

# Welton le Wold Parish Meeting – Meeting at St. Martin’s Church at 8.00 pm on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2018

## MINUTES

**Present:** Margaret Stubbs (Chairman), Peter J Taylor (Clerk), Charlotte Whiting (Treasurer), Christopher North, Amanda Vines, Jon Hammond, District Cllr Richard Fry.

**1) Chairman’s Opening Remarks:**

Margaret Stubbs opened the meeting at 8.00 p.m. and welcomed those present.

**2) Apologies for Absence:** Jim Cave, Peter Davis, Anna Davis.

**3) Minutes of last meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018:** Jon Hammond proposed and Christopher North seconded that the Minutes were a true record, and the meeting unanimously approved them. They were signed by the Chairman.

**4) Matters Arising:** Minute 6: Stewart Burgess has undertaken not to allow Heavy Goods Vehicles to use the village lane as a “Rat Run” during his house-building operation near the bus stop on the A157. Separately, a temporary ban on Heavy Goods Vehicles using the village lane has been in force for a few weeks whilst the B1225 Caistor High Street has been closed between Ludford and Burgh on Bain. Occasional HGV traffic has been seen both before and during the ban.

Concern was expressed about vehicles overtaking on the A157 at speed past the top of Dark Lane, where visibility by drivers emerging onto the main road is poor. Cllr Richard Fry undertook to ask the highways authority whether anything could be done to make that junction safer.

**5) Councillors’ Reports:** East Lindsey District Cllr. Richard Fry said that Stuart Davy had retired from the post of Chief Executive, and after open competition the Deputy CE Rob Barlow was promoted to CE. The new CE is now rebuilding his team of managers. Cllr. Fry said that a fiscal deficit is on the horizon for 2020-21. However local authorities are now able to retain a proportion of Business Rates, from which a “volatility reserve” of £5 million is held. ELDC has borrowed £20 million at 2% interest fixed for 50 years and invested the proceeds in property bonds presently earning 8%. Peter Taylor hoped the investment would be safe, recalling that ELDC reserves were lost in failing Icelandic banks in 2008. Louth Cattle Market refurbishment is due to start, but no lease has yet been signed for its use.

**6) Clerk’s Report:** The Clerk referred to his written Report. Many items are covered within these Minutes. Other items were:

a) It has been a mild winter, but one short snowy spell drew attention to the fact that the broken yellow grit box outside the old school had been taken away but not replaced as promised. The Clerk repeated the request, but one has still not been delivered, so he has reminded the Highways Authority again. The other bin we requested, near the northern end of Bunker’s Lane, was promptly provided.

b) **Potholes** in various places have been reported and repaired. More are appearing. Christopher North reported that the cracks in the road surface near the eastern village boundary had not been repaired and that more had appeared; in his opinion the cause lies deep inside the road structure. Anyone can report any highway fault online at <https://fixmystreet.lincolnshire.gov.uk>.

c) In 2017 the Clerk won a prize draw for a prepaid £50 plastic card from Northern Powergrid for completing a questionnaire emailed to Parish Clerks. See Minute 7 of the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017. It was valid until 2020 at various retailers, including Boots, Superdrug, Wilkinsons and Argos in Louth. He hoped to spend it on something to benefit the community in Welton le Wold. However it seemed unlikely that the Parish Meeting would

want £50-worth of anything from these stores, so he spent the card towards a household item that he needed, and is paying £50 into PM funds.

- 7) **Correspondence:** The Clerk referred to two items of correspondence:
  - a) **Community Lincolnshire Insurance Services** will no longer be managing our policy after this year's premium has been paid. In future we should deal directly with the underwriters, Zurich Insurance plc.
  - b) **Traffic Regulation Orders** for temporary events should now be requested through our local County Councillor, presently Hugo Marfleet.
- 8) **Chalk Stream Information Board:** The Clerk pointed out that the board should be delivered any time now, following a delay for re-manufacture of the frame, which had been made by a subcontractor to an incorrect specification. There remains a small cost to the Parish Meeting, for materials used to secure the frame firmly in the ground.

Peter Taylor proposed that the Parish Meeting should pay for the framing of a 37" x 27" additional free copy of the Chalk Stream Information poster, for display in the church. He had obtained two quotations for the framing, both to a high specification including clear glass front, adhesive MDF backing and sealing against ingress of thunderflies. Margaret Stubbs had agreed to put proceeds of recent sales of the village history book towards the framing. £50 had already been realised from these sales. The meeting agreed to accept the lower quotation of £55 from P&M Framing of Swaby. The other quotation was £95. The Church had already agreed to house the display, probably above the Women's Institute Millennium Timeline on the vestry partition. The meeting agreed unanimously. **Action: Peter Taylor**
- 9) **Neighbourhood Watch service:** Co-ordinator Peter Taylor said the number of households registered as members has remained at 25, after two households moved away and two new ones joined. He reiterated that members who register with the website will receive them more quickly, and can choose what types of message they receive. Peter forwards almost all of them, usually with some delay.
- 10) **Dangerous trees:** The trees to the north of Binbrook Road between the junction with Bunkers Lane and the edge of the village have been the subject of debate because in 2018 contractors to BT Open Reach erected fibre broadband cables beneath them, greatly complicating the task of pruning diseased branches, and raising the question of who is responsible, BT or the landowner. Simon Brook has been in contact with Peter Taylor and Christopher North. The matter remains unresolved, and Cllr. Richard Fry undertook to seek advice from ELDC's arboriculturist Sean Horton. Christopher North said that some dangerous-looking trees lie well east of the fibre cables, and could more readily be trimmed.
- 11) **Working Parties:** The Chalk Stream Working Parties have been successful, thanks to Christopher North and Margery Ward and their band of Welton Waders. The next one is on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, and a tentative timetable is in village notice boards. Thanks are also due to David and Lesley Smith and Ian Ward for clearing and burning dead and fallen branches and undergrowth from the spinney opposite Lochnagar. There remain two almost-fallen branches quite high in a horse chestnut tree, and Peter Taylor agreed to contact Tom & June Brooks with a view to making them safe. **Action: Peter Taylor**
- 12) **Any Other Business:** None.
- 13) **Next Meeting:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2019 was agreed, at 7.30 p.m. in the Church.
- 14) The meeting ended at 8.52 p.m.