

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom.

At 7pm on Wednesday 3rd March 2021.

Present: - Chair: Calvin Goreham. Councillors: Paul Muston, Piers Blaikie, Peter Jacques, Peter Fraser (joined after item 5)

County Councillor: Alison Thomas. District Councillor: Barry Duffin.

1 member of the public were also present.

Public Participation.

No public participation at the meeting.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Ian Mortimer. All agreed to accept.

Proposed: Paul Muston. Seconded: Peter Jacques.

2. To receive any disclosures of interest.

None received.

3. To approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd February 2021 via Zoom.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Paul Muston. Seconded: Piers Blaikie.

4. To Co-opt a new Councillor.

The Clerk commented that he had sent the necessary papers to South Norfolk District Council and the Monitoring Officer had approved the co-option of Peter Fraser as a new Councillor to Wacton Parish Council.

Proposed: Piers Blaikie. Seconded: Peter Jacques

5. Councillor to sign Acceptance of Office and Declarations of Interest Forms.

The Clerk had delivered these to Peter to sign and then inform him when were ready for collection so that he could witness them. This was duly completed by both Peter and the Clerk.

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

None reported.

7. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported that the Public Rights of Way consultation regarding the Long Stratton Bypass project was in the process of being sent to Parish Council Clerks in surrounding areas that the consultation impacted. (Once received the Clerk will send to all councillors/Footpath Warden for comment).

Alison also reported that Norfolk County Council budgets had been agreed and there was extra money for recent flood issues along with some capital investment to assist parishioners that had suffered with these issues.

Alison also reported that her members ward grant had been increased to £10,000 and will now include Public Rights of Way as well as small highway projects.

Alison also commented that the first meeting of the flood team, under the direction of Lord Dannatt, had taken place and that any parishioners that had suffered issues with the flooding could apply for reduced council tax payments and could have access to grants to help with any damage they had sustained.

Finally, Alison urged everyone using the Morningthorpe Recycling Centre to take great care due to queuing cars parked on the road causing obstructions and dangers to all that use the road by the Centre. Alison also reported that the opening hours will remain unchanged.

8. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Barry Duffin reported that the Long Stratton Help Hub was still working to assist parishioners and that it was only a phone call away.

Barry also reported that the upcoming consultation on the village clusters was nearing completion and hoped to report back to the council at the next meeting.

Barry also reported that May 6th sees the local council elections and urged everyone to apply for a postal vote if they wished to participate.

Finally, Barry commented that 21st March is Census day.

9. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

The Footpath Warden did not have a report for the meeting.

10. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.

Peter Jacques commented that he had nothing to report for the meeting.

11. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.

Peter Jacques commented that he had nothing to report for the meeting.

12. To receive an update on the flooding issues at Victoria Cottages

Peter Fraser reported that he had received an enquiry number regarding the flooding issues and asked if Alison Thomas could help regarding the flood management team to

look at the issue this had caused. Alison replied if Pete sent the details to her, she would investigate it.

Alison was also asked if Highways would pay for the installation of the rollover project and again, she replied she would investigate this as she hoped that we could use the capital funding for the project. Peter reported that he had seen the Environment Agency at the Village Hall today but was unaware what they were doing.

13. To consider Planning applications.

No Planning applications received by The Parish Council.

14. Correspondence.

All correspondence had been logged and sent to Councillors via the delegated authority scheme.

15. Authorisation of Cheques.

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses	£465.83
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks pension	£153.76
Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone	£ 9.20
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£ 28.20

Proposed: Calvin Goreham. Seconded: Paul Muston.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was in good financial health and produced an up-to-date financial report.

Anne Barnes had offered to be Wacton Parish Councils Internal Auditor again for the forthcoming year which was agreed by the Council.

16. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**

Peter Jacques reported that he had not heard back from the student regarding his request to study hedgehogs in the woodland project.

- **Children's multi-play equipment.**

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from a parishioner who felt that due to the multi-play equipment being removed, the ground had been left with several Health & Safety (trip) hazards. Garden landscape Services had submitted a quote of £570.00 to make the ground safe prior to installing the new equipment. It was agreed to get the remedial work carried out as soon as possible. Clerk to action.

Proposed Paul Muston.

Seconded Peter Jacques.

The same parishioner had also forwarded details of a local company regarding the new multi play equipment. It was agreed that the Clerk will contact the company for a quote.

- **County Broadband and Installation of Boxes**

Calvin Goreham reported that he had been told by County Broadband that they were currently running 3-4 months behind schedule and he would update the Council once he had more information. The Clerk reported that he had cancelled the Plusnet contract for the parish office as requested by the Council.

- **Good Neighbour Scheme**

Piers Blaikie asked for final direction from the Council to the make up of the reference document. It was agreed he would contact The Long Stratton Help Hub for help with coordinating the main companies phone numbers and email addresses.

The Clerk will then assist by filling in the blanks where needed. It was agreed the final document must be ready for adoption by the council at the next meeting.

17. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The group were currently not operating due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The speed watch coordinator sent the following report:

In September Wacton Speed Watch were given news that we could start our speed checks once again but first all groups had to send someone to a meeting regarding appropriate PPE, distancing, etc. Mark Hardwick kindly went to the meeting point outside the Diss police station to hear the constabulary give a talk and hand out new updated paperwork and PPE equipment for our use. We then started up our speed watch checks, but unfortunately due to many of our members being in isolation and the weather proving a problem - too much rain - we did not do as many as we had wished for. During the times we did do our speed watch it was noticeable that the number of cars speeding through the village had increased, and on all the occasions that we were out checking, we exceeded all previous noted numbers. That is sad to see, as during the period from start of lockdown in March 2020 to the beginning of summer, it was so peaceful along Hall Lane.

In November we were told we could not do any more checks and that has been the situation to date. However, we are still hoping that the SAM machine will be available to us in Wacton asap. Looking forward to hearing the update on that item.

16. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

Paul Muston had produced a flyer and will be delivering it to all the parishioners in the village which will include the Clerks new mobile telephone number.

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

The Clerk commented that he had now passed three of the five units for his Cilca degree course and that he was currently working on a lengthy finance unit which he hoped to submit soon.

The Clerk also informed the Council that the present Covid legislation runs out on the 7th of May regarding meeting remotely via Zoom. He was awaiting any changes to this legislation. If the current legislation allowing zoom meetings to be held was not extended then our Parish Council meeting in May would be the last permissible via zoom.

18. Items for next Agenda.

Meeting closed at 8.02 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 7th April 2021 at 7pm.