

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held in Wacton Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd November 2016.

Present: - Chairman Tony Rowson, Councillors Calvin Goreham, Gary Mulhall, Peter Jacques, Rita Day and Rene Rowson, County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Kevin Worsley. Also present were 6 members of the public.

1. To consider apologies for absence: -

District Councillor Des Fulcher - personal reasons.

2. To receive any disclosures of interest: -

None received.

3. To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 5th October 2016 : -

Minutes were approved and signed without amendment.

4. To co-opt a new councillor:-

Paul Muston had submitted his application. **All councillors were in favour to co-opt Paul as a new councillor.**

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

No matters arose from the last minutes.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillors: -

Chairman Tony Rowson reported that he had received a message from District Councillor Des Fulcher stating that he has resigned as a parish councillor for Long Stratton Parish Council.

District Councillor Kevin Worsley reported that an iPad Mini could be won when customers sign up and to receive their annual council tax bill by email, the prize draw is open to everyone who signs up before Monday 12th December 2016. For more details visit south-norfolk.gov.uk/ebilling-competition or sbessey@south-norfolk.gov.uk

Kevin also reported that regarding 3G pitch in Long Stratton, Steve Goddard (Head of leisure services) is taking bookings for small sided football games once the pitches are completed. Bookable from Monday to Friday 5pm - 10pm and weekends 9am - 6pm. Details available on SNC website.

Kevin also reported that the 'Stay well This Winter Fund' from the South Norfolk Community Foundation has been set up to support voluntary groups and charities that work to assist vulnerable people in their local community this winter. Grants of up to £1000 are available to help with projects in the community. For more details

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contact Jo Maddocks , Grants Officer via either tel 01603 623958 or email

jomaddocks@norfolkfoundation.com

Also available for all residents, there is a scheme called the 'Handyman Service', that can do odd jobs around your property. Supported by SNC Independent Living Team, they are able to provide up to 2 hours free labour for vulnerable people (means tested).

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor: -

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported that the GCSE results are up and are overtaking the national average. However, at Long Stratton High School the results are not pleasing for the new head and governors , results have been dropping in the last 4-5 years. An action plan is now in place to improve results.

Alison also reported about the policy and resources meeting held recently about 'Ash die back' in ash trees, Alison requested that Cllr Peter Jacques (Tree Warden) and Christine Goreham (Footpath Warden) be aware and look out for unreported ash trees that may have ash die back disease. Councillor Gary Mulhall raised a query regarding the recent news article, stating that the horse chestnut trees also may need watching due to 'beetle infestation'.

Alison also reported that the budget proposal has been through the committees and are out for consultation.

8. To receive a report from the Tree Warden: -

Councillor Peter Jacques reported that he will be attending the Tree Wardens meeting on 21st November 2016 at SNC. Topics to include the ash die back and the best practice for hedge cutting regarding rural areas.

Peter also reported that there were no objections raised on the planning application for Yeoman Cottage regarding the removal of 5 trees.

Peter also stated that the horse chestnut issue has been around for about 10 years and similar to ash die back it affects the younger trees.

9. To receive a report from the Footpath Warden: -

The footpath report was circulated to all councillors on 29/10/16. Christine Goreham stated she had nothing further to add to her report, other than that Highways website is now working.

10. To receive a report from the Village Hall –

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Councillor Peter Jacques reported that the internal decoration has started by the painting of the toilets and corridors. Cllr Rene Rowson requested the possibility of the carpets being cleaned as well.

Peter also reported that the work in the stream by the carpark has started and should be restarted again in Spring 2017.

11. To consider Planning Applications: -

None received.

12. To arrange a date for Budget Meeting:-

Thursday 24th November 2016 at 7pm in the Village Hall. Chairman Tony Rowson would like to include all councillors. Meeting will be an extraordinary meeting, as such no public are allowed. Subject to confirmation with Village Hall availability.

13. Correspondence:-

- a. Air-Tubes:** The Clerk read out the email for Police Sergeant Neil Williams of Diss Police Station regarding the results from the recent placement in Hall Lane. Email stated that there will not be another placement in the near future in Wacton, however training on using the 'Prolaser 4 Handheld Speed Detection Devices' has been completed by over 20 Special Constables. and they will on patrol in rural villages shortly. An email was passed to all councillors regarding an open evening on 28th November 2016 at Wymondham Police Headquarters, **Cllr's Rene Rowson and Paul Muston stated they will attend.** District Councillor Kevin Worsley stated the Parish Council can also approach The Norfolk Safety Camera Partnership regarding a van to come to Wacton.
- b. All Saints Church:** The clerk read out an email from Linda Mills (Parish Administrator), thanking the Parish Council for the annual grant monies.
- c. Came & Co:** Email circulated to all councillors. Cllr Rene Rowson noticed that an item related to the firework display was in need of addressing by the social club.

