

# **Wacton Parish Council**

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

**At 6.00pm on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024.**

**Present: - Chair: Gary Mulhall. Councillors: Pete Fraser, Felicity Perry**

**Parish Clerk: Alan Arber**

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

**1. Public participation.**

No public participation,

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

Kat Ireson sent her apologies along with County Councillor Alison Thomas all agreed to accept..

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

No disclosures of Interest

**4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

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

**Proposed: Pete Fraser**

**Seconded: Felicity Perry**

**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 the following report read out by the clerk -

Not a lot to update on except the following.

The side road orders for the bypass have been signed off by the Sec of state.

Pre commencement works will begin this month (pre nesting season) and contract award is pending.

All roads impacted by recent heavy rain please bear with highways as they tackle the most serious cases involving property flooding.

A gentle reminder to local landowner's to ensure they keep their ditches clear would also help.

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

Kim Carosk gave the following report.

Information on Flood Grants sent to the clerk, for those who are affected with flooding, and these are quite substantial.

Right care, Right person is about the mental health provision. It is for when the police are called and there is no threat to life, they are passed to the right organization able to provide better help and it is hoped to start this in Jan but as, yet no funding is in place, but this is being sort as we speak.

Vehicle disorder issues around Wymondham town center and Long Water Lane shopping area are concerning, however the whole of South Norfolk now comes under a public space protection order giving the police more powers to disperse groups causing a nuisance in vehicles.

Diss swimming pool is being refurbished as the pool is in a bad state of disarray. Customer experience will be better, along with safety of the users of the establishment. Some grant funding has been found on this to assist with the refurbishment. Many schools use the pool, so it is needed for this to happen.

**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.**

No Report received.

Broadband is now installed, and it has been agreed that the costs would be shared with the Village Hall and Parish Council moving forward and the clerk will do this once everything is in order..

**10. To receive the grant application from Wacton Social Club regarding a donation for the Children's Christmas Party**

The clerk reported that this had been discussed at the last meeting and a donation of £100 was agreed to assist the social club with the cost of the party. The clerk forwarded the grant application form to the social club and all councillors agreed that the £100 donation is sent.

**Proposed: Felicity Perry**

**Seconded: Gary Mulhall**

**11. To receive and governance updates**

The clerk reported that there were no updates on this.

**12. To consider Planning applications.**

Planning applications 2023/3872 No 18 Hall Lane, Wacton Norfolk  
Increase in roof height and part conversion of garage into a bedroom.

The clerk had printed the necessary papers for the councillors to look at and after a short discussion it was agreed to Support the application.

**13. Correspondence.**

Insurance claim for the missing SAM 2 machine has been paid to the council.

The new SAM 2 has been ordered and should be with us in late Feb 2024

New Defib Pads and Bleed kit installed on the village hall defibrillator.  
 Migration of broadband has been completed and everything is running smoothly.  
 New Printer for the clerk has been received and is working well.  
 Pride in Place and bloom grant final papers have been submitted.  
 Planning application 2023/3872 received.  
 Pension sheets done for both Dec and Jan and Norfolk Pension fund informed that Feb Payment will be late due to the clerks leave and both sheets submitted ready.  
 Pension I-connect updated as required.  
 Website updated and message for Clerks leave put on there too.  
 Bank Details and Grant application received from the social club regarding children's Xmas Party.  
 Email from Norfolk ALC was received asking us if we wish to go back and use their services. The clerk had declined this due to the costs involved and the fact we prefer NPTS and SLCC.  
 Gov.uk Order placed and progress is being made but quite slowly due to the number of Parish councils enrolling in the new scheme.  
 Email on the parish clusters received but this does not involve Wacton as we are not on the scheme for new houses under this project.

#### 14. Authorisation of Payments.

##### 1. Receipts

HMRC Vat Refund	£449.53
Gallaghers Insurance for the stolen SAM	£4014.80

##### 2. Finance

• To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for December	£636.28
• To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension Dec	£209.49
• Payment to HMRC for Tax and NI	£163.92
• To approve payment to O2 for Clerk's mobile Dec	£11.89
• To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib Dec	£35.11
• To approve payment to Unity Trust for Quarterly Bank Charges	£18.00
• To approve payment to Viking for New Printer	£133.14
• To approve payment to Wacton Social Club grant	£100.00
• To approve payments on credit card as detailed below	£136.25
• Defib Pad	£58.15
• Direct 365 for Bleed Kit	£74.70
• Monthly charge	£3.00

**Proposed: Felicity Perry**

**Seconded: Gary Mulhall**

#### Update on the council Finances

The Parish council is in good health and at the start of December the councils balance was £23,854.47. After the payments from this meeting the councils balance is £22,410.39 So we are in good health.

The clerk has a reclaim of Vat not yet done of £54.20.

## **To approve the Budget for 2024-2025**

The budget had been agreed and was now set and with the councils financial situation being very healthy, the councillors were mindful of the current cost-of-living issues with all agreeing that the band D charge has increased by £2.09 due to the tax base reducing by 2 houses, so the band D charge this year is set at £136.52 meaning an increase of 4p per week.

## **To approve the precept request for 2024-2025 to be checked by all councillors and signed by the chair.**

As detailed above and due to the small change in the band D tax base, the council will again be requesting £18,567.00 as its precept request for 2024-2025. All councillors checked the paperwork request prepared by the clerk and agreed it was correct and this was duly signed by the chair to be submitted asap to SNDC.

**Proposed: Gary Mulhall    Seconded: Pete Fraser**

### **15. Report on ongoing matters.**

- **Woodland Project and damaged Bridge**

No work has been done this month, but there is some storm damage and this need clearing when possible. The bridge needs full repair once the weather gets better.

- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

NPTS seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> March who wants to attend.

- **To discuss the Book Exchange project**

No work done this month but will continue once the weather gets better.

- **New Benches**

This has been deferred until the weather spring.

- **The Parish Partnership**

The scheme will not be utilized this year. To be removed.

- **Councillors Page on the website**

The clerk commented that he had received two of the councillors details to put on the website and asked if the other councillors could get them in, then this could be done on his return from leave on Feb 19th.

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

The clerk commented that this is moving forward and should be completed on his return from leave.

- **Sam 2 Insurance claim**

The clerk reported this has now been settled and the council had received a total of £4014.80. the new SAM machine has been ordered but takes 10-12 weeks to be delivered so it is hoped it will be ready to collect on the clerks return from leave.

- **Biodiversity**

The clerk is working on this, along with a climate emergency policy as well and will report to the council on his return.

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

No Report

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

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

**18. Public Participation**

None

**19. Items for the next Agenda**

**Sam 2 machine to be collected.**

**Governance**

**Woodland Project works**

**Litter in the village.**

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024