

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Wacton Village Hall.

At 7pm on Wednesday 8th September 2021.

Present: - Chair: Ian Mortimer. Councillors: Piers Blaikie, Peter Jacques, Peter Fraser, Laura Dolton.

District Councillor: Barry Duffin.

2 members of the public were also present.

Public Participation.

No public participation at the meeting.

1. To Vote a new Chairman for the council

Ian Mortimer was elected as the new chairman of the council and duly signed the acceptance of office forms witnessed by the clerk.

Proposed. Piers Blaikie

Seconded. Peter Jacques

2. To Receive the resignations of Calvin Goreham and Paul Muston

All noted and agreed to accept

3. To consider apologies for absence.

No apologies were received as all Councillors in attendance.

4. To receive any disclosures of interest.

None received.

5. To discuss the co-option of a new Councillor

Laura Introduced herself to the council and gave a quick resume of the reasons for joining the council

All Agreed to co-opt

Proposed Ian Mortimer

Seconded. Peter Fraser

6. New Councillor to sign the Acceptance of Office Forms and the Register of interests forms.

These were witnessed by The Clerk and Laura joined the meeting.

7. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2021 via Zoom. Also agree decisions made at 5th May Working party Meeting held on Zoom.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Peter Jacques Seconded: Pete Fraser.

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

None reported.

9. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

County Councillor Alison Thomas was not in attendance and sent her report to The Clerk at County I am busy with Health scrutiny where have/will look at cancer treatment, primary care issues (GP's) and NHS dentistry to name but a few. Topics I think it's fair to say are causing many residents' concerns. I have also been very proactive in encouraging action re flooding before we get into the autumn/winter. I walked several footpaths towards Haytons Lane with officers yesterday checking out the ditch system, which is very overgrown and, in some places, completely blocked. We may want to involve parishes in the future to encourage action by local landowners. We are also looking at emergency planning and trying to encourage all parishes to have a plan (which I believe you do?) Obviously, the revised Bypass application is in and there will be consultation and engagement with parishes over the coming weeks.

10. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Barry Duffin reported the flood report was now out and urged all councillors and Parishioners to comment on the findings. The clusters consultation was now closed and there have been over 2000 responses with over 70 new pieces of land identified for building on. Barry then reported that 8 Afghan families will be relocated in this area with 3 going into social housing. Finally Barry reported on the consultation regarding the relocation of both South Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council into a location yet found or reported to be the location.

11. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

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

12. To note the replacement for the Footpath Warden.

Angie Baldwin has taken on this role and the clerk commented that he will give Angie every assistance in the role

13. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.

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

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

Peter Jacques commented the Village Hall was suffering from a lack of volunteers since the chairman and booking clerk had moved from the village. He urged the clerk to contact the village hall so they could attend parish council meetings to provide reports on the village hall bookings etc.

15. To receive an update on the flooding issues at Victoria Cottages and the Village Pond.

It was reported that there was a lack of assistance from The Environment Agency on the issues with both the stream outside the village hall and the pond on the common. The pond gets clogged up and this it seems causes the flooding issues and that the bank looks to have slipped outside the village hall. Clerk will contact village hall on this and will contact highways rangers to see if they can help with the issues on the pond.

16. To consider Planning applications.

No Planning applications were received.

17. Correspondence.

All correspondence sent through by email to councillors.

18. Authorisation of Cheques.

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses	£610.06
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks pension	£168.52
Payment to CGM for Grass Cutting	£367.06
Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone	£ 9.73
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£ 29.54

The clerk also produced the 4 reports from April, May, June, and July showing the payments done under the delegated authority to the clerk and asked that these all be agreed and attached to these minutes.

Proposed: Peter Jacques Seconded: Pete Fraser.

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

The clerk also reported that the council had received the following receipts in June/July and August

Wayleaves payment from County Broadband	£1000.00
Grant from Adnams	£592.95
Vat Reclaim	£1023.31

The clerk also produced a budget report and bank reconciliations to show the councillors the financial situation and that the books balance perfectly.

A discussion ensued on the mandate for internet banking and the need to get 2 more signatories on board and to change the main contact to Ian Mortimer as agreed at the working party meeting on 5th May. It was agreed that Pete Fraser and Laura Doulton would also become signatories and Ian will arrange this asap as it was started by the old chairman but has stalled.

19. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**

Peter Jacques reported that the hedgehog study is ongoing, but no hedgehogs had been sited in the woodland project yet. The hedgehog houses were now sited. It was also reported by a parishioner that one of the bird boxes had fallen on the floor and they had wedged it back up. Peter Jacques reported that he will look at the issue and rectify asap.

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

We had received the grant of £592.95 from Adnams and with the latest HMRC rebate and the wayleave payment of £1000 had been ringfenced for the new swings. These had been ordered and it is hoped they will be installed asap.

We are still awaiting a decision from Saffron on the £5000 grant to replace the multi play when possible. A decision is due any day.

- **County Broadband and Installation of roadside cabinets.**

Calvin Goreham last job before leaving the council was to negotiate the £1000 wayleave payment for the broadband boxes for the council and this was being added to the total to allow the new swings to be purchased also.

- **Good Neighbour Scheme.**

The clerk had worked on this in the background as using the model that Tivetshall PC had done he had worked on our plan to match theirs.

Each Councillor was given a copy of the plan to study, make comments back to The Clerk as we need to decide on the plan at the October meeting and agree to adopt this ASAP for the good of the village

20. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The Clerk reported that the new SAM machine was now here and that he had collected it from Westcotec to save any further delays and the SAM machine was sited on hall Lane as you come into the village and will be downloaded soon to get the information for the next meeting.

21. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

It was known that one more person has commented that he would like to join the council and The Clerk passed an application form to Piers to give to the prospective Councillor who we hope can co-opt at the October meeting if suitable.

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

The clerk commented that he had ordered the wreaths for remembrance Sunday at a cost of £17 each and will be purchased under sect 137 as per previous years.

A discussion then ensued on the dreadful grass cutting by CGM group and it was agreed to look at other companies for this work asap and ensure they also collect the grass cuttings and mulch.

23. Items for next Agenda.

Grass Cutting Contract

Play area Grant

New Councillor co-option

Clerk Training

Public participation

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 6th October at 7pm.