

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF WHILTON PARISH COUNCIL

held at Whilton Village Hall on Wednesday 13th July 2022 – 7:30pm

Attendance: Parish Councillors – A Gilbert, M Hampson, J Hanslip, K Hiscock, A Lee, R Smith (Chairman) and Sue Porter (Clerk) and 1 member of the public

1. OPENING PROCEDURES

K Hiscock handed in his resignation from the Parish Council. West Northants Council will be notified and the causal vacancy advertised.

1.1 ACCEPTANCE OF APOLOGIES – J Melling

1.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS – Personal or Prejudicial – Nil

2. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MEETING held on **WEDNESDAY 11th MAY 2022** and the **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING** held on **WEDNESDAY 29th JUNE 2022** – It was approved by all that both sets of minutes were an accurate record of the meetings and will be signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. PUBLIC TIME – A Hiscock spoke about the future of the Village Newsletter with her leaving the village. The questionnaire results produced a lukewarm response with only a few replies, some saying they may contribute with an article but not wanting to be involved with the newsletter on a regular basis, which has been produced 4 times a year. The last newsletter has now been produced. An information sheet was handed to all the councillors with what is actually involved.

4. WEST UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT – No report received.

5. THE SPINNEY – There has been two working parties held since the last meeting. The new walkway over the wet areas is underway, but currently dependant on people's availability. A 5-10 year working plan needs to be produced, of which help has been offered by the Wildlife Trust and Small Woodland Association. A quote has been received from Treeworx for the maintenance work required to the trees, for 1 tree to be cut down, 1 tree to be reduced and the removal of one split stem. This work can be undertaken for the sum of £2,950 plus VAT. Further quotes will be obtained. With the resignation of K Hiscock the following has been agreed. M Hampson has agreed to move forward with producing the 5-10 year Management Plan. A new leader will be sought for the working parties, with R Smith making contact with Richard Bunce initially. A Gilbert has found out that the Pre School have applied to the Co-Op for a grant to fund a bird observatory in The Spinney. R Smith will make contact with the Pre School Manager to advise that prior approval from the PC will be required. Anthea Hiscock will also need to be replaced as one of the monthly Risk Assessors.

6. VILLAGE HALL – A committee is now in place. The new Treasurer will be setting up a budget for moving forward. The running costs currently exceed the income at present so rents are being reviewed. The Governance is also being reviewed, revised and tightened up. More villagers are to be involved and in having a say. The Clerk will retrieve the Trust Deed from Nat West Bank to determine the plans of the property, and the Chairman will write a letter authorising this. The storage in the Hall is being improved and shelving added. The wood panelling recently installed is in need of replacement due to bad workmanship.

7. HIGHWAYS – The new Highways contract starts in September with Kier taking over, and it is hopeful that the service will be much improved. The water leaking from the land on Brington Lane is still ongoing and D Lister (WNC) will be asked to chase this up with Highways.

8. BUSINESS

8.1 Whilton Locks Gateway – The PC have paid for the new gateway and Anglian Water have been invoiced the name sign which was taken away and subsequently lost. An installation date is awaited.

8.2 Whilton Locks – Vehicle Activated Sign – The Chairman has received several quotes for Vehicle Activated Signs. These will be reviewed and the best option then presented to the PC for approval in September. The Crime Commissioner’s grant will be applied for, of which up to £5,000 could be available.

8.3 Red Telephone Box – Adoption has been completed. This will be added to the PC’s Asset Register. M Hampson will compile a list of maintenance tasks that need undertaking once the phone equipment is removed by BT.

8.4 Whilton Mill Expansion Activities – There have been reports of quad bikes in the fields behind South View. This land belongs to the Church, is still used as agricultural land, but Whilton Mill also have use. There were signs in place to advise walkers but these have now gone. The Whilton Mill Management Team will be invited to the September meeting to answer any questions and to inform the PC of the intentions for that land. Dan Lister (WNC) will also be invited to attend.

8.5 Harry Reynolds Stone – This stone is now very much in need of a clean-up. The Clerk will contact Greener Grave Care for a quote.

8.6 Buckby Library & Hub – The latest update was read out by the Chairman and has also been circulated to the Councillors.

8.7 Village Newsletter – There are around 40 years’ worth of Newsletter which Anthea Hiscock would like to donate to the PC for archiving. Quotes will be asked for scanning these onto a disk. The future of the newsletter needs to be decided, suggestions of becoming an electronic version, twice yearly, making more use of the village website were all discussed. A message will be sent out by the Chairman on the e-mail distribution list advising “no volunteers – no newsletter”.

9. FINANCE

It was proposed by R Smith, seconded by M Hampson and all voted in the favour that the following accounts be approved:

9.1 Income/Expenditure Update & Bank Reconciliation from May & June 2022

9.2 Accounts Paid (May to July 2022):

Online	S Porter – Clerk’s Salary May 22	£ 307.22	LGA 1972 s112
	S Porter – Clerk’s Expenses May 22	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	S Porter – Clerk’s Salary June 22	£ 269.50	LGA 1972 s112
	S Porter – Clerk’s Expenses June 22	£ 18.00	LGA 1972 s112
Online	123 Reg – E-Mails x 6	£ 258.36	LGA 1972 s111
Online	123 Reg – E-Mail x 1	£ 43.06	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Calico – Website	£ 24.00	LGA 1972 s111
Online	N & J Draper – Allotments	£ 50.00	S & A Act 1908
Online	Came & Co – Insurance Renewal	£ 756.84	LGA 1972 s111
Online	Roy Haynes – The Spinney	£ 807.60	LGA 1972 s111
Online	SafeLincs - Defibrillator	£ 379.18	LGA 1972 s111

9.3 Approve Accounts to be Paid

Steers Printing	Newsletter	£ 215.00
NCALC	Annual Membership/Internal Audit	£ 485.76
S Hardman	Jubilee Picnic Expenses	£ 19.00
Forde & McHugh	Street Light Repairs	£ 72.48

9.4 Payments Received (May to July 2022)

Nat West	Interest	£	2.39
HMRC	VAT Refund 2021-22	£	2,423.80
Village Hall	Kitchen Payment	£	3,717.28

Bank Balance (as at 30.06.2022)

Current Account	£	10,490.60
Reserve Account	£	22,781.33

10. PLANNING

PLANNING PERMISSIONS GRANTED

The Parish Council noted the following planning permissions granted:

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**

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**

WND/2022/0123 – Construction of single storey side extension – **Springfield House, Manor Lane, Whilton**

DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Wednesday 14th September 2022- 7:30pm

Many thanks were given to K Hiscock for all his years' service, not only as a parish councillor but with the working parties in The Spinney and on the Charities, along with Anthea's involvement in the village groups. Keith and Anthea will be greatly missed by all.

Meeting Closed: 8:50pm