

## WHITTON PARISH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

21 JULY 2021

### Present

Steve Hill (Chair), Gillian Davies (Clerk), Sue Cranston (Treasurer), Fran Ross (Heritage and Environment), Joanne Davey, Helen Hill, Chris Stanley, Sam Dron, Gemma Milton, Bethany Green.

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>1. <u>Apologies</u></b> Cllr Elaine Marper, Cllr Helen Rowson, Nigel Barley, Jo Barley, Sue Dron, Geoff Stones, Jo 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> The minutes of the AGM Meeting of 19 August 2020 had been published on the Whitton Village Hall Website between September and December 2020. Joanne Davey proposed that these be accepted as a true record of the meeting. Sue Cranston seconded this and it was unanimously agreed.</p>	
<p><b>4. <u>Matters Arising</u></b> <b>4.1 <u>Whitton Village footpaths</u></b> The poor state of Station Road footpath is a longstanding problem which was again reported to the Council in April. It was pointed out that the hedge alongside the road would need to be cut before anything could be done about the footpaths. Unfortunately Cllr Ogg was not able to attend tonight's meeting so he will be contacted for an update on any progress.</p> <p><b>4.2 <u>Speeding</u></b> A temporary flashing sign was due to be installed near the entrance to the village and a site meeting with the Council was arranged to agree where it was to be located, with costs being shared with West Halton Parish Council. Unfortunately, as we do not have a nearby power source available, the Council are not able to install a sign unless we have one powered by solar. Whitton Parish would have to purchase this and as the costs for a solar sign have proved costly, it was decided that we should not go ahead with a sign.</p> <p><b>4.3 <u>Decorating of Village Hall</u></b> The hall was decorated professionally for the first time since it was refurbished and extended and was paid for with a non-repayable grant from the Parish Meeting to the village hall. The hall is a huge asset to the village community and was used as a non-profitmaking shop for villagers during the Covid pandemic, set up by villager Garry Booker.</p> <p><b>4.4 <u>Minimising flood risk</u></b> Due of the actions of Whitton villagers we managed to prevent homes on Main St from being flooded due to severe weather on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020. With permission of the owner of Keeper's Cottage, a culvert has been put through</p>	<b>GD</b>

<p>the stone wall off Main St so that water can drain down their garden to the lane at the rear of their property and into the riparian ditch that runs from the culvert owned by Severn Trent. This ditch then feeds via an underground pipe into an open ditch on the far side of the lane and which is owned by the Independent Drainage Board. The underground pipe isn't large enough to take the volume of water when we have flood water entering the riparian ditch and it is not possible to install additional pipes under the green lane without permission in the form of a permit to change the water course. A request for a change to a water course has been raised with North Lincs Council but we are number 59 on their flood risk list and there are only 2 council members to cover the whole of North Lincolnshire hence this process is likely to take some time to be completed.</p>	<b>SH</b>
<p><b>4.5 <u>Noticeboard on Humber Bank</u></b> FR informed the meeting that we waiting for the Council to respond to our request for a new notice board on the bank near Long Ponds. They have had no staff dealing with this since the last person left.</p>	<b>FR</b>
<p><b>4.6 <u>No through road sign</u></b> We are waiting for the Council to respond regarding a No Through Road sign at the T junction on Whitton Road.</p>	<b>GD</b>
<p><b>4.7 <u>Humber Bank Footpath routing</u></b> The latest email from the Council was in September 2020 in which it was noted that the Environment Agency had lodged an objection to the footpath being made a 'Designated' path as it had proposed that it should be a 'Permissive' path which the Parish Meeting had rejected. Unless the Environment Agency withdraw their objection, North Lincs Council will either have to refer the order to the Secretary of State for determination or formally resolve to discontinue with this. The matter has been delayed due to the Covid Pandemic and staffing issues at the Council.</p>	<b>FR</b>
<p><b>5. <u>Financial Report 2020/2021</u></b> The Treasurer, Sue Cranston, presented her financial report and a copy is attached to these minutes. We had started the year with an opening balance of £8,615, after expenditure of £4,119 and the addition of the Precept the balance as at 31/3/2021 is £7,020. This does not include the Clerk's honorarium which it to be paid after the end of this tax year.</p>	<b>SC</b>
<p><b>6. <u>Activity since last meeting</u></b></p> <p><b>6.1 <u>Village Hall Stairs</u></b> When we upgraded the hall there was provision for an internal staircase to make a working room in the loft space. This is presently used for storage but access via a loft ladder is not ideal. Internal stairs would take up a lot of space so the option being considered is to have an external staircase at the rear of the building. SH has contacted a project manager who is going to see if this is viable and to determine if an application to amend the planning permission is required.</p>	<b>SH</b>

