

## WHITTON PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7 June 2017

### Present

Richard Adams (Chair), Gillian Davies (Clerk), Sue Cranston (Treasurer), Fran Ross (Heritage and Environment), Steve Hill, Tony Langton, Jo Stones,

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Apologies</u></b> Cllr Helen Rowson, Cllr Elaine Marper, Philippa Barker, Sam Dron, Sue Dron, Marion King, Wendy Spilman, Chris Stanley, Geoff Stones,</p>	
<p><b>2. <u>Declaration of Interests in respect of Agenda</u></b> None declared.</p>	
<p><b>3. <u>Minutes of Last Meeting</u></b> These minutes had been circulated along with the agenda for this meeting. It was proposed by Jo Stones and seconded by Fran Ross that the minutes be accepted as being a true record. They were duly signed.</p>	
<p><b>4. <u>Matters Arising</u></b>  <b>4.1 <u>Village Sign</u></b> GD had obtained 2 quotations for a new village sign and the cost would be approximately £2,000 inclusive of VAT and carriage based upon the Misterton sign which was showed to those present at the meeting. It was recommended that the sign would be made of polyurethane as this was more durable and less prone to theft than cast iron. There would be additional cost for an aluminium post at £170 per pair and their designers can do the design from a mock up that we provide. Following discussion it was agreed by the majority of those present that we proceed with the sign but that Whitton resident Mike Bruce should be approached to see if he would like to design it.  <b>4.2 <u>Humber Bank Footpath Routing</u></b> FR informed the meeting that the issue of adoption of the footpath on the flood bank had been moving slowly due to staff cut backs and shortages at the Council. However Dave Sanderson had informed her that Anglian Water had objected but because it has been in use for 40 years the Council would go ahead. Once it is adopted we are to ask for a kissing gate to replace the present one (which is broken) as you gain access onto Humber Bank.  <b>4.3 <u>Defibrillator Training</u></b> Heart Start Training which included the use of the village hall's defibrillator had been carried out on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 with 16 attendees. It was decided to take up the offer to repeat this training and another session would be arranged at the hall in Autumn 2017.</p>	<p><b>GD</b></p> <p><b>FR</b></p> <p><b>RA</b></p>
<p><b>5. <u>Financial Report 2016/2017</u></b> SC presented her financial report and a copy is attached to these minutes. We had started the year with an opening balance of £4,279, after expenditure of £1,312 and addition of the Parish Precept, the closing balance was £5,603.  An insurance premium of £374 was due shortly which had not been taken into account.</p>	
<p><b>6. <u>Election of Officers</u></b> Richard Adams, Sue Cranston and Fran Ross said that they were willing to stand again and were unanimously re-elected by those present at the meeting.</p>	

<p><b>Vice Chair</b> GD proposed Steve Hill and this was seconded by Tony Langton. He was unanimously elected.</p> <p><b>Clerk</b> This is an appointment, not an elected post and Gillian Davies indicated her willingness to remain in the position for another year.</p>	
<p><b>7. Highways update</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Speeding/Bus Stop</b> It has been agreed that ‘dragons teeth’ be painted on the road at the entrance to the village in an attempt to reduce speeding. The Transport Dept are also aware that we are trying to have the bus stop recognised plus the possibility of a shelter installed which may affect where the markings are positioned. We had been informed that the markings would be completed in Spring 2017 in order to minimise the mud on the road. However, GD had subsequently contacted the Council in respect of the bus stop and was informed that Traffic Dep’t had done a formal inspection of the site in the last week of May to ensure that there are no traffic implications. They would consult with us again following this inspection when they are in a position to do so although staffing and funding cuts are delaying this</p> <p><b>7.2 Whitton Footpaths</b> GD informed the meeting that the Footpath on Station Road was resurfaced with slurry seal as arranged but it was only done half way. An email from Highways Dept notes that the contractor had said the bottom half of the footpath was not able to take the slurry seal but FR pointed out that they did not attempt to remove the moss beforehand. GD had again spoken to the Council representative about the footpaths on Station Road plus Chapel Lane, Church Hill and Mill Lane which are in poor condition and covered in moss but had been informed (verbally) that due to Council cuts it was a matter of footfall and as a result paths in (for example) Bottesford would take precedence.</p> <p><b>7.3 Station Road Surface</b> The poor state of Station Road (surface and deep potholes) were discussed and it was noted that resurfacing is on the list for this year. The Council informed GD on 19 Mar that Highways would patch up the potholes which they agreed were bad and this was done a few days later.</p> <p><b>7.3 Trees on Station Road</b> The Council arranged an inspection to give an update on the state of the trees in Station Road which are on private land. They are “reluctant to go down the route of taking legal powers under section 154 of the Highway Act to serve notice on the owner of the trees to get them to remove such a danger, with an ability to enter land if they fail to do works and recharge back”. They would like it to be more voluntary by the land owners. An email concerning the inspection on 17 March notes <i>“they are mature ash for the main part and are on a hillside going up from the roadside. Many do have ivy on them which prevents clear sight of the structure of the tree and may prevent me from seeing cracks, faults and fungal brackets that could be present. There were a few dead branches on these trees which could if they detached fall onto the road. These could be easily removed by the owner of the trees if they wished to do so. I could not see</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>GD</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>GD</b></p>

