

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 12th October 2015 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman.

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, D W England Ms L A Gifford, Mrs M H Harlock, T R Huggins, J A Parker, R A Payne, P S Potts, Dr J C Price, Mrs J E Tavener, G C M Willis Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

District Councillor P L E Bucknell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor Mrs S Stafford and County Councillor M R Tew.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked those Members who had attended the official opening of the outdoor fitness equipment at Adams Lyons playground on 30th September and expressed her particular appreciation to Mr M Farren, the Managing Director of the Woodford Group who had grant aided the scheme and carried out the opening.

99/15 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Huggins and seconded by Councillor Mrs Harlock, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2015 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

100/15 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chairman and Councillor Willis declared non-statutory disclosable interests in Minute No. 109/15 (Christmas Lighting) as they were members of the Christmas Lighting Group. It was noted that they had obtained dispensations previously to speak but not vote on items affecting their membership of the Group.

101/15 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 14th September 2015:-

(a) Jubilee Park

Further to Minute No. 80/15(b), the Clerk reported that the ‘Cherry Twist’ play equipment that had been vandalised at Jubilee Park had been replaced by Sutcliffe Play Ltd. and that the Council’s insurers had reimbursed the Council with the cost of the repair less the £100 excess on the policy.

With regard to the introduction of byelaws for the park, Members were informed that the consultation period had now expired and that the byelaws had been sent to the Department for Communities and Local Government for confirmation.

The Clerk reported that he had placed the public notice in the press for the proposed order banning dogs from the park but it had subsequently transpired that the order making power had been rescinded in 2014. A new power had enabled district councils to make public places orders but it was not clear whether Huntingdonshire Council intended to designate public spaces generally in the District or to make ad hoc orders for which they might require reimbursement if the land was not in their ownership.

Members were informed that notices advising of the change in legislation had been posted on site and on the notice boards by the Clerk soon after the public notice had appeared in the press and that only three letters of objection had therefore been received.

(b) Gritting of Puddock Hill

Arising from Minute No. 80/15(c), the Clerk informed Members that the County Council’s local Highways Supervisor was still trying to obtain confirmation from the relevant team to ensure that Puddock Hill would be gritted in future at the Parish Council’s expense.

(c) The Weir

Further to Minute No. 80/15(d), the Clerk reported that he had sent written confirmation to Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service that the Environment Agency and Cambridge Water Co. had no objection to the use of a fire appliance to fill The Weir with mains water but that despite reminders, a reply had yet to be received. A subsequent call had been received from an officer of the Environment Agency on site to say that they had been called out because the fish were in distress. It transpired that the call had been made by a member of the public and that, despite the low water level, the fish were not in any distress. The Clerk advised that there appeared to be little co-ordination on the part of the various organisations and that despite numerous telephone calls and e-mails over the summer, it had been difficult to achieve any progress.

Councillor Mrs Cole expressed her concerns that water level in the pond had not improved since she had taken measurements earlier in the year, that the aerator had been removed without her having been consulted, that the barley straw bags had not been replaced when they had been removed in August, and that the water level might be too low for a further application of Siltex in the autumn.

Arising from the continuing problems of the water level, weed growth and other issues associated with The Weir which had taken considerable time at Council meetings, a number of Members suggested that the idea of dredging the pond should be revisited as the only viable long term solution. In view of the potential costs involved, it was

RESOLVED

that the Finance and General Purposes Committee be invited to consider including a sum in the budget for 2016/17 to enable The Weir to be dredged.

(d) Personnel

Further to Minute No. 80/15(e), Members were informed that Mr A Corney had left the Council's employment as Senior Handyman at the end of September and a retirement card was circulated for Members to sign to be presented to him, together with a gift, at the next meeting in recognition of his service to the Council.

(e) Damage to Parish Centre

Further to Minute No. 80/15(h), Members were informed that the CCTV camera and signs at the Parish Centre which had been vandalised had now been replaced.

