

Wacton Parish Council

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

At 6pm on Wednesday 5th July 2023.

Present: - Chair Gary Mulhall. Councilors: Pete Fraser, Kat Marshall, and Felicity Perry

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

Five members of the public was also present plus County Councilor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Kim Carsok

1. Public Participation

A Parishioner commented that a friend of theirs some footpath posts and the parishioner contacted the chair last year on this.

The Fence on black's meadow a question was raised on this and whether the fence would be replaced moving forward.

The grit bin needs refilling asap.

The chair commented that it was discussed on 8th June 2022 and that the fence was discussed for the work to be completed asap.

Concerns considering that the small part of the fence is left, and this will be left moving forward. It was agreed that as a family area and it being a family area and the small fence would be installed moving forward. Maybe some hedging would help.

2. To consider apologies for absence.

No apologies

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Gary Mulhall For a payment in item 14 all agreed this was fine.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 7th June 2023

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

Proposed: Felicity Perry
All agreed.

Seconded: Pete Fraser

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

None reported.

6. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

County Councillor Alison Thomas gave the following report.

There are copies of the new Conversation matters initiative to be put on the noticeboard along with scheme to provide id in the form of a lanyard to aid carers when they take people to hospital or doctors.

Alison asked that people put their comments good, bad, or indifferent to aid the council to Ascertain what they are doing well or badly.

Alison had attended the gateway meeting regarding the bypass and funding from central government and the project has moved to the treasury so hopefully funding will be notified soon.

The bypass will hopefully start April 2024 and be completed autumn 2025.

There are hedges and grass verges around that area also will also have works done on them in the coming months.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Kim Carosk introduced herself to the parish council and gave the following report.

SNDC have moved Horizon House

Free Mental Health Training is now available and if we get lots of parishioners going, we can become a mindful town.

SNDC have launched a customer satisfaction survey, and all are urged to participate.

Lots of grants available and to contact Kim if we can think of a scheme to utilize for anything moving forward.

8. To discuss the proposal from Long Stratton Town Council on their community plan for the old South Norfolk House

The clerk had sent the proposal round to all councillors and it was agreed to support the proposal and the clerk was asked to send the letter of support via email to Long Stratton Town Council asap.

All agreed.

9. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

Footpath that are needing cutting

Finger post on the green is again now floating in the pond and needs reporting again.

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

No report from Village Hall committee

11. To discuss signing up for the Armed Forces Covenant

The clerk commented that a letter had been received regarding signing up for the armed forces covenant and it was agreed we should support this asap and the clerk was tasked with undertaking this asap.

All agree.

12. To consider Planning applications.

Planning applications as follows.

No Planning Received

13. Correspondence.

5 Emails from Councillor regarding maintenance

Plusnet bill received.

O2 bill for clerk's mobile received.

New Website upgraded.

New dog bin received by no details when post will be installed.

Play Equipment report received.

Excite Bill received for cutting to date.

Improved grass cutting undertaken.

NALC training emails received.

NPTS training emails received.

Credit card bill received.

More Emails from Village Hall on wi-fi permissions.

Ian Mortimer Resignation received.

Play Area Inspection carried out.

Sextons wheel info sent.

Casual Vacancy notice received and will be put on the notice board and website.

Email on the possibility of holding a Classic Car show on the green run by the parish council.

Western Link email received from Planning and that will be held back until funding agreed.

Emails and phone calls to Unity Trust to take Ian Mortimer off the bank mandate.

Emails and phone calls to add Kat Marshal as new signatory.

Email from Long Stratton Town Council to ask us to support their proposal to make the old Council Offices into a local hub not more housing.

Notice of upgrade to Wacton Overhead lines and the footpaths it affected.

Proposal to ask the council to support the Armed Forces Covenant

Public liability insurance certificates received from both contractors and added to the website.

Clerks networking dates provided by NPTS.

The clerk has booked his National Conference place and awaits the invoice with costs shared by all his 4 parishes.

14. Authorisation of Payments.

1. Finance

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses June	£615.55
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Payment to Norfolk Pension Service for Clerks pension June	£196.41
Payment to HMRC for Tax and NI	£126.50
Payment for Mulbee for maintenance work	£157.50
Payment to Excite for grass cutting and weed killing	£1360.50
Payment to 02 for Clerks Mobile	£11.89
Payment to Plusnet for broadband charges	£32.28
Quarterly Bank charges	£18.00
Credit Card Monthly Charge	£3.00
Credit Card Payments	
Payment to Amazon for lock for play area	£16.98

The clerk commented that we started the month with a balance of £20719.01 and after today's payments including the credit card, we would have a balance of £18215.38. This means the council is in good financial health. The clerk also commented that he had slightly changed the way this is reported in the financial report to show credit card payments also, which was welcomed by the councillors.

Proposed: Felicity Perry

Seconded: Kat Marshall

a). To agree a new bank signatory and take the old chairman off the mandate.

The clerk commented that with Ian Mortimer leaving the council he had applied to take Ian off the mandate and add Kat Marshal on the new mandate. Both forms were duly signed by councillors Mulhall and Fraser the 2 remaining signatories

15. Report on ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**

Seriously overgrown and the ivy needs cutting back, off path trail is finished and there is another path extension to help the children on this.

- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

- **Defibrillator Training**

Bunwell Parish Council has invited the councillors to attend their Defib Training with a date to be announced and once know the clerk will inform the councillors.

- **Dog bin on Sallow Lane**

The clerk commented that the new dog bin has been received but as, yet the new post has not yet been installed.

- **To receive the getting quotes for new benches to be either made or purchased**

All agreed that Mulbee solutions will undertake these as agreed at the June meeting.

- **Fencing at The Orchard**

The clerk commented that he had received 2 emails on this and worries that removing the fence would cause health and safety issues and it was agreed at the meeting of 8th June 2022 that this would happen as soon as we could. The fence was dangerous and falling down in places, so work was started. This would be completed ASAP with smaller posts to encourage people to use the area. A new notice board would be discussed, and the clerk would get prices with the black's meadow being the title of the notice board.

- **Book exchange**

It was discussed the possibility of opening a book exchange in the bus shelter utilizing the go for it grant mentioned by the District Councillor of £300. An honesty table would also be looked at. The clerk will contact the district Councillor on this.

16. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The clerk will download the SAM machine for the next meeting. The clerk will spin this around and then have it moved end of august to hall lane.

No speed watch due to weather and sickness not done this month.

The Sam is used to collect data and it there to slow the drivers coming into the village. It was noted that the parishioner felt the Sam machine was not very useful except to get the information from and it is sited better in the future.

17. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors

With Ian Mortimer resignation we need 2 new councillors, and the chairman will chat with potential candidates in the coming weeks.

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

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It was felt the small barrier is a good idea, but it needed to be higher maybe 3 feet.

2 new apple trees to be located in black's meadow.

Can a strip of grass say 2 yards be put in the area to aid wildlife?

19. Items for next Agenda.

Hedge at Victoria Cottages

The meeting ended at 6.55pm.

Next Parish Council Meetings 6th September 2023 at 6pm Wacton Village Hall

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