

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 10th July 2017 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman.

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, B L Correll, R J Dykstra, D W England, Ms L A Gifford, Mrs M H Harlock, G B Joseph, Mrs J A 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 Councillors R A Payne and P S Potts and County Councillor T V Rogers.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reminded everyone that Feast Week would be commencing in Warboys later in the month and she extended her appreciation to the Community Association for the more extensive range of activities taking place this year which she hoped would encourage good attendances at the various events.

48/17 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Correll, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

49/17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Wyatt declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No. 55/17 (Proposed Youth Café) as she lived in close proximity to the site of the proposed café.

50/17 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 12th June 2017:-

(a) Warboys Archaeological Project

Further to Minute No. 32/17(a), the Clerk reported that despite a further reminder a reply had not been received from the County Council's Archaeological Section in response to e-mails seeking information as to the publication of a report into the results of the investigations required by the planning permission granted for the David Wilson Homes development off Station Road. As a result, County Councillor Rogers had contacted the Senior Archaeologist who had responded with an explanation that the Saxon burial had been discovered on the site of the phase II development and that an investigation of that site had taken place in April 2017.

A copy of the final report of the phase I investigation had still not been supplied and despite a request by County Councillor Rogers for the document, no further information had been received.

(b) Local Highway Improvement Initiative

Further to Minute No. 32/17(b), the Clerk reported that he had been unable to obtain replies from the County Council's Highways Engineer as to the work to be undertaken to resurface the footway on the northern side of the High Street under the local highway improvement initiative bid approved for the current year. However it now appeared that the work might have been undertaken.

The Clerk also advised that the County Council would be supplying the invitation to bid for funding under the initiative for 2018/19 which he would include on the agenda for the next meeting.

(c) Council E-Mail Addresses

Further to Minute No. 32/17((e), Members were informed that the e-mail address for the Timebank Co-ordinator also had now been successfully changed to timebank@warboysparishcouncil.co.uk.

(d) Resource Centre Management Committee

Further to Minute No. 32/17(f), the Clerk reported that, despite a further reminder, he still had yet to receive a reply from the Moat House Surgery as to whether the Resource Centre Management Committee continued to function.

(e) Moat House Surgery

Arising from Minute No. 32/17(g), District Councillor Bucknell reported that the District Council were still awaiting the submission of a project with costings for an extension of the Moat House Surgery for the purpose of applying for the release of CIL funding. In the event that this was not forthcoming, Councillor Bucknell indicated that he would speak to the Senior Partner at the Surgery again.

(f) Parish Centre – Legionella Control

Further to Minute No. 32/17(i), the Clerk reported that the legionella register was now in place for the Parish Centre and the necessary monitoring checks were taking place.

(g) Purchase of Floor Polisher

Further to Minute No. 32/17(k), the Clerk reported that a demonstration of a replacement floor polisher for use at the Parish Centre had now taken place. The machine had been to the satisfaction of the Cleaner and an order had been placed for the purchase of the equipment.

(h) Britain's Best Village

Further to Minute No. 32/17(l), the Clerk reported that as no further contact had been received in respect of the entry submitted to the Channel 4 competition for village of the year 2017, it could be assumed that Warboys had not been shortlisted.

(i) Honorary Freewoman

Further to Minute No. 35/17, the Clerk reported that Mrs E Ball had replied to indicate that she felt honoured to be nominated as the first Honorary Freewoman of Warboys. Arrangements now would be made for a special meeting of the Council prior to the next monthly meeting to enable the award to be made.

(j) Purchase of Picnic Table

Arising from Minute No. 38/17, the Clerk reported that delivery of the wheelchair accessible picnic table would be made later in the week. It was suggested by Councillor Willis as Chairman of the Leisure Areas Committee that this be located to the north of the footpath through Jubilee Park and adjoining the path for ease of access by a wheelchair user.

The Clerk indicated that he would contact the Rotary Club of Ramsey who had funded the purchase of the picnic table to make arrangements for a hand over ceremony in consultation with the Chairman.

