

WIGGENHALL ST GERMAN'S PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 28th MARCH 2022 at 7.30PM, CONVENED IN THE MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL.

Present:

Parish Councillors: Rob Keal (Chairman), David Rust, Margaret Blackburn, Scilla Ash, Robert Rawlings and Robert Ward.

Parish Clerk – Mike Inder.

Borough Councillor – Brian Long.

County Councillor – Brian Long.

Apologies – Cllr Margaret Bunkall.

Absences – Nil.

Public –3.

17/22 Opening and Apologies:

Cllr Keal opened the meeting at 7.30pm, welcomed everyone and stated that the meeting was being recorded. Apologies were received and accepted as above.

18/22 Declarations of interest for items on the agenda: None.

19/22 Presentation by Cambridge Power Ltd – Re proposed Battery Energy Storage System south of Kings Lynn Power Station in Saddlebow. The chairman invited representatives of Cambridge Power Ltd to give their presentation. A slide pack was handed out containing a site plan, example photos of similar projects and data demonstrating the need for storage of electricity as part of the plan to reduce emissions to 'Net zero' by 2050 achievable. The presentation included biodiversity, flood risk mitigation, screening for visual impact and technical details and explained the target was to submit a planning application in the next few months and that once permitted the project would take 9-12 months to complete. The floor was opened for questions from Cllrs, the public and County Cllr Long; questions about the following aspects were raised and answered:

- Noise – surveys done to ascertain ambient background noise and mitigation such as an acoustic fence put in place to avoid offsite noise beyond limits set by the BC Environment Dept.
- Traffic and Road damage – no significant additional traffic flow during construction and only a few routine maintenance visits once operational. Any road damage caused during construction would be repaired.
- Bio-Diversity – currently arable land with low levels of diversity, planting of hedgerow screening would provide net gain.
- Hazard from fire/explosion – there are many separate containers with the battery rack inside, temperatures etc are monitored and faults can be dealt with before getting to a dangerous point.
- Life expectancy of the site and restoration – the project would be on a 40-year lease with conditions to return the site to previous or improved state if closed.
- Integration with the Kings Lynn Power Station, which has had investment to enable it to operate only when demand requires – the BESS would integrate with that system providing full power instantaneously.
- Benefits of the system – stores excess power generated to use in emergencies (for approx 2 hours) or to supplement the grid during peak demand.
- Community benefits – energy security and potentially a financial community fund for projects.

Cllr Keal thanked them for the presentation and for answering the questions.

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20/22 **To hear from the public:** 2 members of the public, who were at the last meeting, returned to seek an update on bus services and road markings. The clerk informed them that the questionnaire discussed had been drafted and cllrs approved it for publication in the next newsletter, it will be supplemented with a Google Forms version. That data would be used to demonstrate community opinion and need when engaging with service providers. The County Cllr provided further background on public transport, explaining that there is no subsidy for these services and that companies must have a viable business, which does suffer from the unintended consequence of the senior citizen free bus pass scheme, with many routes not making a profit eventually having to be reduced or cut completely. Cllr Long did undertake to assist with discussions with service providers and asked for the data from the survey to be forwarded to assist him.

Action: Clerk to publish a survey on public transport via the PC website, social media and magazine.

The Clerk confirmed that the road markings had been reported and would be part of routine discussions with the Highways Engineer until completed.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the road safety at the school since the re-opening of Eaubrink Road. She provided a petition for safety measures to be put in place with suggestions of options including speed monitoring/enforcement, reduced speed limit to 20mph, remarking of zigzags, warning signs, 'White Village Gates'. The Chairman explained that the council were alive to the issues and 6 months ago had started to work on it in number of ways, starting with the easy wins such as raising awareness with pupils through a school road safety poster competition that he was sponsoring and the deployment of the SAM2 sign as often as permitted to capture data and act as a speed awareness sign for drivers (the SAM2 is currently with the manufacturer for repair). The lady provided the posters that the head teacher had passed her with a request that the winner should be selected, and school notified in time for the end of term assembly on Thursday 31 Mar; Cllr Keal undertook to do so. (Winning entries were selected after the meeting and will be turned into signs for erecting on street furniture). A petition from parents and residents was also supplied to the chairman emphasising the level of support.

Action: Clerk to arrange to have signs manufactured from the posters and arrange a meeting with Highways to discuss options.

A photo of the new diverted FP at the Eaubrink pumping station was provided, showing that the fence has not had an access installed yet. The clerk undertook to report it to the Countryside Access Officer.

21/22 **Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 24th Jan 2022:** Having been previously circulated, the minutes were proposed by Cllr Rust, seconded by Cllr Ash, and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and the minutes. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

22/22 **Visiting officer reports:** Cllr Long, in addition to his contribution during the public session provided notice that he can assist community groups (not public bodies eg PC) with a share of his £1000 Community fund. Invitation to apply online with his support if people wish to contact him. Cllrs Blackburn and Ash will transmit the information to the village hall and bowls club as their reps.

