

WARBOYS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Notice of Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Warboys will be held at the Parish Centre, Warboys on Wednesday 19th April 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

This meeting is open to all local government electors of the Parish of Warboys who are invited to attend.

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell,
Chairman of the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April 2016 (copy attached).

2. MATTERS ARISING

To consider any matters arising from the previous Annual Parish Meeting.

3. HEALTH PROVISION IN WARBOYS

Dr J Wilcock of the Moat House Surgery will speak on current issues affecting health provision for Warboys residents.

4. TIMEBANK IN WARBOYS

Ms A Clasper, the Timebank Co-ordinator will speak about the benefits of the Timebank scheme introduced in Warboys last autumn.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman of the Parish Council will present her report upon events and activities in the Parish over the past year (copy attached).

6. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

To receive reports for the past year from County and District Councillors representing Warboys (copy attached where received).

7. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

To receive the draft statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the financial year 2016/17 (copy attached).

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Any other issues that members of the public (whose names appear on the current register of electors for the Parish of Warboys) wish to raise.

9. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To note that the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be 11th April 2018.

WARBOYS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 19th APRIL 2017

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

I've always been a 'hands on Chairman' adopting a pro-active approach for the benefit of Warboys. However, nothing would be achieved without the talents and multi skill sets of all the Parish Councillors whom I am proud to call 'my Team'. My thanks and appreciation is extended to every Member for the work they voluntarily contribute which is increasing year on year. With this increased responsibility Members have attended various training courses on topics such as planning, responsibilities and code of conduct. Likewise, my sincere thanks to our Clerk, Roy Reeves, for his vital guidance and administrative skills for we could not do without his diligence and patience.

So now I move on to report, in no particular order, on another active year in Warboys :-

Events - Bringing our Community Together

- Series of successful events over past year:-
- Beacon lighting for Queen's 90th birthday celebration last April and commemorative event organised by the Council working group in liaison with the churches and village school was a tremendous success. Wonderful tributes in the pupils' project work and super designs in the flag competition with every child submitting an entry!
- Centenary of start of Battle of Somme commemorated at war memorial on 1st July by Warboys Branch of Royal British Legion and Council. The Tribute was led by and the Warden's whistle blown by Doug Crane.
- Attendances at Remembrance Sunday service grow each year and most heartening to see the ever increasing numbers of children parading with their organisations. The road is now closed by the Council for the duration of the event. Official representation by an officer from RAF Wyton for the first time in recent memory was greatly appreciated. As a new departure, in future, crosses will also be placed on war graves in the village cemetery on Remembrance Sunday.
- Very successful and well attended Christmas Lighting Switch On event last November. Thanks also to the wonderful village school choir that melted our hearts with their beautiful singing around the Christmas tree to launch the Switch On.
- Thanks to the support of the Community Association, Feast Week celebrations were more extensive than in recent years with events at the Sports Field and entertainment at Sports and Social Club. The Killer Shrimps again proved popular at the White Hart.
- Held discussions with Tour of Cambridgeshire about route of the cycle race coming through Warboys this summer but their eventual decision was that

there were too many busy roads to be closed. Perhaps there will be a change of heart in the future.

- Rather disappointing that the Pathfinder March which passes through the village will not take place this year. Would have been 20th anniversary which the Council was planning to celebrate as the walkers travelled through.
- Continue to welcome Pathfinders Reunion each year with a service at the church, tea at the Parish Centre with an exhibition of memorabilia and fly past by historic aircraft.
- Speaking of Pathfinders, during their anniversary weekend at RAF Wyton I was presented with a limited edition print of Lancaster aircraft over Warboys, signed by surviving Pathfinder crew which I had framed and is now on permanent display in the Parish Centre.
- Looking ahead, Council agreed to be part of national beacon lighting chain again in November 2018 to commemorate the centenary of end of WWI.
- It is also hoped to produce a mural to this effect as a lasting tribute in the village.
- The Great British Spring Clean (3rd – 5th March) was organised by Maggie Harlock and saw a considerable number of volunteers turn out in sometimes appalling weather to collect the litter in our village. Over 30 bags of vary debris was collected, often surprising in content, but a marvellous tribute to everyone who helped. Thank you! Please support their efforts as an ongoing process in all areas of the village.

Councils

- All change with Members and boundaries
- Election last May for (supposedly) next 4 years. Terry Huggins, a long standing Member, decided not to stand again and we thank him for his dedicated service to the village. We welcomed new Members, Hayley Backhouse and Ray Dykstra. New Vice Chairman in Sheila Withams.
- Since then, 3 vacancies have arisen as a result of resignations and non-attendance. Through co-option we welcomed back Philip Potts, and greeted Bob Correll.
- Anticipated that Members were elected for 4 years until 2020 but there will be another election in 2018 as Huntingdonshire District Council are moving to all out elections in that year and all town and parish councils have to fall into line.
- Jill Tavener, an existing parish councillor, was elected to Huntingdonshire District Council last May to join long serving Peter Bucknell as our two ward councillors for Warboys and Bury. We thank them both for service to the ward.
- Peter Bucknell is nearing the end of a very successful two year term as Chairman of the District Council, whilst also representing our ward.
- Boundaries will change for the next election in 2018 when this becomes Warboys and Upwood Ward including parishes of Warboys, Wistow, Upwood & The Raveleys, Broughton, Old Hurst, Woodhurst and Pidley-cum-Fenton.
- Michael Tew who has been our Member on Cambridgeshire County Council for past 4 years decided not to stand for re-election in May. We thank him for his help over past 4 years. Now to be Warboys and The Stukeleys Division including parishes of Warboys, Woodwalton, Wistow, Upwood & The Raveleys, Abbots Ripton and The Stukeleys.

