

# Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall on  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017

**Present: -**

**Chair, Tony Rowson. Councillors: Calvin Goreham, Rene Rowson, Paul Muston, Ian Mortimer, Peter Jacques, Rita Day**

10 members of the public also attended.

**1. To consider apologies for absence:**

Apologies received from County Councillor, 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 1<sup>st</sup> November 2017.**

The minutes were duly signed as a true record of meetings.

**Proposed, Ian Mortimer, Seconded Rene Rowson, all agreed.**

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

None

**5. To receive reports from the County Councillors:**

Alison Thomas sent his apologies and the clerk read out a short report from Alison as detailed below

A couple of things to mention for my report.

Ofsted have finally inspected Children's Services 4 days after our new Director Sara Tough started! A positive experience I think with the final judgement and report being published on 19th Jan.

Still time to engage with budget consultation as ends in early Jan.

Part of NDR open with rest on schedule for early 2018. Money agreed to cover contract variances mainly caused by delays in work by utility companies.

Can I take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and see you in the New Year

**6. To receive a report from the District Councillor:**

District Councillor not in attendance

**7. To receive a report from the Footpath Warden:**

The detailed report had been circulated electronically to all Councillors by Footpath Warden, Christine Goreham and placed on the notice board.

Christine Goreham was thanked for her work on the footpaths by the Chairman.

**8. To Receive a report from the Tree warden:**

Peter Jacques gave his report as follows,

The willow tree at the end of the island has now been cut back this may help the water in the pond too. The Ash die-back prognosis from the John Innes Institute that studied the fungus is that the strain is evolving in trees and is not as harmful as first thought. Finally there is a pile of wood for anyone to take and to help themselves.

**9. To receive a report from the Village Hall committee**

The problem with the heating had now been fixed and the issue was 6 intermittent faults on the system. It was also reported that the hand rail was on the agenda for the work to be done ASAP and was in hand.

**10. To consider and Planning Applications:.**

None Received

**11. Correspondence:**

2 emails received from local council public advisory service informing the council they are moving and that there are no subscription price increases for membership in the future

**12. Authorisation of Cheques.**

Cheques were authorised as follows:

|                                  |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Parish Clerk salary and expenses | £388.49  |
| SNDC dog bin charge              | £240.00  |
| Excite Solutions                 | £1260.00 |
| Xmas Party Donation              | £100.00  |

Cheques agreed and signed and detailed on the accounts.

The clerk also reported that the Parish Council had received a payment for the transparency grant of £706.72 and this was paid to the parish council at the end of November. The clerk was thanked for his work on this.

**13. To receive a financial statement for September 2017**

It was agreed that the statement would be adopted by the Council but going forward the clerk was working on a new format for the form to show more information for all councillors to see.

**14. To receive and agree the budget for 2018/19**

A budget meeting had taken place on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November when most members of the council were in attendance. A frank discussion was held and the budget was agreed and circulated to all member of the Parish Council by the clerk electronically. The Chairman asked for a vote to adopt the budget be taken.

Proposed Rene Rowson Seconded Paul Muston All Agreed

**15. To discuss the grass cutting and ground maintenance**

The chairman commented that he was very happy with the work of the current contractor and the clerk made comment that the Parish Council should look not just at the price for work but the quality as well. This was agreed by all councillors.

**16. To discuss Parish Speed Watch Group**

Paperwork had now been submitted but one applicant had been turned down so Tony Rowson agreed to step in to ensure the project goes ahead asap

**17. To discuss the phone line outside the village hall**

The clerk had contacted Plusnet on this and was awaiting a decision.

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

**a. The Woodland Project Review:**

The glade was behind schedule and was taking longer to finish than anticipated and the work would continue into 2018 then the plug plants could be planted and Peter Jacques commented he had secured a favourable rate for these. It was agreed that a working party would assist with this work on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2018. (clerk to put on website). A discussion then ensued on using the Community service scheme to help with the work and Calvin Goreham would look at this and contact the relevant organisation. The Police cadets are also available to help.

Again Peter commented that the logs were available to all for collection at no charge

**b. Parking on the Village Green**

This matter was now out of our hands as the work would be done by Highways at a cost to them of £2600 and we will be told when they have finished the work

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

The Highway Rangers are due early in the new year and it was agreed for the clerk to contact them to ask them to Clean the concrete pad on the common and strim Blacks Meadow.

**20. Items for the next agenda:**

Precept Form to be filled in and signed

**21. Date of Next Meeting: - 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018**

**Meeting closed 7.45pm**