

# **PARISH OF WARBOYS**

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** for the **Parish of Warboys** held on 18th April 2018 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## **PRESENT**

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

Ten Members and the Clerk of the Parish Council  
District Councillors P L E Bucknell and G J Bull  
Ms E Mead, Practice Manager, Moat House Surgery  
Mr G Broom, Sky Watch Civil Air Patrol  
Mr A Webb and two young people, Connections Bus Project  
Approximately 25 members of the public.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Parish Councillor Ms L A Gifford and County Councillor T V Rogers.

## **MINUTES**

Upon being moved by District Councillor Bucknell and seconded by Ms V Musson, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman, subject to the addition of the words 'Women's Section of the' in the sixth line of the eighth paragraph of the minute entitled 'Chairman's Report' following the words 'recent winding up of the'.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 19th April 2017.

## **HEALTH PROVISION IN WARBOYS**

The Chairman welcomed Ms E Mead, Practice Manager of the Moat House Surgery who had offered to update the village on a variety of issues relating to health provision in Warboys following the attendance of Dr Wilcock at the previous Annual Parish Meeting.

Ms Mead drew attention to a number of challenges facing the Moat House Surgery. The past winter had been particularly busy at the surgery and the high demand for health care had continued into April unlike previous years.

It was likely that most of the staff at the surgery would be reaching retirement age at the same time which meant that succession planning was needed. The doctor recruited to replace Dr James had not stayed and had moved to a larger surgery in Wisbech. Dr McKay would be retiring in September and difficulties were being experienced in

attracting interest in filling the resulting vacancy with a number of surgeries currently advertising for GPs. One of the Nurse Practitioners had taken up a lectureship for four days each week and now was only able to work at the surgery on one day. A replacement had been recruited but had still to complete her training. Ms Mead explained that NHS England were now advocating that surgeries merge into larger organisations catering for up to 100,000 patients compared to the situation at Warboys where there was just under 7,000. The surgery was trying to retain its independence but NHS England were tending to give greater support to those that merged.

The second major issue facing the Surgery was a lack of space. The surgery had been completed 25 years previously when Warboys had been smaller and there was inadequate room to expand both the building and the car park. As a result waiting lists had had to be introduced for patients wishing to see a named doctor, have blood tests etc., although anyone ringing to see a doctor would still be seen that day if they were ill. Any expansion proposals had to be dealt with through NHS England who had been less than helpful, although Ms Mead advised that the latter had requested a new surgery if the Gladman proposal for development at Ramsey Road was granted planning permission.

The third major issue facing the Surgery was the Government's requirement for all surgeries to be open seven days per week from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. which could not be achieved at Warboys. The Moat House Surgery was part of the West Cambs Federation and it was likely that the only way that the Government's proposal could be met would be through different surgeries within the Federation opening later on different days.

Finally Ms Mead drew attention to the implications of the General Data Protection Regulations which came into effect on 25th May. Guidelines on the implications for surgeries had been released only recently. This would require written consent to be obtained from all patients for their information to be shared which would be a significant administrative exercise for the surgery to undertake.

Ms Mead answered a number of questions from those present at the meeting and was informed that everyone in the community valued the service and expertise offered at the surgery. The Chairman thanked Ms Mead for her attendance and she then left the meeting.

## **SKY WATCH CIVIL AIR PATROL**

The Chairman welcomed Mr G Broom from Sky Watch Civil Air Patrol who proceeded to give a presentation on the work of the organisation. Fixed wing planes, autogiros and drones were operated by pilots and observers on a purely voluntary basis to help with a wide range of issues, including mountain rescue, missing persons searches, wildlife rescue, flooding, fires, events planning, live events and aerial photography. Although not a blue light service, they were called upon by the Police, Fire Service and Environment Agency for assistance in emergencies.

Mr Broom explained that the service was divided into various regions with the East of England having about 30 pilots willing to use their aircraft to help. In this area, the principal aerodrome used was Conington. The organisation worked closely with Local Resilience Forums and were investigating the possibility of using infra-red cameras with the Civil Aviation Authority and the National Police Advisory Service.

Various examples of the types of activities that Sky Watch undertook were illustrated in a powerpoint display and Mr Broom explained that the service was available to assist parish councils if aerial reconnaissance or photography was required.

After answering a number of questions from those present, Mr Broom was thanked by the Chairman for his presentation and he then left the meeting.

