

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16 MAY 2023 AT 6.30PM IN THE SMALL ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL

Present: Simon Davey, Denise Gascoyne(Parish Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

1.Welcome by the Chair: The Chairman Simon Davey welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.To resolve to approve the notes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 11 May 2022. It was proposed, seconded and

Resolved: to accept the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting as a true record and these were signed by the Chair.

3. Presentation of Annual Reports

- **Chair:** The Chair of the Parish Council read out his report and a copy is attached to these minutes.
- **County Councillor:** The County Cllr was unable to attend the meeting, and a copy of his report is attached to these minutes.
- **District Councillor:** There was no report.

4. Financial Report: The Parish Clerk read out her report and a copy is attached to these minutes.

5. Questions from the Public: There were none.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.44pm

Signed:
Chair Wilsford Parish Council

Date:

WILSFORD PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2022-23

INTRODUCTION

Over the past 12 months we have all been getting our lives back together after the ravages of Covid. During lockdown the Parish Council continued to hold meetings each month via Zoom, a novelty for many of us and an oddly remote experience after meeting in the small room of the village hall.

I hope that you have already seen the refurbished village hall now it is back in full use. It is a tribute to the efforts of the Village Hall Committee who raised the money for the work and supervised its completion. The Parish Council was delighted to be among the financial contributors and we continue to take a close interest in its activities.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

The quadrennial elections for local government and parish councillors took place on 4 May. Mrs Jacky Clements had resigned as a Parish Councillor after many years of dedicated service and as nobody else chose to stand it was not necessary to hold elections to Wilsford Parish Council. The six Councillors who remain are Martyne Bell, Val Blankley, Keith Corner, Mick Harrison, Roger Sirs and myself and we must now look to co-opt a seventh Councillor.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

In the same elections Andrew Hagues, currently our County Councillor, stood also for District Councillor for the new ward of Leasingham, Cranwell and Wilsford and, since there were no other candidates, was duly elected. Andrew has been very assiduous in pursuing our concerns at County level and we look forward to working with him in his new dual role. We thus say goodbye and thanks to Russell Jackson, our previous District Councillor.

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Denise Gascoyne remains as Clerk to our Parish Council (as well as to those of Ancaster and Silk Willoughby). We thank her for her patience and hard work running the PC on approved lines.

WILSFORD NATUREHOOD PROGRAMME (ENVIRONMENTAL AND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT)

The year saw much progress for our **Wilsford Naturehood Programme**, with new equipment and wildflower seed purchased, open days, working parties, surveys and a number of firsts for the area.

The working parties included the beginnings of some clearance work in The Pit supported by Lincs Wildlife Trust and a **Plastic Party in the Park** in February, with volunteers removing plastic trunk covers and root bags from the trees around the playing field. It was a huge task and further work will be needed to complete the work. In July we hosted a **Wild Wilsford Weekend**. Specialists from Lincolnshire Bat Group, Butterfly Conservation, Lincolnshire Naturalist Union and Plantlife were on hand to identify plants, flowers, birds, insects, and butterflies. The event attracted many families and wildlife enthusiasts and lots of interest from wildlife groups outside the village.

Our meadow areas were a huge success with 104 plant species identified on the day. A couple of standout plants, which are about to be included on the at risk register, were found in the quarry/pit on the land we cleared: Yellow Oat Grass, Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass, Bird's-foot-trefoil, Lady's Bedstraw, Tor-grass, Upright Brome, Glaucous Sedge and very exciting was the discovery of Quaking Grass. A wide range of insects, including 30 types of beetle, two being rare for the area, were identified. Numerous bats, moths and butterflies were noted, including a first for this area ... a **Purple Emperor**!

February 2023 saw a small group continue the maintenance work around the playing fields with clearance given to the specimen oak planted for the millennium. We are again leaving areas unmown to encourage wildflowers, insects, butterflies and bees. As part of our programme some additional tree planting will take place around the village, aligned to the Queen's Canopy project and Caring for God's Acre whose president is His Majesty King Charles III, as part of our Naturehood Programme.

PLAYING FIELDS AND PLAYGROUND

Councillor Mick Harrison is lead on this and is pleased to report that the playing field is being used more at the moment than previously reported, possibly more by dog walkers than sports fans. In the school holidays the football pitch and sports wall are well used plus the play area by smaller children. The repair to the Wendy house/shelter is in hand and will be done in the near future.

Fields in Trust have suggested that Wilsford Parish Council, currently the Managing Trustees of the playing fields, might wish to become the Custodian Trustees. There could be some long term benefits from such a change but the legal costs are prohibitively high and we decided to leave things as they are for the time being but keep the proposal under review.

COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH

Councillor Keith Corner and the CSW team carried out 7 speed checks last summer and emailed the results to LCC. As the days are getting longer and the traffic increasing they are looking to restart the programme shortly. New recruits are always welcome.

STREETS AND ROADS

The overwhelming number of complaints the Parish Council receives relate to roads and traffic: parking; potholes; careless driving; possible roads closure to HGVs; bus services; street lighting; lay-bys and street crossings. Most of these problems fall to LCC Highways and where practicable we make representations through County Councillor Hagues.

I'm afraid that all too often the answer is they don't have the funds or the staffing to carry out the work or they declare the proposal impracticable. For example, Main Street is narrow and there is simply no room for lay-bys. Also declaring Wilsford off-limits to HGVs would mean an end to parcel deliveries, oil, buses, building materials and plant. One suggestion has been that a pedestrian crossing should be installed at the tricky point where Wilsford Lane joins the A153. This would be difficult to implement and is in any case a matter for the Ancaster Parish Council who are following it up.

From time to time there are suggestions that there should be a 20mph speed limit throughout the village. This is a contentious one as people who live in the village know the problems and keep to reasonable speeds whilst outsiders like delivery drivers seem not to know or care. Even in villages with schools the 20mph limit is "advisory" and not legal binding. Nevertheless, we have asked Councillor Hagues to ask Highways whether the proposal has any traction. This will not be a quick or easy job.

FIREWORKS

For the past two years James Bell has organised a fireworks display on the playing field and, courtesy of a barbecue and the Wiggly Tin mobile horsebox bar, solid and liquid refreshments before and after at the village hall. These have been excellent events supported by a tremendous turn-out from the village and further afield. In future to make it a truly village event we propose to form a small working group to organise the display.

DONATIONS TO OTHER BODIES

As previously mentioned, Wilsford Parish Council donated to the refurbishment of the village hall. We also gave donations to St Mary's church towards the upkeep of the cemetery (the PC has responsibility for the churchyard) and the roof fund, the fireworks display and the publication of Wilsford and Kelby News in which there is always a record of Parish Council activities.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Many of you will remember the fire at the Mid-UK plant on Wilsford Heath a few years back and the confusion and disruption it caused. As a result Wilsford and Ancaster

Parish Councils agreed to produce a joint emergency plan to identify resources available and how our communities would respond to an all-too-possible incident like another industrial fire, a light plane crash or a serious road accident. This involved amongst other things making contact with entities who might be called upon like the school, the doctors' surgery, shops, transport providers and people with specialist skills. We received much support from the Resilience team at Lincolnshire County Council and our joint efforts were published in a two-part plan that follows the same format as that for other communities. Part 1 is general information and is available on the Wilsford Parish Council website. Part 2 serves as a guide to the first responders.

As part of the National Outage Exercise Wilsford and Ancaster were chosen jointly to be one of the communities to participate in a national exercise to test the response to the electricity supply to the whole country failing. Councillor Roger Sirs and I attended the exercise in Ancaster on 28 March along with representatives of LCC, Fire and Police, North and South Kesteven District Councils and the Ancaster school. It is hard to visualise the sheer chaos that would result from a national outage with no lighting, heating, traffic signals and with mobile phones petering out in a few hours but at least we now have some idea of the challenges and our meeting will contribute to a national assessment of resilience and action.

DOG BINS

Dog fouling is still a problem. Dog fouling bins have been provided at several points throughout the village including entrances to and exits from the playing field. Dog fouling signs have been posted but sadly these seem to give pleasure to someone to destroy them. One was found on the football pitch.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Parish Council holds ten public meetings a year which, unless otherwise announced, take place at 7pm on the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall. We do not meet during one month of the year which is either August or September depending on the movements of Councillors. In addition we hold one closed meeting in December to consider the budget.

Any villager may attend our open meetings which begin with a 15-minute Public Forum when members of the public are invited to raise any matters of concern with us. Speakers are limited to 10 minutes and whilst most welcome to stay cannot again address the meeting. If you cannot attend in person any Councillor will be happy to raise a matter on your behalf but in order to get all the details we much prefer it if in advance you could please put your concerns in writing, ideally by email to the Parish Clerk at clerk@wilsfordpc.co.uk.

County Councillor Reports

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan Adopted - The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan has been adopted and will be used in making decisions on planning applications across the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey areas. This new local plan is pioneering in placing climate change at its core and will help ensure Central Lincolnshire is a net zero carbon area. This trailblazing approach will also lead the way for other areas to follow in tackling climate change.