Publicity and Contact Arrangements - Reaching out to You!

- Council has taken a conscious decision to make people more aware of what we do in the community. In addition to the Warboys Diary and local press, we are communicating in a variety of media.
- Our Website is working well and we launched our Facebook page which is proving very popular. Find us and see!
- www.warboyspc.info www.facebook.com/warboysparishcouncil
- Identity badges for councillors and employees.
- Name cards at meetings.
- Public surgeries at the Library on alternate Saturday mornings 10am until noon.
- Personal protective clothing for Handymen with logo and parish council name.

Timebank - Our Latest Venture!

- Council launched our Timebank scheme last November and building up members.
- Attendees will have heard the latest update from Arlene earlier in the meeting.
- Please spread the word, follow on Facebook and encourage people to join to enable our community to thrive and grow.
- Why not support the Loneliness project by contributing a little time with an isolated resident?
- Now that the weather is improving join the 'Walk and Talk' group suitable for all ages and also whether you wish to push a children's buggy or participate in a mobility scooter. Starting and finishing at the Windmill Tea Rooms sounds an excellent incentive!
- There are also regular coffee mornings so why not drop in for a while?

A Growing Village

- Past year has seen completion of Croft Holme Close and Wiggs Close developments.
- Wiggs Close social housing specifically for Warboys residents or those with a Warboys connection, a wonderful opportunity to remain within our parish.
- The David Wilson Homes development of 120 dwellings in Station Road is currently under construction.
- Current application for what is now termed phase II for 80 dwellings at Station Road which is not allocated for development in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan.
- Planning permission granted for 74 dwellings south of Farriers Way.
- Application outstanding for 11 dwellings off Bencroft Lane.
- No major additional employment in the village so will inevitably add pressure on local roads.
- Now appears that Wyton Airfield may not be deliverable without substantial highway improvements so further development may be allocated to 'Key Settlements' in the Local Plan by Huntingdonshire Council.
- Developers have to pay Community Infrastructure Levy for new development, 15% of which comes to the Parish Council.
- Provisionally allocated towards replacement of Parish Centre with a village hall, but will not go far in mitigating impact of development on services in the village.

Retails Outlets

- Windmill Bakery and tea rooms continues to be ever growing in popularity.
- Work started on new Spar at old Steward's Hardware site. Completion due in July.
- Relocation of Post Office to new Spar with ATM facility.
- Don't forget to support the previous premises specialising in hardware.
- Council successfully applied to have White Hart and bowling green registered as Asset of Community Value with Huntingdonshire Council which will enable village to bid to buy them if offered for sale.
- To be hoped that growth in size of village will bring new business for shops and potential new outlets.
- Please use them or lose them as it is vital to retain the independent outlets in our village.

Social Facilities

- Congratulations to new Sports and Social Club Committee for improvements to the building and increased usage.
- Congratulations also to the Sports Field Committee continually striving to achieve ongoing improvements of the Sports Field area.
- Council discussions with sports clubs about improved facilities fell through as clubs preferred to provide their own facilities at minimum cost.
- Warboys Witches Netball Team working towards new facilities at Sports Field.
- Replacement of Parish Centre progressing slowly and delayed by discussions with sports clubs. Ongoing discussions with Under Fives Playgroup. £1 million plus scheme so dependent on funding and usage by village organisations.
- Council continues to invest in play facilities. £17,000 spent in March replacing worn out swings and safety surfacing at Adams Lyons and Orchard Close play park areas. Installation of a further nest swing in particular to aid young people with disabilities.
- Connections Bus visits on Friday evenings are well attended by young people with up to 50 youngsters at some sessions. (The highest attendance of all Cambridge villages visited by the bus). Costs Parish Council £10,000 per annum. Positive feedback from parents as to how much they too appreciate the provision of this facility for their youngsters.

Village Organisations - Numerous, so continue to support them

- Fortunate in the many village organisations that we have.
- Community Association under the leadership of the new Chairman, Angela Wyatt, is extremely active in organising events and providing grants to other groups in the village.
- New editorial team for the Warboys Diary, mentored by Val Musson which, even in this social media age, plays an important part as a vital source of village information.
- Most organisations are looking for new members and helpers. Even with the growth in our village, there is a reliance on a hard core of volunteers who are often to be found in several clubs.
- Winding up of Women's Branch of Royal British Legion after merging of men's and women's sections nationally and laying up of the Warboys standard in a service of commemoration at St Mary Magdalene Church in March. A

suitable tribute to all the women who have so valiantly raised funds over many years to support injured service personnel and their families.

