

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 15th January 2018 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman.

Councillors B L Correll, D W England, Mrs M H Harlock, G B Joseph, R A Payne, P S Potts, G C M Willis, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor T V Rogers.
District Councillor P L E Bucknell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra and Ms L A Gifford.

166/17 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Potts, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18th December 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

167/17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

Arising from an application from Councillor Correll for a dispensation to speak but not vote on matters affecting the Warboys Sports Field Committee as he was a member of that organisation, it was

RESOLVED

that a dispensation be granted to Councillor Correll to speak but not vote on matters affecting Warboys Sports Field until the date of the next parish council election.

168/17 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 18th December 2017:-

(a) Connections Bus Project

Arising from Minute No. 144/17, the Clerk reported that he had sent a copy of the autumn term's report from the Connections Bus Project of their visits to Warboys to Sergeant Street of Cambridgeshire Constabulary following his statement at the previous meeting that he would arrange for a visit by PCSOs at a forthcoming session.

(b) Play Equipment Repairs

Further to Minute No. 145/17(c), Councillor Willis advised that the installers working for Wicksteed Leisure had commenced on site at Adams Lyons Playground and had erected the swings and play trail equipment thus far.

(c) World War I Commemoration

Further to Minute No. 145/17(e), the Clerk reported that the first meeting of the working party to discuss arrangements for the centenary of the end of WWI had now been arranged.

(d) Community Roadwatch

Further to Minute No. 152/17, the Clerk reported on further e-mails from Community Roadwatch requesting the Parish Council to lobby the Police to encourage them to change their recommendation as to the type of speed monitoring equipment used by Speedwatch teams. As the Council had made provision in the budget for the purchase of equipment for use by the Warboys Speedwatch team, the Clerk indicated that he would make enquiries as to the suitability of equipment with the Police Speedwatch Co-ordinator and the local team.

Community Roadwatch had also suggested that speeding be a standing item on the Parish Council agenda and the Chief Executive of the organisation had offered to attend a meeting every six months to update the Council. However Members did not feel that this would be necessary.

(e) Annual Parish Meeting

Further to Minute No. 153/17, Members were informed that responses were awaited from the persons invited to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April.

(f) Registration of Land

Further to Minute No. 158/17, the Clerk reported that the Land Registry had corrected their error and had now identified the land sold to the Underfives Playgroup from the site registered for the Parish Centre. Under the circumstances all of the land now owned by the Parish Council had been registered successfully with the Land Registry.

As the site of the Underfives Playgroup still did not appear to have been registered, District Councillor Bucknell advised that he would take the matter up with that organisation.

(g) Budget 2018/19

Arising from Minute No. 161/17 and the decision by the Parish Council to increase its precept for 2018/19 by 5%, the Clerk reported that the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner was consulting on a proposed increase of 6.5% and at the recent parish councils liaison meeting, a county councillor had advised that the County Council proposed to increase their precept by 6%.

169/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Following the presentation by Sycamore Planning at the Planning Committee meeting held on 11th December of their proposal to construct a biomass combined heat and power and waste water treatment plant at Puddock Hill, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 11th December 2017 be received; and
- (b) that a further special meeting of the Planning Committee be convened to consider the planning application for the treatment plant once this had been received.

170/17 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk drew attention to the detailed statistics now available on the Cambridgeshire Police website that itemised the individual crimes recorded each month and the street locations involved. The latest statistics covered the month of November which had already been reported by Sergeant Street at the previous meeting.

Members were also informed that the Chief Constable had announced that the revised Policing Plan would be implemented in Cambridgeshire with effect from the end of April. The Plan made provision for an additional 50 warranted officers for front line duties but at the expense of a reduction in the number of PCSOs by 46 full time equivalent posts.

The Clerk reported on a disturbance in the Parish Centre car park on the evening of 12th January when vehicles had been driven on to the grassed area at the rear of the tennis court creating deep ruts in the grass. As a result, it was

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for the installation of additional bollards to prevent vehicles being driven on to the grass.

171/17 HUNTINGDONSHIRE LOCAL PLAN TO 2036: PROPOSED SUBMISSION 2017

(Councillor England declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in one of the sites included in the Proposed Submission and left the meeting for the duration of that part of the discussion and voting on the following item.)

Further to Minute No. 145/17(b), the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) summarising the contents of the final version of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 insofar as it affected Warboys prior to its submission to the Secretary of State for confirmation. There was a final opportunity to comment on the soundness of the Plan and whether it was considered to be legally compliant.

In terms of housing allocations for Warboys, the only additional site included in the Plan following the submission of a number of sites for potential development in Warboys in response to the Call for Sites in August 2017 was 50 homes on 1.9 hectares of land south of Stirling Close (Minute No. 109/17(e) refers). None of the sites potentially identified for employment use in Warboys as a result of Call for Sites appeared to have been identified in the latest version of the Local Plan.

