

WIGGENHALL ST GERMAN'S PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
HELD ON MONDAY 25th JULY 2022 at 7.30PM, CONVENED IN THE MEMORIAL VILLAGE HALL.**

Present:

Parish Councillors: Cllr David Rust (Chairman), Margaret Bunkall, Margaret Blackburn, Scilla Ash, Robert Ward and David Harrison.

Parish Clerk: Mike Inder.

Borough Councillor: None

County Councillor: None.

Apologies: Cllr Rob Keal and Robert Rawlings.

Absences: Nil.

Public: 6.

49/22 **Opening & Apologies for absence:** Cllr Keal had given late notice of being delayed whilst working away. Cllr Rust stepped in to Chair the meeting and apologies as submitted above were accepted.

50/22 **Declarations of interest for items on the agenda:** Cllr Blackburn declared an interest in item 56/22.c.

51/22 **Co-option to fill a casual vacancy for a Parish Councillor:** The clerk had received 3 expressions of interest, one had given notice that personal circumstances had changed, and they could not commit at this juncture, another was still contemplating the commitment and the 3rd had not responded to the calling notice issues when the agenda was published. 2 vacancies remain but with elections in May 2023 the imperative to fill the positions is decreasing.

52/22 **To hear reports from officers:** None received.

53/22 **To hear from the public:** A member of the public asked for an update on the highway's white lines. The clerk informed him that it was on the highways routine schedule, but no date has been set. White lines near the school have been re-painted as safety priority.

The same member of the public reported that a tractor and trailer from Eaubrink Farms had collided with his property at the junction of Lynn Rd and Fitton Rd whilst avoiding an oncoming vehicle, he had witnessed the incident and spoken with the tractor driver and subsequently to his supervisor. The resident was not satisfied that any meaningful action would be put in place to improve driving standards and asked the Council to consider putting forward an idea of a priority system in favour of the Fitton Rd direction to make drivers slow and be prepared to give way, furthermore, it would make a clear basis of fault should another incident occur. He was asked if the matter had been reported to Police, and replied that it wasn't on this occasion as numerous previous reports of similar accidents had failed to be dealt with by the Police. The clerk encouraged all incidents to be reported as it at least provided the numbers to add weight to future requests for action. The clerk will put the proposal to the Highways Engineer at the next opportunity.

Representatives of Cambridge Power were present to respond to any questions from cllrs and public for the Planning Application at item 61/22.a.i.

A representative of the Ouse Amateur Sailing Club, who had submitted an objection to the application, based on the noise survey and mitigation not taking into account the club being on the NW boundary of the proposed Battery Energy Storage Site. The data provided could be

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extrapolated and whilst thought to be unlikely to be of a level to adversely affect the enjoyment of the amenity it was suggested that a survey was carried out for completeness and to eliminate doubt. The Cambridge Power rep offered to take that matter back to the company for consideration.

A member of the public raised concerns regarding the reports of numerous serious fires around the world on BESS. The Cambridge Power rep responded that whilst there had been incidents, there was only one significant fire that he was aware of in the UK and that lessons from those fires have been learned; chemical structure of batteries has been developed and are more stable, fire prevention and mitigation has been improved and emergency procedures well established. The Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service have been invited as a consultee and are still to comment. Cllr Ash raised a concern based on recent wildfires and that although the site may have relevant internal fire prevention and mitigation in place that the location of some equipment close to boundaries and the choice of trees and hedges on the boundary may, in light of recent events, require a look at this issue from another perspective with fire breaks designed in to protect the site from wildfires.

The lack of comprehensive support from the Gas Network, with the requirement to protect their assets adjacent to the site was of concern to cllrs and they were not content to fully support without that matter being resolved.

Flooding was discussed and it was agreed that the site's location in a level 3 area was mitigated for by the EA defences system and that the location close to a power station distribution hub was essential.

Cllr Rust proposed to support the application with conditions that the OASC noise survey is considered, and the gas assets protection satisfy the relevant agencies. Cllr Ash proposed an amendment to set a condition that fire breaks to protect the site from external wildfires are included in the site design. The proposal with amendment was seconded by Cllr Harrison and cllrs voted in favour.

54/22 **Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd May 2022:** Having been previously circulated, the minutes were proposed by Cllr Ash, seconded by Cllr Blackburn, and agreed as a true reflection of the meeting and the minutes. The minutes were signed by the chairman.

