor Sylvia Michael. Karen Birks – clerk. 12 members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Cllr Paul Nuthall.

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Andrew Baugh, the Chairman of the Parish Council took the chair.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th April 2014 were read. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Councillor Ann Hatcher, seconded by Councillor Carrie Young and approved by all members.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Some investigation showed that there is no community interest in the Best Kept Village Competition so it was decided not to enter.

4. REPORT FROM WELLOW PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRMAN

The chairman reported that the regular monthly Parish Council meetings had been well attended by the Parish Councillors and Cllrs Michael and Laughton had also been regular attendees providing valuable assistance to the Parish Council.

The play area swings have had two new seats plus chains fitted and been repainted along with the slide and the safety matting is to be lifted and re-laid to improve its effectiveness. Cllr Hatcher regularly monitors and maintains the play area and Cllr Meyer often undertakes minor repairs to equipment. The Millennium Garden still has a problem with weeds and more regular mowing is to be tried next season. Discussion about what to do with the wooden bridge linking with the play area will be part of the Annual Meeting agenda.

The footpath linking the bottom green with the Maypole Green through the 'Maypole' Car park now has official status and will be maintained by the County Council.

The drain through the middle of the village is now on a regular cleaning contract with John Corrigan and looks very tidy. N&SDC have kindly installed two new litter bins on Potter Lane and Eakring Road.

Wellow Parish Council now has a webpage on N&SDC website and this will be updated regularly with financial accounts, minutes and agendas.

The chairman thanked the Parish Councillors for their work during the past year as they all do extra to help the village. Sadly four of Wellow's longest serving Councillors, Cllrs Lees, Hatcher, Nuthall and Harvey, have decided not to stand for re-election and the chairman thanked them for their dedication and commitment to the Parish Council over many years. Finally the chairman noted that the Parish Council could not operate effectively without a good clerk and he was grateful to Karen Birks for her good work.

A copy of the full report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr David Lees thanked the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council.

5. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A Financial Statement for Wellow Parish Council stating receipts, payments and end of year bank surpluses was presented by the clerk. A copy of the statement is attached to the minutes.

6. REPLACEMENT/REMOVAL OF WOODEN BRIDGE INTO PLAYING FIELD

The wooden bridge between the Millennium Garden and the play area is showing some signs of decay and will need to be repaired or replaced at some point. A number of possible options have been suggested, some of which will incur considerable expense and may mean increasing the precept by a substantial amount. The current bridge could be repaired or if necessary entirely replaced in its current location, the bridge could be removed and a new entrance created on Potter Lane where the land flattens out or the bridge could be removed and no new entrance provided which would mean people entering the play area via one of the other two entrances.

After discussion it was felt that it is important to retain an entrance in this location from the Millennium Garden.

It was agreed that the entire bridge does not need to be replaced but just the wooden strips across the walkway. A quote will be obtained to replace these, treat all the timber with wood preservative and cover the wooden strips with wire to make them less slippery. Cllr Laughton offered funding towards the cost of this work.

7. ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS FOR REPORT OR DISCUSSION

Cllr Young reported on the considerable work which has gone into gathering information about the proposed planning application for a traveller site in the Parish. A petition has been organised which has been signed by 136 people. This will be presented at a District full council meeting and given to District planners when they attend a future Parish Council meeting. It had previously been agreed that a planner from N&SDC would attend this evenings meeting to discuss the whole issue of applications for traveller sites in the District but because the outline application has been withdrawn and the full application not yet submitted the planners declined to attend. Their decision not to attend was made at short notice and consequently this item was still on the agenda but has now had to be deferred to a subsequent meeting.

It is anticipated that the full planning application will be submitted soon and Cllr Young agreed to prepare an advice sheet containing factual details and grounds for objection to assist local residents who wish to write to the District Council.

8. OPEN FORUM

The litter bin opposite 'The Maypole at Wellow' needs to be fastened down because it regularly blows over in strong winds.

The noise level in the village has been unacceptably high for a considerable number of months due the closure of the A1 and the consequent diversion route. Cllr Laughton commented that other local villages have also complained but the Highways agency is unwilling to change the diversion route.

There have been serious issues with the new litter bin on Potter Lane being

overfilled with waste, particularly dog faeces, which has resulted in the waste spilling over the ground around the bin. This has produced a smell and could be health hazard. It was felt that the bin may not have been emptied at the correct intervals because it was new to the collection round and the situation will be monitored for the new few weeks.

Some residents have been dumping waste material into the village drainage dyke. The clerk will write to an address on Maypole Road where it is known to be a particular issue.

The public footpath sign opposite 'The Maypole at Wellow' pub has disappeared. The clerk will request that it is reinstated.

Some of the drains on Eakring Road are completely blocked up and the clerk will request that they are cleaned out.

The chairman closed the meeting at 9:05pm

Chairman

Date