

# WELTON LE WOLD PARISH MEETING

Meeting at St. Martin's Church at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2022

## MINUTES

**Present:** Margaret Stubbs (Chairman), Peter J Taylor (Clerk), Amanda Vines (Treasurer) District Councillor Richard Fry, Lynne Blakey, Ilsé Challis, Peter Challis, Jon Hammond, Christopher North, Lesley Smith, Rebekah Stubbs, Simon Stubbs and Margery Ward.

1) **Chairman's Opening Remarks & Welcome:**

The meeting opened at 7.30 p.m., and the Chairman welcomed those present.

2) **Apologies for Absence:**

County Cllr Hugo Marfleet, John Blakey, Jason Parker, David Smith and Andrew West.

3) **Minutes of meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022:**

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

4) **Matters Arising from the Minutes, not on this agenda.**

The Chairman thanked Lynne Blakey for hosting the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Party.

5) **County and District Councillors' Reports:**

Richard Fry said that East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) is much more stable than recent and present Westminster governments. Administration is pooled with Boston Borough and South Holland District Councils. ELDC has accumulated and reallocated a budget surplus and is one of the authorities to which the government has allocated a Connected Coast Towns grant, to be administered by the Council. Projects include a Campus for Future Living to be operated by via a Willow (Mablethorpe Ltd) in conjunction with two universities. Planned projects also include a new leisure and learning centre in Mablethorpe, redevelopment of the Colonnade in Sutton-on-Sea and a Cultural Hub in Skegness. The Clerk asked whether the swimming pool would be heated by renewable energy, and Cllr Fry affirmed that it would.

6) **Clerk's Report:** See various items below.

7) **Correspondence:** See various items below.

8) **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer reported that the Parish Meeting has £1,115.17 in Barclays Bank, have levied no Council Tax Precept this year. Last year at this time we had £1,732.74, and on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 we had £1,502.74. The petty cash of £72.38 remains unchanged.

9) **Parish Precept for 2023:** The Meeting considered whether to continue the precept "holiday" and levy none again, or to revert to the usual £10 per Band D equivalent dwelling. It was agreed to compromise and levy £5, proposed by Christopher North and seconded by Peter Taylor. **Action: Clerk and Treasurer**

10) **Website Report:** Andrew West reported as follows about [www.weltonlewold.com](http://www.weltonlewold.com):

- a. We continue to see steady traffic to the village website, with more than 2200 views recorded so far during 2022.
- b. The most popular pages cover information on village history.
- c. We continue to update the website with new and/or changing content, including most recently information provided by Lincolnshire County Council regarding the death of Queen Elizabeth II.

**11) WhatsApp report:**

Jon Hammond, manager of the group, said this is extremely popular, with 36 members.

**12) Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Report:** We now have 33 members, Steve Wright having moved out of Vale End Cottage. The new resident was invited to join.

**13) Working Parties:** The previous convenor, Paul Hedger, has left the village, and Lesley Smith has kindly convened the latest session. Will Bartle of the Lincolnshire Wolds Countryside Service will be visiting the village in November to advise on further measures to keep water flowing. Christopher North expressed concern that he has found over a hundred dead fish in the stream between the Washdyke and the bottom of Bunkers Lane. But shrimps appear to be unaffected. There appeared to be no problems further upstream. He reported the problem to the Environment Agency, but when he later requested results he was told that the Agency has “insufficient resources to give feedback concerning reported incidents”. At the moment, we do not know whether this was a pollution issue or a natural event. Peter Taylor asked whether he had made a Freedom of Information Act request, but Christopher North said it was not that. Lesley Smith added that more recently she had found surface scum upstream at the entrance to the culvert by Coach House. This had also been reported to the Environment Agency. Christopher North proposed, and Lesley Smith seconded, a £100 honorarium payable to Ian Ward in recognition of his extensive verge mowing this year. This was agreed by all.

**Action: Treasurer and Clerk**

**14) Unbalanced tree opposite Washdyke:**

This horse chestnut tree leans badly across the road and stream. Margery Ward brought this to the attention of the Clerk, who took photographs and emailed one to the landowners on 8<sup>th</sup> October requesting that they seek a professional report. No reply has been received. There is also a dead tree further east, threatening to fall across the road into the east field belonging to the Washdyke. The Clerk agreed to forward a photograph of this to the landowners, along with a reminder about the earlier request. **Action: Clerk**

**15) Other threats to electricity supply:** The Clerk advised the meeting that responsibility for the integrity of power lines lies with Northern Powergrid, except in the case of a line serving only one property, where the landowner is responsible. Nevertheless Northern Powergrid and landowners need to liaise over tree-cutting.

