

WILSFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 14 MAY 2019 AT 7.15PM IN THE SMALL ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL.

Present: Cllr S Davey (Chairman) 4 member of the public and Denise Gascoyne Parish Clerk

1.Welcome by the Chairman: The Chairman Simon Davey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.

2.To approve the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 08 May 2018:

It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: that the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 08 May 2018 be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3.Presentation of Annual Reports:

- **Chairman** the Chairman of the Parish Council Simon Davey presented his report and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- **County Councillor** County Councillor Andrew Hagues had sent his apologies for not attending the meeting. There was no report
- **District Councillor** New District Councillor Russell Jackson had sent his apologies for not attending the meeting. There was no report.

4.Financial Report: This year the Parish Clerk presented the financial report and a copy is attached to these minutes.

5.Questions from the Public:

One member of the public asked if there could be a litter bin on the playing field. There used to be one, but it appears to have disappeared. This would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Information was passed by a member of the public to the parish council re where to obtain grants etc for 'Steve's Project' The project would include storage for the goal posts etc. It was hoped a working group would be formed soon.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.25pm

Signed
Chairman Wilsford Parish Council

12 May 2020

It is important to understand that the information given above represents notes of the Annual Parish Meeting which took place and do not become Minutes of WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL until accepted or otherwise at the next Annual Parish Meeting.

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

This year's report begins on a note of great sadness. Steve Turner, a long-serving Parish Councillor and in recent years the Vice-Chair, died suddenly in January. During my time as Chairman of the Parish Council Steve was a much-appreciated source of wisdom and guidance as well as having a grasp of the finances that I frequently drew upon. Steve was a keen supporter of sports and had suggested that, now the Parish Council was responsible for the playing fields, we could bring the football pitch back to the point where it could be used for serious games. We are going to take this forward and have named it "Steve's Project" in his memory.

On the four-yearly cycle 2019 was the year in which the Parish Council stood for re-election. In the event two Councillors, Jacky Clements and Gary Douglas, decided not to seek re-election. Each brought special qualities to the Parish Council and I am grateful to both of them for their generous service to us. Four Councillors - Phil Bramley, Richard Frankland, Mick Harrison and me - did put our names forward for re-election. One other person, Martyne Miller, submitted an application so all were elected without contest. The Parish Council must now co-opt two further Councillors to bring the Council up to our quota of 7.

I should also record that our District Councillor, Kate Cook, will not be standing at the elections and we thank her for all her invaluable help in taking matters of concern to the next level. I should also acknowledge the great support we have had from our County Councillor, Andrew Hagues, who has regularly attended our meetings.

Denise Gascoyne continues as our hard-working Clerk to the Council and I am pleased to record that this year she obtained her Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) the benchmark for the job.

Our meetings are held at 7.30 pm on the second Tuesday of each month (except, usually, August and December) in the Village Hall. The agenda is published in advance on the Parish Council website <http://parishes.lincolnshire.gov.uk/Wilsford/section.asp?catId=25883> and remember that you are always welcome to come along. If you have a particular point to raise with us there is a 15-minute Public Forum at the beginning of the meeting. Otherwise, you can always ask one of the Councillors to raise the issue on your behalf. The website also carries the minutes of earlier meetings.

As you will know, Wilsford is a conservation area and if you think the village is looking pretty clean and smart we should thank the new village handyman, Wayne Shaul, who tidies up generally and takes on the repair and maintenance tasks the Parish Council is responsible for. Thanks Wayne.

I reported last year on the slow but steady progress towards finalising the Wilsford and Ancaster Joint Emergency Plan (JEP). The genesis of this was the serious fire at Mid-UK Recycling when we realised that our procedures for reacting to an emergency and, most importantly communicating news of developments to residents, were lacking. The JEP is intended to prepare our two communities for, and guide the response to, serious incidents occurring within our boundaries where our local knowledge can provide valuable services before the official first-responders arrive and beyond if needed. We continue to get excellent help and guidance from Steve Eason-Harris, Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Officer at Lincolnshire County Council and we are hoping that pretty soon the results of our efforts will be available to the local community and to the emergency services.

