

Wacton Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall on
Wednesday 3rd May 2017**

Present: -

**Chairman Tony Rowson, Councillors Calvin Goreham, Rene Rowson, Peter Jacques
and District Councillor Des Fulcher, Parish Clerk Alan Arber**

10 members of the public also attended.

1. To elect a chairman and vice chairman and to sign the declaration of acceptance of office and agreement to abide by the code of conduct.

Tony Rowson was proposed as Chairman by Calvin Goreham and seconded by Peter Jacques. **All Agreed so duly voted in and declaration was signed and witnessed by the clerk**

Calvin Goreham was proposed as Vice Chairman by Tony Rowson and seconded by Rene Rowson **All Agreed so duly voted in and declaration was signed and witnessed by the clerk**

2. To Vote on the employment of Alan Arber as Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer for Wacton Parish Councillor.

The Chairman Tony Rowson introduced Alan to the meeting and asked for a vote to be taken on Alan's employment as Parish Clerk and RFO. A vote was taken and all agreed so Alan took his place as Parish Clerk at the meeting.

3. To consider apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Councillor Rita Day for personal reasons and Alison Thomas as she is in Purdah.

4. To receive any declarations of interest in items on the agenda:

District Councillor Des Fulcher declared an interest on the fireworks display in Wacton in November.

5. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th April 2017

There was one small change on the minutes on item 8 as Jody Thurston title should have been Public Rights of Way officer. This was duly amended and the minutes signed as a true record of the meeting.

6. To consider matters arising from the last minutes (for information only):

A parishioner commented on item 11 but the chairman commented it would be dealt with under item 13 on the current agenda..

7. To receive reports from the District Councillors:

Des Fulcher commented that a bizarre letter had been received by a district councillor and that the letter was unsigned and very defamatory and he passed it onto the full council. He then reported that the Governance review was progressing and SNDC was looking into their position on this. He then reported that he was interested in the Tri-council idea being suggested by Wacton PC involving Wacton PC, Tharston and Hapton PC and Long Stratton PC but he felt this may be held back due to the resignation of both the chairman and clerk at Long Stratton PC. Long Stratton leisure centre is getting over £2 million pounds of investment spent on it and he is awaiting a detailed plan on how this would be done especially involving the swimming pool but this was the domain of SNDC and Leisure services. A discussion then ensued regarding this and the parishioners were encouraged to put pressure on SNDC to ensure the best decision was reached. The district councillor commented he would report back to the meeting once he had the necessary information. Finally the district councillor commented on the changes to the grants process as he was on the scrutiny committee which would be undertaking this process. Again a discussion ensued on this item with councillors and parishioners asking for verification on how this would work in the future. Again the councillor commented he would report back once he had more information.

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor:

There was no report as the County Councillor is in Purdah.

9. To receive a report from the Footpath Warden:

The report had been circulated to all councillors electronically. Footpath warden Christine Goreham then made comment regarding the willows on FP12 and FP13 and that she had spoken to the landowners and that no decision on this had been made yet but they would be sending someone to look at the Footpath to see what is needed.

10. To receive a report from the Tree Warden:

Peter Jacques gave his detailed report and that he had attended the Tree warden AGM and that many people from different organisations had been in attendance. There had been a presentation on Pollarding and that trees benefit from this process. Peter also reported that Ash die-back had the potential to be catastrophic and that steps needed to be taken to stop this.

11. To receive reports from the Village Hall:

The village hall AGM would be held on 22nd May and that the cherry tree on the front of the village hall had been cut back which enhanced the look of the front of the hall and that the disabled car parking area had been tidied up and looked good.

12. To consider Planning Applications:

Planning application 2017/0643 ref 2 village green car parking spaces that costings were being looked at.

13. Correspondence

a. Email from District Councillor Kevin Worsley re Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan.

The chairman reported that he had received a letter from District Councillor Kevin Worsley on the issue of the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan and his invitation for the councillor to attend the upcoming Annual Parish Meeting to show the people of Wacton the plans. Unfortunately this invitation has been declined by the district councillors.

b. Email ref the upkeep of the telephone box

The chairman had contacted BT on this and they have agreed to come and look at it to see what is wrong and put it right

14. Authorization of Cheques.

2 cheques were authorized as follows

R Moss for the use of his tractor on the woodland project	£166.97
C Squires for the preparation of the year end accounts	£380.00

Both cheques agreed and signed as detailed on the accounts.

a. To receive the accounts for the year end 31st march 2017

The clerk took the meeting through the year end accounts and the package prepared by Caroline Squires on behalf of the council and recommended that they were accepted as well as thanking Caroline for her assistance in preparing these so thoroughly. **Proposed Tony Rowson, Seconded Calvin Goreham All Agreed**

b. To appoint an internal auditor

The Chair reported that Local Council Public advisory Service are willing to do the Parish Council Internal Audit.

Proposed Calvin Goreham, Seconded Paul Muston All agreed

Clerk to contact LCPAS to arrange ASAP

c. To Vote on £1000 from PC Funds to go to the Woodland Project

This was proposed by Calvin Goreham, Seconded Rene Rowson all agreed

15. To Receive a Financial Statement for April 2017

The clerk too the council through the financial statement and reported that the council was in a sound financial shape with the precept payment and a small Community infrastructure levy payment received. The council currently have a balance of £22,343 over both accounts.

16. To receive reports and discuss any on-going matters: -

a. The Woodland Project Review:

Peter Jacques took the meeting through the project and the following status

Phase 1 is complete and they will be using tape to mark the footpath

Phase 2 starts this month which will include paths marking with logs and to work with the dead hedges.

Phase 3 will start in the autumn with the autumn planting.

Paul Muston then reported on the funding opportunities for the project and that around £2000 was needed. Paul was looking at various funding avenues and would work with the clerk on this in the future but going forward the funding opportunities that were available were very encouraging. Chairman Tony Rowson then commented that he had purchased 110 logs for the project at a reduced cost and that with the grant of £1000 that this would be enough to carry on and that the cost of the digger for 2 days may be a little high but the work will be completed with this is 10 days. He also made reference to his thoughts for 2 bridges not one on the project.

b. Wacton Annual Village Meeting

It was reported that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place on Wednesday 10th May at Wacton Village hall at 7.30pm with a display available for all residents to see regarding the Long Stratton Area plan.

c. To report and discuss the housing development in South Norfolk and its affect on Wacton

The chair put forward the need to get this item out to the wider area and the need to get as many people as possible to reject the plans put forward. He then asked for the councils permission to act on their behalf or as an individual to object to Long Stratton parish Council on the projections coming forward. The chair then took the meeting through what had happened at a recent Parish Council meeting at Bracon Ash Parish Council when all the residents in attendance had made a stand on a proposal and it was then subsequently deferred due to their actions. A parishioner then read out a paragraph from the original Long Stratton parish Plan

document regarding the infrastructure issues then many years ago still not being resolved now.

d. To discuss the multi-Council arrangement with Long Stratton Parish Council and Tharston and Hapton Parish Council

The chair introduced Nick Potter and David Gunton to the meeting from Tharston and Hapton parish Council who addressed the meeting regarding the plans to set up a tri-council between the three councils. Nick Potter commented that with the new Governance Review due to end soon by setting up this tri-council it would allow us a golden opportunity for change. The date for the end of the governance review was 12th June but it may be extended by a month. It was also felt that after setting up the tri-council it would be good to have a second consultation with other neighbouring parishes for their inclusion. David Gunton remarked that he had drawn up a document regarding the plans for the tri-council but it was not a legal document just a framework document to start working on. It was thought that would be the right time to get this moving forward as the chair of Long Stratton Parish Council had stood down. A letter from the Long Stratton Neighbourhood Plan Chairman Kevin Worsley was read out. Finally it was agreed to take a vote on the Tri-Council proposal. **Proposed Calvin Goreham, Seconded Rene Rowson. All agreed.**

e. To discuss the cost of fencing in the play area

Permission was sought by the chair to put a fence around the children's play area due to issues of defecation by dogs and other problems. It was agreed to put £1000 aside for this project. The social club then commented that they would match fund what the PC put in and were duly thanked for this. **Proposed Tony Rowson Seconded Paul Muston all agreed.** The chair then commented that he had purchased 110 posts at £1 a post.

17. To appoint a member to take charge of the speed sign

The Clerk commented that these are great tools to use and that the data that comes from the machines are great to get to the police regarding the issue we have in the village. Paul Muston came forward to take this on with help from others and the clerk.

18. To appoint a member to become the children's play area inspector.

The chair commented that it was a legal requirement through our insurance that this is done every week and that the reports are handed to the clerk. Paul Muston again offered to take this on with help from a friend.

19. Matters raise by councillors and members of the public. (for information only)

Paul Muston asked for assistance in learning how to upload information onto the website as does the clerk. **Calvin Goreham to arrange**

The activities at Wash field Lodge on the corner of Hall Lane and Wash lane were then brought up and an email from SNDC enforcement officer Mr Brown was read out commenting that no further action would be taken as he had found all issues to be okay and legal.

The signs on Wacton Common was then discussed as lots have appeared and the chair had phoned the trustees of the common to discuss this issue.. An email from the trustees was then read out by Rene Rowson. The PC agreed to work with the trustees in the future to ensure the common is kept in the way it should be

20. Items for the next agenda:.

- a. Tri -Council meetings**
- b. Governance Review**

Date of next Meeting: - Wednesday 7th June 2017 at 7.00pm