

WILBY VILLAGE
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY 16TH MAY 2022 IN WILBY PARISH CHURCH

PRESENT: Cllr S Borrett (chair); Cllrs G Thompson, M Harland, S Hodges, I Stroud; NNC Cllr S Brown
Also present was 1 member of the public and the PC Clerk (Mrs V Smith)

1. Apologies

Apologies received from WPC Cllr P Stevenson, NNC Cllrs Lawman and Hallam

2. Approval of minutes from meeting 26th May 2021:

The minutes of this meeting and from 17th May 2021 were approved as accurate records

3. Chairman's Report

The pandemic caused the 2020 meeting to be cancelled whilst the Parish Council continued to meet throughout by using remote technology via Zoom. The cost was more or less offset by savings in the need to hire a meeting room.

This time last year Covid restrictions continued and the Annual Meeting was offered as a Zoom option.

At the same time last year, the legal authority to hold Council meetings remotely lapsed and the Parish Council had to begin physical meetings again which started in July in the Church where we have continued to meet as the space available is considered very acceptable providing plenty of space to keep safely apart. The School Hall was unavailable in view of the need for deep cleaning after use and complications over keyholder availability. The Council now provides the Church with a donation of £25 per meeting towards any costs incurred through our use.

The conversion of individual streetlight to LED upon failure has continued despite some logistical issues with suppliers. The energy savings are significant and we have been able to agree reduced supply charges following a detailed audit process.

The fixed speed camera on Main Road approaching from Earls Barton was installed in 2019 and has been invaluable in keeping motorists aware of their speed upon entering the village. Vehicle numbers and speeds are recorded in both directions and these are downloaded monthly providing opportunity for further analysis.

A new Parish Council was elected in May 2021 and we were delighted to welcome some new members following the retirement of several long standing Councillors. There was no election but we do now have a full complement of seven with no co-options required.

We are now working with the new Unitary North Northamptonshire Council and have been delighted with these new arrangements. Our Unitary Councillors are very supportive and are regular attendees at our meetings which is proving very helpful.

A particular success achieved as a result of close working with the new Council, has been the changes on Mears Ashby Road to increase awareness of the School and to encourage slower speeds. This work is still ongoing and we are awaiting the outcome of a request to add double yellow lines on Mears Ashby Road near the junction with Church Lane. A decision is expected later this year.

It is with regret that the Parish Council has found it necessary to increase the modest village Precept this year following a number of years holding this down. Whilst not very large numerically, it is a high percentage increase as we operate on such a low budget. The charge for this year has been set at £12,600 and enables us to continue with the streetlight upgrades as these become necessary. We also face more and more statutory requirements which all come at a cost.

Finally, I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to our Clerk and Councillors for the hard work that they have put in to ensure we operate successfully despite all the challenges we have faced.

4. Open Forum

In response to questions from the public the chairman clarified ownership and data recording relating to the speed signs, both fixed and mobile, located in the village.

5. Chairman's Closing Remarks

There being no further matters, attendees were thanked for their time and confirmed the meeting closed.

Meeting closed at 7.45pm