23/22 Finance:

- a. Authorisation of payments: Proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Rawlings. All agreed to authorise and ratify the payments at Annex A.
- b. Accounts Reconciliation: Accounts reconciliation prepared by the clerk was presented and a sample audit carried out by Cllr Rust.
- c. The Fitton Road corner Trod Parish Partnership Scheme application had been notified as successful and the Council decided to proceed with the 50% contribution of £3,450.
- d. The CIL application for community projects had been successful and £750 awarded for the AED project. The clerk informed the council that as the project had started and the equipment purchased prior to the application then that aspect was not eligible for funding, however, the grant could be part used to pay for the installation. CIL T&Cs form signed by the chairman and clerk.
- e. The Grounds maintenance contract had been amended and circulated for review; it removes the cutting of the LTPF pitch, which the football club were doing themselves and to accept the increased costs due to rising fuel prices. Amended contract was proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Rust, all agreed.
- f. The Staff salary and PAYE NJC award of 1.75%, backdated to 1 Apr 2021 was noted.

24/22 Updates on actions from previous meetings:

- a. Village Sign – Cllr Ash reported that the sign was checked and appeared to be in sound condition.
- b. The AED and training aid arrived on 25th Jan, the cabinet for the pavilion was placed in Dec with a delay in delivery anticipated. The clerk is currently obtaining quotes for installation.
- c. The Platinum Jubilee tree and guard has been planted/installed. Donations toward the project have been made by the Memorial Hall Trust (£125), the Ladies Group (£50) and latterly the Sunshine Club (£50), it was agreed to name contributing organisations on the plaque when it is ordered and installed. Cllr Rust proposed a vote of thanks to all parties for their contribution. The plaque design was agreed and it will be ordered and installed on the guard for an official unveiling to be done during the Jubilee celebrations, thought to be planned for the 3rd May (TBC).
- d. Cllr Rust reported littering and dog fouling at the LTPF and the Borough Council Enforcement officer is investigating using evidence provided. Cllr Rust also reported that there have been no further incidents in the following 10 days.
- e. Village information board – Cllr Ash is continuing to research the idea.

25/22 Traffic and Highways Issues:

- a. The clerk reported that a resident had complained about vehicles being driven across the verge at the junction of Lynn Rd and School Rd. The clerk visited the site, took photos and reported to the Police and Highways. It was suggested that bollards would be appropriate to prevent both dangerous short-cutting of the junction and anti-social behaviour (deliberately driving on the verge for no apparent reason other than to cause damage and upset). Cllr Rust proposed to proceed with the suggested 4 posts at £200 each to be installed by Highways and Cllr Long offered to support the proposal using his Members' Highways Fund.

Action: Clerk to contact Highways to confirm request and relay Cllr Long's offer to cover the cost from his members' fund.

- b. Cllr Keal reported ongoing issues with the SAM2, preventing deployment of the sign, investigations with Westcotec are in progress to resolve the issue.
- c. The school Headteacher submitted the road safety poster entries for the competition, which Cllr Keal will supply a prize for the winning entries. The other road safety matters are on-going with the road markings reported for re-marking in Oct 21 by the clerk, which will be hastened again.
- d. Obstruction of the highway at Wiggenhall St Mary the Virgin bridge by anglers attending events. This was raised as a concern with the Kings Lynn Angling Assn (KLAA) in Nov and although no response received the issue appears to have subsided with cars parking in the area suggested.

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- e. Cllr Rawlings reported that the verge at 55 Sluice Road was badly damaged and potentially hazardous. He explained that although the kerb was dropped for off-street parking in the garden of the property, that there was no metalled surface, the only one not to have been done. The NCC Highways stated the land was not theirs. Cllr Rawlings contacted Freebridge, who said they would have the driveway metalled but that it would not be until the next FY.
- f. A fallen tree was reported across FP6 at the Churchyard by Cllr Rust. It was cleared 3 days later.
- g. 3 potholes at junction of Lynn Rd/St Peters Road, reported and noted as marked for repair.
- h. Pothole at the corner of Fallowpipe Road on Lynn Rd, reported and marked for repair.

26/22 **Correspondence:** The following correspondence has been received and was circulated by email for consideration:

- a. Bowls Club members had raised the condition of the access into the car park, damaged by heavy vehicles and more use it is an unsightly approach, diminishing the image of the village and in need of consideration for a surface more suitable for the traffic. Cllrs agreed to seek advice on options from Highways and local contractors as appropriate, clerk agreed to follow up.
- b. The Church clock was reported as faulty, and Smiths of Derby carried out an investigation with the clerk asking for any repair work in excess of £500 to be notified before proceeding with repairs. An invoice for £180 was received to cover the cost of an engineer's visit and work to reset the clock after the weights had jammed the mechanism whilst grounding whilst striking.
- c. Notice was received that the planned work to create a second entrance to the Saddlebow Caravan Park was given for work starting 7 Mar 22.
- d. The clerk circulated the Parish Movement for an OTN update and no further action was required at this time.
- e. The clerk gave notice of the NALC conference and that he would not be attending and anyone wishing to attend should contact him to book a place.
- f. A survey on sports facilities in the Parish was received from the BC and completed by the clerk.

