Wacton Parish Council

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

At 7pm on Wednesday 6th October 2021.

Present: - Chair: Ian Mortimer. Councillors: Piers Blaikie, Peter Jacques, Peter Fraser, Gary Mulhall joined after item 4

District Councillor: Barry Duffin.

 Zero members of the public were also present.

Public Participation.

No public participation at the meeting.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

Laura Dolton and Alison Thomas sent their apologies. All agreed to accept.

1. To receive any disclosures of interest.

None received.

1. **To discuss the co-option of a new Councillor**

Gary Mulhall Introduced himself to the council and gave a quick resume of the reasons for joining the council

All Agreed to co-opt

Proposed Pete Fraser Seconded. Piers Blaikie

1. **New Councillor to sign the Acceptance of Office Forms and the Register of interests forms.**

These were witnessed by The Clerk and Gary joined the meeting.

1. **To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 8th September 2021**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting

Proposed: Peter Jacques Seconded: Pete Fraser.

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

None reported.

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

County Councillor Alison Thomas was not in attendance and sent her report to The Clerk as follows.

Not much to update since my last report except to acknowledge that the Boundary Commission has decided that from the next County elections Wacton will no longer be in Long Stratton Division. This report was discussed at County Council. I continue to lobby for meaningful action on drainage issues that exacerbated the flooding experienced by Parishes in Dec 2020 and asked at the recent cabinet meeting when education and encouragement fail when do we enforce

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

Accommodation review still ongoing and the village clusters is now closed, and Barry will report when he has more information.

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

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

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

Peter Jacques commented that he had nothing to report for the meeting.

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

The clerk had received no report from the Village Hall committee.

1. **To receive an update on the flooding issues at Victoria Cottages and the Village Pond.**

Pete Fraser commented that he was doing remedial work outside his property. It was also agreed to look at the possibility of getting the pond renovated in the new year when possible. It was also reported that a post is needed on the green to stop trucks driving over the grass and Gary Mulhall will look at this and report back to the meeting with costs to be agreed.

1. **To consider Planning applications.**

No Planning applications were received.

1. **Correspondence.**

The clerk had received an email from a local parishioner with regards to her son doing his duke of Edinburgh award by undertaking tasks around the village such as.

Litter Picking

Weeding local areas

Assisting the clerk with the SAM machine if possible

Any other tasks that the council can think of that a young person can do towards the scheme

An email received from SNDC Emergency Planning Officer, and it was agreed to order one pallet.

1. **Authorisation of Cheques.**

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses £536.64

Payment to Norfolk Pension Service

For Clerks pension £168.52

Payment to CGM for Grass Cutting £367.06

Payment to Village Hall for meetings and office £500.00

Payment to SLCC for Clerks Training conference £284.40

Payment to British Legion for Poppy Wreaths Under sect 137 £34.00

Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone £ 9.73

Plusnet broadband service D/D £ 29.54

Proposed: Peter Jacques 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 also reported that the council had received the following receipts in Sept and October

2nd Precept Payment £8950.00

HSBC interest on Savings account £0.04

A discussion ensued on the possibility of changing to Unity Trust bank as most parish councils are changing and the system is quicker and easier to use than HSBC. The clerk will investigate processing the change asap. The three signatories will be Pete Fraser, Gary Mulhall, and Ian Mortimer

Proposed Ian Mortimer Seconded Gary Mulhall

1. **Report of ongoing matters.**
* **Woodland Project**

Peter Jacques reported that the hedge hog man is working in the woodland project and Peter is awaiting information from person doing it.

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

We are still awaiting the news on the grant from Saffron and that decision is due this week. On a good note a parishioner had agreed to remove the rotten swings before the new set are installed within the next two weeks

* **Good Neighbour Scheme.**

The clerk had spoken with Community Action Norfolk on the possibility of piggy backing onto their local schemes to which they will provide training, DBS checks, Free insurance and it was hoped that once our plan was finalised, we could submit to C A N for their comments and hopefully to give us better

access to the items mentioned earlier in the discussion

* **Grass Cutting Contract**

The clerk produced a specification to send to three contractors and returned in sealed envelopes for the dec meeting for the contract to be awarded. It was agreed that it was a good document and should be sent to three contractors asap

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

The Clerk reported that the new SAM machine has now been downloaded and it was noted that it seemed around the same time each day we had a speeder doing between 40-50 MPH between 1 and 3 am and we will continue to monitor this. As a rule most of the speeds were around 25-34 mph from the data collected and this will be sent to the police at the end of the week. The clerk also took the meeting through the report and the

Information we can get from the report.

**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)**

The clerk had now received the quote from GLS for the work on Hayntons lane at £2880 incl vat and he had approached Long Stratton Town Council to ask if they would fund 25% of the costs with Wacton PC picking up 25% and 50%coming from the Parish Partnership

 Chairmanship training is being organized along with new councilor training with

candidates to be agreed with other councils if possible.

Website needs updating as it needs more information on it. Gary to work on this with the clerk.

Possibility of a Face book site moving forward

 **20. Items for next Agenda.**

 **Grass Cutting Contract**

 **Play area Grant**

 **Chairmanship training**

 **Clerk Training**

**Budget**

**Public participation**

Meeting closed at 7.52 pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting 3rd November at 7pm.