The new Local Plan introduces a number of new policies to guide development in Central Lincolnshire, including:

Climate change – an ambitious and groundbreaking set of policies aimed at Central Lincolnshire net zero carbon, including in making sure new homes are efficient, attracting renewable energy generation, and ensuring new homes are adaptable to climate change.

Housing- new housing sites, capable of meeting our needs to 2040 and policies to ensure that the housing is in the right location and well designed.

Jobs- protection of existing employment sites and land available for more employment development in locations where housing is or will be built.

Shopping and city/town centres – policies to enhance our city and town centres and ensure they remain a destination, and to protect local centres which provide essential services across the area.

Tourism – policies to support the tourism industry in Central Lincolnshire and to ensure that any tourism development is in the right location.

Environment – a suite of policies seeking to protect our environment including delivering biodiversity net gain, protecting our valued landscapes, protection of high-quality agricultural land, and protecting trees and hedgerows.

Infrastructure – policies to help ensure that the infrastructure needed to support new development is delivered in the right places.

RAF Scampton – a policy which will allow the future redevelopment of this site be properly planned to deliver great benefits to Central Lincolnshire.

The new Local Plan was adopted by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee at its meeting on 13th April 2023 and will be used on making decisions on planning applications immediately. The Central Lincolnshire committee is made up of a partnership of City of Lincoln, North Kesteven District Council, West Lindsey Council and Lincolnshire County Council should evolve between now and 2040.

Access improvements at Lollylocks Field - Access to the Lollylocks field nature reserve in central Sleaford will be improved with a new ramp and a revamped section of footpath, with works now underway.

Lollylocks is home to an array of wildlife and has seen a number of improvements already through the partnership £1.29 million Witham/ Slea Blues Green Corridor project, including a kingfisher nesting bank, hedgerow planting and scrapes for biodiversity and an extended boardwalk around the pond to protect ground vegetation while providing access.

Now, as part of the remaining works for the project, the steps down to the nature reserve from Eastgate will be changed to a ramp, allowing better access for prams and wheelchair users. A new path will also be laid along the existing earthen path, from the new ramp until it meets with the existing tarmac path which then moves over the bridge to Sleaford Leisure Centre.

To help ensure the works are carried out safely and in the shortest timeframe possible, this section of path is now closed for the duration of the works, which are already underway.

A17 Major Roadworks - Just to let you know that until July, there will be ongoing night closures and disruptions to the A17 in the Cranwell and Byard's Leap area.

FINANCE REPORT FROM RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER.

RECEIPTS:

Wilsford once again kept their Precept at £18000 for the Financial Year ending March 2023.

As Wilsford Parish Council funds the newsletter, this year advertisers were asked to contribute resulting in £232 being paid in the bank. The playing field committee had disbanded and the residue from their account of £2305 was added and will be used towards maintenance of play equipment and the playing field.

PAYMENTS:

Grounds maintenance is the main expenditure of Wilsford costing around £3500 per annum. This year fingerposts were replaced, and equipment purchased for the naturehood project.

RECEIPTS

BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
£20521	£22475	Plus £1954

PAYMENTS

BUDGET	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
£20685	£20008	Minus £677

Attached is a copy of the Cashbook to 31 March 2023

Financial Summary - Cashbook

Summary of receipts and payments between 01/04/22 and 31/03/23 inclusive. This may include transactions with ledger dates outside this period.

Balances at the start of the year

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£4,773.00
-----------------	-----------

Short Term Investment Accounts

Earmarked Reserves	£9,788.07
Events Account	£0.00
N & S Account	£0.00
Savings Account	£14,114.23
Total	£28,675.30

RECEIPTS	Net	Vat	Gross
General Administration	£22,088.17	£0.00	£22,088.17
Grounds Maintenance	£387.54	£0.00	£387.54
Donations	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Total Receipts	£22,475.71	£0.00	£22,475.71

PAYMENTS	Net	Vat	Gross
General Administration	£7,348.50	£188.14	£7,536.64
Grounds Maintenance	£3,420.00	£100.00	£3,520.00
Donations	£7,640.90	£4.32	£7,645.22
Misc	£707.62	£116.89	£824.51
Naturehood Project	£891.90	£178.38	£1,070.28
Total Payments	£20,008.92	£587.73	£20,596.65

Closing Balances

Ordinary Accounts

Current Account	£4,297.14
	£4,297.14

Short Term Investment Accounts

Earmarked Reserves	£9,806.66
Events Account	£2,309.54
N & S Account	£0.00
Savings Account	£14,141.02
	£26,257.22
Total	£30,554.36

Signed _____

Chair

Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer