

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall on Wednesday 13th September 2017

Present: -

Chairman Tony Rowson, Councillors Calvin Goreham, Rene Rowson, Peter Jacques, Rita Day, Paul Muston, Ian Mortimer, County Councillor Alison Thomas,

District Councillor Des Fulcher arrived late.

9 members of the public also attended.

1. To consider apologies for absence:

Apologies received from Councillor Rita Day personal reasons and Clerk Alan Arber as on leave all agreed to accept.

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

None

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July and 19th July 2017.

Two amendments were required on item 1 and item 7 of the meeting 5th July 2017 and both were amended. The minutes were duly signed as a true record of both meetings.

Proposed Rene Rowson, Seconded Calvin Goreham, all agreed.

4. To Confirm the Employment of the new Parish Clerk Alan Arber.

Confirmed by all and included in the minutes.

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

None

6. To receive reports from the District Councillors:

Des Fulcher, District Councillor arrived late and offered his apologies. **Apologies accepted.**

Des reported a very important meeting scheduled for 26th September at SNDC and encouraged everyone to attend as it would affect all the surrounding parishes. He was then asked a question on the rubbish collections as it seems some days were being missed. Des commented he would look into this and see if the new schedule was up and running. Des was asked if he knew who looked after the re-cycling bins at the co-op as they had not been emptied for two months. Des commented he would contact the Long Stratton Clerk on the matter. Finally, he was asked of the plans of SNDC and Broadland DC to merge offices for which he replied it is in its very early stage and no final decision had been taken

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor:

Alison reported that the new Director of Children's services was Sara Tuff and that the Ofsted inspection was imminent and would be a full inspection. Alison also reported that she had a parish highway budget of £6,000 a year to be spent on small Highways projects but this would be split between her 11 parish councils. Alison commented that if we had a small scheme to let her know ASAP as she wanted to spend it and not lose it. Small items like footpath repairs, line painting etc. would come into the scheme which is things outside general highways remit. Tony Rowson asked if the 2 parking spaces for the village green would come under this scheme (approx £1000). Alison asked for the details to be emailed to her ASAP. Alison then commented that she had presented many certificates for the poems/writing scheme recently which she was very pleased to do. Alison then reminded everyone on the upcoming Long Stratton Bypass exhibition in October and the meeting at South Norfolk Council on the 26th September. The council was facing some financial difficulties and may cut down on the number of buildings to one hub but this does not mean a cut in services. The SNDC leader was going to 2 road shows to hear what the public think and get feedback.

A parishioner then asked on the subject of common road and who had responsibility to keep it cut back? was it the councils? Alison replied they do not have the budget to do it. The Chair replied that Richard Moss cut it back 6 weeks ago and if there is money in the budget the PC would do it. Peter Jacques then commented that Norfolk wildlife do cut one side as they have rare plants to look after but if the funding had ceased? who will do it in the future? Finally, it was asked if we could self-cut? Alison commented she would speak to highways and email the Clerk back on this subject.

8. To receive a report from the Footpath Warden:

The detailed report had been circulated electronically to all Councillors by footpath warden Christine Goreham. Most paths were in good order although we are awaiting a full report on FP18 as this belongs to 3 landowners and highways but Jodie Thurston was on the case.

A few issues were then brought up as follows.

Earthenware Lane Needs help due to the dumping of an old chicken coop, trees that have been cut down and not tidied up and wear and tear from horses using the lane.

Gaps in the fencing was also mentioned as you can see a double decker bus through it and its very scruffy and full of weeds.

Peter Jacques will look at this as it needs planting.

Black's Lane sign is in poor condition.

Hayton's Lane. The brambles had been cleared

Easton's Lane. Cultivated field had been turned back to wheat and the footpath not put back yet but would be rectified soon.

Sallow Lane. Signpost is rotten at the top of Sallow Lane and needs looking at. Highways are responsible for this.

9. To Receive a report from the Tree warden:

Peter Jacques reported that there was no wind damage to the trees and that regarding the hedge on Stratton road the police have spoken to the contractor on the issue and have left it at that. Jim Squires is in communication with Peter on this.

10. To Discuss Angmering estates and the signs on the common

The new signs had received 14 objections plus 2 more emails and was now going to planning. Many discussions ensued on the issue of parking on the common and it was asked if we could use the Sextons Wheel to inform people not to park on the common. The Chair commented that there was a conflict of information issue on this problem. A member of the public commented that they do not want parking on the green as it is a right of way to walk and that cattle sometimes damage cars which is why most people do not park on the common. The issue of the size of the signs was then discussed and the Parish Council commented they do not object to the signs just the size. A member of the public commented that the signs do need to be big to keep the public informed and that they had not ordered the signs and had no control over the size or colour. The chair was asked if he had or does park on the common? Many views were expressed in detail. The chair then made comment that the gate still needs to be re-hung as it does not close properly being too heavy. He has also had received complaints on this matter and commented that we do not want the cattle escaping.