(Councillor England arrived at the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

(k) Listing of War Memorial

Further to Minute No. 39/17, Members were informed that a note explaining that the War Memorial had been listed as being of special architectural or historic interest had been prepared for Facebook and the Warboys Diary and that Councillor Mrs Cole intended to provide a history of the memorial and the service of dedication in 1921 for Facebook.

(l) Traffic Monitoring in Fenton Road

Arising from Minute No. 41/17, the Clerk reported that further information about traffic monitoring had been received earlier in the day from Community Roadwatch. The information had been forwarded to Members and would be considered at the next meeting when the local highway improvement initiative bid was being discussed.

(m) Rural Housing Mythbuster Tour

Further to Minute No. 42/17(a), Councillor Mrs Tavener advised Members that she had found her attendance at the tour of rural exception housing sites on 5th July organised by Cambridgeshire ACRE to be interesting and informative.

51/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th June 2017 be received.

52/17 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk reported that the Cambridgeshire Police website showed that there had been 25 crimes and 9 incidents of anti-social behaviour statistics listed for the District Ward of Warboys and Bury in June. The crimes comprised 2 dwelling burglaries, 3 cases of criminal damage, 3 public order offences, 5 thefts, 3 robberies and 9 violent crimes.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt commended the response of the Police in the case of a recent incident involving a member of her family.

53/17 RESIGNATION

The Clerk reported the resignation from the Council of Ms H A Backhouse.

The vacancy had been advertised. If 10 electors failed to request an election within the statutory period, the Clerk reported that he would invite expressions of interest from persons for co-option to the Council.

54/17 PLAY AREA SAFETY INSPECTION REPORTS

Further to Minute No. 36/17, a report had been submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated to all Members) following the consideration by Councillors Correll, Willis and Dr Withams of the safety inspection reports of the play equipment in the Council's playgrounds. This had been considered at a meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee earlier in the evening at which the recommendations contained in the report had been approved.

In thanking Councillors Correll, Willis and Dr Withams for their time and advice, the Council

RESOLVED

- (a) that quotations be invited from Caloo, Sutcliffe Play and Wicksteed Leisure for the replacement of the agility trim trail, toddler swing unit,

safety surfacing, replacement steps on the embankment slide, possible covers for the slide foundation blocks, replacement basket swing and any other issues arising from the response awaited from Caloo;

- (b) that consideration of the repair of the tarmac entrance at Jubilee Park be deferred, pending the receipt of a report from Councillor Willis;
- (c) that the cost of repairs identified be met from the Section 106 reserve for play equipment; and
- (d) that consideration be given to the creation of a reserve for play equipment repairs in future budgets; and
- (e) that PlaySafety be engaged to undertake the safety inspections again in 2018.

55/17 PROPOSED YOUTH CAFÉ

(Having declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following matter, Councillor Mrs Wyatt left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting thereon.)

Arising from Minute No. 254/16, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated to all Members), summarising the outcome of the consultation undertaken into the proposal to establish a youth café at the Windmill Bakery and Tea Room on one evening per month.

Members were informed that all of the dwellings and businesses in the High Street between the junctions with Church Road/Ramsey Road and Popes Lane and in George Lane had been consulted. Six replies had been received with the occupiers of three dwellings supporting the venture and the occupiers of two dwellings and a business objecting on the grounds of potential disturbance and damage to property from young people attending the café.

The Connections Bus Project had consulted with young people attending one of their Friday evening sessions in Warboys. 18 youngsters had replied of whom 6 indicated that they would not attend and 12 that they would. However of the latter, only 6 were in the age group of 13-17 for which the youth café was intended.

The Clerk also reported that the proprietor of the Windmill Bakery and Tea Room had indicated that she would no longer be able to assist in supervising the monthly café sessions due to a change of circumstances. As a result it would be necessary to engage two trained youth workers, with the whole venture becoming the responsibility of the Parish Council. The cost was estimated at between £1,000 and £1,500 p.a. towards which a grant of £1,000 had been made available in the first year by the County Council.

In view of the fact that there would be no one from the Windmill Bakery on site when the youth café would be in operation a number of Members expressed the view that this altered the character of the venture and could potentially place the Council in a difficult position if complaints emerged.