55/22 **Finance:**

- a. Authorisation of payments: 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.

56/22 **Updates on actions from previous meetings:**

- a. Update on AED training – planned for the 30th June and widely advertised across all media and notice boards. There was only 1 volunteer by the 29th June so it had to be cancelled. The offer of training in future remains open. This was a surprising lack of interest given the insistence from some residents for such training to be provided.
- b. Platinum Jubilee Tree project: The dedication ceremony went to plan, and the plaque has been installed inside the tree guard to protect it, it was decided to leave it like that for the time being. Cllr Ash has been watering the tree and Cllr Rust offered to share the watering over the summer and will co-ordinate with Cllr Ash.
- c. Update on tree work for storm damage at the LTPF, Cllr Rust reported that the work was now complete. In addition, as he and the clerk were coincidentally carrying out a site survey for parking when the contractor was on site, the opportunity arose to discuss with him the best way to clear more of the area for parking. Mr Caley offered some options to lift the canopy of the surrounding trees to 3m, reduce the width of the conifer hedge row and remove the suckers. The subsequent quote was received for £300. Cllr Rust proposed that this work was accepted and

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given the recent experience with J. Caley and the sum involved it represented value for money and a quick win. The issue of a Network Power pole stay wire that is in the entrance way was discussed, the complexities and time to obtain a quote to relocate the wire were deemed excessive for the level of risk involved in not moving it and a simpler post to protect and highlight it was proposed. The project to identify more parking also included re-profiling of the fence and gate at the entrance to the main car park. Cllr Rust had presented and circulated a proposal and invited quoted from 4 interested contractors. Only one contractor provided a quote subsequently. Caley Farms and Highways were consulted, and they were supportive, and highways provided technical information and a utilities survey.

Cllr Rust made a 3-part proposal:

- To carry out the overflow car park tree work using J Caley at £300.
- To highlight and protect the stay wire in the short term and re-assess the need to relocate it once the car park is in use. Cllr Blackburn (whilst declaring an interest) proposed an amendment that it should be bowls club members that use that car park as they are familiar with the entrance limitations.
- The main car park fence is reprofiled as per the plan provided by Cllr Rust and the quote received from Steve Winter (who coincidentally installed the original fence) for £850 be accepted.

Cllr Ash seconded the motion and Council resolved to carry out the full proposal as set out with funding agreed by way of a virement from the contingency reserve.

- d. To hear report and decide on action in response to item 48/22.a. Mill Rd conifers blocking light. Cllr Rust and the clerk viewed the location on a sunny morning, the garden and property were in full sun apart from a narrow strip of garden immediately beneath the trees. It appeared unlikely that the trees would excessively block out light from the property through the day and that the trees causing the most shade were on the resident's boundary and not owned by the PC. No further action deemed necessary.
- e. An update on Public Transport Survey was provided by the clerk. There was 1 online and 8 paper returns, 2 of the returns did not support changes as they would not be using public transport regardless. The other reports were in support and offered a myriad of additional ideas and suggestions. However, given that 600 households were provided with the survey delivered in the Newsletter and it was available on Google Forms for completion on mobile phone or electronic devices publicised on local social media platforms, that just 9 responses did not provide the Council with the compelling argument to take to the service providers nor BC/NCC to evidence any proposed changes. Matter closed.

57/22 **Traffic and Highways Issues:**

- a. The clerk reported that Highways have acquired the posts and asked the contractor to schedule the installation on the corner of Lynn Rd/School Rd.
- b. Cllr Keal reported earlier in June that the SAM2 had been repaired by Westcotec and deployed on the School Road site. The data had been analysed by the clerk and is available on the PC website, a more expansive report was provided to the Road Safety Steering Group. It was of note that the quantity of vehicles was only c.10% of data collected prior to the closure of Eaubrink, this came as surprise and the data at the next site will be scrutinised for consistency to ensure there isn't a fault. SAM2 will be deployed at the school at the beginning of September to provide the speed awareness signalling and data collection at the start of the new school year.
- c. Reported drainage issue near 2 Fitton Road (previously noted erroneously as Lynn Rd). The clerk reported that he had discussed the topic with the Highways Engineer and that they would assess the issue when wet weather allows it to be seen. It is evident that there are no drains in the area highlighted and the resident who originally brought the matter to Council was asked if he could obtain and submit photos next time there was standing water to assist investigation, he agreed.
- d. Cllr Rust provided a report on the work of the Road Safety Steering Group; the proposed change of priorities at the Sluice/School Rd junction was refused by NCC as they assessed it as possibly

