

# 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 17th April 2019 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 Dr S C Withams,  
Chairman of the Parish Council.

Apologies for absence

### AGENDA

**1. MINUTES**

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2018 (copy attached).

**2. MATTERS ARISING**

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

**3. THE BOBBY SCHEME**

The Manager of The Bobby Scheme will give a presentation on how the organisation helps elderly, vulnerable and disabled people who are the victims of burglary, domestic abuse and other crimes or who are concerned about home or personal security.

**4. CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**

The Community Champion from Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service will give a presentation on their Safe and Well Visits for vulnerable people.

**5. LOCAL FOOD BANK**

The Co-ordinator of the local Foodbank will give a presentation about the scheme.

**6. 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).

**7. COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

**To receive reports for the past year from County and District Councillors representing Warboys.**

**8. FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

**To receive the draft statement of accounts for the Parish Council for the financial year 2018/19 (copy attached).**

**9. 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.**

**10. DATE OF NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**To note that the date of the next Annual Parish Meeting will be 23rd April 2020.**



*Warboys Parish  
Council*

## **WARBOYS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 17th APRIL 2019**

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It is a privilege for me to present my first annual report as Chairman of your Parish Council. Since joining the Parish Council in 2015 I have thoroughly enjoyed working for the village and was delighted to be elected as Chairman in May 2018. However, the Parish Council is very much a team operation and my thanks and appreciation go to each of the Parish Councillors for the work and time they voluntarily contribute, bringing a whole range of talents and skills sets which are invaluable. The Parish Council's responsibilities increase year on year and Members have attended a range of training courses on specialised topics, such as planning legislation.

My sincere thanks also go to our Clerk, Roy Reeves, whose guidance, advice and administrative skills are absolutely invaluable.

I would also like to acknowledge the fourteen years of service as Councillor and Chair of Council of my predecessor, Mary Bucknell. Thank you sincerely Mary, for all the work you have done and continue to do for the village.

So, now to my report which I have presented in note form to keep the length to a minimum. The last year has been, again, a very active one for Warboys as our village continues to expand and we welcome new residents. The items are not presented in any particular order.

### **Councils**

- Huntingdonshire District Council moved to all out elections in 2018 and all town and parish councils had to fall into line.
- Election on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 for new Warboys Ward comprising parishes of Warboys, Wistow, Upwood & The Raveleys, Broughton, Old Hurst, Woodhurst and Pidley-cum-Fenton resulted in election of Graham Bull and Jill Tavener. Councillor Bull is Leader of the District Council.
- Parish Council election on the same day for 15 seats but only 13 candidates nominated which meant that they were elected unopposed thereby saving the cost of an election.
- John Parker and Stephanie Wilcox put their names forward for co-option to fill the two vacancies and were co-opted at the Annual Meeting in May.
- During course of past year, Gary Joseph resigned due to ill health and Bob Correll also resigned. Stephen Green was co-opted to fill the first vacancy and Carol Evans was co-opted last month to fill the second.

- The volume of work of Parish Council easy to underestimate. Nearly 40 Council and Committee meetings in last municipal year plus other working parties and meetings.
- Terry Rogers elected at election in May 2017 to County Council to represent newly formed Warboys and The Stukeleys Division including parishes of Warboys, Woodwalton, Wistow, Upwood & The Raveleys, Abbots Ripton and The Stukeleys.

### **Publicity and Contact Arrangements**

- The Council continues to find ways to make people more aware of what we do in community.
- Website and Facebook accounts which are very popular. Currently in the process of making our website more accessible for the disabled
- Surgeries at the Library on alternate Saturday mornings didn't attract sufficient attendances and were cancelled after an 18-month trial
- Articles in Warboys Diary
- Press reports for Ramsey and District Informer

### **Timebank**

- The Timebank scheme launched in November 2016 has been made permanent.
- Current Co-ordinator is Natasha Everett who is working hard to promote the scheme.
- Currently 47 individual members and 3 organisations and growing in both membership and interest.
- Various activities undertaken over past year, with 2-day litter pick earlier this month.
- Spread the word and encourage people to join.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

- The Council considered whether to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan but decided on balance not to.
- Entails substantial work consulting with everyone and a local referendum before it can be adopted
- Additional help would be needed from residents in preparatory work.
- Purpose is to help plan development in parish by identifying additional sites for growth. The Council decided that the village is struggling to cope with growth already planned so no further development required at this stage.

### **A Growing Village**

- Warboys will expand considerably under Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 which due to be approved by Secretary of State in May 2019.
- Construction has already started for phases I and II of David Wilson Homes development off Station Road, totalling 200 dwellings and Bellway development south of Farriers Way for 74 dwellings
- Further sites allocated for 45 dwellings west of Ramsey Road, 10 dwellings at Manor Farm on Church Road and 50 dwellings south of Stirling Close dwellings.

