

# WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held on 20th March 2017 at the Parish Centre.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman

Councillors H A Backhouse, B J Correll, R J Dykstra, Ms L A Gifford, P S Potts, Mrs J E Tavener, G C M Willis, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs M H Harlock and R A Payne.

## **10/16 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Ms Gifford, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 31st October 2016 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

## **11/16 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

No interests were raised by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda for the meeting.

## **12/16 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee considered the following matter arising from their meeting held on 31st October 2016:-

### **(a) Feast Week**

Arising from Minute No. 06/16, Councillor Potts confirmed that the arrangements were in place for the Feast Week band concert by the 'Killer Shrimps' to be held at the White Hart public house on 23rd July.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt advised that the Community Association had encouraged a number of organisations in the village to become more actively involved in the Feast Week celebrations in 2017. As the Association would be organising another 'It's A Knockout' on the May Day Bank Holiday, it would not be possible to organise a 'Picnic in the Park' at the Sports Field during Feast Week but this would be resumed in 2018.

Members were informed by Councillor Mrs Wyatt that the following events would be taking place during Feast Week:-

- Saturday, 22nd July – Methodist Church coffee morning in aid of Christian Aid  
WADs street theatre in the Library car park  
Horticultural and Craft Show  
Ashleigh Court event with funds to Christmas Lighting
- Sunday, 23rd July - Band concert by the ‘Killer Shrimps’ at White Hart
- Monday, 24th July - Funfair in High Street to Wednesday, 26th
- Tuesday, 25th July - W. I. afternoon tea at Parish Centre
- Wednesday, 26th - Baptists Church lunchtime desserts  
Ladies cricket match at Sports Field and karaoke  
Over 55s beach party at Parish Centre
- Thursday, 27th July - Friendship Club coffee morning and talk on local history  
Juniors v. parents cricket match and BBQ
- Friday, 28th July - De Ramsey Court coffee morning  
Day Care Centre Quiz Night
- Saturday, 29th July - Abba tribute act at Sports & Social Club

Councillor Mrs Wyatt confirmed that a full programme of events would be published in due course and was thanked by Members for the work of the Association in compiling such a full series of events for Feast Week.

### **13/16 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

The Clerk reminded Members that the Committee had agreed to engage a different company to undertake the annual safety inspection of the playgrounds in 2017. Enquiries of neighbouring parish councils and the internet had identified a number of different companies and it was agreed to engage RoSPA to undertake the inspection in 2017 with their scheduled month for inspections in Cambridgeshire being April.

A number of comments were raised by the Chairman and Members with regard to the various playgrounds and open spaces for which the Parish Council was responsible with the general view that the playgrounds were in good condition and well used.

#### **(a) Adams Lyons Playground**

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the wooden steps on the mound slide were starting to rot at the edges, with further evidence of rot and a broken post on the wooden sections of the play trail. The Clerk pointed out that the latter equipment had not been in situ for long and unfortunately was not proving very durable.

The Chairman also advised that the footpath near the entrance had been flooded at the time of her visit, that the concrete edge of a drain cover was breaking up and

that there was a split in the membrane under the safety bark at the see-saw. The Clerk undertook to arrange for the Handymen to deal with the issues raised.

As Councillor Mrs Tavener had previously offered to be responsible for the maintenance of the raised flower beds, she advised that she would contact the Clerk to provide an estimate of the cost of purchasing the necessary plants.

**(b) Jubilee Park**

The Chairman and Councillor Willis advised that older children were present in the park but had not been observed using the play equipment that was designed for the under nines. The Clerk advised that, as far as he was aware, the community orchard was still being maintained by Greener Futures.

**(c) Orchard Close Playground**

The Chairman reported that there had been no evidence of dog faeces in the playground at the time of her visit but she pointed out that the spring tension on the gate had deteriorated to such an extent that the gate could be opened by small children. The Clerk indicated that he would arrange for the Handymen to try to rectify the problem.

Both the Chairman and Councillor Willis advised that the pigeon spikes placed on the top of the equipment frames appeared to have prevented the problem of bird fouling on the seats at the various playgrounds.

**(d) Heath Pond and Sheepwash**

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that the lifebelt had been removed from the Sheepwash and had been attached to a length of rope over a tree branch so it could be used as an impromptu swing. As the Handymen inspected the area weekly, she asked to be informed of the date of the last inspection and for the purchase of a replacement lifebelt if the current equipment had been damaged. As the swing was being used to swing out over the Heath Pond, the Clerk was also asked to install a 'Danger – Deep Water' sign which Councillor Willis suggested he may be able to obtain.

**(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces**

The Clerk confirmed that, as the company failed to respond to e-mails, it had not been possible to persuade Persimmon Homes to comply with the Section 106 Agreement to transfer ownership of the open space leading to Lea Brooks Close to the Parish Council. Councillor Dr Withams advised that the grass was being cut but it was not known by whom.

**(f) The Weir**

Members considered a request from the Community Association for the display of a banner advertising the forthcoming 'Warboys It's A Knockout' on the railings around the Weir during the month of April. As the site was situated in the

conservation area, the Chairman was of the opinion that the period requested was too long and it was agreed that permission be granted for two weeks only.

At the Chairman's request, the Clerk also undertook to remove the existing no fishing notices displayed around the pond which had been affected by the weather.

**(g) School Road and High Street/Woodlands Footpath**

In response to a question by Councillor Willis, the Clerk advised that as the path from High Street to Woodlands was a public footpath, it formed part of the highway and responsibility for its maintenance lay with the County Council. Although the verge alongside the path was being maintained by the Handymen, Councillor Willis drew attention to the fact that some of the shrubs were growing to a height that could not be reached by the equipment which was available to them.

**(h) War Memorial**

Members noted that no action was required at the present time.

**(i) Miscellaneous**

The Chairman drew attention to the condition of the kerb adjoining the shelter near the Jubilee Clock Tower where the contractors improving the water main recently had removed the kerb stones which now were stacked to the side of the shelter and had tarmacked the footway edge. The Clerk advised that he had referred the matter to the County Council's Highways Supervisor and had been advised that this was only a temporary reinstatement.

The Chairman also drew attention to the fact that there was an ornamental finial missing from the metal frame around one of the garden areas on the Jubilee Clock Tower island.

**14/16 FOOTPATH 7 – ERECTION OF KISSING GATES**

No objection was raised to a proposal by the owner of land adjoining Pingle Wood who wished to erect kissing gates where footpath 7 crossed the land as he intended to graze cattle on the land. He had been advised by the County Council as the highways authority that he needed to consult the Parish Council in applying for consent to the proposal.

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

**Chairman.**