## **CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT**

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Webb, the Manager of the Connections Bus Project which provided two sessions for young people in Warboys on Friday evenings during term time. Mr Webb was accompanied by two teenagers who attended the sessions in Warboys.

Mr Webb reported that the Connections Bus Project had been operating for 25 years and that he had been involved for the past 14 years. 11 sessions were now provided each week, either in premises or using one of the buses as was the case in Warboys. The sessions in Warboys were open to all children of secondary school age with three youth workers. Since visits to Warboys had started in September 2014, there had been 110 sessions with an average attendance of 34 youngsters which was the highest of the clubs that they ran. The maximum attendance on one evening had been 66. Most attending were in the 12 to 15 age group with an equal split of girls and boys.

Mr Webb explained the wide range of services offered on the bus and the extensive range of topics discussed by the youngsters with the leaders, including some of a very personal nature that they were unable to raise elsewhere. The feedback from the youngsters was very positive and the two girls accompanying Mr Webb spoke of the range of activities that attracted them, the lack of pressure and the ability to socialise in a safe environment. Mr Webb concluded by thanking the Parish Council for funding the sessions and advising that the youngsters were a pleasure to work with and help.

The Chairman also commented on the positive feedback from the parents of youngsters who attended and thanked Mr Webb for the work that the Project did with young people in Warboys. He and the girls accompanying him then left the meeting.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman advised that as she had decided not to stand for re-election at the forthcoming Parish Council election on 3rd May this therefore would be her last meeting after 14 years as a Member of the Parish Council and Chairman for the past 7 years. She expressed her appreciation to all of the Members of the Council who voluntarily worked hard throughout the year. She also thanked the staff of the Parish Council for their help and support, together with County Councillor Rogers and District Councillors Tavener and Bucknell, the latter also having decided not to stand for re-election in May after 16 years as a Member of Huntingdonshire Council. Appreciation also was extended to the very active Community Association with the Chairman explaining that her enduring hope for Warboys was unity through community.

A written report on activities in the Parish had been circulated with the agenda. In it, the Chairman drew attention to the fact that all of the existing Members of the Parish Council (with the exception of herself) would be re-elected unopposed on 3rd May which meant that the remaining two vacancies could be filled by co-option. An election would be held for two seats on the newly created and expanded Warboys Ward of Huntingdonshire District Council which had been expanded to comprise the seven parishes of Warboys, Wistow, Upwood & The Raveleys, Broughton, Old Hurst, Woodhurst and Pidley-cum-Fenton.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had taken a conscious decision to introduce greater transparency to make people aware of what the Council did in the community, using a variety of methods to communicate, including identity badges for councillors and employees, website and Facebook accounts, surgeries at the Library on alternate Saturday mornings, the ordering of an additional Parish notice board to be installed in Station Road, regular articles in the Warboys Diary and press reports for the Ramsey and District Informer kindly written by Councillor Potts

The Chairman reported that the Timebank scheme funded by the Parish Council had been extended until the end of March 2019 as a minimum with a new Co-ordinator building on the success of the first occupant of the post who had recruited over 40 members. Another 6 members had joined in the past month and a range of activities and exchanges were now taking place.

Reference was made to the expansion planned in the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 whereby 400 additional dwellings would be built in Warboys. Sites for an additional 850 dwellings in Warboys had been submitted by land owners and agents in the previous summer in response to the District Council's 'Call for Sites' but had not been included in Local Plan. However agents had subsequently circulated a consultation leaflet for 230 new homes on land to the west of Ramsey Road between Jubilee Avenue and Pelican Farm. The site was not allocated in the Local Plan but an application for outline planning permission was anticipated.

The Chairman pointed out that the residential development would impact on village facilities where capacity was limited but might help local shops and businesses. As no additional employment was planned in the village this would add pressure on local roads. Developers would be paying the Community Infrastructure Levy for new development, 15% of which was allocated to the Parish Council. The receipts received to date had been provisionally allocated towards the replacement of the Parish Centre.

Developers were required by the Local Plan to provide 40% of the new dwellings as affordable with 70% of that proportion social housing and the remainder shared ownership. The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had successfully objected to a proposal by the District Council to replace all of the shared ownership homes at Great Pastures with rented accommodation while the dwellings at Wiggs Close remained exclusively for occupation and shared ownership by persons with a Warboys connection.

