

# **WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 12th March 2018 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, R A Payne, P S Potts, Mrs J E Tavener, 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 G B Joseph and G C M Willis.

## **199/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that she and the Clerk had attended a meeting of the Ramsey Rotary Club at which a guest speaker had given a presentation on the Purple4Polio campaign. She indicated that the Club hoped for a close relationship with the Parish Council and would welcome members from Warboys.

## **200/17 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Payne, the Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12th February 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

## **201/17 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Tavener declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No. 208/17 (Proposed Purchase of Speed Indicator Device) as she was the co-ordinator of the Warboys Speedwatch team. Councillor Mrs Bucknell declared a similar interest in Minute No.207/07 (VAT) as she was a member of the Christmas Lighting Group.

Both Members had previously received dispensations to speak but not vote on those matters.

## **202/17 MATTERS ARISING**

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 12th February 2018:-

**(a) Annual Parish Meeting**

Further to Minute No. 187/17(b), the Clerk reported that the Manager of the Connections Bus Project had agreed to give a presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting on 18th April in respect of visits by the bus to Warboys on Friday evenings and hoped to bring some of the regular attenders to their sessions with him.

**(b) Tree Planting**

Further to Minute No. 187/17(e), the Clerk reported that he was continuing to try to obtain permission from the District Council for the planting of trees by Ramsey Rotary Club on land in the District's ownership at School Road and Statfold Green.

**(c) Picnic Bench at Jubilee Park**

Further to Minute No. 187/17(f) Members were informed that Ramsey Rotary Club had now agreed the choice of wording for the plaque to be attached to the picnic bench that they had funded at Jubilee Park, as a result of which an order could be placed.

**(d) Parish Councils Liaison Meeting**

Further to Minute 187/17(i), the Clerk reported that the next Parish Councils liaison meeting organised by County Councillor Rogers would be held at Ramsey on 14th March. As both of the Council's representatives, Councillors Mrs Harlock and Mrs Wyatt, had indicated that they were otherwise engaged on that evening, the Clerk indicated that he would attend on behalf of the Council.

**(e) Proposed Development West of Ramsey Road**

Arising from Minute No. 191/17, District Councillor Bucknell reported that he anticipated that an application for outline planning permission would be submitted in the near future by Gladman for the development of land west of Ramsey Road. Having advised the District Council of Gladman's refusal to meet the Parish Council in an open meeting, the Clerk reported that he would be meeting planning officers in April to discuss the scheme.

**(f) Proposed Combined Heat and Power and Waste Water Treatment Plants at Puddock Hill**

Further to Minute No. 192/17, Members were informed that the applicants for planning permission for the CHP and waste water treatment plants at Puddock Hill had submitted a request to the County Council for a scoping opinion. The County Council would be asking statutory agencies for their views on the

documentation that should accompany the application and providing a new 30 day consultation period once the documentation had been received. The County Council's planning case officer had confirmed that all existing objections would be carried forward and would not need to be re-submitted unless objectors wished to add additional comments.

On behalf of the Warboys Landfill Action Group, Mrs E Ball updated Members on the actions of the Group and its members. Mrs Ball and Professor B Lake had met Shailesh Vara MP who had written to the Secretary of State to question the lack of expertise of the applicants in this field, the absence of any details of the companies that would be managing the operations on site if permission was granted and the ability of the latter to dispose of the site with the benefit of planning permission to other operators who similarly would not have to demonstrate their expertise or experience under the current planning system.

Mrs Ball and the Clerk advised that they were drafting a joint statement for the Diary on behalf of the Action Group and Council and that Mr A Watson had offered to draft a response to the scoping opinion on behalf of the Group and the Council.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the report be received and Mrs Ball, Professor Lake and the Clerk thanked for their actions on behalf of the Warboys community; and
- (b) that Mr Watson be asked to draft a response to the Scoping Opinion request on behalf of the Parish Council.

#### **203/17 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

##### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th February 2018 be received.