**16) Visibility exiting Dark Lane to A157:** Several villagers reported this serious problem to the highways authority via the “Fix My Street” website. Neil Tomlinson wanted a speed camera and/or traffic lights. The reply from Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) highways authority was to downgrade the issue to “No further action” on the grounds that this would need a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO). Originally the clerk and others had just asked for tree and hedge branches to be cut back as an urgent safety action. On 17<sup>th</sup> October the Clerk telephoned County Cllr Hugo Marfleet, who said he was meeting the Director of Highways at Horncastle the next day, and would travel via Dark Lane to see the problem. He would try to persuade an official to accompany him on a second visit, and he promised to keep the Clerk informed. He did not answer the question of whether cutting back hedges and low branches is the responsibility of the highways authority or the landowner. Margaret Stubbs agreed to cut branches back on land belonging to the Stubbs family, and Peter Taylor agreed to ask the owners of the Old Rectory field to do the same.

**Action: Clerk**

- 17) **To request reduced speed limit of 20 mph on Binbrook Road:** This was proposed by Margery Ward, on the grounds that the road is also the pavement, and many drivers fail to slow down for pedestrians. Several parts of this road are too narrow for two vehicles to pass. Peter Challis and Ilsé Challis also proposed a 30 mph speed limit on Bunkers Lane, which is barely more than one vehicle wide. Cllr. Richard Fry, with the caveat that it is a County Council matter and not in his realm, advised that the request might carry more weight if we request a 20 mph limit throughout the village apart from the A157, and a 30 mph limit for the entirety of Bunkers Lane. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk**
- 18) **Possible mirror at blind bend near former telephone kiosk:** This was suggested by Jason Parker. The meeting felt that the highways authority would be unlikely to agree that, but a quicker and more practical solution would be to ask the landowner on the inside of that bend to trim the branches, which would improve visibility. **Action: Clerk**
- 19) **Maintenance of public right of way:** This issue was raised by Jason Parker, in relation to Public Footpath no. 303, that passes between Dunnock House and The Old Glebe House, then alongside the Old Rectory grounds, to the A157 Lincoln Road. When he walked it before 5<sup>th</sup> October, a thorn bush on one side had grown, almost enough to meet the barbed wire on the other side. The clerk had informed LCC Countryside Access, whose Nigel Waltham replied that contractors claimed to have mown the path on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> June and 16<sup>th</sup> August. The Clerk pointed out that mowing was insufficient to clear thorn bushes. He will pass that comment to his colleague Jonathan Stockdale. The Clerk also requested that a schedule of cuts be made available so that we can check on their adequacy, but a reply is awaited.
- 20) **Planning proposals:**  
The only one outstanding in the Parish is Jason Parker's application to build a house on the site of The Lodge, and another house on the site of the late Reg Lingard's workshop and storage shed for his vintage tractors. The latter building had planning consent for use only by Reg Lingard personally. ELDC claims that the consent lapsed when he died, and does not set a precedent to build something else. Mr Parker believes the condition is legally defective because it does not specify what will happen after Reg Lingard's death. The application to continue exploration for oil at Biscathorpe with the aim of extracting it was refused by LCC after objections from Donington on Bain Parish Council and ourselves amongst others. The applicants are appealing to the Environment Secretary, who will consider the case including the objections.
- 21) **Any Other Business:** Jason Parker wrote to the Clerk: "Bench at foot of my driveway: does anyone have any objections to me painting it and the village notice board? They look a bit run down and a lick of paint or varnish will preserve the life of them somewhat. Colour and finish t.b.c." He may be unaware that David Smith refurbished both notice boards this year. The seat has previously been maintained by Janice Berry, in memory of her father Hubert Cooper. David Smith has already removed it to work on it, and at the Clerk's request, the Meeting agreed to pay him to overhaul it. The Clerk apologised for the lack of heating in the church, probably due to seizure of the water pump to the radiators. The boiler was serviced this summer, and the Clerk tests the system monthly with no problem till now. The meeting agreed to pay the Church £10 for heat and light at the last meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022. **Action: Clerk & Treasurer**
- 22) **Date of next meeting & Annual General Meeting:** Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 7.30.  
The meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.