

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 12th February 2018 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman.

Councillors B L Correll, R J Dykstra, D W England, Ms L A Gifford, R A Payne, P S Potts, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Councillor P L E Bucknell.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole, Mrs M H Harlock, G B Joseph, Mrs J E Tavener and G C M Willis and County Councillor T V Rogers.

184/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman remarked on the high level of attendance at the Planning Committee meeting held on 5th February when the application for a combined heat and power plant and waste water treatment plant at Warboys Landfill Site had been considered. She also expressed her appreciation for the detailed objections submitted by Mrs E Ball and Professor B Lake on behalf of the Warboys Landfill Action Group and the Clerk on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Chairman also welcomed back to the meeting Councillor Dykstra after his recent health problem and she wished him a speedy recovery.

185/17 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Correll and seconded by Councillor Potts, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 15th January 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

186/17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

187/17 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 15th January 2018:-

(a) Community Roadwatch

Further to Minute No. 168/17(d), the Clerk reported that following the receipt of information from the local Warboys Speedwatch team and the Police Speedwatch Co-ordinator, he would submit a report for consideration at the next meeting concerning the purchase of equipment for use in Warboys.

(b) Annual Parish Meeting

Further to Minute No. 168/17(e), Members were informed that a representative from the Sky Watch Civil Air Patrol had accepted an invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April. However the Moat House Surgery were not prepared to be represented at the meeting as they felt that they had little further to add after speaking at the Annual Parish Meeting in 2017.

The Chairman referred to the continuing benefits of the Connections Bus Project sessions with young people in Warboys on Friday evenings and also referred to a presentation that she had attended which had been delivered by the Deputy Manager of the organisation on life skills for young people.

Under the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED

that the Manager and Deputy Manager of the Connections Bus Project be invited to the speak at the Annual Parish Meeting on the work that they did with Warboys children and on their life skills course.

(c) Registration of Land

Arising from Minute No. 168/17(f), District Councillor Bucknell reported that he had spoken to the chairman of the Under Fives Playgroup who had indicated that they would be discussing the registration of the playgroup premises with the Land Registry at their next committee meeting.

(d) Police Report

Further to Minute No. 170/17, the Clerk reported that the Handymen had completed the installation of additional bollards to protect the area at the rear of the tennis court from cars being driven onto the grass.

The Chairman referred to recent warnings by the Police about persons unknown trying to open unlocked doors in domestic dwellings in the village and she urged Members to convey the information to friends and colleagues with a suggestion that they ensure that doors were locked and they remained vigilant.

The Chairman also referred to the worrying incident recently when an armed robbery had taken place at Amars Foodstore in the village.

(e) Tree Planting

Further to Minute No. 173/17, the Clerk reported that he was continuing to liaise with Ramsey Rotary Club and the District Council about the possibility of trees being planted on land in the District's ownership at School Road and Staffold Green.

(f) Picnic Bench at Jubilee Park

Further to Minute No. 174/17, the Clerk reported that he had yet to receive a response from Ramsey Rotary Club as to the choice of wording for the plaque to be attached to the picnic bench that they had funded at Jubilee Park. However he indicated that he would be meeting representatives of the club later in the week when he hoped to obtain an answer.

(g) Planning Training

Further to Minute No. 175/17, the Clerk reported that the unit 2 planning seminar delivered by the Local Council Public Advisory Service would be held on 10th July at the Parish Centre. Further details would be circulated after the elections in May with places offered to neighbouring councils if there was sufficient space.

(h) Drainage at Station Road Development

Further to Minute No. 178/17, the Clerk reported that he had met the District Council's Senior Enforcement Officer and residents of Station Road regarding surface water run-off from the Great Pastures development by David Wilson Homes.

A meeting had been arranged with the company and a representative of the County Council as the local lead flood authority which would be attended by Councillor England and the Clerk on 21st February.

(i) Parish Councils Liaison Meeting – Buses

Arising from Minute No. 179/17, the Clerk drew attention to the receipt of a letter drafted by St Ives Town Council and addressed to the County Council asking for improved support for local bus services. The Town Council had invited a number of neighbouring parish councils to become co-signatories to the letter. The Clerk reported that he had consulted with the Chairman and Vice Chairman on the wording of the letter and no objections had been raised.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that St Ives Town Council be advised that the Parish Council is prepared to add its name to the letter.

188/17 FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Footpaths Committee held on 29th January 2018 be received and the recommendation contained therein approved.

189/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 5th February 2018 be received.

190/17 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk reported that a search of the statistics on the Cambridgeshire Constabulary website showed that there had been 11 crimes recorded in Warboys in December, including 6 cases of criminal damage, 1 drugs incident, 1 violence and sexual offences incident, 1 burglary and 2 vehicle crimes. In addition there had been 4 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour.