#### **204/17 POLICE REPORT**

The Clerk reported that he had nothing to add to the local crime statistics published weekly by the Police which he forwarded on to Members.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that she had been approached by the elderly occupants of bungalows in School Road about the smoking of cannabis and damage to their gardens by youngsters. She also mentioned that the pathway leading to the bungalows at the rear of the school field was full of litter which the Clerk undertook to be collected by the Handymen. In response to a question, Councillor Mrs Wyatt advised that the residents were too frightened to report the incidents to the Police but the Chairman pointed out that such matters could not be reported by a third party on their behalf and unless the Police were made aware of incidents that were taking place, they would be unable to take any action.

## **205/17 WWI BATTLE'S OVER**

Further to Minute No. 193/17, the notes of the meeting of the WWI centenary working party held on 15th February 2018 were received (copies of which had been circulated to all Members). Members noted that good progress was being made to commemorate the centenary of the ending of the war on the weekend of 10th/11th November.

## **206/17 REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT ETHICAL STANDARDS**

A report was submitted by the Clerk in respect of a review of ethical standards in local government being undertaken by the Committee for Standards in Public Life (copies of the report had been circulated to Members).

The Clerk explained that the ethical standards regime established by the Local Government Act 2000 had generally been accepted as having been too rigorous with the Standards Board for England having been overwhelmed by complaints about individual councillors, often by other councillors in tit-for-tat responses. However while the system that had replaced it under the Localism Act 2011 had resulted in a fall in the number of complaints it lacked any effective enforcement action arising from breaches of individual authority's codes of conduct and failure to declare non-statutory disclosable interests.

The Clerk pointed out that no particular problems had been encountered in Warboys and Members reported that they had not encountered any incidents of harassment against them by members of the public. However the consultation leaflet had posed a series of questions about the current system to which the Clerk had suggested responses in his report.

It was therefore

### **RESOLVED**

that the responses to the consultation paper suggested in the Clerk's report be endorsed and submitted to the Committee for Standards in Public Life.

## **207/17 VAT**

A report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated to all Members) which had resulted from concerns expressed by a Member about the advice given by the Clerk at a previous meeting of the Council as to the treatment of VAT. The Member remained dissatisfied with the subsequent advice given and had asked for the matter to be referred to the Council for consideration.

The issue related to the potential purchase of a speed indicator device which would have been the subject of an agreement with Community Roadwatch for use in monitoring traffic speeds in Warboys. In the event the matter had not been progressed.

In response to the concerns raised by the Member, the Clerk had supplied details of relevant VAT guidance notes and advice obtained from the Society of Local Council Clerks. The VAT guidance stated that a parish council could make purchases out of its

own funds, including grants it had been awarded, which it then gave away for no charge. This was a non-business activity of the council and so it would be entitled to recover the VAT incurred. The Member had not accepted the advice provided and had asked for the matter to be referred to the Council. In his report, the Clerk had quoted further advice contained in a recently published edition of Clerks and Councils Direct by the editor of Charles Arnold Baker on Local Council Administration which was the accepted authority on town and parish council business.

Councillor Correll explained that he was the Member who had expressed concern and he indicated that he did not consider the sources of advice to be sufficiently qualified to express an opinion on a subject as complex as VAT. He therefore urged caution in reclaiming VAT as any subsequent investigation by HM Revenue and Customs could result in heavy fines.

The Clerk advised that he remained of the opinion that the Council had not acted incorrectly and that in his opinion, the Council was acting within the guidance.

## **RESOLVED**

that the report be received and the Clerk's advice noted.

## **208/17 PROPOSED PURCHASE OF SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE**

A report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated to all Members) on the potential purchase of a speed indicator device (SID) for use by the local Speedwatch team. Members were reminded that a sum of £1,500 had been included in the budget for the purchase of suitable equipment in 2018/19 as the local Speedwatch team currently had to share equipment with Ramsey St Mary's which limited the number of opportunities when they could carry out monitoring sessions in Warboys.