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inducing an alternative pedestrian risk. NCC had also stated that a mandatory 20mph zone was not supported due to the location of the school so close to the 30mph zone boundary. The pupil's designed signs are now in place and road lines repainted. The SAM2 has been deployed to act as speed warning and record data. That concludes the 'quick wins' and Cllr Rust had circulated an options paper with the installation of 'Wig-Wag' 20 mph advisory signs, these could be located on existing posts on Sluice Road and School Rd where a power feed was available for the flashing lights. Grant funding to 50% is available for the Wig-Wags through the NCC Parish Partnership Scheme (PPS) but they would only consider supporting items supplied by their approved supplier Westcotec. Whilst Westcotec were more expensive than other suppliers of similar items the difference is not significant at £1529 each. A 3rd Wig-Wag sign could be installed on Eaubrink Rd but that would need a new post and have to be solar powered, that was seen at this juncture to be excessively expensive in excess of £3,300. White Gates at entrances to the village were proposed as a longer-term phased project, their cost being significant at a £1800 for supply and installation of each set of 2, although PPS is also applicable to them.

Cllrs debated the cost of items and the delay imposed by waiting for the round of the PPS, funding not being available until the April following closing date for applications in November. However, given the stepped approach and series of measures put in place so far which should also include the road safety education that the school provides, then consensus moved toward accepting the delay to access PPS funding which would make the precept stretch further to include future elements of the options the Road Safety Steering Group developed. Cllr Rust proposed the purchase and installation of 2 powered wig wag 20mph advisory signs from Westcotec with 50% funding from the PPS grant, he will develop the options and PPS application and put the proposal to Council for a resolution at the next meeting.

58/22 **Correspondence:** The following correspondence has been received and was circulated by email for consideration:

- a. Pandemic plaque installation. Council agreed that inside the Memorial Hall would be the best location, Cllr Ash offered to inform the MH Ctte and Cllr Ward offered to install it.
- b. CIL FY22_1/070 grant has been received for the AED installation; matter closed.
- c. Email from resident re Fitton Rd/School Rd junction. Response provided signposting the resident to the minutes and previous decisions.
- d. Enquiry for permission for AFC Lynn to host Car Boot Sale on LTPF - agreed.
- e. Enquiries (x2) regarding application for Co-option as PC Cllr. No further action.
- f. CIL 22_2 reminder. Forwarded to MH Ctte with offer of support from the clerk.
- g. Report from Church Warden of clock chime issues post servicing. No further update.
- h. Grass cutting of the area around the flagpole. The grass is contracted for 6 cuts a year by the BC between Mar-Oct, if this is being missed then inform the clerk.
- i. Report of FP6 being reported to NCC as overgrown. Cllr Rust reported that it was still overgrown.
- j. OTN updates, forwarded for opportunity to comment on survey. No further comment.
- k. Temporary Events Notice reference number 22/00706/LA_TEN received for info.
- l. LTPF AED cabinet reported as found open. It had not been secured following monthly inspection; it will be adjusted to close more easily next time.
- m. Notice from Tamar Telecom that the contract price will rise 25p (5%) from 1 Aug 22.
- n. Review of Non-Domestic Rates (LTPF Pavilion). Return submitted by the clerk to confirm circumstances still justify 100% relief.
- o. Flower Arrangement for Church. Vote of thanks for Cllr Ash for arranging for a PC arrangement to be supplied for £50.
- p. Police SNT – Request for comments on SNAP meeting arrangements, online v F2F, Cllrs stated Face to Face was preferred. Clerk to give feedback to Police.

59/22 **Trod to Wighenhall St Marys proposal** – Cllr Ash reported that a notice of the proposed permissive path has been erected, providing an opportunity to comment.

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- 60/22 Newsletter update: the last round of distribution was completed by cllrs and feedback on any issues noted.

