

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom.

At 7pm on Wednesday 7th April 2021.

Present: - Chair: Calvin Goreham. Councillors: Paul Muston, Piers Blaikie, Peter Jacques, Peter Fraser, Ian Mortimer.

County Councillor: Alison Thomas. District Councillor: Barry Duffin.

No members of the public were also present.

Public Participation.

No public participation at the meeting.

1. To consider apologies for absence.

No apologies were received as all Councillors in attendance.

2. To receive any disclosures of interest.

None received.

3. To approve the minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd March 2021 via Zoom.

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting with one small alteration to item 5.

Proposed: Paul Muston. Seconded: Piers Blaikie.

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

None reported.

5. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

County Councillor Alison Thomas reported that she was still chasing the query regarding a landowner and whether it can be identified if they are responsible for a local footpath. Alison also reported that she was still waiting for a decision from Highways on the rollover project at Victoria Cottages. Alison would update the Clerk once a decision had been reached. Alison then reported that the developers regarding the Long Stratton Bypass had released a press statement and that it was hoped that the planning application would be submitted around late autumn. Alison also commented that there was a potential issue with drainage on the project, but the developers were not liable for current issues only those that they may create from the project. Alison commented that the issues around zoom meetings ending for everyone and especially at County Hall would cause

issues as the meeting room was not currently suitable to hold face to face socially distanced meetings. Finally, Alison commented that this may be her last meeting as County Councillor due to the upcoming elections on May 6th but hoped she would be re-elected. Alison thanked the Council for everything they had done in working with her. The Chairman thanked Alison for her help over the past 4 years and hoped that she would be re-elected.

6. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Barry Duffin reported that even though the pandemic was easing the Long Stratton Help Hub was still working to assist parishioners and that it was only a phone call away. Barry then commented that South Norfolk Council would also find difficulties in meeting when the zoom legislation finishes but would keep the council informed.

7. To receive the Footpath Wardens report.

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

8. To discuss a replacement for the Footpath Warden.

The Chairman commented that there were two applicants for this post, and he would be discussing with both applicants the role of the Footpath Warden. Paul Muston commented that it might be useful to split the role between the two applicants (one being appointed Deputy Footpath Warden) The Chairman agreed and would look at this during discussion with both candidates.

9. To receive a report from the Tree Warden.

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

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

Peter Jacques commented that he had nothing to report for the meeting. Calvin commented that the issue with the riverbank collapsing outside the village hall was being looked at by The Environment Agency with a view to a soft solution. If the Council apply for a hard solution to the issue The Environment Agency had commented that it would cost the council £400 to gain permission but this was not guaranteed to be granted.

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

Peter Fraser thanked Alison for her comments on the proposed rollover and awaited the final decision. Peter Jacques felt a full survey was needed in future with proper advice from The Environment Agency on the issues.

Piers Blaike commented that the flooding issues around the village pond were both from Downstream and Upstream issues. Piers was advised that if he sent the details to the Clerk, he would forward them to the District Councillor Barry Duffin who would in turn forward them to the Lord Dannatt flooding issue team for their information.

12. To consider Planning applications.

2020/1675	Appeal Dismissed.
2020/0561	No comment from The Parish Council
2020/0562	No comment from The Parish Council

13. Correspondence.

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

14. Authorisation of Cheques.

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses	£465.33
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service	
For Clerks pension	£153.76
Payment to NPTS for Annual Subscription	£179.00
Payment to GLS for Maintenance Work	£570.00
Payment to CGM for Grass Cutting	£367.06
Payment to Play inspection Company for Annual Inspection	£ 81.00
Payment to 02 for clerks mobile phone	£ 9.20
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£ 28.20

Proposed: Ian Mortimer. Seconded: Peter Jacques.

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

15. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project**
Peter Jacques reported that he had not heard back from the student regarding his request to study hedgehogs in the woodland project.
- **Annual Play Inspection Report**
The Clerk reported that the Annual Play Inspection report had been completed by the Play Inspection company. They reported the flat seat swings were of high risk due to wood rot in the cross member holding the swings. The Clerk commented that he felt a quote to repair the swing should be obtained and added to the grant application for the multi-play equipment.
- **Children's multi-play equipment.**
It was agreed that the quote from All Play offered the best equipment and they would be contacted to add the flat seat swings repair to their quote. Once this was received the Chairman and Clerk would work with Barry Duffin on a grant application for the equipment via the Community Action fund.

Proposed: Paul Muston. Seconded: Peter Jacques.

- **County Broadband and Installation of roadside cabinets.**

Calvin Goreham reported that he had still not received an update from County Broadband but commented that County Broadband would need the Councils permission to install their roadside cabinets onto Parish Council land.

- **Good Neighbour Scheme.**

Piers Blaikie and the Chairman commented that this work was almost finished. The contact telephone numbers and email addresses of companies that would need to be contacted in the event of a major emergency would be displayed on the Parish Noticeboard and Parish Website once the document was finished.

16. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The Clerk had not received a report from the speed watch coordinator this month. He commented that the funding for the new SAM machine was still waiting a decision from the Safety Camera Team. They had not been able to meet due to Covid-19 restrictions but once this meeting was held, he was hopeful that the new SAM machine would be granted funding. The Clerk was thanked for involving the speed watch coordinator in providing information for the meetings.

17. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

Paul Muston had produced a flyer and will be delivering it to all the parishioners in the village within the next few days.

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

The Clerk commented that he had now passed three of the five units for his Cilca degree course and that he was currently working on a lengthy finance unit which he hoped to submit soon.

The Clerk also informed the Council that the present Covid legislation runs out on the 7th of May regarding meeting remotely via Zoom. He was awaiting any changes to this legislation. If the current legislation allowing zoom meetings to be held was not extended, then our Parish Council meeting in May would be the last permissible via zoom. The Chairman felt the village hall would not be open till late June at the earliest. The clerk reminded the meeting that the year-end procedures would need to be done (under financial law) in a face-to-face meeting as the documents would always need wet signatures.

19. Items for next Agenda.

Meeting closed at 7.50 pm.

Annual Parish Meeting 5th May at 7pm on zoom

Next Parish Council Meeting 5th May at 7pm on zoom.

