

Wacton Parish Council

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

At 6.30pm on Wednesday 1st November 2023.

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

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

2 members of the public were also present.

1. Public participation.

None

2. To consider apologies for absence.

Felicity Perry, Alison Thomas, and Kim Carsok sent their apologies. All agreed to accept.

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Gary Mulhall for payment in item 12

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th October 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 sent the following report: -

Long Stratton Bypass - government have indicated they are minded increase support for highway projects from 70% to 100%. There is currently a £6m shortfall on the project so it is hoped we will get national funding agreed rather than local Councils needing to fund. Cabinet will be agreeing a paper on Mon delegating the signing off of the final business case and award of contract to the Cabinet Member for Highways and the Director. It is expected this will happen before year end.

We will also bring agreeing the Winter Plan which is drawn up with our NHS colleagues. There's lots of action plans to keep folk out of hospital as much as possible. It would be really helpful if communities could check on those who they know are most vulnerable especially during times of bad weather to ensure they are keeping safe and warm.

We have developed a falls prediction system using AI. This has identified 700 people at potential risk of a fall which we know is one of the key accidents bringing people into hospital. Everyone has been contacted and almost 300 have had a bespoke visit to identify and reduce their risk of falls and therefore hopefully prevent emergency admission to hospital.

With the poor weather predicted over the next few days a reminder of the key contacts in event of flooding

Flooding hotline 03448008013

Or report online www.norfolk.gov.uk/flooding

7. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Kim Carosk sent no report except to say Pride in place grants have reopened and any councillors are wishing to attend the upcoming Town and Parish Forum on Thursday 9th November at Horizon House

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 as the chairman has been admitted to hospital for his knee Operation.

10. To consider Planning applications.

No Planning applications received.

11. Correspondence.

Clerk attended National conference.

Clerk and 2 councillors attended NPTS seminar.

Plusnet and clerk's mobile bills received.

NALC training emails received.

NPTS Training emails received.

Clerk working with Insurers on the stolen SAM machine claim.

Email received from Parishioner on Ditch outside the village hall.

Report from County Councillor Alison Thomas Received

Report from District Councillor Kim Carsok received.

Clerk to attend the upcoming Town and council forum on 9th November.

Email received on Bus service changes.

Emails on Pride in Place grants received.

Clerk has researched chain issue and there are no worries on having a chain.

Clerk Ordered more sandbags.

Email received from a parishioner on her daughter doing duke of Edinburgh scheme to pick litter in the village.

Emails received from play area companies with quotes.

Council enrolled in upcoming Gov.uk email scheme.

12. Authorisation of Payments.

1. Receipts

No receipts received.

2. Finance

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for October £635.12
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension October £196.41
- Payment to Mulbee Solutions for maintenance work in October £228.75
- To approve payment to Excite Solutions for Grass Cutting £915.60
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI £82.08
- Credit card monthly charge October £3.00
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile October £11.89
- To approve payment to Plusnet for Broadband for defib October £32.28

Proposed Pete Fraser

Seconded Kat Ireson

Update on the council Finances

The Parish council is in good health and at the start of November the councils balance was £22,913.52. After the payments from this meeting the councils balance is £20,808.39 So we are in good health.

The clerk has £449.83 to reclaim asap.

13. Report on ongoing matters.

• Woodland Project

Work was done this morning to take down a small tree that was dead and dangerous and the children from Long Stratton school are loving working in the area and really are a joy to work with. Pictures are needed for the website.

• Councillor and Clerk Training

Clerk will attend the upcoming Town and Parish Forum at Horizon House on 9th November.

• To discuss the Book Exchange project

The bus shelter needs to be re-roofed where possible, Felicity has some tiles to replace the dangerous ones. It was agreed that a new membrane, struts and fascia board at a proposed cost including paint is around £600 in total.

Proposed: Pete Fraser

Seconded: Kat Marshall all agreed

• Vandalism in the Village

The police continue to make random visits to the parish and as yet no more damage has been reported to the clerk.

• New Benches

This will be deferred till the weather gets better.

• Fencing at The Orchard

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

GLS £4956.00

Bartrams Services £2750.00 to £2434.20 depending on the work carried out.

Homefront £2175.00

The clerk had done the research on the issue of a chain link fence and there are no issues with having such a fence moving forward.

It was agreed that the clerk contact Bartrums to start the work asap.

Bartrums Services with galvanized chain. The cost being £2434.20.

Proposed: Gary Mulhall
All agreed.

Seconded: Pete Fraser

- **Pond Area**
Nothing to report.
- **Bus service in the village**
The bus service is continuing but will no longer go up or down Church Road and will come from Long Stratton and use the area around blacks orchard as a turning circle unless the area is blocked, and they will use Sallow Lane to reverse into and turn round for the journey back to Long Stratton. All agreed this was in order. All agreed and clerk will contact the bus company on this to say we are happy to go ahead.
- **Parish Partnership**
The clerk is working on this, and it will be discussed when the insurance details are known.
- **Councillors Page on the website**
The clerk commented that he would like to get a page on the website detailing the councillors and some information about each one. He asked all councillors to submit a few lines to him and a picture for the website so he could undertake this.
- **Gov.uk Email Addresses for councillors.**
The clerk commented that he has enrolled us in this email scheme and is awaiting details from the government office on this.
- **Bleed Kits for Defibrillator**
At the recent NPTS in a presentation from a paramedic it was suggested that we should also have bleed kits inside the defibrillator with a sticker outside letting people know this was available. The cost is around £60.00 for the kit and sticker. It was agreed this would be a very good idea and the clerk was asked to get this done asap. It was also noted by Councillor Fraser that the defib pads run out in Jan 2024 and the clerk was tasked with getting replacements asap at a cost of £58.55 incl vat for 1 set of 2.

Proposed Pete Fraser

Seconded Kat Marshall

14. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

A parishioner gave a short resume of the national speed watch campaign when no one was caught and in the latest one again no one was caught speeding.

15. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

We need new councillors desperately and will look for these asap. 2 volunteers may be interested in the coming months.

18. To agree the December Budget meeting date

It will be done after the December meeting on 6th December.

19. Public Participation

No Public Participation

.

20. Items for the next Agenda

Gov.uk Emails

Sam 2 Insurance claim

Budget meeting.

Governance

Items for the next Agenda.

The meeting ended at 7.03 pm.

Next Parish Council Meetings 6th December 6pm 2023