Councillor Mrs Tavener suggested that the Sports and Social Club had expressed an interest in providing an amenity for young people but it was pointed out the funding provided by the County Council was project specific and that the Club would need to pursue any future possibilities themselves.

Following discussion and while disappointment was expressed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman that the youth café no longer appeared a viable proposition, it was

RESOLVED

that no further action be taken with regard to the establishment of a youth café at the Windmill Bakery and Tea Room.

56/17 THE WEIR

Councillor Mrs Cole reported on the actions that she had taken to address issues at The Weir as a result of the recent warm weather and lack of rainfall. This had involved visits to the site early in the morning and at frequent intervals to monitor the water temperature and switch the aerator on and off to improve oxygen levels. Councillor Mrs Cole explained the difficulty in being on constant alert to monitor the effect on the fish and in attending the site so frequently to assess what action should be taken and to operate the aerator. She asked Members for help in taking the necessary action.

Members acknowledged that this was proving to be a regular occurrence during the summer months in recent years given the low water level in the pond. Funding had been included in the budget to dredge the pond in previous years but this had been omitted from the current year's budget while other measures had been taken to reduce weed growth.

Following discussion on the options open to the Council and after Councillor Mrs Cole had been thanked for her actions, Members

RESOLVED

- (a) that quotations be obtained for the dredging of The Weir;
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to establish the charge that would be made by Cambridge Water to supply water from the mains to The Weir to raise water levels in the pond;
- (c) that investigations be undertaken into the possibility of arranging for a metered water supply to The Weir and a valve to enable water to be supplied automatically when levels fell;
- (d) that investigations be undertaken into the possibility of switching the aerator on and off remotely; and
- (e) that arrangements be made for the aerator to be serviced in the autumn.

57/17 SPAR STORE – HIGHWAY IMPLICATIONS

Members were aware of numerous complaints from members of the public about highway congestion and parking at the junction of High Street and Mill Green following the re-location of the SPAR store to 2-4 Mill Green.

The Clerk explained that while planning permission for alterations and an extension of the premises by the SPAR had been refused on highway grounds by the District Council following recommendations to that effect by the County and Parish Councils, an appeal against the decision had been upheld by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector had concluded that the SPAR could trade from the premises without the need for planning permission as this fell in the same use class order as the former Steward's Hardware and that the proposed alterations and extension would have only a marginal effect on highway conditions.

A number of Members commented on the resultant problems for motorists manoeuvring into Mill Green from High Street, obscured visibility at the junction, congestion caused by on street parking especially when deliveries were being made and a lack of parking spaces generally. The Clerk reported that he had raised the matter with the County Council's District Highways Manager but had been advised that any improvements would have to be funded by a third party and not the highway authority. District Councillor Bucknell reported that he was aware that members of the public had also been complaining to the Police who had advised that they were unable to take any action unless an offence was being committed.

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be requested to arrange a meeting on site involving the Chairman of the Planning Committee and representatives of the highway authority, the Police and the SPAR to discuss the situation.

58/17 COMMUNITY FLOOD GROUP AND FLOOD PLAN

Further to Minute No. 214/16, the Clerk reported that no volunteers had come forward to form a Community Flood Group or create a Flood Plan in response to the recent invitation to this effect by the Council. Under the circumstances it would not be possible to proceed with this proposal.

59/17 REPLACEMENT STRIMMER

The Clerk reported that one of the strimmers owned by the Council required replacement. It had been repaired twice during the previous summer and had ceased working again during the current year. A quotation had been received for the nearest equivalent replacement from the Council's normal supplier and it was

RESOLVED

that a replacement strimmer be obtained at a price of £260 plus VAT.

60/17 GOVERNANCE OF FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Members' attention was drawn to a consultation on changes to the governance of the Fire and Rescue Service in Cambridgeshire. (A summary of the consultation had been circulated to all Members.)