Appearance of the Village

- Council provided hanging baskets at Post Office, Audreys and Waterside Practice last summer, as well as at The Weir. This will be repeated this year as the community and local businesses really appreciated these displays maintained by the Handymen.
- Handymen cut verges in High Street and elsewhere in village which would otherwise be left to 2 cuts a year if undertaken by County Council.
- Over £400 spent on bedding plants for High Street each year planted and maintained by Handymen.
- 250 crocus donated by Ramsey Rotary planted at The Weir with help from Under Fives Playschool children as part of the Purple4Polio campaign.
- Highly successful Christmas lighting display organised again by small Christmas Lighting Group. Helpers needed to maintain fund raising for the illuminations that everyone enjoys.
- 3 extra litter bins installed in past year and almost 40 bins emptied by Handymen each week.
- Still problems with litter, dog fouling, damage to verges from parked vehicles – to be hoped that people will take pride in where we live and support the superb efforts of the volunteers involved in the Great British Spring Clean litter campaign in March.

Defibrillator - Staying Alive!

- Thanks to the superb fund raising efforts of 55 Plus club, over £2,000 raised towards cost of installing a defibrillator for use in an emergency.
- Now installed at chemists and over 30 people attended inaugural training session on its use. A highly encouraging response, thank you.
- Will be maintained by Parish Council with weekly monitoring to ensure that it is ready for use.
- To use in an emergency, ring 999 and the emergency services will provide the code to access the cabinet. Once removed, when opened by the casualty, the machine tells you what to do.
- Access to this machine is external and available 24/7
- The village is fortunate in having additional internal defibrillators at the Moat House Surgery and Mill Green Dental Surgery.

Traffic Speeds - A Nationwide Challenge

- Speeding continues to be a problem in the village.
- Police Speedwatch scheme currently being re-organised. Police will still monitor traffic speeds but limited resources.
- A small number of volunteers have come forward with Jill Tavener as co-ordinator to set up a scheme in Warboys but equipment was on loan from the Police and has had to be returned.
- Investigations underway to possibly obtain equipment for use specifically in Warboys but costs £2,500. Funding sources being sought.

Other Matters

- Council has been working with Anglian Water to highlight the problem of waste being flushed away and causing blockages at Ramsey Road pumping station and localised flooding. The weight of an elephant (5 tonnes!) in wipes, cotton buds etc. is being flushed down village toilets each year.
- Council trying to set up Community Flood Group to draw up Flood Plan for flooding emergencies, should they arise.
- Successful bid for funding from County Council to try to get High Street pavement (north side) resurfaced between School Road and Jubilee Clock.
- Improvements at allotments by surfacing access road and installing shipping container for storage of tenants' equipment. New tenancy agreement to allow erection of sheds, greenhouses etc. New shredder providing a mulch facility.
- Survey of trees on Council land and tree surgeon engaged to carry out work at Adam Lyons and Jubilee Parks.

Finance

- All public services facing problems of growing demand with less resources – County and District Councils, Police, Fire, Health, Schools.
- County and Districts looking to parish councils to pick up the shortfall but limited to what can be done with resources and staffing available.
- Because of growing expenditure by towns and parishes nationally, Government did consult last year on capping council tax increases by parish councils. Not introduced this year but Government will be monitoring increases generally.
- Growth in village does mean more income for Parish Council from council tax but also increasing calls for additional services.
- Increase for 2017/18 will be 2%. Will be dealt with in more detail by Clerk's report.

Employees

- A small but invaluable, vital team, all part-time, who cover a tremendous amount of work : –.
- Huge thanks, as always, to our Clerk, Roy Reeves, for his administrative skills and historical knowledge which, despite an ever increasing workload, have guided the Council through another successful and eventful year. The legislative burden seems to be consistently under review and Roy's advice has ensured we are kept up to speed.
- We continue to be fortunate that the partnership works well between Will Buddle and Alan Batterbee (our Handymen) so we can be confident that the tradition of superb village maintenance is in capable hands. Their contribution is greatly valued by the community, together with their resourcefulness and willingness to accept a diversity of tasks. Some unpleasant which they complete with dignity.
- Arlene Clasper (our Timebank Co-ordinator) is gradually building up a network of members offering a diverse range of skills, talents and opportunities to residents of our community. The latest campaign is to overcome loneliness which can effect anyone under varying circumstances. With her enthusiasm and dedication we hope this facility will continue to grow and offer a valuable resource to our village.
- The village could not do without the devoted service of Rosemary Edwards and her sister Wendy Howard who keep the Parish Centre so well cared for and both ladies deserve our grateful thanks for their continued dedication.

- Ray Martin, our Clock Winder has risen admirably to the challenge of successfully maintaining the timing on a delicate mechanism on our impressive Jubilee Clock Tower.

Finally!

My endearing wish for Warboys is that we will continue the strong feeling of community, prosper & thrive whilst remaining this popular, pleasant place to live.

I hope you find my written report informative and thank you for your support tonight and in the past.

Sincerely,

Mary Bucknell
Chairman
Warboys Parish Council