- Speculative applications continue to be submitted for sites not allocated in the Local Plan. Outline application for planning permission for 230 new homes on land to west of Ramsey Road between Jubilee Avenue and Pelican Farm was withdrawn in December 2018.
- Applications for new park home in Church Road and development in Broughton Lane refused by the District Council. Applications for 18 dwellings south of Bencroft Lane and 9 dwellings south of New Road have yet to be determined, all of which were recommended for refusal by the Parish Council.
- These developments will impact on village facilities where capacity is limited but may help local shops.
- No additional employment in village so will add pressure on local roads.
- Developers have to pay Community Infrastructure Levy for new development which is market as opposed to affordable homes, i.e. 60% of the dwellings built

### **Affordable Housing**

- Developers required by Local Plan to make provision for 40% of dwellings in new development to be affordable of which 70% to be social housing and remainder shared ownership
- Dwellings at Wiggs Close developed exclusively for occupation and shared ownership purchase by persons with Warboys connection.

### **Industrial Development**

- Substantial investment by GPE Pipe Systems at Airfield Industrial Estate facilitating relocation from Wyton Airfield.
- Final clearance of materials stored at bankrupt Reclaimed Appliances site at Airfield Industrial Estate which was an eyesore.
- Planning application submitted for combined heat and power plant and waste water treatment plant at Landfill Site. Concerns expressed by many people in the village resulted in recommendation for refusal by Parish Council.
- Parish Council, Landfill Action Group and many individuals attended County Council Planning Committee meeting in September to speak against the application, but the application was approved.
- Parish Council challenged the decision which resulted in certain aspects being referred back to County Council Committee in December when objectors again attended to voice their concerns.
- Application was approved but approval certificate still to be issued. Parish Council will be seeking legal advice on possibility of judicially reviewing decision when issued.
- Applicants must obtain environment permit from Environment Agency before plant can be operational and objections will be submitted if an application is submitted.

### **Retail Outlets**

- Windmill Bakery and Tea Room retains its popularity.
- Spar opened in former Steward's Hardware site, including relocated Post Office. Well used and offers a greater range but problems of traffic congestion and highway safety at High Street/Mill Green junction and cutting up of nearby verges. Also, problem of litter.

- As a result of people walking across open space at The Weir and parking on the grass verge, new paviers and bollards recently installed which look attractive. Grant made by Blakemore, owners of SPAR, towards cost.
- Former Post Office premises re-opened as Hardware shop
- To be hoped that growth in size of village will bring new business for shops and potential new outlets.
- Use them or lose them.

### **Social Facilities**

- Refurbished Sports and Social Club attracting more bookings.
- Replacement of Parish Centre not progressed. Cost would likely to be in excess of £1 million which would result in higher charges. Hirers reluctant to pay current low charges and use other accommodation in village.
- Parish Council liaising again with County Council over possible use of Youthie building as an extension to library to create community hub and new offices. Awaiting results of County Council structural survey of building.
- No expenditure on play facilities over past year but Warboys well served with play equipment with total expenditure in excess of £200,000 in past 9 years.
- Connections Bus visits on Friday evenings still well used by young people with over 50 youngsters on some evenings. Costs Parish Council £10,000 per annum.

### **Village Organisations**

- Fortunate in the many village organisations that we have.
- Community Association very active in organising events and providing grants to other groups in village.
- New editors for Warboys' Diary successful. Even in social media age, Diary is relied upon as a vital source of village information.
- Most organisations looking for new members and helpers, even with growth in village, and rely on a hard core of volunteers who are often to be found in several clubs.

### **Village People**

- Nominations are being considered by the Parish Council in respect of further awards of Honorary Freewomen and Freemen of Warboys.
- Parish Council purchased honours boards which are displayed in the Parish Centre listing Honorary Freemen and Women and past Chairmen of the Parish Council.

### **Appearance of the Village**

- Council continue to provide hanging baskets at Post Office, Audreys and Waterside Practice last summer, as well at The Weir. Will be repeated this year.
- 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.
- Continuing problem of litter. Parish Council provided more litter bins in past year, emptied weekly by Handymen. Grateful to volunteers who walk around the village collecting litter and Timebank litter pick earlier this month.
- Highly successful Christmas lighting display organised again by small Christmas Lighting Group. Fortunately, new volunteers come forward, but helpers still needed to maintain illuminations that everyone enjoys
- Parish Council agreed to part fund adaptations to additional lighting columns to extend lighting display further along High Street later for 2019 display.
- Parish Council pressing Huntingdonshire Council to take action against owner of 66 High Street to secure improvements to its appearance but no progress.