The Clerk explained that, as a result of recently enacted legislation, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner could take on the responsibility for the fire and rescue service in their area from the respective county council. A local business case assessing police and fire collaboration governance options in Cambridgeshire had been prepared by independent consultants commissioned jointly by the Fire Authority and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Four options were contained in the consultation with the preferred one being that the PCC became the employer of the Fire and Rescue Service.

In considering the options, Members felt that the option proposed would be less accountable to the electorate as this would place control in the role of a single individual as opposed to the members of the Fire Authority who were elected members of the County Council. It was also suggested that the savings proposed of £1.69 million over 10 years were of marginal significance bearing in mind the overall budgets of the two services.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the Parish Council prefer the retention of the status quo arrangements for the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service and respond to the consultation accordingly.

61/17 INVITATIONS TO EVENTS, ETC.

(a) The Planning System

Having considered an invitation to attend a half day workshop organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England in St Ives on 2nd November on understanding the planning system and responding to planning applications at a cost of £25 for up to two delegates, it was

RESOLVED

that Councillors Correll and Joseph be authorised to attend the workshop.

(b) Ramsey Civic Church Service

Following receipt of an invitation for the Council to be represented at the Mayor of Ramsey's Civic Church Service and Reception on 3rd September, it was

RESOLVED

that the Council be represented by Councillor Mrs Tavener.

62/17 CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that the following items of correspondence had been received since the previous meeting and indicated that he would arrange for them to be circulated to Members for information:-

(a) Open Space

Summer 2017 edition published by the Open Spaces Society

(b) Local Wildlife

Spring 2017 edition published by Beds, Cambs & Northants Wildlife Trust

(c) Clerks and Councils Direct

July 2017 edition.

63/17 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that a number of issues had been raised at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council.

Councillor Potts had reported that he had been approached by three parishioners expressing concern over the overgrown nature of the vegetation alongside a field in the District Council's ownership in Station Road. District Councillor Bucknell had offered to speak to the tenant concerned and he reported that the work had now been undertaken.

A member of the public had reported that an egg had been thrown by youths into the Library. The Clerk mentioned that the Police were aware of the incident and it had been reported in the weekly summary of crimes committed locally.

District Councillor Bucknell had advised that he was receiving complaints about the highway implications of the relocation of the SPAR store which had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Dr Withams had reported that she had received complaints about the overgrown nature of a hedge in Pathfinder Way that was blocking use of the footway. The Clerk reported that this was being investigated with the landowners.

County Councillor Rogers had invited residents with concerns about services offered by the County Council to contact him for assistance. In that respect concern was raised about the condition of the exterior of the former Reclaimed Appliances site at the Airfield Industrial Estate, arising from which the Clerk indicated that he would ask the County Council for a progress report in the clearance of the site.

64/17 ACCOUNTS

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Dr Withams, it was

RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – June 2017	1,056.34
W E Batterbee	Salary – June 2017	928.17
R Edwards	Salary – June 2017	233.60
R Reeves	Salary – June 2017	978.29
A A Clasper	Salary – June 2017	461.18
Post Office Ltd.	Tax & NIC – June 2017	1,332.37
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank)	9.80
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	88.00
R Reeves	Petty cash	20.00
R Reeves	Reimbursement – St George flag from House of Flags	19.96
R Reeves	Reimbursement – play bark from Madingley Mulch	331.40
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Epson ink cartridges	31.49
Huntingdonshire District Council	Tree safety course for Councillor B L Correll	52.00
Huntingdonshire District Council	Tree safety course for Councillor P S Potts	52.00
Russell Payne	Plans for land registration	48.94
GreenCity Solutions	Computer anti-virus protection – August (paid by direct debit)	12.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer backup online - August (paid by direct debit)	36.00

GreenCity Solutions	Computer support contract – August (paid by direct debit)	60.00
GreenCity Solutions	Broadband – August (paid by direct debit)	23.99
ESPO	Replacement table – Parish Centre	123.00
ESPO	Miscellaneous supplies	39.37
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	48.54
Magpas	Grant towards Air Ambulance	100.00
E.ON	Gas supply – Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	24.65
C J Ingle Ltd.	Water butt	39.60

65/17 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for June 2017, together with 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.