- 61/22 **Planning:** the following applications were circulated by email for review online, there were no further comments:
 - a. Applications to consider:
 - i. [22/01151/FM](#) | Installation of a Battery Energy Storage (BESS) comprising; self-contained battery modules on skids; transformers; Power Conversion Systems Modules; Control Building; electrical connection compound including substation; control and storage containers; underground cables and conduits; access track; security fence; acoustic fence; temporary construction compound and associated infrastructure; bund and planting scheme | Land NW of High Road Saddlebow Norfolk. Considered during the public forum as detailed in item 53/22. PC Supports with conditions that a noise survey is considered at the Ouse Amateur Sailing Club, that the gas assets protection satisfy the relevant agencies and that fire breaks to protect the site from external wildfires are considered with advice from Norfolk Fire and Rescue and included in the site design as appropriate.
 - b. Decisions notified by Borough since last meeting:
 - i. 21/01658/F | Static caravan to be permanently housed in garden | Two Acres 12 Mill Road Wiggenhall St Germans King's Lynn Norfolk PE34 3HL. Supported with condition of ancillary use to main residence within the garden. Refused.
 - ii. [21/00758/F](#) | Detached one bedroom annex, including domestic workshop and therapy room for home business | 50 Fitton Road Wiggenhall St Germans King's Lynn Norfolk PE34 3AX. Permitted – PC Supported.
 - iii. [21/02433/F](#) | First-floor side extension to dwelling and conversion of garage to garden room | 6 Lewis Drive Wiggenhall St Germans King's Lynn Norfolk PE34 3FB – Permitted – PC nil comment, Nil CIL.

- 62/22 **Items for the agenda of the next meeting of the Parish Council to be held on 26th Sep 2022:**
 - a. Members’ Allowance, the clerk briefed council on the Borough Council recommendations and explained he had received clarification on a controversial aspect but withheld it from this agenda due to the time constraints to do justice to the proposal.
 - b. Cllr Ash asked for assistance in hastening replacement of street name signs by the BC.

The Chairman thanks those present for their contributions and closed the meeting at 10pm

Signature:

Chairman

Date

Prepared by Mike Inder, Clerk to Wiggenhall 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
20/05/2022	Minuteman Press	Newsletter printing 36040	19	BACS	312.00
26/05/2022	E-On Next	Pavilion Electricity 46741985	20	BACS	60.65
23/05/2022	EE	CCTV Sim V01990683375	21	DD	10.92
07/06/2022	PJ&B Jones Ltd	Grass cutting SI-622	22	BACS	342.00
10/06/2022	Tamar Telecommunications	Virtual Phone Inv 3645423	23	DD	5.99
18/06/2022	HMRC	PAYE Mth 3	24	BACS	107.80
30/06/2022	M Inder	Salary & Expenses Mth 3	25	BACS	459.65
21/06/2022	Evry Electrical	AED Installation inv 1303	26	BACS	179.11
21/06/2022	Westcotec	SAM2 Repairs inv 13648	27	BACS	1,123.80
21/06/2022	Caley Forestry	LPTF Storm Damage rectification	28	BACS	400.00
27/06/2022	BHIB Ltd	Insurance LCO02114-642926	29	BACS	837.85
24/06/2022	E-On Next	Pavilion Electricity57008692	30	BACS	21.39
15/06/2022	EE	CCTV Sim V02000565538	31	DD	10.92
01/07/2022	PJ&B Jones Ltd	Grass cutting SI-639	32	BACS	240.00
18/07/2022	HMRC	PAYE Mth 4	33	BACS	107.80
29/07/2022	M Inder	Salary & Expenses Mth 4	34	BACS	441.65
10/07/2022	Tamar Telecommunications	Virtual Phone Inv 3659743	35	DD	5.99
11/07/2022	IDB	Drainage Rates	36	BACS	75.24
06/07/2022	NPower	Streetlighting Electric - 20300829	37	BACS	367.32

Income Since the last meeting

23/05/2022	Bowls Club	Donation to LTPF AED	4	Chq 109576	100.00
31/05/2022	BC KL&WN	CIL Grant for AED FY22 1/070	5	BACS	179.11
02/07/2022	LBR Landscaping	Newsletter Advertising inv 3	6	Chq002508	40.00
27/06/2022	Action it electric	Newsletter Advertising inv 10	7	BACS	20.00
28/06/2022	Thornalley	Newsletter Advertising inv 7	8	BACS	20.00
30/06/2022	Doubleday	Newsletter Advertising inv6	9	BACS	20.00
05/07/2022	Build Right & Claire's Cleaning	Newsletter Advertising inv8	10	Chq	40.00
11/07/2022	MCG Footcare	Newsletter Advertising inv15	11	BACS	40.00

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