

# **Wacton Parish Council**

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

**At 6pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022.**

**Present: - Chair: Ian Mortimer. Councillors: Peter Jacques, Peter Fraser, Gary Mulhall, Felicity Perry (after item 4)**

**District Councillor: Barry Duffin.**

**Two members of the public was also present.**

## **Public Participation.**

No public participation at the meeting.

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

Laura Dolton and Piers Blaikie sent their apologies, and all agreed to accept

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

Gary Mulhall for a pecuniary payment in item 15 all agreed

### **3. To Co-opt new Councillor**

Felicity Perry introduced herself to the council and gave a short resume of herself and the skills she can bring to the council. It was agreed to Co-opt Felicity to The Council.

**Proposed Peter Jacques**

**Seconded Pete Fraser**

### **4. To sign the Acceptance of Office and register of interests forms**

Felicity duly signed the Acceptance of Office and register of interest Forms which were witnessed by the clerk and Felicity then joined the meeting.

### **5. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

**Proposed: Gary Mulhall**

**Seconded: Felicity Perry**

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

None reported.

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

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported the following

Budget Time and Norfolk County Council is putting it up by 2.99% with 1.9% to council and 1% to social care.

Alison is chair of Scrutiny for health care and is looking at access to Dentistry and health care on the 10<sup>th</sup> of March. Also engaging with Long Stratton practice on how they are working through the issues. Alison will spend some time in the surgery in the coming weeks.

Children's services are busy, and Ofsted is due to report soon.

Highway's budget will be looked at and Alison will look to see if any left. But the high-ways budget resets end of March. It is worth looking repeater signs in the future.

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

Barry reported as follows

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

Long Stratton Bypass application is in and will be dealt with later

Village Clusters are moving forward but no information forthcoming yet

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

The Footpath Warden did not have a report for the meeting. But our new footpath warden who Liz Fernandes who has now stepped down so we need a new footpath warden.

**10. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.**

Tree Inspection: The last inspection was conducted by Terry Cheeseman (East of England Tree Surgeons) in 2018. I have contacted him about an inspection of the woodland trees and those around the green for which the Parish Council is responsible. He has suggested conducting the inspection at the end of February/ beginning of March, before leaves emerge, looking for fungus etc. and possibly then a walk through in April/May, when the trees are in leaf, to help confirm those with ash die-back. I said that you would contact him, as soon as possible after the meeting has agreed approaching him, to obtain a quote and a date for the inspection. By continuing to use Terry we build a good relationship which would be to our advantage if emergency work/tree clearance is required in the future

**11. To receive a report from the Village Hall Committee.**

No report from the Village Hall committee except heating is working and everything is okay and bookings are rolling in with the online booking system is working with bookings really coming in now which is good news.

## **12. 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

## **13. To consider Planning applications.**

The following planning applications relating to the Long Stratton Development were received

2018/0111

The clerk urged all Parish Councillors to look at the application he had sent to them and to send all comments to him for adding to Planning Portal

2022/0017 Tree work 1 Hall Lane Wacton Parish Council makes no comment

## **14. Correspondence.**

Precept paperwork sent off

Anne Barnes agrees to become Internal Auditor for this year end

Long Stratton Bypass Planning application as detailed above

New Website email sent and awaiting details and dates to meet

Clerks mobile bill received

Details of good Neighbour scheme received from CAN and meeting held as report later in meeting

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

## **15. Authorisation of Cheques.**

### **1. Finance**

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses	£536.76
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks pension	£168.52
Payment to NPTS for chairman training	£108.00
Payment to Gary Mulhall for posts on the green	£226.31
Payment to NPTS for clerks year end training	£22.00
Payment to HMRC for Tax and NI	£406.20
Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone	£ 9.73
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£ 29.54
Bank Charges	£13.00

Proposed: Gary Mulhall

Seconded: Pete Fraser

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

The clerk reported that the Unity Trust account is up and running and we paid our cheques from this account today, but we will move to full internet banking from March.

It was also agreed The Clerk would close the Savings account, transferring the total to the Unity Trust account and a letter was then signed by the signatories and the clerk will hand deliver this to HSBC on Monday

Proposed. Felicity Perry

Seconded. Ian Mortimer

## **16. Report of ongoing matters.**

- **Woodland Project**

Bridge: Temporary repair made by Johnny Johnson. He will affect a permanent repair on Saturday. He has quoted around £50. The damage to the planking on the bridge was a piece of good fortune as it was in an area where planking had begun to show signs of wood rot. I have asked Johnny to inspect all the planking and identify any that need repair or replacing soon.

Tree Inspection Survey in Woodland Project: The last inspection was conducted by Terry Cheeseman (East of England Tree Surgeons) in 2018. I have contacted him about an inspection of the woodland trees and those around the green for which the Parish Council is responsible. He has suggested conducting the inspection at the end of February/ beginning of March, before leaves emerge, looking for fungus etc. and possibly then a walk through in April/May, when the trees are in leaf, to help confirm those with ash die-back. I said that you would contact him, as soon as possible after the meeting has agreed approaching him, to obtain a quote and a date for the inspection. By continuing to use Terry we build a good relationship which would be to our advantage if emergency work/tree clearance is required in the future.

Bird Boxes cleaned out in the woodland project and all 6 boxes have been used and are now ready for the spring. The birds are looking for nest sites all ready. Felicity commented that she works in the ash die-back with her job and would like to know if there were any good trees she would like to know.

It was asked if a small work party would take place soon to look at the bridge to clean the area after the inspection is completed.

- **Good Neighbour Scheme.**

The clerk produced a report he had emailed to all councillors and it was agreed to get this moving asap with CAN and the clerk will do this asap.

- **Well on the green**

To be looked at in the summer

- **Posts on The Green**

These have been done and the chair thanked everyone involved in doing this.

- **To discuss and agree the Wix proposal for a new Wix website for the Parish Council**

The clerk had contacted Steve Jackman 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 received an update from Plusnet asking if we would like to sign a new 2-year contract with them reducing our costs for parish office broadband and defib broadband to £17.00 a month plus vat. He had contacted County broadband as he was aware of an agreement to provide 500mb of free broadband to the village hall once all installed. It was agreed to look at B4Rn on this.

- **To discuss Queens Platinum Jubilee**

Many ideas on this were put forward including ideas to involve the church, village hall other groups. It was agreed that we would set up a working party to look at ideas asap.

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

The Clerk reported that he had moved the SAM machine and would be downloading it soon for the latest information.

**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)**

**Stratton Road Potholes been reported.**

**Meeting staying at 6pm**

**Mobile phone/Broadband coverage needs looking at.**

**20. Items for next Agenda.**

**Policies update**

**Internal control**

**Broadband**

**Internet banking started**

**Public participation**

Meeting closed at 7.05 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 6pm.