

# **Wacton Parish Council**

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

**At 6pm on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023.**

**Present: - Chair Ian Mortimer. Councillors: Pete Fraser, Kat Marshall, Laura Dolton and Felicity Perry and Gary Mulhall**

**Parish Clerk: Alan Arber**

**5 members of the public was also present plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Barry Duffin**

## **Public Participation.**

A parishioner asked if it was possible to have a clear up on the village green ready for the cut by the grass cutters. It was noted this was being done at present so no need to do it and the parishioner was thanked for their kind offer.

## **No Public participation**

### **1. To consider apologies for absence.**

No apologies received.

### **2. To receive any disclosures of interest.**

Gary Mulhall for payment in item 11 as Mulbee Solutions.

### **3. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

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

**Proposed: Gary Mulhall**

**Seconded: Felicity Perry**

### **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 gave the following report.

Bypass application is in and should go to planning at 16/3/2023

Side road orders have been completed with one small objection as one utility not talking to another section of the same company. Once this is finalised this will be held in place awaiting the final planning application be signed off.

County Council budget meeting late February.

Money on social care looks like we are spending less but the county are still paying more for social care in the long run.

New dentist in Long Stratton is starting with private patients only but is putting in an application for NHS patients also but is held up by bureaucracy.

Finally, Alison commented that the sign at Sallow Lane would not be replaced yet due to budget constraints and dog bins is the responsible for dog bins so the clerk will look into this and costs for a new dog bin.

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

Barry Duffin gave the following report.

Move to Horizon has been pushed back to May 2023 and the meeting at cabinet on the 13/2/2023 to look at the sale of the old SNDC building and the ownership of the building moving forward and what will happen next

Village clusters Reg 19 is out and does not affect Wacton.

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

The Footpath Warden made no report.

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

Village Hall had emailed the clerk to say that they will be supporting the Kings coronation Event in May

**9. To consider Planning applications.**

No Planning applications received, and it was good to report that no areas in Wacton had been marked as area of development in the Village Clusters Application Scheme

**10. Correspondence.**

Clusters Information

Nalc Training courses

Precept Information submitted.

Plusnet bill received.

O2 bill for clerk's mobile received.

Pension spreadsheet received.

J Ross on the hedge work to say he is ill, and the work will be carried out once he is well

NPTS Training courses Newsletter

Wacton Village Hall Key code change

New Website upgraded.

Emails regarding King Coronation from Social Club

Email to Environment agency regarding ditch work and how not happy with the work

Email to Highways on Post and dog bin on Sallow Lane  
 Reply to above to say it is not under consideration till the new financial year due to budget constraints.  
 Email to Alison Thomas to say reply is not acceptable and urgent action is needed.  
 Email regarding new code of conduct to be adopted in May Annual meeting.  
 SAM machine downloaded as agreed at last meeting.  
 Email to say new play equipment is almost in stock and work should start late February.  
 Sonya Blythe agreed to undertake our Internal Audit for this year.

## 11. Authorisation of Payments.

### 1. Finance

Payment of Clerks monthly salary and expenses January	£568.98
Payment to Norfolk Pension Service for Clerks pension January	£192.13
Payment to HMRC for Tax and NI	£84.05
Payment to Mulbee Solutions for pond clearance work	£110.00
Payment to NPTS for clerk and Councillor training	£108.00
Payment to 02 for Clerks Mobile	£10.49
Plusnet broadband service D/D	£32.28

**Proposed: Felicity Perry**

**Seconded: Kat Marshall**

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council was in good financial health and produced an up-to-date financial report. The current balance after the payments is made at today's meeting is £24747.67.

The clerk also commented that the council had received the VAT refund for £759.33.

The clerk also commented that he had the forms with him and required the signatories of Ian Mortimer, Pete Fraser and Gary Mulhall to sign the forms so he could submit them to Unity Trust this week for action. All agreed to sign.

### **To approve the appointment of the Internal Auditor**

The clerk reported that due to Anne Barnes retiring from being our Internal Auditor he had agreed with Sonya Blythe to undertake the Internal Audit. Sonya is clerk to Cringleford Council and a competent auditor to many councils in Norfolk

**Proposed: Ian Mortimer**

**Seconded: Felicity Perry**

## 12. Report of ongoing matters.

- **Victoria Cottage Hedges**  
The Clerk had still not heard if this work had been completed and had emailed the contractor to request information on this.
- **Woodland Project**  
No report
- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

Clerk has booked himself on Excel and Word training to update his knowledge on both the platforms.

- **To discuss Defibrillator Training**

It was brought up whether we should be holding a defibrillator training session soon. The clerk commented that for insurance purposes he would look at these sorts of training providers and report back in the March meeting with any costings etc.

- **Ditch at Village Hall**

The clerk had emailed the environment agency to make known the displeasure that the bull rushes had been cut down. They had replied to say they apologize for this error and will endeavor to ensure that in future these would be left but they also commented that the riparian landowners must take responsibility for maintenance of the ditch also as they will have local knowledge of the vegetation in the area. They also asked if the riparian owners of the ditch wished to undertake the maintenance themselves moving forward.

It was also discussed that the sides has made them very difficult and the ditch looked a disgrace

- **Dog bin on Sallow Lane**

The clerk had contacted highways on this issue again and they had commented that they would not be undertaking the work as the budget was limited for this which is unacceptable. The clerk has contacted Alison Thomas on this and asked for help to get this dealt with sooner.

- **Coronation Event**

The Village Hall have agreed to support the event, but nothing heard from social club yet

- **To agree the meeting dates for 2023-24**

The clerk produced a list of the proposed meeting dates for 2023-24 and it was agreed these were fine and would be accepted by all

**Proposed: Felicity Perry                      Seconded: Gary Mulhall**

- **General Power Of competence**

The clerk had produced an information sheet for all councillors to take away and look at as the council would be adopting this at the annual parish council meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May if all councillors are elected to stand.

### **13. Matters raised by councillors and members of the public (for information only)**

Ditch at Village Hall

GLS Cutting Hayntons Lane Already be done.

### **14. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.**

The clerk has downloaded the Speed Awareness machine and the figures are bot bad but again one excess speed on the 26/10/22 at 14.59 at a speed of 50mph but the average speed of most vehicles is 30.5 mph with an average vehicles daily total being 375 vehicles per day coming into the village from that direction. The speed awareness machine has been turned round to give us some details coming from the Great Moulton direction and will download for the next meeting.

Speed watch update 10 people on the list but the coordinator asked for more people with the age being in the old age group. No speed watch done recently due to weather being very cold. A minimum of 3 must go out each time.

The clerk will ask the police if it is okay to share the data with the speed coordinator moving forward. The clerk will forward this if possible.

At the various sessions the average speeder is found at 35 mph during these times.

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

We need new councillors and will look for these ASAP. The clerk commented that we have a lady who is keen to join the council and a date will be found to arrange a meeting with the clerk in April.

**16. Items for next Agenda.**

**Elections**

**Coronation event on 7<sup>th</sup> May**

**Sam Update**

**John Shave ditch**

**Ditch at the village hall**

**Dog Bin**

**Internal control.**

Meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Next Parish Council Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 at 6pm