

PARISH OF WARBOYS

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** for the **Parish of Warboys** held on 17th April 2019 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman of the Parish Council in the Chair.

Twelve Members and the Clerk of the Parish Council

County Councillor T V Rogers

District Councillor Mrs J E Tavener (also serving on the Parish Council)

Mr A Hill, Community Champion, Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service

Mr A Clitheroe, The Bobby Scheme

17 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was submitted on behalf of District Councillor G J Bull.

MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Mrs Harlock, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2018 were approved and signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2018.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The Chairman welcomed Mr A Hill to the meeting who was a Community Champion for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service.

Mr Hill explained that he delivered talks to people and children of all ages about fire safety. He proceeded to give useful advice about fire safety in the home, including the testing and cleaning of smoke alarms, means of escape and escape plans, not leaving washing machines, dishwashers etc. working overnight, closing of doors at night and not overloading electrical sockets.

Mr Hill advised that the Fire Service carried out 'Safe and Well' visits for elderly or vulnerable people or those with disabilities in the community. Leaflets and various safety information were made available for anyone to take away at the meeting.

In an answer to questions, Mr Hill explained the 'what3words' system for identifying any location. This was used by the emergency services and could be downloaded without cost for use by all. The system divided the world into 3 metres by 3 metres squares each

with a unique three word reference which could be quoted to call centre staff in an emergency.

Mr Hill was thanked by the Chairman for the very helpful presentation that he had given and he then left the meeting.

THE BOBBY SCHEME

The Chairman then welcomed Mr A Clitheroe of The Bobby Scheme who proceeded to explain the background of the organisation and the products available to protect against criminal activity. The organisation was a charity based in Yaxley which had been established in 2001 by the then Chief Constable and High Sheriff to visit vulnerable people at home or victims of crime. Since its inception the organisation had made 27,000 visits to people. During the course of a visit, a series of safety measures could be fitted to protect against burglaries and unwanted access for a minimal charge.

Mr Clitheroe demonstrated various types of device for the home and for personal protection and offered useful and practical advice on how to deter thefts and protect personal property when in public places. Many of the items were on sale at the meeting for a small fee or were available either from the Yaxley office or by delivery from Bobby Scheme staff who carried supplies when undertaking visits in an area.

After answering a number of questions, Mr Clitheroe was thanked by the Chairman for the information that he had provided and the products demonstrated.

FOOD BANK

The organiser of the local Foodbank based at Ramsey had agreed to give a presentation on the operation of the scheme but was not in attendance. Under the circumstances, Ms V Musson as Secretary of the Community Association explained that there were three collection points in Warboys, with items collected being taken to Ramsey where they were distributed to those in need in the area.

Ms Musson reported that residents had been extremely generous in Warboys in donating goods. Those in need could obtain a voucher to exchange for essential supplies from social services, housing associations, health care organisations etc., with about 150 vouchers having been given out in Warboys in the previous year.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman indicated that she was privileged to present her first annual report, having thoroughly enjoyed working for the village and been delighted to have been elected as Chairman in May 2018. However, she pointed out that the Parish Council was very much a team operation and she expressed her thanks and appreciation go to all Parish Councillors for the work and time they contributed voluntarily, bringing a range of invaluable talents and skills sets.

The Chairman also expressed her sincere thanks to the Clerk, whose guidance, advice and administrative skills she considered invaluable. Tribute was paid to Mrs M P Bucknell for her fourteen years of service as a councillor and her chairmanship of the Parish Council, following her decision not to stand for re-election in 2018.

A written report had been circulated with the agenda and distributed at the meeting, with the Chairman highlighting various points from the report.

Mention was made of the co-option of Mr J A Parker and Mrs S J Wilcox in May 2018 as insufficient people had been nominated for election in that month and the co-option of Mr S J Green and Mrs C Evans later in the year to fill places arising from the resignations of Mr G Joseph and Mr B L Correll.