(f) Damage to Play Equipment – Adams Lyons Playground

Further to Minute No. 83/15, the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting confirmation from the Council's insurers to enable an order to be placed for the replacement of the nest swing that had been vandalised at Adams Lyons playground.

The Clerk also reported that two of the upright poles in the circular walkway at the playground had been snapped off in an act of vandalism in the last few days. Members were informed that arrangements would be made for the poles to be replaced but that this was likely to be complicated by the fact that the original poles had been fixed in a concrete base.

(f) Notice Boards

Further to Minute No. 84/15, the Clerk reported that he had established that the grassed area fronting the Primary School in Humberdale Way was in the ownership of the school itself and that he had therefore written to the Governing Body asking if there was any objection to the notice board being repositioned nearer to the footway edge.

On receipt of permission to relocate the notice board, the Clerk advised that he would place an order for the new boards.

(g) Provision of Soil Improver

Further to Minute No. 87/15, the Clerk reported that the Red Tile Wind Farm Trust Fund Ltd. had approved the Council's application for grant for the distribution of soil improver free of charge to Warboys residents. The Trust had decided to offer a grant to meet 100% of the costs and the Clerk reported that he would make arrangements for the material to be available for collection by residents in the spring.

(h) Purchase of Seat by Warboys 55 Plus

Further to Minute No. 89/15, Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that the Parochial Church Council and the Diocese had agreed to the installation of a seat in the cemetery to be funded by the 55 Plus club and purchased by the Council.

(i) Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Further to Minute No. 90/15, Members noted that the official opening of the outdoor fitness equipment at Adams Lyons playground had taken place on 30th September and that the new equipment appeared to have been well received by residents.

Councillor Mrs Cole drew attention to an inaccuracy in the information contained in the Chairman's introduction at the official opening with regard to the name of the family that had donated the land to the Council and she undertook to supply the correct information so this could be passed to the Ramsey & Warboys Reporter whose editor had attended the event.

(j) Remembrance Sunday Service

Further to Minute No. 91/15, the Clerk confirmed that the Primary School had no objection to lending their P.A. system for use at the Remembrance Sunday service on 8th November.

(k) Non-Emergency Patient Transport Services

Arising from Minute No. 93/15, Councillor Dr Withams reported that she had attended one of the public meetings arranged by the NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group who were consulting on the future model for non-emergency patient transport services.

Councillor Dr Withams advised that the CCG were planning to amalgamate the current many different forms of patient transport into a single contract that would be advertised for tender. A commitment had been given at the public meeting that all those now eligible for patient transport would benefit from the new service and that it would be made available 7 days per week, although one of the aims was to save money. Councillor Dr Withams advised that she had raised questions about the effect on current staffing and the fact that if calls for service were dealt with by a call centre, this might present difficulties in a rural community. She encouraged Members to complete and return the questionnaire at the end of the consultation paper that had been circulated to the previous meeting and to ask the CCG to ensure that standards did not suffer as a result of the proposed changes.

(l) Open Forum – Wiggs Farm

Arising from Minute No. 96/15, District Councillor Bucknell reported that he was still endeavouring to arrange for the graffiti on the security panelling around the Wiggs Farm site to be cleaned off.

With regard to the housing development itself, District Councillor Bucknell reported that he had been advised that the site was now uneconomic as a purely affordable housing site and that it was likely that a further planning application would be made for the development to include a possible three dwellings for sale with the remainder as affordable homes.

(m) WEEE Bank

Arising from Minute No. 98/15, the Clerk reported that the lock on the WEEE Bank adjacent to the Library car park had been removed so that the door could now be opened. The Woodford Group had offered to empty the bank on a regular basis without charge as there was little residual value in waste electrical products currently. However if the market improved, the Group would reimburse the Council with a proportion of the recycling credits. The Clerk indicated that he would speak to the company in an effort to arrange for the bank to be emptied as soon as possible.

102/15 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14th September 2015 be received.

103/15 APPOINTMENTS SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Sub Committee held on 23rd September 2015 be received.

