

MINUTES OF GREAT WILBRAHAM PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING NUMBER 17

Held at Wilbraham's Memorial Hall on 12th September 2023.

Present: Councillor Hilary Burton; Councillor James Harmer; Councillor Andy Martin; Councillor Jens Kolind; Councillor Chris Page; Councillor Dave Crowther.

In Attendance: County Councillor Claire Daunton; District Councillor Graham Cone; District Councillor John Williams.

Members of the public: 3

Members: 6 Quorum 3

Clerk: Mrs S Chambers-Turner

Meeting opened at 7.30pm

268. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Rob White

269. MEMBERS DECLARATION OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

270. OPEN FORUM

Members of the public were permitted to speak in the open forum and discussed the following:

- The trees at Bensteads End that are having works carried out.

271. TO APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Kolind, seconded by Councillor Harmer and resolved that the minutes from meeting 16 held on 11th July 2023 should be approved and signed.

272. DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPORTS

County Councillor Daunton provided a report that was circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Additionally, Councillor Daunton reported:

- The Local Highways Improvement bid for the double yellow lines outside the Carpenters Arms has been formalised. However, there will be a process to follow which includes public consultation and ensuring the scheme conforms to the required legislation.
- The results of Local Highways Improvement bid for 20mph limit through the village is expected in the next 10 days.
- The new round of Local Highways Improvement initiatives will be opening at the end of October 2023.
- More gullies have been cleared and only 2 are remaining. It is hoped that with the ditch clearance this will improve the road flooding situation.
- Concerns have been raised about pavement parking, and this will be followed up with the Enforcement Officers in due course.

District Councillors Hofman and Williams, and District Councillor Cone provided reports that were circulated to the Councillors prior to the meeting. Additionally Councillor Williams reported:

- The current bin collection days will be changed to a Wednesday as from 18th September 2023, this is to allow for the 4 day week that South Cambridgeshire District Council have implemented. By not collecting on a Monday it is hoped that a considerable amount of money will be saved on employing agency staff to cover the missed day when Bank Holidays occur. Results of the trial will be present to the Full Council early next year, when a decision will be made as to whether the 4 day week will be made permanent.

Councillor Cone provided a report, which was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Additionally Councillor Cone reported:

- All fly tipping should be reported on the South Cambridgeshire District Council website.

273. MATTERS ARISING/CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLORS AND CLERKS REPORTS INCLUDING

- Correspondence had been received about the weed spray policy that the County Council had adopted. The operation policy was changed to achieve a reduction in the chemicals that are used and to reduce the running costs of the cyclic spraying. It was suggested that Councillor Kolind and members of WEG investigate the details of the change in policy and make the necessary comments as appropriate.

274. FINANCE INCLUDING APPROVAL OF PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS

- It was proposed by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Martin and resolved that the Bank Reconciliation for July & August 2023 be approved.**
- It was proposed by Councillor Kolind, seconded by Councillor Crowther that the September accounts should be paid. Action: Clerk to set up payments for authorisation.**

Method	Payee	Item	Net	VAT	Total
BACS	Newman Groundworks	Ditch Clearance	£740.00	£0.00	£740.00
BACS	CAPALC	Training Cllr Martin	£75.00	£0.00	£75.00
BACS	CGM	Grass Cutting (256158)	£450.41	£90.09	£540.50
BACS	CGM	Grass Cutting (255822)	£242.48	£48.50	£290.98
BACS	CGM	Grass Cutting (255110)	£450.41	£90.09	£540.50
DD	OPUS	Street Lighting	£146.01	£7.30	£153.31
BACS	Eastern Tree Surgery	Tree works Frog End	£3,345.00	£669.00	£4014.00
BACS	Parish Online	Subscription	£42.00	£8.40	£50.40

		Grand Total	£5,491.31	£913.38	£6404.69
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275. WILBRAHAM ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (WEG)

Members of the Wilbraham's Environmental Group were present to make an application for a grant from the Parish Council to assist with an ongoing project. WEG are keen to improve biodiversity in the Wilbraham's and have been encouraged to do so by the Wildlife Trust who are already working with Cambridge Nature Network as Cambridgeshire has been identified as a Nature Depleted County. Areas of the locality have already been identified as being of special interest due to the common land, the river, fen and SSSI's. WEG and the Parish Council are currently using Parish Online to map areas of interest, but it was suggested that existing data is required from other organisations to compliment this. WEG were requesting help with funding of phase 1 which is likely to cost in the region of £676 inclusive of VAT. Other organisations, such as Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom Parish Council to help the funding. The Wildlife Trust will be assisting but will require a contribution towards their costs. Therefore, WEG are requesting a total amount of £900 for the initial work. Furthermore, WEG discussed a proposal of creating a footway to the common along Station Road. The Parish Council discussed these matters, and it was agreed that this be revisited at the next meeting due to the complexities of projects. In the meantime, a working group would be set up to investigate further. **Action: Councillor Burton and Councillor White will liaise with Little Wilbraham and Six Mile Bottom to form a group.**

276. ENVIRONMENTAL

Not discussed in this section.

277. PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Applications

None

Tree Works

23/1004/TTCA, S211 Tree Works Notice, 29 Angle End, Great Wilbraham. T1 Alder Dying – Fell, T2 Birch x 2 Reduce height by 1.5-2m. Reduce remaining upper canopy to shape round. T3 Box Elder, reduce height and spread on all sides by up to 1.5m and shape round. T4 Yew – fell. **The Tree Warden agreed that the trees need pruning but would like to see a replacement for the tree that is felled in a suitable area.**

278. TWG

- A paper had been received in advance of the meeting from the TWG which highlighted the speeding through the village, where a top speed of 90mph was recorded, which has been reported to the Community Policing Team.
- The TWG also reminded the Parish Council that the T junction sign at the bottom of Mill Road has still not been replaced. It was suggested that it was of high importance to replace this sign and wished to ask for the Parish Council's support. Councillor Daunton has agreed to pursue this with Highways Officers. **Action: Councillor Kolind to follow up the request.**

- The TWG wished to raise awareness that a new round of LHI applications is opening at the end of October 2023 and consideration of future projects should be given as soon as possible.
- Councillor Kolind suggested that the highways issues should be prioritised in a list of importance and that a meeting should be held with the Highways, Cycleways and Transport Working Group and the TWG to discuss further.

279. PARISH ASSET REPORT

Councillors have carried out a village walk around to look at the village assets and areas that require maintenance. A new Asset report has been produced in draft, which highlights areas that will require attention over the coming months. As the report has not been formally approved it was suggested that this be revisited at the next meeting. But items with a high priority should be addressed as soon as practicable.

280. JUBILEE BENCH

Councillor Page reported that contact had been made with Bidwells, the agent acting on behalf of Wilbraham Farms. It has been agreed that the Jubilee Bench can be placed at the top of Butt Lane if a bench licence is purchased at a one off cost of £250 + VAT. **It was proposed by Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Kolind and resolved that the bench licence should be purchased.** *Action: Councillor Page to instruct Bidwells to prepare the contract and pass to the clerk for signing.*

281. DITCH CLEARANCE

It was noted that the work on the ditch clearance on Pond Corner and in the Cemetery had now been carried out.

282. SIX OAKS ENERGY FARM

Councillors Burton, Kolind and White have continued to attend joint meetings with Little Wilbraham and Bottisham to discuss the proposal from Ridge Clean Energy for a community benefit fund. Currently the discussions have focused on the proportion of the funds that each parish will receive. However, there are other issues to consider including the criteria for being able to apply for some of the funding by other groups and whether a grant management organisation will be used. **Action: Councillors Kolind and White will continue to represent Great Wilbraham in any negotiations.**

283. CAMBRIDGESHIRE PRIORITY FUND

Discussions had been held with the Memorial Hall Committee to see if they would be interested in making an application to the Cambridgeshire Priority Fund. At the current time it was felt that there would be insufficient time to prepare a proposal.

284. CEMETERY

The remnants of the bird cherries from Frog End are being stored in the Cemetery and it was suggested that a potential use will be sought in due course. It was also suggested the school would be approached to see they would have a project that could benefit.

285. LAND AT THE REAR OF 18 HIGH STREET

Correspondence had been received about the land to the rear of 18 High Street. The owner would like to meet with the Council to discuss the area and whether it could be

developed. It was agreed that members of the Parish Council would meet with the owner to review the area.

286. MOTION TO EXCLUDE THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Kolind and resolved that the public (including representatives of the press) were excluded during the consideration of item 287 as it was deemed that the proceedings would if present allow members of the public to have disclosure of exempt information under Category 1 & 2 Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

287. CLERK RECRUITMENT

There have been no applicants for the position of Clerk and RFO to the Council. It was therefore mutually agreed that the current clerk would stay in position until an alternative could be sought. It was also agreed that meetings would be moved to bi monthly to allow for projects to be undertaken. **It was proposed by Councillor Kolind, seconded by Councillor Page that the Parish Council will move to bi-monthly meetings for the foreseeable future. It was also proposed by Councillor Burton, seconded by Councillor Kolind and resolved that a scheme of delegation to the clerk would be implemented to ensure that the functions of the parish council can be carried out between meetings with the approval of 2 members of the council.**

288. AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Items for inclusion on next month's agenda to be sent to the clerk 7 days before the meeting.

289. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14TH November 2023 at Wilbraham's Memorial Hall