

# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held in Whilton Village Hall  
on Wednesday 12th January 2022 – 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – A Gilbert, J Hanslip, K Hiscock. M Hampson, A Lee, J Melling, R Smith (Chairman) and S Porter (Clerk) and 3 members of the public

## 1. OPENING PROCEDURES

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – Nil

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Personal or Prejudicial

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on WEDNESDAY 10th NOVEMBER 2021 – It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by J Melling, and all voted in favour that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. MATTERS ARISING – Nil

4. PUBLIC TIME – Nil

5. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – No report.

6. THE SPINNEY – K Hiscock provided the following report:

The rain has had some affect upon the stream and footpaths, especially the public footpath, which is the responsibility of the West Northamptonshire Council, and the lower walkway where a number of the big trees have been removed. The Parish Path Warden has reiterated the former response of the NCC that led the Voluntary Committee should not to do anything in the former area because of legal liabilities.

In relation to the lower path, the area concerned is wet and a now deepened drainage channel, together with a short plank was placed above to assist walkers crossing. This is now seen by the risk assessor as a potential hazard. Discussions with the Wildlife Trust advisor have suggested creating another pond to absorb the water and increase the possible wildlife. Also considered is whether a bridge over the extended drainage channel would work as used elsewhere in the Spinney or we would have to construct a new raised walkway.

Attempts to begin the process of longer term planning with joining the Small Woodlands Trust approved at the last meeting have not been able to be activated, and this now seems unlikely. The local wildlife trust saw great potential for increasing wildlife populations in the Spinney and preferred to leave the open spaces to see what developed over the next year or so.

No working parties were held in December but two are planned for January. The owner of the adjoining fields is concerned about the number of trees overhanging the fences from the Spinney into the field. These trees will be assessed and any action taken using hand saws. Any that cannot be maintained be delayed until the commission of the remaining three trees from the Consultant's Safety plan which will be before the end of this year. Western Power contractors have removed the overhanging branches to the power line across the Spinney.

7. HIGHWAYS – The area along Brington Lane where the water is running from the paddock is even more treacherous during the icy weather and a resident recently had a nasty fall. Matt Clarke from Highways has been asked to update where they are with getting this resolved but there has been no response as yet, as he is seeking further clarification from his colleague. The Clerk will forward the correspondence to the Chairman and also WNC Councillor, Dan Lister.

The pot hole by Whilton Mill has been repaired, and some work is scheduled to be undertaken to the various pot holes along Brington Lane. To be discussed by the PC in March, is 20mph green advisory speed signs, which have been spotted elsewhere in the country, along with the Community Speedwatch programme.

#### **8. VILLAGE HALL – A Gilbert provided the following update:**

##### **Refurbishment:**

At the meeting in December agreement was reached by the VHMC for the overall refurbishment as well as the majority of the detail and the meeting approved the necessary spend. The minutes of this meeting have been circulated separately to councillors.

There are still some particular elements to be discussed/agreed but the panelling has been replaced; the next stage of the work will be to remove the kitchen hatch (the hatch is rarely used and removal will allow a wall cupboard to be placed on the kitchen side of that wall) and undertake the repainting of the hall.

The timetable for the work has been arranged around the use of the hall by the Pre-school. It had been hoped to finish the panelling and painting during the Christmas/New Year holidays but there were one or two small hold ups in securing supplies and the work has now paused until the February half term break, when it is hoped that all of the work of painting and decorating in the hall section, will be finished. There is a plan to fit a tall cupboard in the alcove where previously a free standing cupboard held a good deal of the Pre-school equipment. It is hoped that a bespoke cupboard will allow more storage of larger items as well as smaller equipment and this work will be undertaken as soon as possible because it can be carried out during term time by avoiding Pre-school use days. The installation of the kitchen is planned for the Easter holidays.

A Councillor commented on the cluttered condition of the hall. There was a discussion and A Gilbert stated that this matter is being addressed by the Village Hall Management Committee.

##### **Payment for goods:**

Only items where VAT has been charged and shown separately, have been charged to the Parish Council. Invoices agreed by a VHMC Working Party member, have been/will be submitted directly to the Clerk for bank transfer payment. The PC agreed the process for recovering from the VHMC, the costs which have been paid, minus the VAT. The Clerk will forward an invoice for the Village Hall to A Gilbert. All other costs will be invoiced directly to the VHMC.

##### **Broadband:**

The VHMC was unanimously in agreement that the installation of broadband would be a huge benefit for the current and future use of the hall. The PC are also in favour to proceed with arrangements for this and the Clerk will contact Gigaclear who offer a community package, which gives free broadband for the first year.