11. To receive a report from the Village Hall committee

Calvin Goreham commented there was nothing to report from the village hall committee. Peter Jacques then commented there is a window to make repairs and clear the stream under the car park. Although residents were informed of the dates it was agreed by all that Peter would work with the clerk to ensure a suitable reminder note was sent out. It was then commented that the parish council could use the Rangers for this work particularly in the difficult locations. It was then agreed that Peter Jacques would contact the Environment Agency to ask for assistance in this matter.

12. To consider Planning Applications:

The chair mentioned that the local planning application for the 'High Mast' had been passed. The Mast was to provide 4G phone signals to the local area.

13. To discuss Brett's manor Planning Application.

It was reported to the meeting that the planning application had been agreed in principle and that John Shave needed to re-apply and also seek the permission of the Parish Council. A parishioner made comment that the original paperwork was in the office on this issue and that precedents had been set with the original file in the filing cabinet. Things needed to move quickly as there was only a small window on this subject. Comments were then made on the subject of Taylor's Field and it was reported the documents were in the hands of Lawyers waiting to exchange contracts to purchase the land. It was felt an extra PC meeting would be needed on this to discuss the options.

14. Correspondence.

No correspondence received.

15. To receive and adopt the Annual Return.

The annual return was discussed and all agreed to adopt. The Chair duly signed. Thanks, were given to both Caroline Squires and Clerk to the Council Alan Arber for their work on this.

16. Authorisation of Cheques.

Cheques were authorised as follows:

Mazars LLP for Annual return	£150.00
Parish Clerk salary and expenses	£352.63
TOPS garden Service	£580.00

Cheques agreed and signed and detailed on the accounts.

17. To receive a financial statement for August 2017

It was agreed that the statement would be adopted by the council.

18. To discuss the Governance Review

Wacton not affected.

19. To receive a report from the special meeting held at Wacton on the 24th August

It was reported that there had been a good response and feedback from other Parish Councils. Everyone was urged to attend the special meeting on the 26th September at SNDC. Paul, Tony and Calvin would be attending with Paul being the spokesperson for Wacton Parish Council. It was agreed that Ian would send out an email on this subject. The District Councillor was asked if members of the public could attend? He reported that he believed they could and hoped that there would be constructive criticism as well as good comments at the meeting. A Parishioner asked if the parish council could erect a sign stating no dogs allowed in the play area and it was agreed that the chair would look at this. It was also agreed to put a padlock on the double gates of the play area.

20. To discuss the children's play area

It was reported that the gates to the play area were being left open and self-closures were needed on the gates and the rubbish bin needed securing. It was also agreed that the double gates would be padlocked.

21. To discuss Parish speed watch Group

Councillor Rene Rowson addressed the meeting with her disappointment that the response to this was very poor. We only had 5 members and it needed 6 to run properly. Mark agreed to join the scheme making it 6. Comments were then made regarding children playing chicken in the road in front of cars, they had been spoken to but their identities were not known. A check of the school bus may help it was decided.

22. To discuss the phone line outside the village hall

Calvin reported that the phone line would be for 999 calls only.

23. To discuss the Silver Sunday afternoon and grant application.

Deferred to the next meeting

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

a. The Woodland Project Review:

Peter Jacques reported that new funding had been agreed with the Lions Club in Long Stratton and after a short meeting they had agreed to sponsor the project with a donation of £1,200. A letter of thanks would be sent by the Chairman. Planting of wild flowers is being looked at and trade prices are being given by British Wild flowers at present. Peter agreed to investigate. A new list of priorities had been drawn up as follows:

1. Log piles/ Hedges.
2. Glade preparation with help from Long Stratton School and the Sea Cadets.
3. Complete bridges and pathways
4. Hand Rails to be put on ASAP
5. Concrete or crushed rubble to be laid (mark has lots we can use or crushed rubble £10 per ton plus delivery from Hempnall)

Finally, Peter to look at the possible different surfaces to enable disabled access and visit Fair haven gardens to get ideas on all aspects of the scheme.

25. Matters raised by councillors and members of the public (for information only)

A member of the public asked when the pond was going to be fenced in for the safety of the children? It was agreed this was a point for discussion at the next meeting. Long Stratton PC had asked to borrow the SAM machine but the request was declined as the SAM machine is only insured for use in Wacton. The help hub

had contacted the council to offer their services and will email all the details to the chair. The grass cutting outside J Johnson house was reported and it was asked if the PC could put money aside for this and to replace 8 metres of hedge and 1 tree at Victoria cottage. Chair to visit house owner and to ask him to replace plants. It was then reported that the telegraph pole was listing badly. Open-reach to be contacted on this matter. Des Fulcher was thanked for his regular attendance at Parish meetings and the question was raised as to why Kevin Worsley did not attend? The chair replied he had spoken to Kevin on this issue. R Moss had brought a full-size children's see saw and had offered to sell it to the Pc for £100 and this to be discussed at the next meeting. The issue of the grass cutting was again brought up and it was agreed due to the number of complaints to dismiss the current contractor and the chair to contact a new contractor ASAP.

Items for the next agenda:

Date of Next Meeting: - 4th October 2017