27/22 **Trod to Wighenhall St Marys proposal** – Cllr Ash reported that the request was no at the appropriate manager for a decision that will be made by the board at a meeting scheduled for the end of Apr 22.

28/22 **Leonard Towler Playing Field tree maintenance:** during the planned work a storm damaged an oak tree and leylandii on the area between the bowls club and road. The contractor was asked to quote but was not licensed for the height of the work required. The clerk sought 3 quotes but was only able to obtain 2. One of the quotes received was returned with advice that the oak was still a viable tree and that he recommended that the dead and damaged limbs in the canopy could be removed, and the canopy lifted, with the leylandii fallen branch removed for a total of £400, saving c £1100 on completely removing the tree which was initially though to be dead when requesting quotes. Cllr Ash proposed that the contract was awarded to J Caley for the work to remove dead limbs and retain the oak to see if it recovered, Cllr Blackburn seconded it and it was agreed unanimously.

Action: Clerk to award contract to J Caley to proceed in accordance with the recommended work scheme.

29/22 **Leonard Towler Playing Field sign** – Cllr Rust designed and proposed a replacement sign to go on the posts at the entrance to the Leonard Towler Playing Field, including the relevant contact info and reminders about dog fouling, litter and CCTV in operation. Cost was estimated at £50. Cllr Ash seconded the proposal, and it was voted in favour.

Action: Cllr Rust to finalise details for the sign mounting and place order with the sign maker.

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30/22 **Planning:** the following applications were circulated by email for review online, there were no further comments:

- a. Applications to consider:
 - i. 22/00177/F | Erection of new single-storey rear & side extensions and replacing the roof over previously added extension. | April Cottage Eau Brink Road Wiggshall St Germans Norfolk PE34 3DX – Supported.
 - ii. 21/01658/F | Static caravan to be permanently housed in garden, the caravan has been sited since planning consent was granted for works to the building on 15th October 2014. | Two Acres 12 Mill Road Wiggshall St Germans King's Lynn Norfolk PE34 3HL. Supported with condition of ancillary use to main residence within the garden.
- b. Decisions notified by Borough since last meeting:
 - i. 21/02279/F | Side & Rear Extensions | Willow Farm Cottage High Road Saddlebow Norfolk PE34 3AR – Permitted. Supported with condition met.
 - ii. [21/02171/F](#) | Demolition of an existing building and construction of a new detached 2-bedroom replacement dwelling | 28 St Peters Road Wiggshall St Germans Norfolk – Refused – PC supported at Nov meeting, but comment not received – 11 objections from 8 members of the public.

31/22 **Items for the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 23rd May 2022:**

The clerk reminded cllrs that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held at 7pm preceding the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, where election of Chairman and Vice Chairman will be first order of business.

The Clerk suggested that a steering group would be the best forum for the research, debate and rationalization of the myriad of ideas and measures for road safety at the school. He will draft terms of reference and asked for a cllr to volunteer to lead the group. This would facilitate a more inclusive approach with non-cllrs being able to be part of the group and remove the need for agendas and open meeting to be advertised and minuted. Cllrs Rust and Ward volunteered.

The Chairman thanks those present for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Signature:

Chairman

Date

Prepared by Mike Inder, Clerk to Wiggshall St Germans Parish Council.

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Annex A

Payments for Authorisation since last meeting.

DATE	PAYEE NAME	DETAILS	REF NO	CHEQUE NO / BACS	GROSS AMOUNT
07/02/2022	British Heart Foundation	Pavilion AED & Cabinet	103	BACS	1,759.99
24/01/2022	EE	CCTV Sim	104	DD	10.00
18/02/2022	H M R C	PAYE Mth 11	105	BACS	103.60
28/02/2022	Clerk	Salary & Expenses Feb	106	BACS	451.67
10/02/2022	Wave	PF Water bill 10072630	107	BACS	111.42
10/02/2022	Tamar Telecom	Telephone inv 1348262	108	DD	5.99
13/02/2001	Anglia Landscapes -	Jubilee Tree	109	BACS	330.00
19/02/2022	Eon	Pavilion Nov-Feb	110	BACS	119.74
24/02/2022	EE	CCTV Sim V01961535376	111	DD	10.00
07/03/2022	BC KL&WN	Dog Waste Collection BC11011624	112	BACS	691.60
09/03/2022	Medina Services	PF Tree Maintenance 1068	113	BACS	490.00
18/03/2022	H M R C	PAYE Mth 12	114	BACS	128.60
31/03/2022	Clerk	Salary, Arrears & Allowance March	115	BACS	524.47
10/03/2022	Tamar Telecom	Telephone inv 1363606	116	DD	5.99
23/03/2022	Smiths of Derby Clockmakers Ltd	Church Clock repair	117	BACS	180.00
24/02/2022	EE	CCTV Sim V01961535376	118	DD	10.00

Income Since the last meeting

31/01/2022	M. Coote	Slimming World Banner Advert	32	BACS	40.00
23/02/2022	Memorial Hall Trust	Jubilee Tree Donation	33	Chq Deposit	125.00
10/03/2022	Sunshine Club	Donation to Jubilee tree	34	Chq Deposit	50.00

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