

Wacton Parish Council

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

At 6pm on Wednesday 2nd March 2022.

Present: - Chair: Ian Mortimer. Councillors: Peter Jacques, Peter Fraser, Gary Mulhall, Felicity Perry, Laura Doulton

District Councillor: Barry Duffin.

Two members of the public was also present.

Public Participation.

A parishioner asked District Councillor a question on the budget in the last minutes and Barry explained the answer to the question that the parishioner asked

1. To consider apologies for absence.

Alison Thomas and Piers Blaikie sent their apologies, and all agreed to accept

2. To receive any disclosures of interest.

No disclosures of Interest

3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd February 2022

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Gary Mulhall

Seconded: Felicity Perry

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

None reported.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported the following

Please send my apologies this evening. Not a great deal has changed since my last attendance in Feb except to say budget agreed and Bypass planning in full swing.

Due to the recent storm's highway resource has had to be diverted to urgent tree clearance etc so routine highway works will have been delayed. Any outstanding issues from tonight's meeting please let me know and I will follow up with Gary.

Suffice to say the County is ready to step up and assist with the refugee situation caused by crisis in Ukraine when required.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Barry reported as follows

Budget confirmed at £5 per household at SNDC increase to all households

The Accommodation review is still ongoing with issues on both sides and Barry felt this would run for a while yet

Long Stratton Bypass application is in and it is thought will go to cabinet committee in April with a proposed starting date in 2024

Village Clusters are close to finalization and Barry will report at the next meeting

7. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

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

8. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.

Tree Inspection: Nothing to report other than Terry Cheeseman's quote (£540) for the tree inspection. We need to push on with this. It may seem expensive but it's a lengthy process requiring a qualified arborist and I believe it is not that much more than the cost of the previous inspection four years ago. Peter recommended that the quote is accepted and the works carried out in 2 stages and the clerk will contact Terry to inform him this. The quote and timescale were agreed by all councillors.

Proposed Felicity Perry

Seconded Gary Mulhall

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

The only report from the village hall was that they had blocked the hall from bookings on the weekend of the queens platinum jubilee celebrations and was willing to help in any way and would match fund the amount the Parish Council put into the event

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

No update on the works and date of said works yet received

11. To consider Planning applications.

No Planning applications

12. Correspondence.

Grant application for queens jubilee from SNDC has been approved at £200

HMRC had now sent the cheque for the refund we had been due and this had been

Received by the clerk £572.29

NPTS emails on training

Emails on Queens Jubilee received too from Village Hall and Wacton Social Club.

Saffron had thanked the clerk for sending back the information on the grant and sent an expression of interest form for the clerk to fill and return for the chance to access more grants to further upgrade the play area. (Clerk has done this)

NALC have confirmed clerks salary rise due in April 2021 has been agreed at 1.75% and this will be back dated to April 2021 once the final figures are known the clerk will implement this.

Terry Cheeseman Quote

Councillor Piers Blaikie resignation

Speed Info sent to the police who will hold speed watch training now themselves to catch offenders

13. Authorisation of Cheques.

1. Finance

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses	£571.39
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks pension	£168.52
Payment to Homefront for maintenance	£ 90.00
Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone	£ 9.73
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£ 29.54
Bank Charges	£13.00

Proposed: Ian Mortimer

Seconded: Gary Mulhall

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

The clerk reported that Anne Barnes has agreed to be our internal auditor but this will be the last year.

The clerk reported that the Unity Trust account is up and running we are now using the system and doing our payments by direct debit with tonight being the first time. The clerk also reported that he had heard nothing from HSBC on the account closure and would be visiting the branch soon to find out the status and report to all councillors via email.

The clerk then took the council thorough the proposed Internal Control policy and Ian Mortimer agreed to take on the role of Internal Control Officer and all agreed to adopt the policy

Proposed. Felicity Perry

Seconded. Laura Doulton

14. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**

Bridge: Running repairs to the bridge completed by Johnny Johnson. Peter also reported that they bridge would also need a more solid repair once the stream had run dry and this would be undertaken then. Peter also commented that once the stream was clear it would help with the water running around the area and own to Victoria cottages. Peter also commented that the falling branches need clearing near the blue tarpaulin area and could be moved onto the wood piles to create even better habitats for the wildlife. Finally Peter asked that could GLS be asked to undertake some remedial work in the woodland project in early April and the clerk would contact them on this.

- **Good Neighbour Scheme.**
The clerk was working on this and would contact Community Action Norfolk to get the scheme moving forward.
- **Well on the green**
To be looked at in the summer.
- **To discuss and agree the Wix proposal for a new Wix website for the Parish Council**
Steve Jackman had contacted the clerk and was awaiting a date to get this moving asap.
- **Councillor and Clerk Training**
The clerk had booked himself onto Year end training due to the new legislation coming into force and the costs would be shared with Tharston and Hapton Parish Council
- **To discuss Broadband Proposals**
The clerk had investigated this and could see that we had an agreement with County Broadband and he would again contact them as they had not replied to his previous email and should no information be forthcoming, he will contact B4RN for information on their services.
- **To discuss Queens Platinum Jubilee**
Gary Mulhall will be leading this and things were moving forward with both the village hall and Wacton social club both agreeing to give their full support to the event. Gary had done some splendid work on this already with getting costs for the proposed Hog Roast, Burgers and Vegan food plus had also contacted the local co-op for information on proposed grants for the event. It was agreed the clerk would forward the email details of everyone for him to arrange meetings to get this moving forward soon. The clerk had reported that we will receive the first grant of £200 in early April for the event. Pete Fraser confirmed that he will put a band together for music for the event.

17. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The Clerk reported that he had moved the SAM machine and downloaded it with the number of cars going through the village had increased but the speeds had reduced with it being between 25 mph and 27,68 mph as people come into the village which is good news. One worrying thing was that we have a speeder at 60 mph on 27/10/21 at 13.21pm. The clerk has forwarded the figures to the police for their attention.

18. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

With Piers resignation we still need councillors but are in a better position than we were a months ago and the clerk would inform SNDC of Piers resignation and inform them we have the possibility of filling the two spaces we have for councillors and hopefully we can co-opt in April.

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

Stratton Road Potholes been reported.
Queens Platinum jubilee celebrations
Broadband issues

20. Items for next Agenda.

Policies update
Internal control
Year end

Public participation

There was no public participation as all had been discussed

Meeting closed at 6.47 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 6th April 2022 at 6pm.