<p><i>anything hanging however or anything else what would suggest that these trees are imminently dangerous as a whole. You could if you wished use section 205 of the Highway Act if you wished the owner of the tress to remove dead wood etc .....)</i></p> <p>It appears that the legal position is that it is the tenant and not the owner who is responsible unless there is something written into the tenancy agreement. Since this inspection, it is alleged that a resident of Station Road has spoken to Ralph Ogg who is renting the land about the fact that the trees need attention. The Parish Meeting has not been formally informed of this by the resident and would continue to pursue the Local Authority for resolution.</p>	<b>GD</b>
<p><b>8. <u>Emergency Community Plan</u></b></p> <p>RA informed the meeting that having gone through the documentation from the Local Authority he came to the conclusion that the plan should be kept relatively simple. By looking at what emergencies could happen to the village the most common were likely to be a power loss after prolonged period of snow or flooding. In the event of a major fire the main issue is water pressure for which the emergency services would pump from the River Humber. As such we need the ability to provide a facility that could be used by the villagers / emergency services which would provide a safe, warm haven for those affected. Capital outlay should only be necessary in the provision of temporary power facilities for the Village Hall in such event. As part of the plan it is necessary to hold a recording of those people in the village who could be vulnerable in an emergency, this would not be made public.</p> <p>RA will finish the draft and price up the provision of alternative power supplies. Unfortunately there are no grants for this purpose but it could be included in a grant application presently being prepared for the Village Hall. When the document is drafted he will circulate it round the meeting members. The final copy will be a public document.</p>	<b>RA</b>
<p><b>9. <u>Grass Cutting</u></b></p> <p>It was proposed that Adrian Davey should be asked to continue with grass cutting at the entrance to the village. RA to speak to Adrian as there are also some trees which need to be cut back.</p>	<b>RA</b>
<p><b>10. <u>Village Planters</u></b></p> <p>Pam Woodward was thanked for her efforts in tending the village planters. It was, however, decided that a set amount for plants should be set as the cost was rising.</p>	<b>RA</b>
<p><b>11. <u>Newsletter</u></b></p> <p>RA stated that the newsletter used to be quarterly and has become half yearly. Following discussion it was decided that the Parish Meeting wanted to continue with a smaller version but with publication 4 times per year in order that items within it are more current. RA to speak to Chris Stanley and Mike Bruce for their views as to whether they wish to continue producing the newsletter on this new basis.</p>	<b>RA</b>
<p><b>12. <u>Noticeboard</u></b></p> <p>GD had obtained quotations from MD Signs in Barton for a new notice board for the entrance to the village. For a 1500mm x 1000mm board the cost is between £2000 and £1,000 for a budget option. It was felt that this expensive and RA had talked to village</p>	

<p>resident Mike Brocklesby who had agreed to obtain competitive quotes for a comparable board. This will be sited behind the seat at the end of Ings Lane.</p>	<p><b>RA</b></p>
<p><b>13. <u>Plans for future Activity</u></b>  <b>a. <u>Children’s Playground</u></b>  RA informed the meeting that he believed the village would benefit from a children’s playground. The village was maturing with a younger generation but no facilities were available within the village for them. He proposed that he would like to explore potential locations and funding possibilities with North Lincs Council. This was agreed by the Parish Meeting and RA would report back to the November meeting. Jo Stones asked about the upkeep of the equipment and insurance costs and RA said this would be part of the review.</p>	<p><b>RA</b></p>
<p><b>14. <u>Reports from the Councillor</u></b>  Unfortunately due to the General Election being held on the following day, none of the local Councillors were present at the meeting.</p>	
<p><b>15. <u>Any Other Business</u></b>  <b>a. <u>Transparency Code</u></b>  GD informed the meeting about the requirement for small Parish Councils to comply with the Government’s Transparency Code which requires them to publish certain documents on a website, including minutes of meetings and end of year accounts. Having checked with Democratic Services at the Council they had stated that it was their “<i>understanding that the Code does not apply to Parish Meetings. However, there would be nothing to stop you complying and introducing a website (good practice/open and transparent) and applying for funding if you so wish.</i>”  The Whitton Parish Meeting minutes are (since last November) located on the Whitton Village Hall website which is managed by Kevin Webster. Following discussion, it was agreed that GD would approach Kevin with a view to having a page on the website specifically for the Parish Meeting which could be updated by GD. This way the necessity for another village website would be avoided.</p>	<p><b>GD</b></p>
<p><b><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></b>  The Parish Precept meeting is arranged for Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at 7.30pm.</p>	<p><b>GD</b></p>

Widmerburton Meeting 2017  
Wednesday 7th June 2017

Financial Year 2016/2017

Opening balance : £4279

Income : £2636

Expenditure : £1044 }  
Staff Costs : £268. } £1312

Bank balance as at 31/3/17 = £5603.

Expenditure during FY16/17

Staff costs (clerks honorarium) £268

Street Sports : £104.58

Grass Cutting : £165-

Newsletter printing : £297

Plumbing (on behalf of village hall) : £345

Planters : £24

Lincolnshire Fieldpaths £5-

Sundries (ink cartridge, photocopying etc) : £104