

Wacton Parish Council

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

At 6pm on Tuesday 12th September 2023.

Present: - Chairman: Gary Mulhall. Councillors: Pete Fraser, Kat Marshall.

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

6 members of the public were also present plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Kim Carosk

1. Public participation

Comments were made on a new bus service coming from Norwich to Diss down Church Road, and this is considered dangerous as the roads are not suitable for this type of vehicle and it was asked if the Parish Council could look into this asap..

The village hall matter was brought up and there are enough trustees to run the village hall and as a hirer they have not received notification of this meaning that hirers would not use the village hall.

The parish Council were thanked for getting the sign and dog bin installed at Sallow Lane, but complaints were made that the lettering on the road signs were wrong, and it should read Gt Moulton not Moulton. Alison Thomas replied that she would look into this, but we are lucky to get the sign back as there is very little budget to do this type of repair.

SAM 2 machine disappeared when the post was replaced, and the clerk has contacted highways on this already and we await the reply.

A special speed watch is being undertaken this week and it was asked that the Sam machine is not replaced when we get it back.

Is there any news on the community picnic as the council got a grant for. The clerk replied that they never got such a grant due to the date of the picnic not falling into the timescale to receive the grant.

Problems on the common to be sent to parishioner who is dealing with these.

A parishioner commented that he was willing to cut the grass along the edges at the top of Common Road free of charge and the council agreed to undertake this offer.

2. To consider apologies for absence.

Felecity Perry sent their apologies. All agreed to accept.

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Gary Mulhall for 2 payments in item 13

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12th July 2023

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

Proposed: Pete Fraser

Seconded: Gary Mulhall

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 gave the following report.

Alison will look at the issues brought up about the bus service, Gt Moulton sign and Sam machine. The long Stratton bypass is moving forward and all the issues with local landowners have been agreed. It is hoped that once the meetings are held and the s106 monies are agreed and funding received from central government that the project would start the project in early April 2024.

Health and social care remain a problem with the strikes by doctors really impacting on local surgery and Alison asked that should any parishioner get a call with any impending surgery and the date pushed back to be kind to the person on the phone, it's not their fault.

Alison also reported on a new scheme in Acle called Swallowtail House where people go for aftercare, and they have their own residence where they can take family visitors and have lots of amenities that is run by Saffron Housing with another one due to open in Hunstanton soon. Their stay is 4 months initially and they pay for extra care after receiving 4 hours free care a week.

7. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Kim Carosk gave the following report.

CAF funding next round finishes on 21/9

Pride in Place on a rolling basis and the council were asked if there are any grants they need to apply for to get them in.

Homes for Ukraine is ramping up with £500 being given to residents that house refugees from Ukraine to help with household bills.

The new Wellness Vehicle is due to be rolled out and will run workshops on all types of issues such as debt, wellness and anything local residents require, and the council was urged to see what was needed in the area and apply for the vehicle to attend Wacton.

Long Stratton House sale is being held up by Long Stratton Town Council requesting that it becomes a 'ASSETT 14/9/2023 OF COMMUNITY VALUE' which Wacton PC agree with, and it will hold up any sale by around 8 months.

Long Stratton leisure Centre has had new equipment installed that helps those gym users that are not comfortable in using the gym equipment, such as dementia groups, and is proving very popular.

Finally, the local Town and council forum will be held on 9th October and the council were urged to attend.

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 clerk commented that he attended the recent meeting and that some people had come forward but only 15 people attended out of 140 houses within the parish, which is a worry. A parishioner came forward regarding a leaflet drop and poster campaign but as, yet this had not been undertaken as the main trustee was away at present.

10. To discuss signing the armed forces covenant.

This was agreed at the last meeting and will be removed from the next agenda.

11. To consider Planning applications.

No Planning applications received.

12. Correspondence.

Wacton Village Hall meeting attended.
PKF Littlejohn External audit received.
Quotes for Orchard work received.
Kat Marshal Internet banking done.
Email from a parishioner on the pruning of a tree near the pond
Annual Doig Bin Charge email received.
Excite Invoice received.
Plusnet and clerk's mobile bills received.
Clerks national conference application submitted.
Meeting of weds 6th cancelled as not quorate.
Pylons update received.
NALC training emails received.
NPTS Training emails received.
Places booked for 2 councillors on NPTS Autumn Seminar.
Plusnet Package upgraded as required.
Go for its Grant applied for the bus shelter project.
Go for its Grant applied for the project of £300.
Request to use Village green for an event 16th September.
Risk assessments received for above request.
Insurance details received for the event on 16th September 2023.
2 Wreaths for Remembrance Day ordered.
2 Wreaths to be collected Thursday 14th September 2023.