In terms of publicity, the Chairman reported that the Council continued to find ways to make people more aware of its activities in the community, including the website and Facebook accounts, with the website becoming more accessible for the disabled. Regular articles appeared in the Warboys Diary and monthly reports in the Ramsey and District Informer. However surgeries at the Library on alternate Saturday mornings had been cancelled after an 18-month trial as insufficient people had attended.

The Timebank scheme launched in November 2016 had been made permanent, with membership growing to 47 individuals and 3 organisations. Various activities had been organised by the Co-ordinator including a litter pick for two days earlier in the month.

In terms of development, the Chairman reported that Warboys would expand considerably under the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036. Construction had already started for phases I and II of the David Wilson Homes development off Station Road, totalling 200 dwellings and the Bellway development south of Farriers Way of 74 dwellings. Further sites had been 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 continued to be submitted for sites not allocated in the Local Plan to which the Parish Council had submitted objections. The developments would impact on village facilities where capacity was limited but could increase business to help local shops.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council and Landfill Action Group had worked closely in objecting to the planning application for combined heat and power and waste water treatment plants at the landfill site which had generated considerable opposition locally. Representations had been made at the County Council Planning Committee meeting in September to speak against the application but this had been approved. The Parish Council had challenged the decision which had resulted in certain aspects being referred back to the Planning Committee in December when objectors again had attended to voice their concerns. The application had been approved but the decision notice had still to be issued and the Parish Council would be seeking legal advice on the possibility of judicially reviewing the decision when the notice was available.

Mention was made of the many village organisations in Warboys and the activities of the Community Association in organising events and providing grants to other groups. The new editors of the Warboys' Diary had been very successful and the publication still remained a vital source of village information. The Chairman pointed out that most organisations were seeking new members and helpers, even with the growth in the

village, and relied on a hard core of volunteers who were often to be found in several clubs.

The Parish Council continued to plant flowers in verges and the war memorial garden and provided hanging baskets at various locations in the village. The Handymen cut the verges in High Street and elsewhere in village which would otherwise be left to two cuts a year if undertaken by County Council. Attention was drawn to the continuing problem of litter. The Parish Council had provided additional litter bins in the previous year which were emptied weekly by the Handymen with two volunteers also undertaking litter picks on a regular basis. In addition Timebank members had undertaken an organised litter pick earlier in the month.

A highly successful Christmas lighting display had been organised again by the small Christmas Lighting Group which had attracted additional volunteers recently. The Parish Council had agreed to part fund adaptations to additional lighting columns to extend the lighting display further along High Street for the 2019 display.

The Chairman reported on the success of the arrangements to commemorate the centenary of the WWI armistice with a working party having met regularly throughout year, comprising representatives of the Parish Council, Royal British Legion and church. This had formed part of the national events taking place over the weekend of 10th and 11th November, comprising the painting of a mural in the Clock Tower shelter, an excellent exhibition at the Parish Centre and Parish Church organised by Mrs M Tringham and Mrs J Bennett, a social event at Parish Centre with guest speaker, 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 the Remembrance Sunday service at war memorial and the lighting of a beacon and ringing of bells at the church.

The Chairman reported on the successful and well attended Christmas Lighting switch-on event in November and extensive Feast Week celebrations thanks to the efforts of the Community Association. The popular May Day event organised by the Community Association had been well attended raising funds for village organisations. The Pathfinder March comprising a 46-mile long distance charity walk had passed through the village in June and Warboys continued to welcome the Pathfinders Reunion in May each year with a service at the church, refreshments at the Parish Centre and fly past by historic aircraft. Successful and well attended productions had been provided by the Warboys Amateur Dramatics Society and an ever increasing number of children had taken part in the summer reading challenge at the Library supported by Parish Council. A Christmas bazaar had been organised by village crafts people and the ever popular fireworks display had raised funds for village organisations

The Chairman reported that speeding continued to be a problem in the village. The Parish Council had purchased a speed indicator device for use by the local Speedwatch team and Community Roadwatch continued to be active in the village providing statistics on traffic volumes and speeds. A successful bid had been submitted to the County Council to fund priority narrowing in Fenton Road to slow traffic which would be implemented later in the year. The Parish Council had considered the possibility of a weight restriction in Warboys and a one-way system involving High Street and Mill Green. However these would not be progressed as it had been acknowledged that they

might cause more problems than they would solve and the whole of the cost would have had to be met by the Parish.

