

# Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen Parish Council

**DRAFT Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of the above named Parish Council held on Thursday 11 February 2016 at Wiggenhall St Mary Magdalen Village Hall**

## **Present**

**Cllrs:** J Anderson, R Chitty, J Morton, E Fisher, P Smith (Chairman).

Three members of the public.

## **195/15 Accept apologies for absence**

Cllr Bone and Cllr Goodwin.

## **196/15 Minutes of meeting held on 14 January 2016**

Having been circulated previously, the minutes were duly signed without amendment by the Chairman as a correct record.

## **197/15 Declarations of interest on agenda items**

No declarations.

## **198/15 Public speaking**

A member of the public said that 175/15 in the minutes of the previous meeting should record that he has again written to Andrew Wallace (Highways) regarding the wooden post that has been carried away 'by traffic', not 'due to erosion'.

## **199/15 Co-option**

No applications have been received.

## **200/15 Matters arising**

[Cllr Anderson] The fact that the street lighting has been paid for already does not appear to have been taken into account in the projected budget (revised) although the trod/footpath has. Chair will clarify with Clerk.

## **201/15 Correspondence**

Cllr Goodwin has resigned.

The Clerk has resigned.

## **202/15 Highways**

Highways (Andrew Wallace) has advised:

- Work on the trod/footpath between Magdalen and Watlington will commence as soon as permission to work under cables has been obtained.
  - Highways have no major concerns or safety issues with the old railway bridge on Stow Road, but will tidy up loose debris.
  - Highways are in negotiation with a farmer, anticipating a contribution of at least 30% of the cost of restoring the damaged road surface on Foldgate Lane.
- Cllrs noted that the pot-holes at the junction of Church Close and Stow Road have not been repaired.

## **203/15 Allotments**

Cllrs agreed to keep allotment status on one plot at the far end/side of the site, but a plan is required to identify the plot definitively.

Cllrs postponed deciding who to engage to review letting agreements and

advise re: planning permission requirements until a new Clerk is in post.  
(Nicholas Hancox Solicitors [?] drafted the original agreements.)

**204/15 Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Scheme**

A decision whether or not to opt out of the scheme must be made at the next meeting because the opt-out submission deadline is 30<sup>th</sup> March. (Cllrs to familiarise themselves with Agenda Appendix 1.)

**205/15 Cemetery**

Access-way not repaired yet – understandably, because ground is too soft.

**206/15 Councillor training**

Cllrs agreed that waiting until a training session can be arranged for the whole council together would be better than infilling on other sessions. Chair to advise Helen.

**207/15 Neighbourhood Plan update**

ABZAG Ltd will come to talk about how they can help. Chair to ask Helen if this can be arranged for before the next PC meeting.

**208/15 Internal Auditor appointment**

This item to be postponed until new Clerk is in place.

**209/15 SpeedWatch**

No watching sessions last month.

**210/15 Streetlighting**

No issues.

**211/15 River dredging**

Cllr Long couldn't come to report from January's Welney Causeway meeting, but Chair passed on these observations:

- Repair work on the old sluice at Denver will continue.
- Levels are (supposedly) at their lowest for years.
- Agitated dredging is still promised for three lengths: Ereth (Huntington), Stowbridge and Magdalen.

**212/15 Footpath report**

(Cllr Chitty) Footpaths are generally clear. Borough Council should be chased up re: missing/damaged public footpath signage. (Not clear who will do this.)

**213/15 Planning**

One application received: Proposed dwellings on former EA site, Stow Road. Cllr Morton thought that the proportion of affordable housing was inadequate, and should be four units rather than two.

Cllr Anderson thought that some of the proposal was misleading – this site certainly is on a flood plain. He wouldn't want to see more affordable units than the two proposed.

Cllr Chitty said he does not object to the proposal, but would prefer more affordable units. He noted that there were no drawings to show what the houses would look like, or even how tall they would be, and hoped their design would be sympathetic to the rural location and their prominent position on the riverside.

Cllr Fisher said that 4-bed detached executive housing may not be what the village really needs, but it may be unrealistic to expect anything else on a prime riverside site.

Cllr/Chair Smith thought that the proposal was misleading, especially regarding the flood plain.

Discussion conclusion: Cllrs agree that controlled development is necessary for the village to thrive, but object to the misleading statements and lack of visual information in this application.

**214/15 Finance**

Accounts to 31 January accepted by all.

Cheques to be signed agreed by all.

(Noted that payment to EON has reduced by 1/3<sup>rd</sup> since installation of LED streetlighting.)

**215/15 Councillors' concerns and agenda items for next meeting**

Cllr Morton conveyed invitation from man who is building two barns for a small delegation to go to view them. Arrangements to be made at next meeting.

Smaller Authorities Audit Appointment Scheme opt-out decision

SpeedWatch report

River dredging update

Highways (and Foldgate Lane update)

Trod/footpath update

Councillor training arrangements

Internal Auditor appointment

Allotments agreements revision and planning advice

**216/15 Public speaking**

A member of the public said that the Council should stop finding fault with new build planning applications and start encouraging development before all our amenities go the way of the shop. If you argue all the time with developers they won't build anything and the village will die.

**217/15 Confirm date of next meeting**

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2016.

**Meeting closed at 9:15pm**

Chairman..... Date.....