

Wacton Parish Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall
on Wednesday 4th April 2018**

Present: -

Chair, Tony Rowson, Councillors: Calvin Goreham, Peter Jacques, Rene Rowson, Paul Muston, Rita Day arrived 7.10pm

3 members of the public also attended plus County Councillor Alison Thomas. District Councillor Des Fulcher arrived

1. To consider apologies for absence:

Apologies were received from Ian Mortimer and all agreed to accept

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

Paul Muston for item 10

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2018.

The minutes were duly signed by Chair as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed, Paul Muston Seconded Calvin Goreham all agreed.

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

None

5. To Receive the chairman's report, discuss and make decisions on anything that is needed

The chairman brought up 2 items for information and discussion.

1. The chairman reported that there is a very nasty disease for dogs called Alabama disease and he urged all parishioners to wash dog's paws and keep their general cleanliness of their dog good as this disease can kill dogs within 7 days if contracted.
2. The chairman commented that he would like to see the voice recorder for meetings used again to enable the clerk to ensure the minutes are always correct. He also proposed to increase the clerks hours by 1 hour to assist with the listening back of the recording.

Proposed Paul Muston Seconded Peter Jacques all agreed

6. To receive reports from the County Councillors:

- . County Councillor Alison Thomas gave her report on the following issues.

The new recycling charges had now been introduced and it was £3.00 for an 80-litre bag of DIY waste but other items were free including metal. Alison also made comment that fly tipping cost the County Council over £28,000 last year when most of the goods that had been fly tipped could have been taken to the recycling centre for free.

Alison also made comment on the new A47 dualling posters and the Norwich plan leaflets that she would leave with the council for information.

Alison then also made comment on the Long Stratton swimming pool that she had promised to investigate for the council and she reported that there may be some public sessions available, but these would be limited due to the issue with lifeguard costs and the size of the pool.

A parishioner then commented on the fly tipping issue that he felt it would get worse now these charges were in place.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillor:

Des Fulcher then gave his short report as detailed below

Des reported he had received a response from the Long Stratton Parish Clerk on the Long Stratton Neighbourhood plan and that there was a public meeting due on the weekend of the 27/28/29th April and that on the Friday 27th it would be held to engage the youth of the village too.

Des also reported that the plan to revamp the Long Stratton pavilion is to be looked at again

8. To receive the Footpath wardens report

There was no report from the footpath warden this month due to the dreadful weather.

9. To Receive a report from the Tree Warden:

Peter Jacques pointed out that the planning application for the work on tree on Common Road Wacton (2018/0489) and had been approved and it was agreed that a quote would be obtained from Excite solutions to undertake the work asap.

10. To discuss the recent flooding issues on Wash Lane

11. Paul Muston gave a short brief of the issues (The lack of Anglian Water tanker support at the Wacton Pump House) that had occurred during the recent heavy rain causing wash lane to flood with significant amounts of raw sewerage in the road. Apart from the major inconveniences to local Parishioners who experienced their drains backing up there were also major concerns for the environment. Paul Muston then invited a Parishioner to give a summary of the work that he had conducted with Anglian Water on this issue and who he had spoken to within Anglian Water. Alison Thomas, County Councillor, agreed to email the Chief Executive Officer of Anglian Water ASAP on this matter to ensure a swift conclusion was reached. The chairman made comment that we needed to get the issue dealt with and that it may need to go back to the beginning on this. A Parishioner then commented that it was over 3 years ago that Anglian Water had agreed to upgrade the Wacton Pump House. The lady at Anglian Water who had been dealing with it had then left to have a baby. Anglian Water had admitted the issue had subsequently not been followed up in the handover period. It was agreed that the Parishioner would continue with his work liaising with Anglian Water and he would report direct to the council on any further issues. It was hoped that the issue would be cleared up quickly due to the environmental health issues that had come about again.

Comment was also made that due to the water ingress into the drains (via the fields over the manhole covers) as you leave Wacton towards Long Stratton consideration should be given to get the man hole covers capped by Anglian Water / Highways.

12. To discuss the dog bin proposal from South Norfolk Council

The clerk read out the email he had received on the proposal from South Norfolk council to reduce the costs of the emptying of the dog bins from the proposed £104 for emptying twice a week to £70 for emptying once a week.

It was agreed to stay with the twice a week emptying as this was what was needed. Proposed Calvin Goreham Seconded Rene Rowson

12. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee:

Calvin Goreham gave his report on the village hall and the things that would need to be done from the police and that prices were being obtained. Calvin also made comment that the Village Hall committee were looking at a new oil tank as the one they had now was a single skin tank and the police recommended a double skin tank. A parishioner made comments that he worked in the security industry and felt the recommendations from the Police were a little over top he was happy to liase with the village hall committee to help them on this issue. The chairman commented that as agreed at the last meeting the parish council would assist financially where possible and he asked Calvin to keep the parish council updated on this.

13. To agree meeting dates for 2018/2019

The clerk had sent a copy of the proposed dates around to all councillors and they were agreed as correct except for the Annual Parish Meeting date that would now be on Wednesday 16th May at the village hall

14. To consider and Planning Applications:

The following planning applications were considered, and comments made

2018/0489 Already passed by planning

2018/0524 Comments made to South Norfolk Planning ref the continued expansion of the property and the councils concerns on this

2018/0622 No comment made

2018/0623 No comment made

15. Correspondence

Local Council Public Advisory Service had sent many emails to the clerk on data Protection and other matters.