Substantial investment had been undertaken by GPS Pipe Systems in preparing land at the Airfield Industrial Estate for their relocation from Wyton Airfield. The materials stored externally without permission at the former Reclaimed Appliances site at the estate had finally been cleared. A planning application for a combined heat and power plant and waste water treatment plant at the Landfill Site had aroused great concern with many

people in the village and neighbouring parishes. The Landfill Action Group had engaged the engineer who represented the village at the hazardous waste local inquiry over a decade ago and the Parish Council had released funds to help oppose the application.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council had been actively working with developers to try to minimise the impact of new developments. Complaints from Station Road residents about flooding from the Great Pastures development had been resolved with David Wilson Homes. Meetings had taken place with Bellway Homes to try to maximise useable open space from the Farriers Way development and prevent flooding. An approach from Gladman for a private meeting to offer community benefits arising from their proposed Ramsey Road development had been rejected by the Parish Council in favour of a public meeting to keep all Warboys residents informed, but that in turn had been rejected by the agents.

In terms of retail outlets, the Windmill Bakery/Tea Room retained its popularity and assisted with community activities. The Spar had relocated to the former Steward's Hardware site with improved access internally and a greater range of services but this had led to complaints about the impact on highway safety and parking, the cutting up of nearby verges and problems of litter. The former Post Office premises had re-opened as a hardware shop which seemed to be doing well. However the Chairman reported on worrying incidents earlier in the year when there had been an armed robbery at Amars Foodstore followed by break-ins at J & A Carpets and other business and community premises.

The Chairman congratulated the new Sports and Social Club Committee on improvements to the Club building and its greater use. Replacement of the Parish Centre had progressed slowly and if anyone was available to offer valuable and suitable skill sets to help take the project forward, they were asked to contact the Clerk. The meeting was informed that the Parish Council continued to invest in play facilities with a further £17,000 having been spent in the past year replacing worn out swings, a circular play trail, mound steps and safety surfacing at Adams Lyons and Orchard Close playgrounds.

The Chairmen commented on the many village organisations in Warboys, congratulating in particular the Community Association which had been very active in organising events and providing grants to other groups in village and the new editorial team at the Warboys Diary which remained a vital source of information for residents. The church bell ringers had a new team leader but most organisations were seeking new members and helpers, especially with the growth in the village population.

The Chairman drew attention to the untimely and tragic death of Chris Chatfield in an accident shortly after the previous annual parish meeting. He had been one of the co-Founder of the Christmas lighting group, Chairman of the Sports Ground Committee and a former parish councillor who had done much for Warboys. Betty Ball had become the first Honorary Freewoman of Warboys in recognition of her many years of involvement in village organisations and thanks were extended to Peter Bucknell who was retiring as a District Councillor and who, despite being Chairman of Huntingdonshire Council for 2 of his 16 years' service, had maintained a continually high attendance at all Council meetings in the Ward. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council had ordered honours boards for display in the Library listing honorary freemen and women and past chairmen of the Parish Council.

It was reported that the Council continued to provide hanging baskets at various business and public locations in the village and that in excess of £400 was being spent annually on bedding plants in the High Street which were planted and maintained by the Handymen. Crocus had been planted at the War Memorial to add to those planted at The Weir which had been donated by Ramsey Rotary Club as part of a polio eradication campaign with help in planting from Under Fives Playschool children. A highly successful Christmas lighting display had been organised again by the small Christmas Lighting Group which had managed to attract new members.

There were now two externally sited defibrillators in the village available 24 hours per day for use in an emergency. The equipment located at Wards of Warboys had been funded by the 55 Plus club and was maintained by the Parish Council with weekly monitoring to ensure that it was ready for use. The second external defibrillator was situated at the Spar store and presumably monitored by store staff. Internally sited defibrillators were located at Moat House Surgery and Mill Green Dental Practice and in an emergency would be operated by their own personnel.

The Chairman reported that attendances at the Remembrance Sunday service continued to grow each year with the road now closed by the Council for the duration of the event and official representation by an officer from RAF Wyton. Thanks to the support of the Community Association, the Feast Week celebrations had been more extensive than in recent years. A Picnic in the Park had been enjoyed by participating families and the ever popular Its a Knockout on May Day organised by the Community Association had been attended by over 600 people and raised £2,800 for village organisations. A working party of the Parish Council, Royal British Legion and Church were planning events for weekend of 10th and 11th November 2018 to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWI. Successful and well attended productions had been undertaken by Warboys Amateur Dramatics and an ever increasing number of children had taken part in the summer reading challenge at the Library supported by Parish Council.