<p><b>6.2 <u>Emergency Action Plan</u></b> The plan has been done and as outlined within it, the hall was used extensively by the village community during the recent Covid pandemic.</p> <p><b>6.3 <u>Shed</u></b> The shed has now been erected at the rear of the hall and all the spare chairs are stored in it so that the resulting space can be used as a storage cupboard.</p>	
<p><b>6.4 <u>Deer signs</u></b> The Council have declined to erect deer warning signs on Whitton Road as it does not comply with their Signing Policy. This is because “the road is in a low lying flat land where drivers are giving warning as the presence of deer and can take appropriate action.” They also have “concerns that using warning signs which cover large distances would be ineffective, as it is likely driving would forget the warning shortly after they have passed the sign.”</p> <p><b>6.5 <u>Tree Trimming at entrance to village</u></b> Thanks were given to Sam Dron, Geoff Stones and Walt Ostin for their work on tree trimming at the village entrance and to Adrian Davey for keeping the grass neat and tidy.</p> <p><b>6.5 <u>Coronavirus and Whitton</u></b> During the second wave of Covid Garry Booker had opened the non-profit making village shop in the village hall for a second time, and it was finally closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. The Parish Meeting had bought the remaining items so that he was not out of pocket and these had been donated to The Forge in Scunthorpe. We are thankful to Garry for the support he gave to the villagers in a time of crisis.</p> <p><b>6.6 <u>Spring in Bloom</u></b> The Council had granted us £300 funding for this programme again this year and shrubs had been purchased from Silica Lodge Garden Centre. Thanks were given to Adrian Davey for digging out a flower bed near the bus stop and to Adam Markham from Overall who took the gross spoil away. Thanks were also given to Jo Davey, Helen Hill and the gardening team for preparing the beds and planting the shrubs. The intention is that eventually we will enter Whitton for Best Kept Village.</p> <p><b>6.7 <u>Village Hall Boiler</u></b> An attempt to have the boiler serviced was made but the plumber told the Parish Meeting this was not possible and it will have to be replaced at a cost of approx £6,000. SH is to contact the grant office at the Council to see if there is any emergency funding available.</p> <p><b>6.8 <u>Village Hall Insurance</u></b> The hall has been shut for 16 months with no income but we still have to pay for electricity and oil. The Parish Meeting has therefore paid for the village hall insurance premium via a non-repayable grant at a cost of £538.64.</p> <p><b>6.9 <u>Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator</u></b> The meetings have recently restarted again using Microsoft Teams but the village still does not have a coordinator and Gill Davies is acting as coordinator.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>SH</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>GD</b></p>

<p>We are to put the vacancy in the latest newsletter.</p> <p><b>6.10 <u>North Lincs Community Foundation grant</u></b> The hall has been awarded a grant of £1,000 and thanks were given to FR for securing this.</p> <p><b>6.11 <u>Facebook</u></b> We have an excellent Whitton Residents Facebook page but it was agreed that we have a zero tolerance policy for anything being put on it which is not in keeping with the spirit of the community.</p> <p><b>6.12 <u>Public fieldpath 10</u></b> We have contacted the Council and the people who own properties either side of the paths to ask them to maintain the shrubbery which is encroaching on the path alongside the Ginnell. This has now been cut but needs to be cut back further and the homeowners have said it will be cut again in the autumn when birds are no longer nesting. FR pointed out that the ivy on Churchside also needs to be cut or removed.</p> <p><b>6.13 <u>Parking on grass verges in Whitton</u></b> The Parish Meeting are looking at improving the village aspect and have planted many shrubs and bulbs which can be damaged or worse if people park on the grass verges. Someone has recently vandalised the no parking sign that was put on the verge at the entrance to the village and it was found underneath the hedge.</p>	<p><b>SH</b></p> <p><b>SH</b></p>
<p><b>7. <u>Election of Officers</u></b> All members of the committee expressed willingness to stand again and were re-elected as follows:</p> <p><b>Chair</b> Steve Hill was proposed by Jo Davey and seconded by Fran Ross</p> <p><b>Vice Chair</b> Nigel Barley was proposed by Sam Dron and seconded by Beth Green</p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Sue Cranston was proposed by Sam Dron and seconded by Beth Green</p> <p><b>Heritage and Environment</b> Fran Ross was proposed by Sam Dron and seconded by Beth Green Joanne Davey was proposed by Sam Dron and seconded by Beth Green</p> <p><b>Clerk</b> This is an appointment, not an elected post and Gillian Davies offered to step down if anyone else expresses an interest in the position.</p>	
<p><b>8. <u>Elected Councillor update on Council matters</u></b> Unfortunately none of the Councillors were present at the meeting so there was no update. We are to write to the Councillors to ask if they have any items they would have raised which we can put in our next newsletter.</p>	<p><b>GD/SH</b></p>