The Parish Council had its first year as controller of the playing fields and are grateful that Debbie Scott continues as Administrator, bringing her considerable knowledge of the subject to the position. I have already reported in the opening paragraph of this report our intention to bring the football pitch back into playable condition, now officially "Steve's Project". We have estimates for filling in the drainage channels that make it currently unsafe for play and for restoring the goalposts.

Once the new Parish Council is formed in May we will be looking at appointing representatives to the Village Hall and Community Land Trust Committees. I am already a member of the Village Hall Steering Group, on which the CLT is also represented, which helps the main Village Hall Committee with the refurbishment of the village hall so it can fulfil its ideal function as the centre of village life and the go-to venue for parties, presentations, social activities and so on. This means new toilets plus there is much work to be done on the roof, windows and store rooms. This is going to take a lot of money and one of the Steering Group's task is to identify and approach potential grant funders. So far we have obtained a grant from NKDC for £2,300.00 towards replacing the upper windows and french doors in the main hall and we are looking at other donors.

By some strange quirk of ecclesiastical law the Parish Council is responsible for the upkeep of the churchyard whilst St Mary's church is responsible for the cemetery in School Lane. Nevertheless, the Parish Council does make a small contribution to grass-cutting in the cemetery and for the third year organised a clear-up in January. We again benefited from the expertise of Andrew Newton and Henry Tickler and we are grateful to them both. Henry also loaned us heavy plant to remove the large amount of spoil that this operation throws up. The results are very visible and we now have a clear view of the cemetery from the street.

You will know from last year's report that the Parish Council acquired title to "The Pit", the borrow pit from which the stone was quarried in the 19th century to build the school and adjacent master's house. We have plans for it to be gradually transformed into a nature reserve and a habitat for birds and other wildlife. A working party is planned for early June but there needs to be a careful balance between clearing away debris and overgrowth without stripping away the natural environment.

I have reported before on the difficulties of getting action on all the Highways - related matters that are brought to our attention so it is good to be able to report that one problem that has been around for some time - the large and unsettling subsidence in part of Heath Lane heading towards Wilsford - has finally been put right. Highways have undertaken substantial work on the site and it no longer poses the dangers that it did to cyclists, bikers and high-loaded lorries.

We have long been conscious that the telephone box in Main Street was a bit of an eyesore and at our request BT have recently cleaned it up, though sadly that did not extend to the outside where the paint is peeling. We'll see if we can do something about that. Meanwhile, if you do need to use the call box, please note it does not take cash: it is card or reverse charges only.

Last year we sent a letter to all properties bordering on the Beck to remind occupants that their properties don't end at the bank but that they are responsible for keeping the water clear to the mid-way point. Some people tip hedge cuttings, mowings and so on into the Beck in the belief that the current will carry them away. Alas, this is not the case and blockages occur downstream. Can I add to this a reminder that because we are in a conservation area each tree carries, in effect, a Tree Preservation Order and you will need the agreement of the Tree Office at NKDC before you can cut any of them down.

Another complaint that the Parish Councils regularly hears is about inconsiderate parking. Yes, if your car is taxed and insured and parked in the street where there is not a yellow line you are strictly speaking legally parked though you may still be inconveniencing vehicles trying to pass. But it is not on if you encroach on the pavement. Main Street is very narrow and was surfaced at a time when vehicles were much more infrequent than they are now so please think of others.

As I reported last year, the Parish Council had donated £400 to St Mary's church towards the setting up in the Bell Tower a permanent memorial to the 22 men from Wilsford who fell in the First World War. This is now up and running and the church reports that it has attracted interest from visitors and military history enthusiasts, particularly during last year's Street Market. The church is open during daylight hours and you are very welcome to go and see the exhibit.

Finally, as always, finance. For the present financial year the precept has been raised by £2000 to £17,000. Inflation is still on the high side and we are having to absorb the costs of some services previously carried out by the County Council. We are obliged to keep an operating reserve and we also want to support the Village Hall, the church, work on the Pit and take forward Steve's Project which will be of benefit to the whole community.

