

Minutes of Wymondham & Edmondthorpe Parish Council Meeting

6th December 2021- Wymondham Village Hall

Present: Councillors: Howard Gresham, Trevor Mear, Kevin Spiers & Nigel Hobson
 County Councillor Joe Orson
 Clerk: Terry Brown
 Public: 3 parishioners

352 Public Time

Sue McLoughlin outlined a proposal for a Flower Festival to be held in St Peter's Church in June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Anniversary of 70 years. This would be similar to the successful Flower Festival recently held in Whissendine Church.

A committee would be formed for the considerable planning and preparation for such an event and so far she had received had six positive replies of help and expected more.

Her research of similar flower festivals leads to an estimate £500 to to pay for flowers and sundries. The beneficiaries of the festival would be St. Peter's Church and the Village Hall as well as fostering a community spirit in the village.

Cllr Gresham thanked her for her presentation and said that the Parish Council would respond after the item had been discussed later in the meeting

Claire Bennett-Madge outlined the steps that a small committee of residents had taken to try to get the children's playground project off the ground.

Having been generously awarded £20,000 by the Sir Sedley Trust they are now in the process of measuring up and seeing what of the original plans their budget can afford. However £20,000 would be insufficient to provide a facility that is suitable for children of all ages, secured, fenced and maintained.

At the present time the committee expected to need a target of £38K and that some work had been undertaken to find the funding gap. It was probable that the Parish Council would be asked to help as a sponsor.

Cllr Gresham thanked her for her explanation and he pointed out that the Parish Council had been similarly taxed by this same problem of a lack of access for some considerable time.

He asked what steps the committee had taken to address the problems of financing the longer-term maintenance of the new equipment

353 Apologies for absence

Cllr Matthew Williams
 Borough Councillor Malise Graham

The meeting noted the Clerk's advice on LGA 1972 s85(1) namely:

"Vacation of office by failure to attend meetings.

..... if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority."

354 To receive declarations of interest and consider any requests for dispensations

None.

355 To receive Borough and County Councillor reports

Cllr Orson gave a detailed account of changes proposed at County level that should bring more money into the authority

He confirmed he was still considering the Parish Council's application to his personal Councillor fund for a grant towards the VAS activities of the Parish Council

356 To approve the draft minutes of the meeting of the 1st November 2021

These were approved by the meeting.

357 To receive the Clerk's report

Noted.

358 Matters arising from previous meetings.

/1 to receive an update on VAS issues

The Clerk reported that issues surrounding the delay to the Main Street installation seemed to have been resolved and that this installation should now proceed in early 2022.

The Clerk reported that the replacement VAS for the east of Main Street had been received into stock and that installation was imminent.

/2 to review progress on dog bin issues

Cllr Gresham reported that Edmondthorpe bin had been installed.

/3 to report on the current status of the Journal.(Cllr Hobson)

Cllr Hobson is to encourage a response by the Journal Committee at the next/January meeting.

Action Cllr Hobson

The meeting confirmed the importance of a continuation of this means of communication if at all possible.

/4 to receive an update on defibrillator purchases (Cllr Hobson)

Cllr Hobson reported good progress was being made with the delivery and installation of the new second defibrillator.

359 To receive Councillors reports

/1 to receive a report for St Peters School

No report.

/2 to receive a report for W&E Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

The meeting noted the Clerk's comments about the need to keep in mind at some appropriate point a review of the Neighbourhood Plan.

/3 to receive a report for W&E Traffic Group

Councillors noted the receipt of a copy of the data for a recently completed survey.

/4 to discuss progress on possible road improvements (Cllrs Spiers & Hobson)

No report

/5 to note progress on improvements to sections of the 'Wadlings' footpath .

Cllr Gresham reported that good progress had been made with the aid of the relevant landowners to improve the condition of the path at the problem points.

360 To receive and consider reports from representatives on outside bodies & meetings

None

361 Planning

The meeting discussed the following late arrived application:

/1 21/01334/VAC Variation of Condition 2 of planning ref: 19/00459/VAC to allow for a garage at plot 9. | Land Off Butt Lane Butt Lane Wymondham.

The Clerk is to respond that the Parish Council is concerned that number of original parking places and surrounding planting scheme remains in place. Action Clerk

362 Correspondence received

Emails:

13/11/21	Claire Bennett-Madge re a playground initiative
22/11/21	Graham Smith re light pollution at St Peters Rise

In addition the meeting noted the receipt of a letter from the Royal British Legion confirming the receipt of £110 from 2021 Poppy Appeal activity in Edmondthorpe.

