

# **Wacton Parish Council**

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

**At 7pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2021.**

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

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

**Zero members of the public were also present.**

**Before the meeting started County Councillor Alison Thomas presented the Covid Pandemic Plaque to acting chairman Pete Fraser**

## **Public Participation.**

No public participation at the meeting.

### **1. To appoint a chairman for the meeting**

The Chairman sent his apologies as he was unwell, and all agreed to accept.

Pete Fraser took the role of Acting Chair for the meeting

**Proposed Gary Mulhall                      Seconded. Peter Jacques**

### **2. To consider apologies for absence.**

Ian Mortimer sent his apologies, and all agreed to accept

### **3. To receive any disclosures of interest.**

None received.

### **4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Gary Mulhall                      Seconded: Pete Fraser.

### **5. To consider matters arising from the last minutes (for information only).**

None reported.

### **6. To receive a report from the County Councillor.**

County Councillor Alison Thomas gave her report as follows

Alison reported that she was still talking with the Flood teams regarding the recent flooding report and that she was struggling due to the thirty-six agencies involved and the fact it is difficult to get them all together. Alison also reported that the issues with the riparian owners of local ditches and culverts was also causing problems with them not keeping their areas clean and clear of issues causing the problems of flooding and asked that local councils contact their landowners to remind them of the need to ensure they keep these areas clean and clear. Alison also reported that highways were struggling with limited crews and equipment to keep areas clear but are doing their best.

Alison also reported that the cancer turnaround and waiting times is very grim and that mental health issues were a problem especially round eating disorders and this was a priority for the health scrutiny team moving forward,

Finally, Alison reported that the budgets were being looked at by the county council and they are looking at a possible 2.99% increase at county moving forward but as yet this figure has not been set as government has yet to agree the figures to be given to county councils and further information will follow once they are known.

Councillor Gary Mulhall asked Alison if there was any treatment being looked at for neuro functional disease as he was concerned that this was not in place, and it was agreed he would email Alison on this, and she would look into this for him.

#### **7. To receive a report from the District Councillor.**

Barry reported as follows

The South Norfolk and Broadland Accommodation review was still ongoing  
The Clusters review was nearing completion and he hoped to report on this at the December meeting if completed  
Barry still has some of his members ward grant left for local projects and the clerk commented he would be in touch asap on this.

#### **8. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.**

The Footpath Warden did not have a report for the meeting. But question was raised on Footpath 12 and the clerk would investigate this asap with the footpath warden

#### **9. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.**

Peter Jacques commented that an apple tree in Blacks meadow had toppled over, and he was looking to re-instate this using stakes and ropes and that it was hoped that as the ground gets a little easier to work the tree would be reinstated correctly.

#### **10. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.**

The clerk read out the following report from the village hall committee  
The Village Hall committee had a meeting yesterday. We welcomed some new Trustees which was positive. Going forward the intention is to have a formal meeting once every

two months – The next meeting will not be until 12 Jan ‘twenty-two due to Christmas/New Year.

Clerk to mention the issues around the ditch in front of the village hall and to contact the Environment agency on this issue ASAP to get them to reinstate it so we can look at getting the work done to alleviate the issues involved in this.

Questions were asked on the ditch outside the village hall and Peter Jacques commented that a previous parish chairman along with the Environment agency had declassified the ditch, so the clerk was tasked with contacting the Environment agency on this to get them to undertake the essential work needed to stop more issues with flooding.

The clerk was also asked to send the meeting dates to the village hall to ensure the heating was on in time for the meetings and that we could get permission for the Pandemic Plaque to be sited on the parish council wall.

#### **11. To receive an update on the flooding issues at Victoria Cottages and the Village Pond.**

No update yet except that Councillor Fraser was awaiting a call from GLS to undertake some work around the ditch.

Councillor Mulhall had obtained prices for the posts to go on the green to protect it from large lorries damaging it further and this was around £140.00, and it was agreed that councillors would speak with a local parishioner regarding the works to be done to inform them it will be undertaken soon. A final decision on costs would be agreed at the December meeting

#### **12. To consider Planning applications.**

The following planning application had been received and it was agreed to make no comments

2021/2130

6 Church Road Wacton Norfolk NR15 2UG

Single storey rear extension and associated alterations to include removal of existing conservatory

#### **13. Correspondence.**

Ed is doing a wonderful job on his Duke of Edinburgh award and continues to send information to the clerk on this including pictures.

