

# **Wacton Parish Council**

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

**At 6pm on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

**Present: - Chairman: Gary Mulhall. Councillors: Pete Fraser, Kat Ireson. Felicity Perry**

**Parish Clerk: Alan Arber**

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

## **1. Public participation**

A Parishioner brought up the recent issues around the bad parking at the recent WI meeting at the village hall and that many people were upset by the chairman and how his behaviour on the day upset many people. The chairman countered by saying that he was approached by an angry parishioner to ask why people were parking across peoples drives and blocking the pavement making it very difficult for parishioners to walk along the path. It was felt that he could have been more empathetic at the time. It must be noted that this was a village hall issue but due to the dreadful parking the chairman got involved.

Some of the facts were disputed on both sides and the clerk has told the chairman if this happens again to call the police and contact the village hall committee to deal with the problem.

A parishioner then asked why the Sextons Wheel did not have the parish council meeting dates in the diary section. The chair replied that it was an oversight as the last meeting was cancelled and date changed, meaning we missed the deadline. Something that has been rectified.

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

Alison Thomas and Kim Carsok sent their apologies. All agreed to accept.

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

Gary Mulhall for 2 payments in item 12

## **4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

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

**Proposed: Felicity Perry**

**Seconded: Pete Fraser**

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

None reported.

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

County Councillor Alison Thomas sent no report as she was on holiday.

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

Kim Carosk sent no report except to say nothing had changed since the September meeting.

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

We have do not have a Footpath Warden, so no report was forthcoming.

9. **To receive a report from the Village Hall Management moving forward.**

The village hall will not close, and the new committee is not official with the old constitution is out of date. The chair of the village hall is contacting the charity commission to update this asap. The clerk commented that he will be taking over the treasurer's role for a short time until they find a new treasurer. It was also noted that the village hall has a new secretary as well, which is good news, and all new bookings have been suspended till the new year with all existing hirers being informed of this. It is hoped to appoint the new trustees by the end of October.

The constitution states that we should have representatives from the church and the parish council as both groups are trustees and volunteers are welcomed.

10. **To consider Planning applications.**

No Planning applications received.

11. **Correspondence.**

2 x Complaints from Parishioner on the hedge cutting by the bus shelter.

Email from Mulbee solutions pulling out of the orchard work quote procedure.

Email new quote from a company to undertake the work.

Clerk attended the recent Police Forum where he detailed the issues around the vandalism at the Play area and the stolen SAM 2 machine.

Plusnet and clerk's mobile bills received.

NALC training emails received.

NPTS Training emails received.

Email sent to Insurers on the stolen SAM 2 machine and process is ongoing.

Town and country websites sent the bill for the website and the clerk informed them we no longer use their services.

Email from Parishioner on the road surface on church road

Road surface on church road reported to Highways.

Draft Budget worked on and submitted to the councillors.

Email sent to NGF play regarding replacing the damaged equipment in the play area.  
New Funding schemes received.

Email sent to Grass Contractors regarding the strimming needed at the edge of the play area.

Clerk had attended the Norfolk ALC autumn conference and Annual General Meeting.

## 12. Authorisation of Payments.

### !. Receipts

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Precept      | £9283.50 |
| Poppy Wreath | £20.00   |
| Total        | £9303.50 |

### 2. Finance

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for September £615.55
  - To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension for September £196.41
  - HMRC for tax and NI £164.15
  - Payment to Mulbee Solutions for maintenance work September £146.25
  - Payment to Royal British Legion for Poppy Wreaths under Sect 137 £40.00
  - Payment to Unity Trust for Quarterly Bank Charges £18.00
  - Annual Payment for dog bin Charges £297.29
  - Credit card monthly charge September £3
  - To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile for September £11.89
  - To approve payment to Plusnet for Broadband for defib for Sept £32.28
- Proposed Pete Fraser                      Seconded Kat Ireson**

### Update on the council Finances

The Parish council is in good health and at the start of October the councils balance was £14,837.55. After the payments from this meeting the councils balance is £22,913.52. So we are in good health.