363 Matters for Discussion

/1 to discuss and approve quotes received for the renewal of public seats in the Parish to include the Edmondthorpe seat.

The meeting noted the substantial progress that had been made.

The Rookery Lane seat had been cleaned and the slats had been replaced on the Meadows Rise seat. Both pieces of work had been voluntarily carried out by Keith Babcock and the meeting resolved that a payment of £25 should be made in recognition of his public service. Action Clerk

The Wrights Lane seat was now deemed to be in good order.

The meeting approved the purchase of a replacement seat (Glasdon "Lowther" £653) for that at Sycamore Lane and Cllr Gresham agreed to instal with his work to be invoiced at an appropriate daily rate. Action Clerk and Cllr Gresham

Finally Cllr Gresham reported that the Edmondthorpe seat was in poor repair and that he would make temporary repairs pending its probably replacement in 2022.

/2 to approve a quote received for remedial works for a traffic hazard caused by an overgrown tree at the Rookery Lane junction

Councillors resolved to accept a quote of £240 for these remedial works by a tree surgeon.

Action Clerk

/3 to discuss and approve quotes received for Parish Council sponsored groundworks.

Cllr Gresham led a full review of the works that had been carried out at several points along the course of the river. The meeting decided that it would be best to see the results of these interventions before any further work was considered but it was agreed that the recent works should produce an improvement.

The Clerk was asked to chase LCC for action promised but still outstanding at two points in Wymondham. Action Clerk

/4 to consider a request for grant aid towards a Flower Festival in St Peter's church in June 2022 to celebrate the Queen's reign of 70 years.

The meeting discussed at length the presentation made on this agenda item in public time. Councillors decided that the proposal had considerable merit as a means of encouraging a wider Community Engagement and that as such a W&E Organisation Grant was inappropriate.

Cllr Gresham expressed reservations regarding supporting Wymondham Church Flower festival by providing the whole £500 requested when the PC felt unable to support repairs to Edmondthorpe Church roof and organ following the theft of lead. But the Clerk reminded the meeting that the Parish Council did not have the power to provide such support.

Rather it was proposed and seconded that the initiative be supported through s137 funds

(LGA 1972 s 137 Power of local authorities to incur expenditure for certain purposes not otherwise authorised.

A local authority may, subject to the provisions of this section, incur expenditure which in their opinion is in the interests of, and will bring direct benefit to, their area or any part of it or all or some of its inhabitants.....,)

to the value of £500.

It was decided on a majority vote with Cllr Gresham voting against

Action Clerk

/5 to discuss a recent village initiative for a children's playground project.

The meeting discussed at length the presentation made on this agenda item in public time.

The meeting agreed that the project organisers should be invited to join a Parish Council committee with two Parish Councillors to explore all aspects of the intended provision and the organisation of a facility to provide for the future maintenance and support of the facility.

Cllrs Spiers and Hobson agreed to be the Parish Council representatives.

The Clerk is to write with such an invitation such that the Terms of Reference for such a committee can be tabled at the next Parish Council meeting.

Action Clerk

/6 to note two changes to the 2022 schedule of meetings.

The meeting noted the two amendments.

/7 to receive advice on preparations for the May 2023 elections and the exercise of General Power of Competence.

The meeting noted the Clerk's advice on the steps necessary to petition the District Authority for an increase in the number of Councillors for the Parish Council and to be elected at May 2023. 2007 Local Govt & Public Involvement Act)

The meeting agreed the idea had merit and Cllr Gresham asked it to be an agenda item in January

The meeting noted the Clerk's advice about the potential for greater flexibility in Parish Council decision making if GPC was adopted. But that such required the appropriate number of Parish Councillors to be returned as elected (two thirds) rather than co-opted.

364 Finance

/1	the following payments were approved:	
T Brown	re November 2021 salary	£424.20
T Brown	re November 2021 HMRC paye	£106.20
T Brown	re Remembrance Day wreaths	£37.00
T Brown	re Payroo payroll processing	£6.00
and		
T Brown	re Water-plus/WAA payment	£92.45

The Clerk confirmed the receipt of £206.11 from WAA as reimbursement of 2021 water charges.

/2 bank balances at 27/11/21 were reconciled to:

TSB Current account	£24233.19
TSB Deposit account	£20698.01

365 To receive items for the next agenda

See 363/7

366 Date of next meeting: Monday 10th January 2022 at Edmondthorpe Social Club

The meeting closed at 9.50pm