191/17 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT WEST OF RAMSEY ROAD

Further to Minute No. 171/17, the Clerk reported the receipt of a response from Gladman with regard to a meeting in connection with their proposal to develop land west of Ramsey Road. Gladman had offered to meet the Parish Council in private to discuss what community benefits potentially might be generated for the village from their proposal but the Parish Council had responded by proposing that the meeting be held in public in the interests of transparency.

The Clerk reported that Gladman had rejected the offer of a meeting in public but had reiterated their willingness to meet in private. Having reiterated their previous views on the matter, Members asked the Clerk to respond to the company expressing the Parish Council's disappointment at their rejection of a public meeting and to copy the response to the District Council Planning Department, with a suitable explanation in the Warboys Diary.

The Clerk also drew Members' attention to the fact that the site outlined in the consultation leaflet issued by Gladman represented only about half of the land submitted for inclusion in the Local Plan to 2036 for development in response to the District Council's Call for Sites in the summer of 2017. If Gladman were successful in obtaining planning permission for the 230 dwellings proposed in the consultation leaflet, it was likely that a further application would follow for additional development. As the leaflet had not been delivered to all Members, the Clerk undertook to circulate copies.

192/17 PROPOSED COMBINED HEAT AND POWER AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS AT PUDDOCK HILL

Arising from Minute No. 67/17 of the Planning Committee meeting held on 5th February 2018, the Clerk reported that he had been sent copies of 183 individual objections submitted to the County Council in respect of application H/5002/18/CW for a combined heat and power plant and waste water treatment plant at Warboys Landfill Site.

Members were reminded that when the local inquiry into the appeal by Fenside Waste Management against the refusal of planning permission for hazardous waste disposal at the site had collapsed, the Parish Council had recovered its fees incurred of £14,194. The money had subsequently been earmarked by the Council in the event of a need for the engagement of other consultants to object to future development at the landfill site.

Members were informed that the Warboys Landfill Action Group (WLAG) who had also recovered their costs had re-engaged Alan Watson who had represented WLAG and the Parish Council at the hazardous waste local inquiry. Mr Watson had responded to the planning applications for the CHP and waste water plants and had challenged the County Council's decision that an Environmental Impact Assessment had not been required to accompany the application.

Mrs E Ball and Professor B Lake updated the Council on the actions of WLAG and were thanked by the Chairman for acting so promptly in re-engaging Mr Watson. Councillor Dr Withams advised that there had been activity on Facebook from residents of Ramsey expressing concern that they had not been consulted on the proposal. District Councillor Bucknell reported that Ramsey Town Council had submitted an objection to the application and that Wistow Parish Council who would be meeting later that week had obtained an extension of time for the submission of comments.

In view of the costs involved in obtaining specialist assistance in opposing the planning application and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the sum earmarked from the hazardous waste inquiry amounting to £14,194 be expended to oppose the current planning application and any subsequent waste management licence application and the Clerk be authorised, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to allocate the funding where necessary;
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to ascertain the views of neighbouring councils with regard to the application and to mention the potential need for the funding of specialist support; and
- (c) that WLAG be asked if they had any objection to Mr Watson's response being copied to all Members.

193/17 WWI BATTLE'S OVER

Further to Minute No. 145/17(e), the notes of the meeting of the WWI centenary working party held on 25th January 2018 were received (copies of which had been circulated to all Members). A further meeting would be held later that week.

As the leader of the Warboys Bellringers, Councillor Ms Gifford asked if she could be kept informed of the arrangements as church bells would be rung nationwide on the evening of 11th November. The Chairman also asked who would be the accompanist at the proposed social evening on 10th November to which Councillor Mrs Wyatt responded that consideration had yet to be given to such details.

194/17 DAMAGE TO GRASS VERGE

Councillor Payne drew attention to the condition of the verge at the junction of High Street and Mulberry Close which was being damaged by vehicles parked on the grass by shoppers visiting the nearby SPAR and by refuse vehicles being reversed into Mulberry Close. He also drew attention to the fact that the grass adjacent to the village sign at The Weir was being damaged by people walking over it to reach the SPAR. He suggested the erection of a bollard in the High Street verge and additional paving at The Weir.

Members commented that many of the highway verges in the village were being destroyed by parked cars or by heavy vehicles being driven over them, with the stretch of Statfold Green between the junctions with Station Road and Old Mill Avenue being particularly bad.

The Clerk reported that he had referred the problem of parking at the Mulberry Close junction to the County Council's Highways Supervisor. However the latter did not regard this as being of sufficient importance to warrant the installation of a bollard with the limited budget available for highway works. The Highways Supervisor had estimated the cost of installing a bollard at approximately £500 if the Parish Council wished to meet the cost but had pointed out that the work could not be undertaken by the Parish Council unless the Handymen had obtained the necessary streetworks operative's licence.