### **Defibrillator**

- Now have two defibrillators in village for use in emergency.
- One located at Wards of Warboys with thanks to fund raising efforts of 55 Plus club and maintained by Parish Council with weekly monitoring to ensure that it is ready for use.
- Second defibrillator at Spar store and presumably monitored by the store staff.
- To use in an emergency, ring 999 and the emergency services will provide code to access the cabinet. When opened, the machine tells you what to do.
- Defibrillator at chemists has been used on two occasions in past year.

### **World War One Centenary**

- Considerable work involved in commemorating centenary of WWI armistice. Working Party met regularly throughout year, comprising representatives of Parish Council, Royal British Legion and church.
- Part of national events taking place over weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> November, comprising painting of mural in Clock Tower shelter; excellent exhibition at Parish Centre and Church organised by Mary Tringham and Joan Bennett; social event at Parish Centre with guest speaker, food of the time and sing-a-long; lone piper at the War Memorial at 6.00 a.m. on Remembrance Sunday; poppy sprays being laid on war graves and graves remembering the fallen in Warboys cemeteries; over 400 people attending Remembrance Sunday service at war memorial; lighting of beacon and ringing of bells at the church.

### **Events**

- Very successful and well attended Christmas Lighting switch-on event last November.
- Thanks to support of Community Association, Feast Week celebrations more extensive than in recent years with event at Sports Field and entertainment at Sports and Social Club.
- Ever popular May Day events organised by Community Association well attended raising funds for village organisations. Next event Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May

- Pathfinder March comprising 46-mile long distance charity walk passes through village in June.
- Continue to welcome Pathfinders Reunion in May each year with service at church, refreshments at Parish Centre and fly past by historic aircraft.
- Successful and well attended productions by Warboys Amateur Dramatics
- Ever increasing number of children taking part in summer reading challenge at Library supported by Parish Council.
- Christmas bazaar organised by village crafts people
- Ever popular fireworks display raising funds for village organisations

## **Traffic**

- Speeding continues to be a problem in village.
- Police will still monitor traffic speeds but very limited resources.
- Parish Council purchased speed indicator device for use by local Speedwatch team which is active in village. Can only pass details of speeding vehicles on to Police who will send advisory letters to vehicle owners.
- Community Roadwatch continue to be active in village and provide statistics on traffic volumes and speeds.
- Successful bid submitted to County Council to fund priority narrowing scheme in Fenton Road to slow traffic. Work will be undertaken later in the current financial year.
- Parish Council have considered the possibility of applying for weight restriction for vehicles passing through village but whole process has to be undertaken and funded by Parish Council and then presented to County Council for consideration with no certainty of acceptance. Council decided not to take this any further currently.
- Parish Council currently looking into possibility of one-way system involving High Street and Mill Green but may cause more problems than it will solve.

## **Public Transport**

- Considerable uncertainty over future of local bus services.
- Now the responsibility of Mayor of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined authority who has commissioned review of service provision.
- Funding will continue in current year while review undertaken and services through Warboys should be safe until end of year.
- Likelihood is that uneconomic services will be reduced or cut and local communities encouraged to establish community transport themselves.
- Will we see the resurrection of the Fen Bus?

## **The Weir**

- Low water levels in summer been a problem for several years as pond silts up but last year's heat was exceptional.
- Have spread Siltex, a chalk substance, to try to try to reduce silt and improve water quality
- Have spread Diofix, a blue dye, to control weed growth
- Removed some of the fish to reduce problem of overstocking

- Council budgeted for dredging work later this year and working party looking at options.
- Have consulted with specialist company and further fish removal planned to avoid further problems this summer.
- The working party will be taking further advice on best way forward.

## **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.
- Growth in village does mean more income for Parish Council from council tax but also increasing calls for additional services.
- No increase in Parish Council precept for 2019/20 but more income will be generated from additional houses.
- Community Infrastructure receipts being received from developers but strict limitations on what money can be spent on. 15% comes to Parish Council but want to make sure that the other 85% retained by the District Council is spent in Warboys.
- Will be dealt with in more detail by Clerk.

## **Employees**

- Our small team, all part-time, who cover a lot of work are invaluable to us and we appreciate them all:

Roy Reeves (Clerk),  
 Will Buddle and Alan Batterbee (Handymen),  
 Natasha Everett (Timebank Co-ordinator),  
 Rosemary Edwards and Wendy Howard (Cleaners)  
 Ray Martin (Clockwinder)  
 Graham Hansall (Internal Auditor)  
 Andy Notman (Webmaster)

## **.... and FINALLY**

I hope this has provided a helpful summary of the work of the Parish Council in Warboys. Please feel free to contact us if you want any further information or you have suggestions that would be helpful to our community.

Sheila Withams

Chairman  
 Warboys Parish Council