

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom

At 7pm on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

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 approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd December 2020 via Zoom.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting with one amendment.
Proposed. Ian Mortimer. Seconded. Paul Muston

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

None reported.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Alison Thomas gave a report on the recent flooding issues and hoped to organise a full meeting with all the agencies involved very soon. Alison also reported that she was a victim of the flooding herself and is now working from a site that has intermittent Wi-Fi and phone signal. Alison asked that people are patient with replies from her.

Alison reported that Highways were working around the clock (under intense pressure) to resolve all the main issues with the flooding so there may be a delay in minor projects. Alison also reported that the national Covid-19 vaccination scheme was moving forward and commented that all County and District Councillors are working with the National Health Service to get the scheme up and running as quickly as possible.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Barry Duffin reported that the Long Stratton Help Hub was working increased hours to help people at the present time. The Help Hub will ensure that all requests for help are dealt with but may take a little longer than normal due to the volume of calls.

Barry also reported that the Long Stratton Help Hub has various funds available to help Parishioners and businesses in the current climate and he urged people to contact the Help Hub directly.

7. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

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

8. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.

Peter Jacques reported that he would circulate the latest information on Ash dieback to all Councillors as they have a legal liability due to their ownership of various trees.

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

Peter Jacques reported that the riverbank outside the Village Hall had suffered from a land slippage. Peter is currently seeking advice from other parties to see what can be done to ensure the riverbank has no more issues like this.

10. To consider Planning applications.

No planning applications at this meeting.

11. Correspondence.

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

12. Authorisation of Cheques.

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and Expenses	£470.81
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks Pension	£153.76
Payment to Clerk for software Update on Laptop	
Shared with Tharston and Hapton PC	£99.00
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£28.20
Plusnet 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.

The Parish Council Budget for 2021-2022 was set and agreed by all councillors

Proposed: Peter Jacques

Seconded: Piers Blaikie

The Parish Council will be requesting and the precept figure request from South Norfolk District Council is £17,900.

Proposed: Ian Mortimer.

Seconded: Calvin Goreham.

The clerk commented that:

a) He would be filling in the precept request form when it was received and would email the completed form for all councillors to check the figures were correct.

b) He was now set up for internet banking on the laptop.

c) He had reclaimed the outstanding VAT as of 31st Dec 2020 and this figure was £404.09.

13. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**

Peter Jacques reported that a former Long Stratton High School Student had contacted him with regards to running a scheme helping & protecting hedgehog's in the Woodland Project. Peter would contact the student to ascertain his needs and the liability to the Council.

- **Children's multi-play equipment.**

The Clerk has arranged two site visits with local companies to look at our requirements and obtain quotes for the Council to consider.

- **County Broadband and Installation of Boxes**

Calvin Goreham reported that he had at last heard from County Broadband on the proposed installation of the new boxes-being installed on verges on Common Road. The verges are owned by the Parish Council but are not yet registered with the Land Registry. The clerk was tasked to find out how they could be registered? and the costs involved.

- **Good Neighbour Scheme**

Piers made comments that although we would not be taking part in this, he felt it would be a good idea to continue with looking into the probability of setting up a modest resilience plan in Wacton. It was agreed that he would send his initial finding and thoughts to all Councillors via email.

- **To discuss and agree the Grass Cutting Contract for 2021-2022**

The clerk commented that he had received the grass cutting contract from Country Grounds Maintenance and that due to only a £71.00 increase (to £2447 + Vat), this fell within the budget figure set by the Council.

Proposed: Piers Blaikie.

Seconded: Paul Muston.

15. To receive details of Parish speed watch group.

The group were currently not operating due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Paul Muston reported that the Police were currently looking at ways to align the Norfolk & Suffolk Community Speed watch schemes to make the administration more streamlined and efficient.

16. To Discuss the need for new Councillors.

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

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

Calvin Goreham reported that Mike Britch (former Chairman of the Parish Council) had recently passed away and he hoped to attend the funeral on behalf of the Parish Council. He asked if the Parish Council would look at a suitable purchase to honour Mike's past services to the village.

The Clerk was thanked for his sterling work throughout 2020 by all Councillors

18. Items for next Agenda.

Meeting closed at 7.53 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 3rd February 2021 at 7pm.