

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom

At 7pm on Wednesday 2nd December 2020.

Present: - Chair: Calvin Goreham. Councillors, Paul Muston, Piers Blaikie, Ian Mortimer, Peter Jacques. County Councillor Alison Thomas, District Councillor Barry Duffin.

No members of the public were present.

The clerk informed everyone in attendance that the meeting was being recorded.

Public Participation.

No public participation at the meeting.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

No Apologies were received.

2. To receive any disclosures of Interest.

None Received.

3. To discuss keeping the delegated authority with the Clerk and Chairman.

The Clerk will remove this item as it was dealt with at the last meeting.

4. To approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 4th November 2020 via zoom.

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

Proposed Ian Mortimer.

Seconded Paul Muston.

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

None reported.

6. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Please send my apologies for this meeting. There are just a couple of things to update Councillors on since your last meeting. The County Council is consulting on its budget proposals so would welcome input from Parishes. I would be interested to know your views on verge cutting. Some Parishes do not want the cutting reduced but others see it as an opportunity to encourage wildflower growth providing dangerous junctions are not cut. There are also questions about proposed Council Tax increases.

As I am sure you are aware, we will emerge from lockdown in Tier 2 this will be reviewed every two weeks. Please be mindful about keeping safe and I look forward to your views regarding possible joining of the “good neighbour” scheme being set up by myself and Josh Worley with the support of Community Action Norfolk who will deal with all the governance issues and formal vetting via Disclosure Barring Service.

Suffice to say I hope you all have a very restful and happy Christmas break during these strange times.

A discussion ensued on the issue of verge cutting with many points raised but it was agreed that The Clerk would contact Alison Thomas with the following resolution agreed via a vote of 4-1 in favour.

Wacton Parish Council do not support any reduction in verge cutting on the Stratton Road (Long Stratton to Wacton road) due to road safety concerns but will review if there are any other areas in the village where reduced verge cutting could possibly take place.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

The District Councillor commented on the following topics:

His Members Ward Grant was being rolled over.

Early Help Hub in Long Stratton was working day and night to support local parishioners.

Barry had been informed that the Planning Application 2020/1897 would be refused.

Finally, he wished everyone a Merry Christmas and happy new year.

8. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

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

9. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.

Peter reported that the silver birch trees planted many years ago by Peter Cox located outside his property (but on his own land) had seen better days. It was agreed that it should be Peter Cox (not the Parish Council) that contacts South Norfolk District Council to get planning permission to replace the trees as they are in a conservation area.

Peter also reported that a Horse Chestnut tree on the village green needs attention and he would contact South Norfolk District Council on this subject.

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

Calvin reported that the Village Hall remains closed for the foreseeable future.

11. To consider Planning application.

No planning applications at this meeting.

12. Correspondence.

All correspondence had been logged and sent to Councillors via the delegated authority scheme.

13. Authorization of Cheques.

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and Expenses	£447.33
Payment to Her Majesty Revenue and Customs for three months Tax and National Insurance	£305.80
Payment to Country Grounds maintenance for Grass Cutting	£356.20
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service For Clerks Pension	£153.76
Payment to South Norfolk District Council for Annual Dog Bin Emptying Charge	£262.56
Plus net broadband service D/D	£28.20
Plus net broadband service D/D	£28.20

Proposed Ian Mortimer. Seconded Paul Muston.

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

It was agreed that the Parish Council Budget meeting would take place via zoom on 16th December at 7pm.

14. Report of ongoing matters.

- Woodland Project
Peter Reported that due to the Covid restrictions the Long Stratton High School students had not been in attendance, but he had undertaken some works himself. Peter also reported that he had contacted a local company (Garden Landscape Services) regarding contracting some of the much-needed tasks to them and they had quoted a total of £795 + Vat for this work. It was agreed that as this was vital work and the money was in the budget, Peter was to contact Garden Landscape Services to instruct them to carry out the work.. It was also agreed that Peter would ask Garden Landscape Services about the issues of the trees on the pond and then discuss any costs at the upcoming budget meeting.
Proposed Paul Muston. Seconded Ian Mortimer.
- Children's multi-play equipment.
The Clerk had obtained one quote of £10,000 to replace the multi play equipment (recently dismantled due to being unsafe) but was instructed to obtain more quotes plus information from other local councils on providers of this type of equipment so the Parish Council could explore all aspects of the project.
- Good Neighbour Scheme.

A discussion was held and it was agreed that due to the large amount of extra work, associated costs and the pressure the scheme would place on the Parish Council involved in setting up our own group it was agreed to defer the Scheme at present. Piers will contact Josh Worley (Long Stratton organizer of the scheme) with our decision.

15. To receive details of Parish speed watch group.

The group were currently not operating due to the Covid restrictions. The Clerk commented that the Parish Partnership grant for the new Speed Awareness Machine had been submitted and a decision should be known in early March.

16. To Discuss the need for new Councillors.

Paul Muston had produced a flyer for this but needed the clerks new phone number to finalize the poster. Once he had this, he will undertake to hand deliver the leaflets to all houses in Wacton.

17. To discuss providing The Clerk with a Parish Mobile Phone.

The chairman gave details of the proposal to buy a mobile phone for the Clerk to use solely for Parish Council business. It was agreed that The Chairman would investigate this, and The Clerk agreed it was a good idea.

Proposed Ian Mortimer. Seconded Paul Muston.

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

a) County Broadband had not replied to the initial requests to provide information on the siting of the broadband boxes.

N.B. In the recent edition of the Sexton's Wheel it was noted that they hoped to finish the scheme by early spring.

b) The Clerk reported that he had written 9 of the 30 Learning Orders for his Cilca Training and he was hoping to share them with Councillors for them to see how the work is progressing.

19. Items for next Agenda.

Multi Play Equipment

Public Participation.

Meeting closed at 8.04 pm.

Parish Council Budget Meeting 16th December 2020 at 7pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 6th January 2021 at 7pm.