

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall on Wednesday 2nd January 2019

Present: -

Chair: Calvin Goreham, Councillors: Peter Jacques, Paul Muston, Ian Mortimer.

2 members of the public also attended plus County Councillor Alison Thomas.

1. To consider apologies for absence:

No Apologies received.

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

None.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2018:

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

Proposed Paul Muston Seconded Ian Mortimer

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

It was reported that the ditch outside Wacton House needs maintenance.

5. To receive reports from the County Councillor:

Alison Thomas reported that the Hempnall roundabout development will start fairly soon with Hempnall road access blocked off for 4-5 days and a diversion route in place during the closure.

Alison also reported that the Long Stratton Bypass will be re-submitted soon as it needed tweaking and it was hoped that monies would come from central government from the major roads scheme to assist the building of the bypass. It was also reported that the plans needed to be complete before the application goes in to hopefully ensure that the money is allocated to the scheme.

Alison also made mention that the County Councils approved building contractor will be Repton Homes with new developments being forthcoming in Attleborough, Hopton and Acle.

Alison then commented that the proposed Children's Centre will remain open in Long Stratton because of its closeness to the South Norfolk Councils Early help Hub.

Finally, Alison made comment that the Norfolk County Council budget is to be set in January and that there were no budget cuts that affected Wacton that she knew of.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor:

Des Reported that there was a meeting at long Stratton Village Hall on the 8th January with the Police, and he urged all Parishioners/Councillors to attend to make their comments and thoughts known to the police on the issues that affect the Parish.

Des then reported that there was a further meeting with regards to the Long Stratton Development with Phil Courtier on the 21st January 2019 regarding the open space and that there had been some changes regarding the provision of less roundabouts on the proposed new Long Stratton Bypass.

7. To receive the Footpath Wardens report:

No footpath wardens report due to the inclement weather making it difficult to walk the footpaths.

8. To Receive a report from the Tree Warden:

No Report from Tree Warden.

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

It was agreed that a maintenance day needed organizing.

10. To consider Planning Applications:

No Planning Applications received.

11. Correspondence:

An email was received from Megg Brett thanking the clerk for the help he had recently given her regarding her request on grants to help with the purchase of oil for her home.

An email was received from Emma Brookes regarding various meetings that South Norfolk Council were holding around the area for free. A copy was passed round all the Councillors and will be put on the parish website.

An email from South Norfolk Council Planning department had been received by the clerk detailing that planning decisions could be dealt with via email in future and not brought to the parish council meetings to speed up the process. The clerk felt this was a good idea, but he would still log the applications on the upcoming agendas and place on the parish website for all to see with any comments by Councillors.

12. Authorization of Cheques:

- Cheques were authorized as follows:

Parish Clerk salary and expenses December	£464.98
Payment to East of England Tree Surgeons for work carried out as detailed in Insurance Report	£725.00
Payment to HMRC for overpayment of VAT due to system error	£736.01
Payment to Glasdon for the benches for The Woodland Project	£1050.05

Cheques agreed and signed and detailed on the accounts.

The clerk reported that there had been two payments for VAT received recently and the one for £736.01 needed to be repaid as it was due to a system error not acknowledging the receipt of that Repayment Schedule. In consequence he did a more up to date one for the higher amount of £836.99 which had now been received into the parish bank account.

It was also agreed that The Clerk contact Anne Barnes to ask if she can do this year's Internal Audit as such a good job was done last year by Anne.

The clerk Reported that he had completed the Precept Request form for South Norfolk Council and the council had requested a Precept of £17,000 and it was noted that there was no Council Tax support grant allocated by South Norfolk Council this year.

Proposed Paul Muston Seconded Ian Mortimer.

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

a. The Woodland Project Review:

2 x Litter bins have been ordered as well as the bird boxes.

2 x Benches will be ordered on Saturday.

Signage and Shelter is still to be ordered.

b. Ditches in the Parish:

The workbook had been completed for the Highway Rangers and the clerk would forward this ASAP to the Highway Rangers office at Ketteringham depot to ensure the work was carried out during their visit to the Parish in December.

c. Children's Christmas Party

Comment was made at the last meeting that there were not many of the local children who attended this event and that children of residents who did not live in

the area were coming to the event as their grandparents lived in the village. It was agreed that this would be discussed once any grant application had been received from the social club later in the year.

14. Matters raised by Councillors and members of the public (for information only):

The Parish laptop update had been purchased at a cost of £59.00 which will be shared with Tharston and Hapton Parish Council.

6 Companies have been sourced for the grass cutting and the Tender Letter will be formulated soon for sending to the companies.

18. To discuss Parish Speed Watch Group:

This was still doing great work but there was nothing to report. Batteries for the SAM machine are in the Parish Office and the Clerk has collected the SAM software download programme from Westcotec and this has been downloaded onto the Parish Laptop.

19. To discuss Councillor Training:

To be arranged after the elections with neighbouring parishes.

20. Items for the next agenda:

Maintenance Contract.

Meeting dates.

Date of Next Meeting: - Next Parish Council Meeting 6th February 2019 7.30pm

Meeting ended 8.35 pm