

**Welton le Wold Parish Meeting – Meeting at
St. Martin’s Church at 8.00 pm on Thursday 20th May 2021**

MINUTES

Present: Margaret Stubbs (Chairman), Peter J Taylor (Clerk), Amanda Vines (Treasurer), Helena Fryer, Richard Fryer, Jon Hammond, Lesley Smith, Andrew West, District Councillor Richard Fry.

1) **Chairman’s Opening Remarks & Welcome:** Nothing to add to AGM Minutes.

2) **Apologies for Absence:** None

3) **Minutes of meeting on 17th October 2019.**

Approved unanimously, proposed by Lesley Smith and seconded by Richard Fryer.
Signed by the Chairman.

4) **Minutes of meeting on 30th December 2019.**

Approved unanimously, proposed by Lesley Smith and seconded by Andrew West.
Signed by the Chairman.

5) **Minutes of meeting on 27th August 2020.**

Approved unanimously, proposed by Lesley Smith and seconded by Jon Hammond.
Signed by the Chairman.

6) **Matters Arising from any Minutes, not on this agenda.** None.

7) **County and District Councillors’ Reports:**

District Councillor Richard Fry told the meeting that East Lindsey District is now allied to Boston Borough for many purposes, with a common Chief Executive, which streamlines administration and reduces costs. South Holland may join the consortium and it is possible that a proposal for an elected mayor may be put to a referendum.

East Lindsey has secured a government grant known as the Towns Fund, by which Skegness will attract £25 million and Mablethorpe £23.4 million.

East Lindsey District Council held its AGM remotely by Zoom on 27th April 2021.

Richard Fry has at his disposal Councillor Grants totalling up to £6,000. Peter Taylor reminded those present that a project to add gravel to the stream bed was mooted by Christopher North at the meeting of 27th August 2020 (Minute 5). He would enquire of Mr North about any progress and mention an available grant. Lesley Smith said that there are some deep holes in the gravel bed of the stream between The Coach House and St. Martin’s Close, posing a problem to working parties. **Action: Clerk**

8) **Clerk’s Report:**

The Officers had had a lot of trouble getting Barclays Bank to recognise Amanda Vines as treasurer and correspondent. Firstly they said that Charlotte Whiting’s signature on the form of transfer differed from the one on their file. She admitted she had signed the form in a hurry. All of the officers and Mrs Whiting then descended by appointment on the Branch in Louth, all with identification documents, and signed everything they required. They said they would send the paperwork to the necessary address, but failed to do so. It then transpired that Barclays had changed their requirements, and a departing signatory didn’t need to sign at all. But Barclays would only communicate

with the Correspondent, who remained Charlotte Whiting. So we had to start again for a third time, and the Clerk finally sent them to the required branch in the outskirts of Leicester, to be signed for, and the Correspondent became Amanda Vines. She has received a cheque book but can still not inspect the account online.

A dispute arose between BT Open Reach, and Simon & Elizabeth Brook. In 2018 BT Open Reach had slung a fibre-optic cable among the branches of some trees belonging to Elizabeth Brook overhanging the road between The Coach House and The Washdyke. It then appeared that the trees needed trimming, but BT refused to help. Eventually they were cut, it is suspected at Mr & Mrs Brook's expense.

9) **Correspondence:** None.

10) **Treasurer's Report:** None. It was agreed to pay £10 to the Church for heat and light.

11) **Website Report:**

Andrew West reported that the village website was launched in Autumn 2019. Visits to the website ("page views") increased from circa 1100 in 2019 to more than 3700 during 2020. There have been 1200 views so far during 2021.

The most popular pages (in order of popularity) are: Quick History/More History (more than 500 views); Welton Waders; Visitor Information; the photo gallery; and St Martin's Church.

The vast majority (nearly 90%) of visitors to the site are from the UK, followed by Australia, China, US and France.

We are continuing to add relevant content to the site, including a new Coronavirus information page (circa 60 views), which proved helpful over the last year.

12) **Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Report:**

The Clerk/NHW Co-ordinator reported Welton le Wold Neighbourhood Watch now has 34 member households, about two thirds of the village.

Neighbourhood Watch has undergone a change of media of transmission.

Neighbourhood Alert messages sent to members have become fewer, whilst a new interactive site called "NextDoor" is now the preferred platform for many messages.

Members are encouraged to join NextDoor's Welton le Wold section at

https://nextdoor.co.uk/choose_address/ and eleven have done so to date. Any member can place a post and comment on others.

13) **Working Parties:**

Andrew West reported that dates of Welton Waders' stream clearance events were on the village website www.weltonlewold.com. They are scheduled for (Saturdays) 12th June, 24th July, 11st September and 23rd October 2021.

14) **Planning Proposals:**

During the Covid-19 lockdown, the Clerk circulated all planning applications. The first is fully documented in the Minutes for 30th December 2019. Three more, for barns to be converted to two houses at Welton Manor, alterations at Brookside, and three new detached houses and garages at the old pallet yard, were uncontroversial and no-one asked the Parish Meeting to comment.

The plan to prospect for, and produce, oil at Biscathorpe was put to residents for comment. Ten people opposed the proposal, and no-one supported it, so the Clerk lodged an objection on both the East Lindsey and Lincolnshire County Council websites. The comments were circulated at the time and can be seen on those sites.

Mark Cox applied for consent to move the access to The Lodge to a position on the junction between Manor Drive and Binbrook Road, with a view to demolishing the Lodge and building a new house there. A meeting held on 30th December 2019 decided to oppose the application. See Minutes. Planners nevertheless approved it. However a talk with the Conservation Officer revealed that he could overrule the planning authority on the grounds that a protected tree, the copper beech “siren tree” to the Manor Estate would be endangered. Since then, Mark Cox has sold the property to Jason Parker.

A further application for two new dwellings on the same site has been submitted by Jason Parker. This was circulated for comment during Covid-19 lockdown, and several parties wished the Parish Meeting to object, on grounds of interference with legitimate access to properties up Manor Drive. The proposed two-storey house to the rear constitutes tandem development, on the site of a barn that had been granted consent for the sole use of the late Reg Lingard to store and maintain vintage agricultural machinery. It would also seriously overlook the ground and first floor windows of Abbey House. The Clerk was unaware of any decisions taken by the planning authority.

15) **Any other Business:**

Richard Fryer mentioned that the road edge on Binbrook Road is very uneven, causing him to stumble. The clerk has met an official of the Highways Authority and pointed out some erosion by rainwater flowing downhill along the edge of the road. Insufficient money is available for the major drainage works required to prevent this.

Andrew West reported on the Coronavirus support that he had arranged:

In April 2020 the Parish Meeting put arrangements in place to offer assistance to those who decided or were advised to self-isolate to avoid contracting the Covid-19 virus. We were in touch with everyone in the village for whom we had an email address and hand-delivered letters where we had no email contact details.

We offered to help with essential shopping and/or medication collection, and invited any residents willing to assist with this to be in touch. We also created a new page on the village website including the same information and a contact form for enquiries.

Andrew West coordinated the support: eight residents came forward to offer assistance; in the event only six requests for help were made during the period March 2020 to January 2021, all of which could be dealt with by Andrew.

Our support arrangements were registered with the local authority ‘resilience forum’ and we have maintained periodic contact with the County Council emergency control centre throughout. A small financial grant was available from the District Council to reimburse any expenses.

16) **Date of next meeting:** Provisionally Thursday 14th October 2021 at 7.30 p.m.

17) The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.