The clerk read out an email from Nigel Draffyn of Angmering Estates regarding information in the new contact for any issues on the common. The chairman commented that we would only deal with Angmering estates direct as recently agreed

16. Authorisation of Cheques:

- Cheques were authorised as follows:

Parish Clerk salary and expenses £461.31

Cheques agreed and signed and detailed on the accounts.

- To agree the appointment of the Internal Auditor

The clerk asked commented on the appointment of the Internal Auditor and commented that he had contacted Anne Barnes who is a local Internal Auditor for many parish councils and she had agreed to undertake Wacton parish Council Internal Audit.

- To agree to the Parish Council being exempt from External Audit under the new regulations as the council is under £25,000

Proposed Paul Muston Seconded Rita Day all agree

Clerk will contact Anne Barnes to inform her

17. To receive a financial statement for March 2018:

The clerk took the councillors through the final statement and it was noted the council were in a sound financial position

18. To discuss the Play Inspection report and agree the works to be carried out ASAP

The clerk reported that he had sent off the agreement to Fenland Leisure to undertake the work on the new swings on the play area and he was awaiting the date for the work to start.

19. To discuss joining the Norfolk Playing Fields Association

The clerk reported that he had contacted the association and was awaiting the form for the council to join and that it would be £20 for the year. The clerk also reported that there were grants available from the association that he hoped to access to pay for the new swings.

Proposed Tony Rowson Seconded Calvin Goreham

20. To discuss Parish Speed Watch Group:

A training session would take place on the 6th April at the village hall and everyone is welcome to attend

21. To discuss grass cutting and ground maintenance:

The clerk had contacted excite Solutions to offer them the contract for the coming year but had heard nothing from them. The chairman would contact Barry and confirm to the clerk this was okay.

22. To receive a short report on the new data protection laws and adopt all the documents prepared by the clerk and sent electronically to all councillors.

The clerk took the meeting through the documents that he had sent the councillors and it was agreed to adopt the policies for the council as working documents. The clerk also commented that he had started the registration procedure with The Information Commissioners Office and the Direct debit form was signed for sending off

23. To discuss the role of the Emergency Village Co-Ordinator

Calvin Goreham had met with Gary Mulhall and he would pass on Gary's details to the clerk for him to make contact and discuss the role and what was needed for the role to be done safely and the clerk would also look at getting the necessary Data protection checks done for the co-ordinator asap.

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

a. The Woodland Project Review:

Grant Application has been started on and the document had been shown to South Norfolk Council regarding their comments on it. South Norfolk Council had recommended many changes to the document but after a discussion on this it was agreed to send the document in its current form with a couple of changes as everyone felt this was a good application for the project

Proposed Rene Rowson Seconded Paul Muston All Agreed.

Peter Jacques then made comment that the second glade had been done and that work on the third glade would commence when the weather was better. It was hoped to undertake this in conjunction with the litter pick day on the 15th April.

Peter then commented that he had spoken to Jim Squires of the Police cadets to thanks them for their hard work recently and that a donation of £100 was agreed with the council for the cadets help.

Proposed Rene Rowson Seconded Paul Muston

Des Fulcher commented on the Bio-diversity awards application that the council might look to use to see if the Woodland project was suitable, but it was felt that it would be better to do this once the project was completed hopefully in time for next year's awards.

Peter then informed the meeting that he had spoken to the team leader at the community payback scheme and it was hoped that a service agreement would be reached asap for the group to undertake the work on the paths. It was commented that the scheme would provide the labour and the tools and the parish council the materials. Once the agreement was reached it would run from May 2018 to May 2019.

Finally, Peter reported that John Pyle from South Norfolk Council had not attended the working day as agreed.

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

It was commented that again in the heavy rains that Stratton Road was again flooded and was causing an issue with cars driving on the wrong side of the road to avoid the flooded area of the road. Alison Thomas made comment that she would investigate this issue ASAP along with Gary Overland of Highways as reported earlier in the meeting as it was felt this was a highways issue.

A phone call had also been received by Calvin Goreham requesting access to the sand bags at the back of the village hall to help with a flooding issue at his property on the

common. It was agreed by Calvin on the phone that this was okay if they were returned to the village hall.

A discussion then ensued on the possibility of new members coming forward to sit on the council should any of the current members stand down in a years' time. It was agreed that this item would go on the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting to inform the parishioners the issues should no one come forward and to gauge interest for the future.

It was asked if the parish council had given the occupants of Victoria Cottages the permission to have a skip on the village green. It was felt that the parish council needed to put some restrictions on when it can be moved due to the recent bad weather. The chairman agreed to speak to the parishioners involved.

Most of the saplings on the common that were planted by the Parish Council last year seemed to be dying and the chairman will again look at this issue.

Finally, as discussion was held on the village signs and where they were located. One sign post was in the chairman's garage and the second one's location was not known. It was agreed that a parishioner would sign write a new sign for the village once it was made and he was thanked for that

26. Items for the next agenda:

Clerks salary

Emergency Plan Co-Ordinator Role

27. Date of Next Meeting: - Wednesday 2nd May 2018

Meeting closed 8.40pm