A full financial statement will be available at our Annual Parish Meeting (7.30 pm on Tuesday 14 May) to which you are all welcome.

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

FINANCE REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER

Usually the Finance Lead gives a report on the finances of Wilsford Parish Council but following the death of Cllr Steve Turner the position is currently vacant and so this year it falls to me.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/2019

The provisional budget always must be set at the very latest in our December meeting as all Precept requests must be in by January (for which reason we always ask for requests for donations to be received by the November meeting). We provisionally accept the budget and then make alterations, usually in April when the end of the financial year has been balanced and we have a starting figure for the next financial year.

RECEIPTS

As a parish council we do not get much income, therefore can be accurate with our budget. Lincolnshire County Council refund us for cutting the grass verges, but we don't have any idea until March how much they will pay us for the forthcoming year.

PAYMENTS

Staff costs and grass cutting are the major expenses for the Parish Council. Grass cutting increases every year and depends on the weather how many cuts are necessary.

In this financial year we gave donations to St Mary's Church and the Village Hall. We also paid the printing costs for the News & Views village newsletter.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2019/2020

We are starting the year with a bank balance of £19730.20 although £6520.00 of that are earmarked reserves for the speed indicator signs and cannot be used for anything else.. Another £3260.00 has been added to this account on 01 April 2019 leaving an opening balance of £9950.20.

The Precept figure cannot be changed, but we are confident that we have asked enough money (£17000) to cover our expenses for the year. The sum represents a rise of less than £1000 on the figure for 2018/2019.budget.

The budget has been updated and circulated to all Cllrs. We have been able to insert one or two more accurate figures for the budget. For example, we now know we will be receiving £358.14 from LCC for grass cutting, although this is for three cuts in this financial year, whereas in previous years it has been two. We also know the VAT repayment figures.

In addition to the regular annual costs listed above, we have also earmarked funds for The Pit development and the upgrading of the football pitch on the playing fields which we have nicknamed 'Steve's Project' after the late Parish Cllr Steve Turner.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT - CASHBOOK AT 31 MARCH 2019

Opening balances at 01 April 2018

Lloyds TSB Account: 23517460	9646.97
Lloyds TSB Account: 00230990	431.62
N & S Account	2482.65

TOTAL	12561.24
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RECEIPTS	Net	VAT	Gross
Precept	16000.00	0.00	16000.00
NKDC Grant	67.30	0.00	67.30
Allotment Association	75.00	0.00	75.00
Grass Cutting Refund	227.39	0.00	227.39
Litter Pick Grant	88.41	0.00	88.41
Interest	27.58	0.00	27.58
Insurance Refund	356.10	0.00	356.10
VAT Repayment	598.31	0.00	598.31
TOTAL	17440.09	0.00	17440.09

PAYMENTS			
Audit Fees	120.00	0.00	120.00
Fees: Clerk	2960.72	0.00	2960.72
PAYE: Clerk	19.60	0.00	19.60
Expenses: Clerk	28.45	0.00	28.45
Fees: Handyman	1045.00	0.00	1045.00
Anti Virus/Support	30.00	0.00	30.00
Donation: Wilsford Church Council	400.00	0.00	400.00
Donation: Wilsford Village Hall	1480.00	0.00	1480.00
ICO	35.00	0.00	35.00
Grass Cutting: Playing Field	909.70	181.94	1091.64
Grass Cutting: Village	1364.00	272.80	1636.80
Hall Hire Charges	189.00	0.00	189.00
Insurance	672.16	0.00	672.16
Newsletter Costs	103.50	0.00	103.50
Playing Field Administrator	136.64	0.00	136.64
Stationery	13.45	2.69	16.14
Subscriptions/Training	284.30	15.00	299.30
Workwear	7.18	0.00	7.18
TOTAL	9798.70	472.43	10271.13

FINANCED BY:

Opening balance	12561.24	Account: 23517460	10136.55
Receipts	17440.09	Account: 00230990	573.00
Payments	-10271.13	N & S Account	2500.65
		Earmarked Reserves	6520.00
Balances at 31.03.19	19730.20		19730.20