

# Wacton Parish Council

## Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held in Wacton Village Hall on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January

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

4 members of the public attended plus County Councillor Alison Thomas and District Councillor Barry Duffin.

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

No apologies were received.

**2. To receive any declarations of interest for items on the agenda:**

Paul Muston for a payment in item 12. All agreed.

**3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019:**

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting and were duly signed by the Chairman.

**Proposed. Ian Mortimer      Seconded. Paul Muston      .**

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

No matters arising from the last meeting minutes.

**5. To receive a report from the County Councillor:**

The deep-water flooding on Flowerpot Lane is in hand and is scheduled to be resolved on 9<sup>th</sup> January.

The similar issue with the water flooding outside Wacton house is still dangerous and Alison Thomas commented that she would chase this up with the Flower Pot Lane flooding if not resolved by the weekend.

The Parishes Boundary Review is ongoing. A meeting is to be held soon regarding this and Alison Thomas will report to the Parish Council the findings at the next meeting. Norfolk County Council is in the process of setting its budget and the final figure although not yet known is thought to be in the region of 3.99% plus the police figure to be added.

A Parishioner raised their concerns regarding the soft surface on the Norwich side of the new Hempnall roundabout. Alison Thomas replied that landscaping will be done soon but is unsure what type of surface this would be.

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

Barry commented that it has been a quiet month and World War Event grants are still available should we wish to hold an event. Barry's members ward grant is due to be replaced and should we have any items that would come under this. Barry also

commented that Saffron are bringing a new grant out in the coming year, however, if the Parish Council was to look to apply. Barry could not help us as he is a director of Saffron.

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

The Footpath Warden produced a small report which is attached to these minutes as Appendix 1.

**8. To receive a report from the Tree Warden:**

The issue with Ash dieback continues and should the branches of the trees seem to be an orange brown colour the trees have ash dieback. If you see this, please contact Peter Jacques straight away.

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

There is no report from the village hall committee except that it is anticipated that the committee will move the fire assembly point to a new area (the car park) this weekend.

**10. To consider Planning Applications:**

No Planning Applications received

**11. Correspondence:**

The Clerk reported he had received an email from Norfolk Parish Training and Support outlining their new Training course for 2020

**12. Authorization of Cheques:**

- Cheques were authorized as follows:

Parish Clerk Salary and Expenses for December      £424.63

Payment for Upgrade software for Parish Laptop      £99.00

(Costs Shared with Tharston and Hapton PC)

Payment to Paul Muston for small trees at

Victoria Cottages      £35.00

Payment to Gary Bentley for maintenance work

on the Parish benches      £75.00

Payment to South Norfolk District Council

for annual charge for emptying Parish Dog Bins      £256.32

The Clerk took the meeting through the January Financial report

The Parish Council was in good financial health.

The Clerk took the Parish Council through the updated budget and it was agreed this was correct.

All Councillors agreed they had seen and checked the Precept Request Form sent electronically by the Clerk.

The Parish Chairman and The Clerk signed the Precept Request form for the agreed figure of £17,510

**Proposed. Ian Mortimer**

**Seconded. Peter Jacques.**

**13. To receive reports and discuss any on-going matters:**

**a. The Woodland Project Review:**

Peter reported that there had been some minor vandalism recently with small logs being thrown in the stream. The Long Stratton High School pupils will return on the week commencing 14<sup>th</sup> January and they will be undertaking tasks such as raising the tree canopy in the woodland project and working on the bramble bushes.

**14. To discuss Parish Speed Watch Group and Speed Awareness Machine data:**

The Clerk reported that at present, after many efforts at trying to charge the batteries, he was unable to charge the Speed Awareness machine as it seems the charger is faulty. It was agreed that Calvin would check the charger over the weekend.

**15. To discuss the need for new Parish Councillors:**

We still have two vacancies for Parish Councillors and if anyone would like to take up the role (full training will be given) please contact the Clerk.

**16. To discuss the purchase of a new laptop for the clerk.**

The Clerk was experiencing problems with the Parish Laptop (out of date software and general wear and tear) which was causing him to do his work inefficiently. It was agreed to purchase a new laptop for the clerk. David Gunton at Tharston and Hapton Parish Council had identified a laptop that would be excellent value and had agreed to transfer all the current data from the present laptop to the new one when it arrives. The budget for the laptop and the work needed to be done is set at £500 minus Vat.

**Proposed. Calvin Goreham**

**Seconded. Piers Blaikie**

**17. To discuss the need to appoint a new Emergency Planning Coordinator:**

Piers Blaikie was still working on this and it was hoped that the first draft would be ready at the March meeting for all Councillors to look at and agree the content.

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

It was agreed that the Parish Council would send a letter of thanks to the Parishioner who keeps the flower boxes in the village looking so lovely. Peter will liaise with the clerk on this as soon as possible.

Calvin commented that the Sandbags located behind the village hall had been stolen but he had arranged for 50 new bags to be delivered. These were received on the 8<sup>th</sup> January.

It was reported that the parishioner who regularly checks the village defibrillator does not have a email account. The company responsible for the defibrillator has informed the Parishioner that he can no longer continue in his role as the reporting of the defibrillator must be done via email. This would now be undertaken by The Clerk. It was noted that everyone at the meeting felt that the decision taken by the company that sent the instructions to the Parishioner were being quite discriminatory.

**19. Items for the next agenda:**

Emergency Co-Ordinator Plan  
Flowers that are done by a Parishioner.  
New Dog Bin.

Next Parish Council Meeting Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Meeting ended 8.05 pm.