##### **Environmental Policy:**

The Parish Council now has an Environmental Policy, it is suggested that the PC puts forward a request for the VHMC to draw up a set of actions which in line with the PC's policy. There should be a clause in the Conditions of Hire, which requires users to comply with the PC's environmental policy, during their use of the premises. All in agreement.

##### **AGM:**

The date for the AGM has not yet been set, but all individual users of the hall and the PC are entitled to attend.

##### **Insurance:**

M Hampson will obtain legal advice on the insuring of the Village Hall and whom is responsible, either the VHMC or the PC.

## 9. BUSINESS

9.1 Whilton Mill Karting Track - The residents who have complained are in contact with the WNC Environmental Health Officer. They have installed noise monitoring equipment at the Race Track which checks the levels of the karts/bikes. Once the track events diary has been released for 2022, then the monitoring levels can be obtained on these days.

9.2 Whilton Locks – Vehicle Activated Sign/Gateway – An email has been received from WNC - Steve Barber explaining the options available for one/two vehicle activated signs to be installed at Whilton Locks. There is grant funding of up to £5,000 available from the Crime Commissioner’s office. A site meeting will be arranged with Steve Barber so that he can advise the most suitable option for the Locks. Matt Clarke will be providing costs for a gateway.

9.3 Whilton Garden Village – The Chairman has been in discussions with the owner of the Garden Village and he has confirmed the plans, which are expected to be completed in Spring 2023. It has been confirmed that replacement trees will be planted in the car park area. The new building has yet to be occupied but some interest has been expressed. The new car wash facility will be discussed later in the meeting.

9.4 DACT Bus – This has been suspended for the time being and will be reviewed in the Spring by both Brington and Whilton PC’s.

9.5 Whilton Red Telephone Box – The application to adopt the phone box has been submitted to BT. Once adopted, the phone equipment will be removed. The parishioners will be asked to suggest ideas on how this can then be used in the next newsletter.

9.6 Lock 12 Memorial Garden – The memorial bench has been purchased and installed in the Memorial Garden, this will be paid for by the Bavister family. It was agreed that K Hiscock will visit and see if the table in the Garden can be repaired, or if a replacement is needed.

9.7 Brington Road Hedges – These hedges are usually cut back in January/February. The PC will not chase unless this does not get undertaken.

9.8 The Queen’s Green Canopy Project – There is no convenient place in the village to plant a large tree.

9.9 Budget Proposals 2022/23 – The spreadsheet was circulated to all councillors and discussed. There is a large amount in reserves, however this needs to be ring fenced for the church clock, allotment wall, maintenance works in the Spinney and vehicle activated signs.

9.10 Approve Precept Figure 2022/23 – A Gilbert proposed that a 5% increase to be added to the precept for 2022/23, seconded by R Smith and all voted in favour. Therefore, Whilton Parish Council do precept upon West Northants Council the total sum of £15,818 for 2022/23. This will be payable in two instalments, April and September 2022.

## 10. FINANCE

It was proposed by M Hampson, seconded by J Hanslip and all voted in favour that the following accounts are approved:

### 10.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation from November & December 2021

#### 10.2 Accounts Paid (November to December 2021):

Online	S Porter – Clerk’s Salary November 21	£ 266.46	LGA 1972 s112
	S Porter – Clerk’s Expenses November 21	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter – Clerk’s Salary December 21	£ 266.46	LGA 1972 s112
	S Porter – Clerk’s Expenses December 21	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	Steers Printing – Autumn Newsletter	£ 175.00	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Steers Printing – Winter Newsletter	£ 205.00	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Wood2U Ltd – Village Hall	£ 591.62	LGA 1972 s133

**10.3 Accounts to be Paid:**

E-On	Street Lighting Oct-Nov21	£	131.80	PCA1957 s3
Glasdon	Memorial Bench – Lock 12	£	670.74	LGA 1972 s111

**10.4 Payments Received (November to December 2021)**

Nat West	Interest	£	0.29
----------	----------	---	------

**Bank Balance (as at 31.12.2021)**

Current Account	£ 2,207.46
Reserve Account	£17,278.36

**11. PLANNING**

**WND/2021/0738** – 10 non-illuminated fascia signs, including 1 x cashpoint fascia sign, 7 x vinyl sticker signs and 2 x board (price list) signs – **Whilton Locks Garden Centre, Whilton Locks**  
**No Objections**

**WND/2021/0737** – Installation of hand car wash and valeting facility, including canopy, office, washing area and by water tank unit – **Whilton Locks Garden Centre, Whilton Locks**  
**No Objections**

**DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 9th March 2022 - 7:30pm**

**Meeting Closed: 9:15pm**