

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall on Wednesday 5th February 2020

Present: - Chair: Calvin Goreham. Councillors, Peter Jacques. Piers Blaikie. Ian Mortimer, Paul Muston.

4 members of the public attended plus District Councillor Barry Duffin.

1. To consider apologies for absence:

No apologies were received.

2. To receive any declarations of interest for items on the agenda:

No declarations reported.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2020:

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Proposed. Ian Mortimer Seconded. Paul Muston .

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

No matters arising from the last meeting minutes.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor:

The only thing to update is that the County Divisional boundaries are going to be redone. The calculations didn't take proper account the growth in South Norfolk and we were having division size growing instead of reducing!

I am waiting for further update from Gary Overland of Highways on the issue Christine raised re water on Stratton Rd. I would say however that this sort of work is heavily oversubscribed for the workforce available so may take some time. Patience if possible!

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor:

Grants are still available but will run out soon.

The larger towns are having too much development and a proposal was to put the smaller villages into clusters including a school. Unfortunately, Wacton is left out on its own for the reason of no school etc.

Barry asked for comments and a discussion ensued. It was agreed that Wacton Parish Council are opposed to any form of development due to the lack of infrastructure and its very rural location and road issues.

7. To receive the Footpath Wardens report:

The Footpath Warden did not produce a detailed report for this month's meeting due to last month's weather.

8. To receive a report from the Tree Warden:

The owner of Wacton House was kind enough to show the Tree Warden the proposed major work on his boundary of unkempt hedge and tree line along Church Road and Stratton Road. The intention is to create an improved and continuous hedge line using a mix of pollarding, coppicing, hedge laying and infilling gaps with beech hedging. The Tree Warden said that South Norfolk had approved the proposal and, weather permitting, it was intended to carry out the work in February. He also warned that initially the work would seem a little draconian, but nature would soon ensure that the outcome was a vast improvement upon what was being replaced.

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

No report from The Village Hall committee

10. To consider Planning Applications:

No Planning Applications received

11. Correspondence:

The Clerk reported the following emails.

The South Norfolk Big Litter Pick has been organised and will run between 1st February to May 31st. The Big South Norfolk Litter Pick aims to encourage community groups to take part in maintaining and improving the appearance of their local area. South Norfolk Council will provide the necessary equipment (litter pickers, hi-vis vests and rubbish sacks), guidance on health and safety, how to set up an event, and promotional material for the event. There will also be a £20 reward to groups that take part and entry into a prize draw for the chance to win £200! In order to do this, please make sure you fill in the form attached after the event and return it to me.

The Society of Local Council Clerks are running a bursary scheme to allow Clerks to attend training and the Clerk will look at this to see if there are any courses, he needs to attend that comes under the scheme.

The Clerk has also received confirmation that the annual precept request form has been received by South Norfolk Council and everything is correct on the form.

The Clerk also reported that he had received the usual email from Wacton Village Hall regarding the key code change.

Norfolk Association of Local Councils have set up a wellbeing group which is being tasked with discussing vital local issues such as Local bus services, Great Norwich Plan and Rail infrastructure. There will be a conference on Saturday 4th April should any councillors wish to attend at The Costessey Centre from 10am to 4.30pm. entitled Looking after our residents needs and aspirations. The cost is £20 for Norfolk Association of Local Council members and £65 for others.

12. Authorization of Cheques:

- Cheques were authorized as follows:

Parish Clerk Salary and Expenses for December £425.23

Payment Westcotec for the Battery Charger £72.00

Payment to David Gunton for the Clerks new Laptop

and the work undertaken to install all the old files. £549.96

The Clerk took the meeting through the January Financial report

The Parish Council was in good financial health.

Proposed. Ian Mortimer

Seconded. Paul Muston.

13. To receive reports and discuss any on-going matters:

a. The Woodland Project Review:

Peter reported that the Long Stratton High School students had done some valuable work in the culvert, which was blocked. Peter had now completed the final rodding of the culvert and all was fine. Peter asked that if parishioners see any of these types of issues please contact The Clerk as soon as possible.

14. To discuss Parish Speed Watch Group and Speed Awareness Machine data:

The Clerk reported that the new battery charger had been received which had enabled him to download the Speed Awareness Machine data to gain the necessary information. The Clerk reported the average speed obtained from the data outside Wacton Village Hall was 33 miles per hour and that the average volume of cars passing the village hall (one way only?) per day was between 700 and 800 which was disturbing but not unreasonable. The Speed Awareness Machine is now fully charged and will be sited on Sunday in Hall Lane Wacton facing the traffic entering the village from Great Moulton.

The Speed Watch Group have been out and normally catching about 5 cars over the speed limit on each day.

15. To discuss the need for new Parish Councillors:

We still have two vacancies for Parish Councillors and if anyone would like to take up the role (full training will be given) please contact the Clerk.

16. To discuss the need for a new dog bin.

The Clerk had looked at this and had found a reasonably priced bin that will do the job required for approx. £100. It was agreed that we contact Highways to ask it to be attached to a post in the village.

A vote was taken, and it was agreed that the bin would be purchased as soon as possible.

Proposed. Paul Muston

Seconded. Peter Jacques

17. To discuss the need to appoint a new Emergency Planning Coordinator:

Piers Blaikie was still working on this and it was hoped that the first draft would be ready at the March meeting for all Councillors to look at and agree the content. It was reported that a letter will be drafted, and hand delivered to all parishioners by the Councillors over the next few weeks to ask if they would be happy to help in any type of emergency? (and if they were?) happy for The Parish Council and Emergency Coordinator to hold their details.

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

It was reported that the Wacton to Long Stratton road by Beech Cottage had a very deep pothole and the Clerk will report this over the weekend.

19. Items for the next agenda:

Emergency Co-Ordinator Plan
Parish Maintenance Agreement
Parish Insurance.

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 4th March 2020

Meeting ended 8.05 pm.