A number of possible options were considered to try to protect the verges and grassed area at The Weir but it was concluded that the cost would be prohibitive to install bollards in the various locations affected throughout the village where verges were being damaged.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

- (a) that no action be taken to fund the cost of installing a bollard at the High Street and Mulberry Close junction; and
- (b) that Councillor Payne be requested to investigate and present options for consideration at the next meeting for the protection of the grassed area near the village sign at The Weir.

195/17 ROAD CLOSURE – CHURCH ROAD

The Clerk reported the receipt of a request from the Rector for the closure of Church Road between its junctions with High Street and Ramsey Road for an evening event in December. The Rector had been asked to supply details of the date and time required and the purpose of the closure in advance of the meeting but had not replied.

Members were informed that a similar request had been made in the previous autumn for the closure of part of the highway around the Jubilee Clock Tower for a carol service and hog roast on a Friday evening in December but this had been received too late for an application for a road closure to be made. It had been suggested to the Rector at that time that the area around the Clock Tower was unsuitable for an event at peak time on a dark evening in December and alternative locations had been proposed to him.

Having discussed the current request, Members concluded that the closure of Church Road would be similarly dangerous on a Friday evening in December when traffic was at its busiest and the weather and visibility might be poor. It was also suggested that the length of road to be closed might be too small for the number of people involved with a consequent risk of injury from passing vehicles.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the request be refused on the grounds of the risk to public safety..

196/17 OPEN FORUM

(a) January

The Clerk reported that at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council, a member of the public had disputed the drainage proposals by Bellway Homes for the development at the rear of Farriers Way. The Clerk advised that this would be raised by Councillor England and himself when they met the company and the District Council's planning case officer at a meeting later in the week.

Councillor England had also claimed that the culverts in part of the High Street were blocked causing a backlog of water in the carriageway. .

(b) Format of Open Forum

A report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated to all Members) on the format of the Open Forum following a request by Councillor Correll that this be reviewed. The Clerk advised Members that the format of the Open Forum at the end of the monthly Council meeting had remained unaltered since its introduction in 1999 comprising a 10 minutes slot prior to the opening of the Planning Committee.

Members noted that there were additional and faster means of communication with the Council that had developed in subsequent years with the advance of technology and fortnightly surgeries at the Library on Saturday mornings.

However the principal issue was whether the Open Forum should be held prior to the start or at the end of Council meetings. Councillor Correll suggested that an Open Forum before the start of a meeting would enable members of the public to express opinions on matters appearing later on the agenda but other Members remained of the opinion that this would waste time if no one attended and that an Open Forum at the end of a meeting encouraged the public to listen and learn from earlier discussions as opposed to leaving as soon as they had expressed their opinion.

After a vote had been taken, it was

RESOLVED

that the status quo be retained and an Open Forum of ten minutes duration be held at the end of monthly meetings of the Council.

197/17 ACCOUNTS

Arising from a question by Councillor Correll about the budgeted expenditure on gardens, the Chairman queried why the railings around the War Memorial were painted green as opposed to black with gold tops similar to the railings around the Jubilee Clock Tower. The Clerk advised that the garden where the War Memorial was situated had been in private hands since it had been sold as part of the former Church of England school. However the garden and War Memorial had been maintained by the Parish Council for many years and previous offers to buy the garden when the former school had been advertised for sale had not progressed in view of the unrealistic price being sought by the owner.

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

RESOLVED

(a) that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – January 2018	1,026.88
W E Batterbee	Salary – January 2018	982.94
R Edwards	Salary – January 2018	220.80
R Reeves	Salary – January 2018	978.29
N Everett	Salary – January 2018	421.78

HMRC	Tax & NIC – January 2018	1,500.70
R Reeves	Reimbursement – ink cartridges	57.59
R Reeves	Reimbursement – ink cartridges	19.79
R Reeves	Adjustment to last reimbursement	- 5.90
R Reeves	Petty cash	30.00
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – Bow saw	8.99
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)	210.84
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	49.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer anti-virus protection – March (paid by direct debit)	12.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer backup online - March (paid by direct debit)	36.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer support contract – March (paid by direct debit)	60.00
GreenCity Solutions	Broadband – March (paid by direct debit)	23.99
Balfour Beatty Living Street lighting maintenance contract Places Ltd.		540.36
Merlin (Lighting (Installations) Ltd	Erection and dismantling of Christmas lighting	520.80
Barriers Direct	Posts	136.90
Anglian Water Business Ltd (National)	Sewerage charge for Parish Centre for September 2016 – October 2017	460.34
ESPO	Miscellaneous supplies	30.90
NRH Electrical Services Ltd.	Electrical works at Parish Centre	72.00

DVLA	Excise duty for van	240.00
C J Ingle Ltd	Postcrete	11.99
Guardian 24	Lone worker security system	158.76

- (b) that the Handymen be requested to repaint the railings around the War Memorial garden in black with gold tops.

198/17 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for January 2018, together with the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month and the bank reconciliation statement for the third quarter of the year, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

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

Chairman.