14. Authorisation of cheques: -

Cheque requested by Clerk Suzie Mulhall on 11/10/16 for All Saints Church parish annual grant -£700. Signed and authorised by Chairman Tony Rowson and Councillor Calvin Goreham.

- a. Village Hall Management:** Annual payment for village hall use. **£400.00**
- b. Gary Mulhall:** Flowers purchased for display bins. **£18.00**

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c. Gary Mulhall: Computer equipment purchased for office.	£508.00
d. Suzie Mulhall: Salary.	£395.00
e. Royal British Legion: Poppy Wreath (Local Government Act 1972 - section 137)	£17.00
f. Mazars LLP: Payment for annual audit.	£150.00
g. SNC: Payment for dog bin emptying.	£156.10
h. Parish Council Websites: Payment for web design and web hosting.	£420.00

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

- a. Children's Christmas Party:** Councillor Rene Rowson reported that the leaflets have been distributed to all houses in Wacton. Rene stated that a couple of people have booked a place already. Rene also stated that the monies leftover from last years children's grant (£198.00), will most properly be insufficient to cover all expenses. Rene requested some extra monies to cover. Chairman Tony Rowson, put it to vote on whether to issue a cap of £100 to cover expenses. **All councillors voted in favour of £100.**
- b. Broadband/WIFI & Computer Classes:** Councillor Calvin Goreham reported that the current computer club is not viable and is unlikely to continue in 2017, so having the Broadband/WIFI will not be beneficial to the village hall. It was discussed on whether the Parish Council take on the Broadband/WIFI for the Clerk's 2 hour daily weekday usage in the office. Councillor Gary Mulhall stated that there possibly could be some funding available under the Transparency fund via NALC. Gary will telephone and request more information. **All councillors agreed to hold the budget meeting then decide on keeping the Broadband/WIFI.**
- c. Social Club Firework Display:** Chairman Tony Rowson reported that he had a copy of the social clubs payment slip for insurance. Also that risk assessment will be taken in due course. The Clerk requested copies of insurance documents and risk assessments from both the social club and the firework display organiser for the records.
- d. HSBC:** Councillor Gary Mulhall reported that HSBC is in partnership with the Post Office, so business banking can now be done at the Post Office counter. Also to compete the internet banking set up procedure, Chairman Tony Rowson and Councillor Calvin Goreham, need to complete their online passwords.

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- e. **Hayntons Lane & Village Green Clearance:** Chairman Tony Rowson reported that Bev Humphreys will be removing the debris from the village green on Thursday 3rd November. Hayntons Lane was covered in the Footpath Wardens report.
- f. **DCLG Consultation:** Councillor Gary Mulhall reported that he had read the consultation report and that the majority of the report does not apply to this Parish Council.
- g. **BT Phone Box:** The clerk reported that she is awaiting an email from Rick Thompson (BT Payphone Planning Officer).
- h. **Wacton Foot Care:** Councillor Rita Day reported that the start date is 7th November 2016 and the response is very good, so the times have changed to reflect this. New times are 8:30 - 12:30. Reminders will be sent out to the relevant people.
- i. **Health & Safety Course:** It was discussed on whether the new councillors should go on the course. **Councillor Peter Jacques and Chairman Tony Rowson will go on the course. Also possibility of Councillor Paul Muston to attend.**

16. Matters raised by councillors and members of the public (for information only):-

- a. Councillor Calvin Goreham stated that he would like to have at each meeting, a running total for the year of the accounts in a spreadsheet format.
- b. Councillor Rita Day reported that member of the public suggested that a 'welcome pack' be made available to people recently moved into Wacton.
- c. Councillor Gary Mulhall reported that on Friday 4th November 2016, The Playground Inspection Company will be doing their annual inspection. Gary also queried about the copse upgrade, Councillor Peter Jacques stated he awaiting funding. Gary also suggested an 'open hour' in the office (councillor surgery).
- d. Mark Hardwick (Social Club) requested a donation for the firework display. Chairman Tony Rowson stated it was too late to request it as display is in a few weeks.
- e. District Councillor Kevin Worsley offered his apologies for the December meeting in advance. He also offered to help out with the children's Christmas Party along with his wife.
- f. A member of public stated the purpose of the 'Annual Village Meeting' is to ask the villagers what they want in the village.
- g. A member of the public reminded the Clerk that the agenda should be on the notice board 3 working days before the meeting.

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- h.** Chairman Tony Rowson reported that a possible 'Reuse and Recycle event' will be held in February 2017 held by Parish Council and another in June 2017.
- i.** Chairman Tony Rowson stated that the Clerks tax issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

17. Items for next agenda:-

- a.** Welcome Pack

18. Date of next meeting:-

Wednesday 7th December 2016