The meeting was informed by the Chairman that excessive traffic speeds by motorists continued to be a problem throughout the village. A small number of volunteers had come forward to form a local Speedwatch team and the Parish Council had budgeted to purchase equipment for their use in 2018/19. Unfortunately a bid submitted to the County Council as highway authority for a priority narrowing scheme in Fenton Road to slow traffic had been unsuccessful.

It was reported that Stagecoach had announced the withdrawal of bus services 30 and 35 linking Warboys with Huntingdon, Ramsey and Chatteris at the end of December. Following considerable public opposition from residents who relied on public transport, the County Council had agreed to subsidise the routes until end of August while they undertook a review but there were indications are that the subsidy would be withdrawn at the end of that period with Parish Councils expected to pick up the cost. Warboys was working with other parish councils in a joint approach to the County Council for greater investment in public transport.

An attempt by the Parish Council to establish a Community Flood Group to compile a Flood Plan for flooding emergencies in the previous year had not attracted any interest. A successful bid had been made by the Parish Council for funding from the County Council to resurface parts of the High Street pavement between School Road and Jubilee Clock and a picnic table adapted for use by wheelchair users had been installed at Jubilee

Park with funding by Ramsey Rotary Club. A quotation had been accepted for the sealing of the flooring in Jubilee Clock Tower shelter to be followed by painting of commemorative WWI mural.

Finally the Chairman expressed her appreciation to the small team of part-time employees, those in receipt of honoraria or a contract whose workload increased each year. These included the Clerk, Handymen, Timebank Co-ordinator, Parish Centre Cleaners, Clock Winder, Internal Auditor and Website Co-ordinator.

## **DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

A written report was submitted by District Councillor Bucknell, a copy of which was attached to the agenda and a written report by County Councillor Rogers was circulated at the meeting.

District Councillor Bucknell reported that the District Council's Council Tax level in 2018/19 would remain one of the lowest in Cambridgeshire but that further savings would need to be achieved as the Revenue Support Grant would be withdrawn after the current year. The Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 had been submitted to the Secretary of State for approval and it was anticipated that this would be adopted in 2019.

County Councillor Rogers provided an update on the consideration by the County Council of the application for planning permission for combined heat and power and waste water treatment plants at the Landfill Site at Puddock Hill. He also reported on the measures being taken by the County Council to repair the large number of potholes that had arisen in Cambridgeshire roads over the past winter

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Clerk presented the provisional financial statement for the Parish Council for 2017/18, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

As at the preparation of the report, the Clerk reported that the balances were estimated to be as follows:-

Earmarked reserves	£270,358
General Fund	£ 28,471

with the earmarked reserves comprising –

Allotments	£103,039
Open spaces/ play	£ 1,858
Landfill site fees	£ 14,194
Replacement Parish Centre	£ 80,000
S 106/CIL	£ 69,767
Vehicle Replacement	£ 1,500

A projected surplus was forecast for 2017/18 of £49,251 but this had only been possible as a result of Community Infrastructure Levy income during the year of £44,698. The

only major scheme in terms of expenditure had been the replacement of worn-out swings and safety surfaces at Adams Lyons and Orchard Close playgrounds which had cost over £17,000 but the Clerk pointed out that the Connections Bus Project for young people had cost £8,345 and the Timebank scheme £6,060.

As a result of the developments taking place in the village, the Clerk explained that the tax base had risen which would mean that additional precept income of approximately £5,000 would be received. As £10,000 had been budgeted for works to The Weir to address the problems of oxygen levels and low water levels, an increase in precept income of £5,000 was required. This would amount to an increase of 5% which equated with the average increase for town and parish councils in Huntingdonshire in 2018/19.

Since the despatch of the agenda, the Clerk reported that he had been informed by the District Council that a further CIL payment would be made early in 2018/19 of just over £91,000 from new development in Warboys.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

In reply to a question about the continuing unsightly appearance of the former Newmans Stores at 66 High Street, District Councillor Bucknell reported that the District Council had issued a notice requiring improvements to the external fabric of the building which the owner had one year to comply with.

### **NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and informed everyone that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 17th April 2019.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

**Chairman.**