13. Authorisation of Payments.

1. Finance

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for July £615.35
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- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension July £196.41
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension August £196.41
- HMRC for tax and NI £30.75
- Payment to Mulbee solutions for maintenance work July and August £235
- Payment to Viking for Printer Ink £107.23
- Payment to NPTS for Autumn Seminar £162.00
- Payment to Excite for Grass Cutting £915.60
- Annual Payment for dog bin Charges £297.29
- Payment to External Auditor for external audit £252.00
- Amazon Payment on credit card gate latch £6.59
- Credit card monthly charge July and August £3 for both months
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile July and August £11.89 for both months
- To approve payment to Plusnet for Broadband for defib July and August £32.28 for both months
- Any other payments that come after agenda posted.

Proposed Pete Fraser

Seconded Kat Marshall

To receive External Auditors Report and note any Items to be undertaken.

The clerk reported that the External audit has been returned and there were no actions detailed for action and the council thanked the clerk for his wonderful work on this as normal.

Update on the council Finances

The Parish council is in good health and at the start of September the councils balance was £17,595.80. After the payments from this meeting the councils balance is £14,840.55 and with the second precept payment due at the end of September things are looking very good. The clerk also commented that he was working on the budget at present, and it is hoped that the information will be ready for a budget meeting in late November or early December.

14. **Report on ongoing matters.**

- **Woodland Project**

1 issue with rotting damage to the first plank of the bridge. This will be a safety issue with no support beneath. It will get a temporary repair but the whole bridge needed replacing as it has been vandalized and is too thin.

- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

Clerk will attend the Essential Seminar with Councillor Gary Mulhall and Councillor Marshall plus he is enrolled on the SLCC National Clerks conference in Hinckley in early October.

- **To discuss the Book Exchange project**

The Clerk reported that he had applied for a grant of £300 to aid the project and this had now been received. A working party to undertake the work was agreed to paint and clean on the project.

- **Sign and Dog Bin on Sallow Lane**

The post has now been installed as has the Dog bin so can be removed from the agenda.

- **New Benches**

This will be deferred till the second part of the precept is received at the end of September.

- **Fencing at The Orchard**

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

GLS	£4956.00
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Bartrams Services	£2434.20
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Mulbee Solutions	£2100.00
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Another quote is due in and as yet not received so it was agreed to defer this till the 4th quote was received.

- **Pond Area**

The new safety signs are up and the trees around the pond need pruning once the nesting season is finished along with the bramble to be removed. We were approached by a parishioner having the hedges cut in his field, and would we like that parishioner to instruct his contractor to cut the parts around the pond on the Green back. It was agreed to instruct the parishioner to get this done.

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

The clerk commented that the post the SAM 2 machine was on has been replaced but the SAM 2 machine has gone missing due to this, and he has contacted Highways to ask where the sign and fittings asap. Speed watch took place in July and August. There is a one-day event happening soon and it is hoped the police turn up. The speed watch has enough people to run the speed watch. A parishioner raised an issue that the speed watch group is not displaying the temporary signs in the correct position. The more permanent signs are worn out and too small. This made the speed watch undertaken not legal unless the signs are displayed in the correct way.

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

We need new councillors desperately and will look for these asap.

17. Public Participation

A question of the book exchange was raised, asking how this will run as we have a bus service now. Would it allow people to use the book exchange and the bus shelter together. Also should a plastic front be on the bookcase to help prevent damp.

Blacks' meadow and the posts are not low down with 3 feet minimum and this will be decided when the quotes are received.

Clarification of the bus route is needed.

The clarification was that the council has legal rights that must be undertaken at all times.

Cutting of grass as parishioner offered to do free of charge was agreed.

Councillor Kat Marshall and Chairman Mulhall reiterated the need for the meetings to be run legally and that parishioners adhered to the correct times to speak as this had led to issue for The Clerk over the legality of people speaking when not supposed to. They both commented that this must happen and is not to stop people speaking at all but to speak only at the correct time and place during the meeting.

19. Items for the next Agenda.

Village Hall situation

Orchard Quote and contractor to undertake the work.

SAM 2 machine

Parish Partnership Application

Councillor to attend the remembrance service and lay wreath.

December Budget meeting date

Councillors page on the website

Gov.uk email addresses.

Bridge in woodland project

Playground gate maintenance/Vandalism

The meeting ended at 7.00 pm.

Next Parish Council Meetings 4th October 2023