In terms of wind turbine development, the Clerk reported that the District Council had changed its policy again in the latest version of the Plan and the Proposed Submission now contained a policy that wind energy development would be supported in Huntingdonshire with the exception of the Great Fen and its landscape and visual setting, subject to certain requirements being met. Members were informed that this now concurred with the views previously submitted by the Parish Council in this respect.

Subsequent to the despatch of the agenda, the Clerk reported that he had received a letter from Gladman acting for the owner of land to the west of Ramsey Road. The land had been submitted for potential development in response to the Call for Sites for 500 homes but had not been included in the Proposed Submission. Gladman had indicated that they would be issuing a consultation leaflet prior to the submission of an application for outline permission for the development of 230 homes on the site, together with employment use, a shop and a potential community facility. The company had offered to meet the Parish Council in private to explore what needs there might be for social, recreation or other benefits in the community that might reasonably be provided by the proposed development.

Within two days of the receipt of the letter, the consultation leaflet had been delivered to homes in Warboys.

Members expressed concern at the scale of the development proposed by Gladman, especially as this had not been included in the Proposed Submission version of the Local Plan. While Members had no objection to a meeting with Gladman, they felt that this should be an open meeting of the Planning Committee in the interests of transparency so that the public were aware of what was being proposed.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the inclusion of the following sites for housing development in Warboys in the Proposed Submission be supported:-
- 45 homes on 1.7 has. of land west of Ramsey Road.
10 homes on 0.6 has. of land at Manor Farm Buildings, Church Road,
75 homes on 3.6 has. of land south of Farrier's Way, and
80 homes on 3.63 has. of land as an extension to the west of Station Road development.
- (b) that an objection be submitted to the proposed allocation of land for housing development south of Stirling Close on the grounds that this would encroach upon an area of open countryside, would create a precedent for further allocations to the south of the village, would affect views of the village from the south and east and would see a further encroachment upon the area of land bordered by the A141 and B1040 south of the village in a piecemeal fashion without any compensatory community benefit to the village. The Parish Council was of the further opinion that the village infrastructure would be unable to accommodate a further increase in population in addition to that generated by the sites already allocated;
- (c) that the policy on wind energy development in the Proposed Submission be supported; and
- (d) that the offer by Gladman to meet the Parish Council to discuss potential community benefits arising from their proposal to develop land west of Ramsey Road be accepted in principle, subject to the meeting of the Planning Committee being open to the public in the interests of transparency.

172/17 FUTURE OF THE TREE WARDEN SCHEME

Members were informed that the District Council had notified Tree Wardens that the post of Tree Warden Co-ordinator would be deleted from their establishment at the end of January 2018. The District Council's Head of Development had subsequently confirmed that they would no longer be offering to assistance to parish councils in terms of tree planting and maintenance.

Members acknowledged the assistance that had been provided in Warboys by the Tree Warden Co-ordinator over many years, especially in the supply of the trees planted in the highway verge in High Street and Ramsey Road which had helped to retain the character of the village.

Councillor Correll confirmed that he was still prepared to take a lead on matters relating to trees and under the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the role of Tree Warden be retained; and

- (b) that the District Council's Tree Warden Co-ordinator be thanked for her assistance in Warboys during her employment with the District Council and the Parish Council's best wishes extended for a long and happy retirement.

173/17 TREE PLANTING

The Clerk drew attention to an offer from Ramsey Rotary Club to plant trees on land in the Parish Council's ownership in Warboys. The trees were available from the Woodland Trust until March but had to be planted on land where the public had access. The Rotary Club would plant the trees but they would have to be maintained by the Parish Council thereafter. The Clerk referred to previous problems of trees planted in open areas with public access being vandalised unless they were reasonably mature and protected by tree guards.

Under the circumstances, it was suggested that it would be impractical for trees to be planted on land in the Parish Council's ownership as this was limited to playgrounds and the open spaces at Pathfinder Way estate. Members suggested potential sites at Statfold Green and School Road which were in the District Council's ownership and the Clerk was requested to investigate the possibility of planting taking place on those sites.

(County Councillor Rogers left the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

174/17 PICNIC BENCH AT JUBILEE PARK

Further to the installation of a picnic bench for the disabled at Jubilee Park, the Clerk informed Members that Ramsey Rotary Club had enquired about the installation of a plaque to acknowledge their funding of the furniture. Having been advised that an inscribed brass plaque could be obtained relatively inexpensively on-line, Members

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to purchase a suitable plaque to be affixed to the bench at an estimated cost of £30..