The clerk has requested a new up to date register of electors report

Many emails with the village hall on the prospect of when is best to hold the chairman’s training.

Email on the new one million trees scheme in conjunction with Alison Thomas our county Councillor.

The Queens Green canopy details are being released and the clerk will email the link to all councillors asap.

The Big Lunch for the queens platinum jubilee will also be out soon and again the clerk will email all the councillors with the details once he has them

#### 14. Authorisation of Cheques.

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses	£575.04
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks pension	£168.52
Payment to CGM for Grass Cutting	£367.06
Payment to Vale Sport for Multi Play Deposit	£2780.56
Payment to Active Med Supplies for Defib Parts	£425.94
Payment to Town and Parish Websites for Annual Charge	£130.00
Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone	£ 9.73
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£ 29.54

Proposed: Peter Fraser Seconded: Peter Jacques

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 Unity Trust application was moving forward, and it was hoped it would be in place by the December meeting at the latest.

#### 15. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**

The hedgehog man had built a hedgehog house and tunnel in the woodland Project and the tunnel had a small layer of plasticine on its base to see which animals are using the area. It was reported that mice were at present, and no hedgehogs had been seen and he continues to put out water and food to encourage the hedgehogs to return.

Peter also reported that the Long Stratton High School students may return to continue their works soon and that he had spoken with a teacher on this as the students really enjoyed doing the work especially clearing the troublesome ditch. He would report back once he had an answer on this.

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

The Clerk reported that he had the paperwork through the full grant of £5000 had been awarded to the council by Saffron and the new multi-play equipment had been ordered and the swings new swings and multi-play will be installed around the last week of November which was great news. The chairman and clerk signed the grant form' sand the clerk would get them back to saffron asap with a letter of thanks

- **Good Neighbour Scheme.**

The clerk had spoken with Community Action Norfolk on the possibility of piggy backing onto their local schemes to which they will provide training, DBS checks, Free insurance and it was hoped that once our plan was finalised, we could submit to C A N for their comments and hopefully to give us better access to the items mentioned earlier in the discussion

- **Grass Cutting Contract**

The clerk produced a specification to send to three contractors and to returned in sealed envelopes for the dec meeting for the contract to be awarded. It was agreed that it was a good document and should be sent to three contractors asap

Proposed. Gary Mulhall      Seconded. Peter Fraser

- **Renovating the old well**

A discussion ensued on the renovation of the well on the green and Councillor Dolton asked if she could undertake the job which was agreed with the parish council paying for all materials needed. It was also agreed to look at renovating the well so people could see into it and making it a real village asset as it should be.

- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

A date in January will be fixed for chairman training and it was agreed that Ian Mortimer, Pete Fraser, and Gary Mulhall would attend on behalf of Wacton Parish Council. The agreed date will be shared with other local councils via email and on NPTS website to ensure we get a good attendance and offset the costs for all councils involved. The training would be held here at Wacton Village Hall.

### **17. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.**

The Clerk reported that he would be downloading the Sam machine later this week due to the weather today and would report his findings via email to all councillors and work with Councillor Mulhall to get the information onto the website. He would also relocate the SAM machine to Hall Lane by number 6 on the new post.

### **18. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.**

We still need councillors but are in a better position than we were a few weeks ago and the councillors were urged to lobby parishioners they knew to see if they would like to join the council asap.

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

The cattle on the common was causing a problem and the clerk would email Mark Hardwick on this issue asap

The clerk was also asked to contact Highways on the issues of the water board works on Church Road and the damage to the road surface and the verge due to cars using the verge to get past the works.

Peter Fraser reported that the defib is now fully working and logged with the ambulance trust and the clerk had provided defib check forms and he would undertake weekly inspections and then do a full monthly inspection to report to the council any issues.

### **20. Items for next Agenda.**

**Grass Cutting Contract Replies**

**Chairmanship training**

**Councillor Training**

**Budget**

**Clerks Appraisal**

**Removal Of Basketball Hoop**

### **Public participation**

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> December at 7pm.