104/15 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk reported that PCSO L Hurley had recently been transferred and had been replaced by PCSO G Price as the local officer responsible for Warboys. The latter had indicated that he would attend Parish Council meetings when available.

In the absence of a monthly report which previously had been supplied by PCSO Hurley, the Clerk reported on the crime statistics listed on the Cambridgeshire Police website for the Warboys and Bury District Ward in September. This had shown 24 crimes, including 3 non-dwelling burglaries, 9 cases of criminal damage, 4 thefts, 1 public order offence, 3

vehicle crimes and 4 violent crimes. There had also been 11 reports of anti-social behaviour.

105/15 DAMAGE TO PARISH CENTRE

The Clerk reported that between 5.30 p.m. and 6.10 p.m. on 25th September, a group of teenagers had wrapped silver backed tape around the storage sheds and the emergency exit at the Parish Centre. Two of the youths had also taped over the CCTV camera overlooking the area but they could be clearly identified when wrapping the tape over the camera.

The Clerk informed Members that he had reported the incident to the Police and had made a recording of the CCTV footage. It had also transpired that the weekly crime report for Warboys had included a number of incidents of vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the day in question in the vicinity of the High Street which suggested that it might have been the same group of teenagers. As a Police officer had yet to collect the CCTV footage, the Clerk advised that he had e-mailed the local Police sergeant to bring this to his attention but he had still to receive a reply.

As the damage had not been discovered until some two days later and the Parish Centre had been let on two occasions in the intervening period, the Clerk suggested that the taping over of the emergency exit could have had serious consequences in the event of an emergency evacuation of the building. As a result, the Chairman asked that hirers be warned when they collected the key to check to ensure that the emergency exit was functional before their event took place.

106/16 PARISH PLANTING

The Clerk reported upon the receipt of the annual invitation from the District Council to request trees or hedgerow plants under their parish planting scheme in the current year. Trees that were requested could be planted on private land but had to be able to be observed from a public place.

As Councillor Huggins had indicated that he was unable to co-ordinate the response on this occasion because of his health, Members were asked if any of them were prepared to submit the response to the District Council on this occasion and co-ordinate the delivery of the trees.

The Chairman drew attention to the fact that a request could be made for a commemorative tree and she suggested a memorial tree in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain to be planted possibly in either the churchyard or cemetery.

RESOLVED

that an offer by Councillor Parker to co-ordinate the submission from the village under the parish planting scheme for the current year be accepted and Councillor Parker requested to include a request for a memorial tree for the Battle of Britain 75th anniversary.

107/17 AIRFIELD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - SIGN

The Chairman drew attention to the unsightly appearance of the miscellaneous signs at the entrance to the Airfield Industrial Estate in Church Road and she suggested that it would be a considerable improvement if a new sign could be installed at the entrance to the estate containing details of the current business occupiers. She suggested that the present arrangement offered a poor impression of both the industrial estate itself and one of the principal entrances to the village.

As the estate was thought to now be in several ownerships, Members recognised that there might be some difficulty in persuading occupiers of the estate to agree to a common approach but it was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be requested to investigate the feasibility of improved signage at the entrance to the estate.

108/15 AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

Further to Minute No. 32/15, the Clerk reported that the audit of accounts for 2014/15 had been completed by the external auditors, Messrs PKF Littlejohn LLP, and that there were no matters that the latter wished to bring to the attention of the Council.

109/15 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

Further to Minute No. 80/15(a), the Clerk reminded Members that at their previous meeting they had deferred a request by the Christmas Lighting Group for the Council to meet the cost of engaging a company to assist in the erection and dismantling of the Christmas lights in the village at a cost of £435 plus VAT. In previous years the Council had funded the hire of a cherry picker to install and dismantle the lighting but as a result of changes in health and safety regulations, any person working with such equipment now required suitable training, the cost of which would be prohibitive. The Lighting Group had therefore identified a company in Huntingdon who would provide the necessary machinery and two operatives who would carry out the work that could not be undertaken by members of the Lighting Group themselves.