Uncertainty continued over the future of local bus services. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough combined authority had commissioned a review of service provision and while funding to subsidise services would continue until the end of year, the likelihood was that uneconomic services would be reduced or cut and local communities encouraged to establish community transport themselves.

As a result of the problems of low water levels in the Weir in the recent hot summers, the Parish Council had tried several measures to reduce weed growth and silt build-up but had had to budget for dredging work to be undertaken later in the year. The fish had been removed prior to the work and restocking would take place at a later date.

Finally the Chairman thanked the Parish Council employees for their hard work over the past year

DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

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 infrastructure proposals by the combined authority in response to the growth in Cambridgeshire. A review was currently taking place into public transport, highways and street lighting surveys were being undertaken and the Minerals and Waste Plan was being reviewed. Councillor Rogers drew attention to the ongoing financial problems facing the County Council, particularly given the high cost of social care for both young and old. Finally he mentioned the plans to lease Shire Hall in Cambridge and replace it with a smaller headquarters at Alconbury Weald with most staff working in satellite offices.

A written report had been submitted by District Councillor Bull. He also drew attention to the financial challenges facing the District Council as a result of reductions in grant from the Government. Huntingdonshire continued to grow with new residents and businesses and Councillor Bull had referred to the efforts of the District Council to work in partnership with other bodies to try to ensure that the infrastructure deficit was addressed. This included a third crossing of the River Ouse and improvements to the A141.

District Councillor Mrs Tavener added that refurbishments were being undertaken at Ramsey One Leisure which would benefit residents of Warboys and she also drew attention to the improvements in the District Council's on line access to services. More locally she mentioned that she was the local Speedwatch Co-ordinator and she referred to the measures taken to reduce speeding in the community.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Clerk presented the provisional financial statement for the Parish Council for 2018/19, 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	£415,170
General Fund	£ 40,472

with the earmarked reserves comprising –

Allotments	£104,040
Open spaces/ play	£ 1,858
Landfill site fees	£ 14,194
Replacement Parish Centre	£ 90,000
S 106/CIL	£203,078
Vehicle Replacement	£ 2,000

The Clerk pointed out that income had been overshadowed by Community Infrastructure Levy receipts which had amounted to £135,987 from the Great Pastures development off Station Road. It was reported that a similar amount was expected from the second phase of the David Wilson Homes development at Station Road and the Bellway development south of Farriers Way. The income could only be used for infrastructure improvements defined in the CIL Regulations and could not be used to subsidise revenue expenditure.

The Clerk reported that there had been no significant expenditure required in play equipment repairs as a result of the 2018 independent safety inspection but that the Connections Bus Project for young people had cost £7,887 and the Timebank scheme £7,040.

As a result of the growth in the village, the Council Tax Base had risen which provided additional revenue for the same level of precept. The Parish Council had therefore been able to retain the same level of precept of £78.43 in 2019/20 which would be the fourth lowest of the medium and large sized parishes in Huntingdonshire.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Ms Musson as Secretary of the Community Association reported on the May Day activities organised by the Association which would take place at the Sports Ground on 6th May.

In reply to a question about the continuing unsightly appearance of the former Newmans Stores at 66 High Street, the Clerk reported that the Parish Council had been pressing the District Council to take formal action against the owner throughout the past year to improve the property.

In response to a comment about the unsightly appearance of the herb gardens at Adams Lyons playground, the Chairman reported that the Parish Council was aware of the situation and that improvements would be made.

In response to a question about a missing bollard at the Jubilee Clock Tower, the Clerk reported that this was with a company in Somersham for repair.

Finally the Chairman reported that a free exhibition would be taking place at the Methodist Church on 20th July from 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m. enable the public to see the finds and meet the archaeologists involved in the excavations for the Bellway development south of Farriers Way.

NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and informed everyone that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 23rd April 2020.

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

Chairman.