175/17 PLANNING TRAINING

Further to Minute No. 159/17, the Clerk reported that the earliest date that Local Council Public Advisory Service was able to offer an understanding planning course 2 was 23rd May 2018. As this was relatively soon after the election earlier that month, the Clerk was requested to try to re-arrange a date for the training in June.

176/17 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

The Clerk submitted a suggested calendar of meetings for the forthcoming municipal year (copies of which had been circulated to all Members), arising from which it was

RESOLVED

that the dates be approved for meetings in 2018/19.

177/17 POLICE PRECEPT CONSULTATION

Members' attention was drawn to a consultation by the Police and Crime Commissioner with regard to the setting of the Council Tax precept by the Police for 2018/19. The proposal was for an increase of £1 per month for a Band D property which represented an increase of 6.4% and would equate to an additional 55 Police Officers.

RESOLVED

that no comment be made in response to the consultation.

178/17 DRAINAGE AT STATION ROAD DEVELOPMENT

The Clerk reported that complaints had been made by members of the public living in Station Road about the flooding of rear gardens by run off from the David Wilson Homes development as a result of the heavy rainfall in recent weeks. Further complaints had been raised that the company had pumped the excess water over the carriageway in Station Road.

The Clerk reported that he had raised the matter with the District Council as the planning permission for the development required the approval of a surface water drainage scheme before development commenced. The planning case officer had confirmed that the Environment Agency had confirmed that they were satisfied with the work proposed but as responsibility for flooding had recently been transferred to the County Council, he would be checking with that authority to ensure that they were similarly satisfied.

The Clerk also reported that he had contacted David Wilson Homes who had advised that they had implemented mitigation measures to reduce surface water run-off to a lower rate than when the land had been farmed. However as a gesture of goodwill the company had agreed to repair damaged drainage pipes where they ran under the gardens of existing Station Road properties.

179/17 PARISH COUNCILS LIAISON MEETING

The Clerk reported on the discussion that had taken place at a local parish council liaison meeting which had been convened by County Councillor Rogers on 11th January. Councillors Dykstra and Mrs Tavener and the Clerk had attended from Warboys but only four other town and parish council representatives had been present.

Members were informed that the principal topic of discussion had been local bus services. It had been reported at the previous meeting of the Parish Council that the County Council had agreed to subsidise services 30 and 35 following the decision of the operator to withdraw the routes at the end of 2017 (Minute No. 151/17 refers). However a county councillor present at the meeting had advised that the subsidy was only a temporary measure until August and a strong indication was given that the County

Council would be asking local town and parish councils to provide the funding after that date if they wanted the services to continue.

The Clerk reported that he had informed the county councillors present at the meeting that local councils had just set their budgets for 2018/19 and that a formal notification had not been received from the County Council to suggest that they would be seeking to transfer responsibility for the funding of the subsidy to towns and parishes.

Members were informed that a further meeting of the liaison group was likely to be arranged in March and that an update on the situation with regard to the bus services would be brought to the attention of the Parish Council as soon as this was available.

180/17 CORRESPONDENCE

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

Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2018 issue

181/17 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council, Councillor Dr Withams had mentioned that rubbish had been dumped at Flaxen Walk. This had subsequently been cleared.

182/17 ACCOUNTS

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Payne it was

RESOLVED

(a) that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
R Reeves	Reimbursement – ink cartridges	58.99
R Reeves	Mileage claim	45.90
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – Paint brushes	5.25
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank)	9.80
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	74.00
E.ON	Gas supply – Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	205.30

GreenCity Solutions	Computer anti-virus protection – February (paid by direct debit)	12.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer backup online - February (paid by direct debit)	36.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer support contract – February (paid by direct debit)	60.00
GreenCity Solutions	Broadband – February (paid by direct debit)	23.99
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	65.80
Connections Bus Project	11 visits September – December 2017	2,970.00
A Notman	Website management 2017	201.00
K Fergusons Ltd.	Grass cutting – cuts 1 – 16	2,073.60
I Barrett	Repairs, new drill & misc. supplies	720.26
Warboys Community Association	Grant for Warboys Diary	120.00
Mrs N Everett	Reimbursement – phone memory card	17.99
C J Ingle Ltd	Timber	17.28
T Patel	Defibrillator agreement	25.00

(b) that payment of the following amounts prior to the meeting be endorsed:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – December 2017	929.17
W E Batterbee	Salary – December 2017	886.95
R Edwards	Salary – December 2017	184.00
R Reeves	Salary – December 2017	978.29
N Everett	Salary – December 2017	326.58
HMRC	Tax & NIC – December 2017	1,385.89

183/17 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for December 2017, together with the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

In response to a request by Councillor Correll for the budgetary control statement to also show the percentage of expenditure to date compared to budget, the Clerk undertook to make the necessary arrangements.

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

Chairman.