In response to questions by Members, the Clerk confirmed that the cost could be accommodated from the provision made in the budget for Christmas lighting and it was therefore

RESOLVED

that the request by the Christmas Lighting Group be approved.

110/15 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Members considered a request from Citizens Advice Rural Cambs. for a financial contribution towards the cost of administering the Citizens Advice service in the rural parts of the county. The Bureau had advised that they had dealt with over 3,500 clients, with 87 new clients with over 175 problems in the Warboys and Bury Ward.

Having been reminded that the Council had supported the organisation in the past, Members

RESOLVED

that a grant of £100 be made to Citizens Advice Rural Cambs.

111/15 INVITATION TO MEETINGS

Having considered a number of invitations for the Council to be represented at meetings and events, Members

RESOLVED

- (a) that Councillor Mrs Bucknell be authorised to represent the Council at the Connections Bus Project AGM to be held on 27th October at Histon;
- (b) that the invitation to attend the Citizens Advice Rural Cambs. AGM to be held on 22nd October at Wisbech be declined; and.
- (c) that Councillor Mrs Harlock be authorised to represent the Council at a tour by Crest Nicholson, the developers of the proposed Wyton Airfield scheme, of two of their previous developments on 29th October.

112/15 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council, it had been reported that a meeting of the Landfill Liaison Group was to be held shortly. District Councillor Bucknell and the Parish Council's representatives who had attended the meeting reported on the discussions that had taken place. A small amount of landfill was still occurring from the residue of the recycling operation that was now the primary business at the landfill site on Puddock Hill. As a result a small amount of landfill tax grant also was still being accumulated. Planning permission for landfill was due to expire at the end of the year but it was likely that a further application would be made to enable the small scale landfilling to continue. Members were also informed that work on the restoration of the landfill site was continuing and that the next meeting of the Landfill Liaison Group would be held on 20th September 2016.

The Clerk also reported that a number of questions had been raised about the allotments.

113/15 ACCOUNTS

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Mrs Tavener, it was

RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
A Corney	Gen. Maintenance – September 2015	1,487.09
M J Buddle	Gen. Maintenance – September 2015	966.97
R Edwards	Cleaner’s wages/fees – September 2015	229.20
R Reeves	Salary – September 2015	878.99
Post Office Ltd.	Tax & NIC – September 2015	1,284.61
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	88.00
G Hansell	Half year Internal Auditor’s fee	50.00
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Public notice in Hunts Post for Jubilee Park dog control	234.91
Activ Security (UK) Ltd.	Replacement CCTV camera and signs – Parish Centre	336.00
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Pest control treatment of wasps nest at Parish Centre car park	60.00
Ivan Barrett	Miscellaneous supplies	230.06
Ivan Barrett	Puncture repair to van	33.00
Premier Gas Services	Service of gas appliances – Parish Centre	156.00
Caloo Ltd.	Outdoor fitness equipment – Adams Lyons playground	27,458.32
PKF Littlejohn LLP	Audit fees	480.00
R Reeves	Reimbursement – leaving gift for A Corney	49.95
Sutcliffe Play	Replacement cherry twist – Jubilee Park	154.67
Sutcliffe Play	Replacement cherry twist – Jubilee Park Installation	360.00

Business Services at CAS Ltd.	Annual insurance premium	4,476.02
The Lock Shop	Cut lock on WEEE Bank	90.00
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath for Remembrance Sunday service	30.00
Cambridge Water Co.	Water rates – Parish Centre	349.58
Cambridge Water Co.	Water rates – Allotments	234.23
Windmill Bakery	Refreshments – Fitness Equipment Official Opening	56.00
Murco	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	52.39
Total Solutions IT Group Ltd	Computer anti-virus protection - November (paid by direct debit)	6.00
Total Solutions IT Group Ltd	Computer backup online - November (paid by direct debit)	36.00
Total Solutions IT Group Ltd	Computer support contract – November (paid by direct debit)	30.00

114/15 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for September 2015 and the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

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

Chairman.