## 14. Report on ongoing matters.

### ● Woodland Project

A new trail has been completed with good feedback. The log stores are being moved around but there is still more work to be done. The chair has been contacted by Long Stratton School to help with the work in the project.. 2 groups of year 10 and 11 are turning up on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October.

### ● Councillor and Clerk Training

Clerk attended the Norfolk ALC autumn conference today and will be attending the SLCC National Conference next week with climate change a big feature as well as Gov.uk email addresses for councillors and will report back at the November meeting on both items.

- **To discuss the Book Exchange project**

To begin the minor repairs to the roof, some surrounding laurel was cutback for access. It was at this point noticed that the laurel had grown into the roof over the years, causing major damage. A major cutback was therefore required to gain better access for inspection and repair. With the roof in such state of disrepair it will need to be replaced/rebuilt. This will delay the project moving forward somewhat however base coat paint can still be cast out. Anglian demolition will look at an issue that has been identified with the possibility of asbestos being found.

- **Vandalism in the Village**

As noted earlier in the meeting the clerk attended the recent Police priority meeting on Monday evening where he brought up the issue of the continuing vandalism, the stolen SAM 2 machine, and the parking by the play area in the evening of youth in their cars and he was assured the police would look into all these issues asap and report back to the clerk.

- **New Benches**

This will be deferred till the weather gets better.

- **Fencing at The Orchard**

3 quotes have been received for this work as detailed below.

GLS £4956.00

Bartrams Services £2750.00 to £2434.20 depending on the work carried out.

Homefront £2175.00

The following company were awarded the quote to undertake the work and the clerk will contact them asap to get the work started.

**Bartrams Services with galvanized chain. The cost being £2434.20.**

**Before we move forward on the chain link fence the clerk will research this before we move forward. A parishioner also commented that once all the details are found out that he is willing to produce a schedule of works should be needed to amend the tender moving forward.**

**Proposed Felicity Perry**

**Seconded Kat Ireson**

**All agreed.**

- **Pond Area**

Not a huge amount to do and the pond edge will not be dug up by Anglian water now when they do the work to the adjoining house. It is starting to get overgrown again and the need to make it look nice with minor maintenance.

- **Bus service in the village**

The bus is 3 times a day between Norwich to Diss. It is a hail and stop service. It was categorically stated that the bus shelter has nothing to do with the bus receipt.

- **Parish Partnership**

The clerk is working on this, and it will be discussed when the insurance details are known.

- **Councillors Page on the website**

The clerk commented that he would like to get a page on the website detailing the councillors and some information about each one. He asked all councillors to submit a few lines to him and a picture for the website so he could undertake this.

- **Gov.uk Email Addresses for councillors.**

It was noted that on our Annual Governance and accountability Return that this was mentioned and that the External auditors may request this becomes a legal requirement so at next week's SLCC National conference the clerk will get the information on this and report at the next meeting.

- **To agree the Councillor to attend the remembrance ceremony Wacton Church**

The clerk had purchased the 2 wreaths and they were handed to Kat Ireson who will present the Councils one at the service and the other was given to Felicity Perry for her to give to the church warden in advance of the ceremony.

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

The speed watch is looking good and the national 2 weeks of the national speed watch campaign with 2 sessions booked in for the event. If someone is caught twice in the same period it only counts as one offence which was committed. All the speed watch team are doing a great job in this.

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

We need new councillors desperately and will look for these asap. 2 volunteers may be interested in the coming months.

### **18. To agree the December Budget meeting date**

It will be done after the December meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

### **19. Public Participation**

The hedge on Parish Land was cut back and it was felt that the parish council should have approached him to ask for assistance.

It was felt with the work on the orchard may need a permit to undertake the work. It was also felt that the chain could be dangerous, and the clerk would look to check this.

2 police officers were in the village in the last few weeks, and they felt the speed issue were very bad. They were also looking for stolen lambs from a local farmer.

It was felt that a visual look a chain link fence would not look as good as a knee rail.

Cars are parked on the verge and walk through the area to get to their homes, and it was felt a fence would stop this.

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

#### **Gov.uk Emails**

#### **Chain link fencing.**

**Parish Partnership.**

**Items for the next Agenda.**

The meeting ended at 7.03 pm.

Next Parish Council Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023