<p><b>9. <u>Issues raised by villagers</u></b></p> <p><b>9.1 <u>The way in which issues within the village are dealt with / who deals with these</u></b></p> <p>There was discussion over a recent incident which had caused a number of concerns as a result of a Facebook post. Members of the Parish Meeting requested that any issues which are in their sphere of influence should not be put on Facebook. Those present were also reminded that the Parish Meeting do not have the same powers as a Parish Council.</p> <p><b>9.2 <u>Flood defences on the Humber Bank</u></b></p> <p>A villager had recently put a post on Facebook regarding recent grass cutting by the Environment Agency who were utilising a 12 ton machine which was causing damage and degradation to the flood bank. The Parish Meeting does not know whether this concern is valid but will raise the concern with the EA and copy it to NL Council.</p> <p><b>9.3 <u>Dead tree opposite Humber View Farm</u></b></p> <p>A villager had raised concern about a dead tree on the grass verge and another person had suggested that rather than chop it down we turned it into a tree carving. We will check with the Council who owns the tree and if appropriate we will ask for a volunteer from the village to take this over as a project.</p>	<p><b>GD/SH</b></p> <p><b>GD/SH</b></p>
<p><b>10. <u>Any other business</u></b></p> <p><b>10.1 <u>Applefest</u></b></p> <p>SH and JD to speak to Kev Webster in respect of a possible Applefest this year.</p> <p><b>10.2 <u>Summer event</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Meeting is planning a summer barbecue to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> August in order to raise funds for the village hall.</p> <p><b>10.3 <u>Tree planting</u></b></p> <p>The Parish Meeting would like to continue tree planting down Ings Lane to improve aesthetics and environmental diversity for the Queens Jubilee next year, and £350 has been allocated for trees and shrubs around the village. It was pointed out that this may affect people being able to park on the verges opposite houses in Ings Lane.</p> <p><b>10.4 <u>Newsletter</u></b></p> <p>Chris Stanley said that there is now enough content to start putting the next newsletter together.</p> <p><b>10.5 <u>Pot hole on Main Street</u></b></p> <p>A large pothole on the road near the postbox was reported to the Council in April.</p> <p><b>10.6 <u>Stoning of road edges</u></b></p> <p>A request was made that the edges of the road between Whitton and West Halton be stoned to fill the large gaps and dips which are opening up between the road surface and the soil at the side of the road. The Council will be contacted regarding this issue.</p>	<p><b>SH/JD</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>GD</b></p>

## **10.7 Churchyard**

Chris Stanley read out the following statement:

### **Grass Cutting in the Churchyard**

*I am speaking on behalf of Whitton Parochial Church Council.*

*Some residents have been unhappy with the condition of the Churchyard, so I want to take this opportunity to explain the situation.*

*When churchyards are full their maintenance becomes the responsibility of the Parish. When churchyards are still accepting new burials the responsibility remains with the church. This is the situation in Whitton.*

*Historically our churchyard grass has been cut by volunteers. However, it is a big and time-consuming job for volunteers, given the busy lives people now lead.*

*A few years back, when a long-term volunteer was unable to continue, we decided to engage a professional. We were charged a very fair price and the results were excellent, but we were unable to afford it long term.*

*More recently we have tried to create a wildflower meadow. However, wildflower meadows need very specific conditions and only part of the churchyard currently has these. It would take considerable ongoing maintenance to achieve this effect throughout the churchyard.*

*Like many organisations we have been unable to fundraise for some time but costs like electricity and insurance still must be met. We are not in a position to pay for grass cutting.*

*In the past the Parish Meeting has been kind enough to provide grants for specific items. We are planning to make a request, in writing, for a one-off grant to help towards grass cutting costs. The church is an important village resource much appreciated by residents – we hope the Parish Meeting will look favourably on our request.*

This issue will be discussed by the Parish Meeting when a quote for the cost of the work has been submitted

**All**

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Parish Precept meeting will be held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7.30pm.

**GD**

**Whitton Parish Meeting AGM**

**Wednesday 21st July 2021**

Financial Year 20/21

Opening balance - £8615

Income - £2693

Expenditure - £4119

Bank balance as at 31/3/2021 - £7020

Expenditure during 20/21

Membership fee Lincolnshire Fieldpaths - £5

Planters & bench oil - £85.16

Clerks honorarium - £169.01

Excess food at shop to the Foodbank - £92.50

Hand sanitizer units - £51.97

VH decorating - £2150.00

Cleaning products - £69.38

Annual audit - £50

Bulbs - £173.00

Newton printing services (newsletter) - £225

Christmas lights - £201.88

Poppy wreaths - £34

Flood hole on Main Street - £94

Fuel for generator - £20.08

Flowers for resident - £28

Village grass cutting - £150

Zurich Municipal Insurance - £388.22

Village plants - £300.13 (Reimbursed by NLC for this item in FY21/22)