In response to a request for advice on the choice of equipment, the Police had confirmed that they would only accept the use of tripod mounted mobile SIDs under the Speedwatch scheme. If other types of equipment were used, the volunteers would not be covered by the Police's public liability insurance and the Police would not issue cautionary letters to the owners of vehicles recorded as exceeding the speed limit. However Community Roadwatch (UK) CIC had recommended the use of fixed post mounted SIDs which also could record traffic volumes and did not require the attendance of Speedwatch volunteers. They had encouraged parish councils to lobby the Police to accept this type of equipment for use by Speedwatch teams.

As the co-ordinator of the local Speedwatch team, Councillor Mrs Tavener referred to the difficulty in sharing equipment with another village and the practical problems in using the equipment specified by the Police both in terms of its weight and the need for volunteers to be present to note traffic speeds. However other Members were of the opinion that the insurance cover and follow up action by the Police made the use of the equipment that they recommended the only option. It was also suggested that post mounted SIDs offered a challenge to some motorists to see how fast they could travel.

The Clerk reported on quotations that he had received from one supplier for both types of SID and which were in excess of than the figure included in the budget.

Under the circumstances, the Clerk was requested to obtain further quotations and equipment specifications for submission to a future meeting.

### **209/17 ANNUAL PATHFINDER MARCH**

Further to Minute No. 05/17(b) of the Footpaths Committee, the Clerk reported that information had been received from RAF Wyton that the Annual Pathfinder March would be held again this year on Saturday 23rd June. Members were informed that the Clerk would liaise with the organisers in terms of waymarking and ensuring that the route was clear of any overhanging vegetation.

### **210/17 HORSE RIDERS**

The Clerk reported upon an approach by horse riders in the Parish about the possible creation of additional bridleways in view of the proposed use of Fenside Road as the access for heavy vehicles to the proposed CHP and waste water treatment plants at the landfill site in Warboys. The British Horse Society had obtained an extension of time to respond to the planning application and had suggested the formation of a Warboys horseriders Facebook group. The group had subsequently been formed with about 70 members.

The group had requested a meeting with the Clerk and although a date had been agreed, the meeting had been cancelled because of the recent adverse winter weather. The Clerk indicated that he would report back to the Council in the event of the meeting being re-arranged.

### **211/17 DAMAGE TO GRASS AT THE WEIR**

Further to Minute No. 194/17, Councillor Payne circulated plans to provide hard surfacing around the village sign at The Weir to obviate the problem currently being caused by customers of the SPAR walking to the shop and destroying the grass. He advised that the work might require planning permission and that as the estimated cost of the scheme was in the region of £4,500, three competitive quotations would be required. As no provision had been made in the budget, it was also suggested that investigations be undertaken into potential sources of grant, including from the owners of the SPAR as the work had been necessitated by their relocation to their current site.

### **RESOLVED**

that further investigations be undertaken with a view to a report being submitted to a future meeting.

### **212/17 DEVELOPMENT SOUTH OF STATION ROAD**

Further to Minute No. 187/17(h), Councillor England and the Clerk reported on a meeting they had attended on 21st February with representatives of David Wilson Homes with regard to surface water flooding from the Great Pastures development off Station Road.

The meeting had also been attended by the County Council's Senior Sustainable Drainage Officer and two local residents.

Members were informed that all of the surface water run-off from the new development would drain into an existing ditch located at the rear of existing houses in Station Road. The flow would be regulated so that the volume of water should not be greater after the development had been completed than when the land had been used for agriculture. However residents had complained that water was accumulating in the ditch and was flooding their rear gardens.

The Clerk reported that David Wilson Homes had established that the ditch drained into a pipe that ran under the rear gardens of the houses before entering the main drain under Station Road. A CCTV investigation had shown that the pipe was blocked where it crossed under the gardens and the company had therefore offered to install a new pipe bypassing the existing system.

Members were informed that work had commenced on site which should resolve the problem.

### **213/17 GRASS CUTTING**

The Clerk reported that he had received notification of an increase in the charge for grass cutting from Fergusons Ltd who had been engaged for several years to cut and trim Adams Lyons playground and Jubilee Park. Fergusons had not raised their charge for some years but in view of the current level of increase, the Clerk reported that he had obtained a quotation from the District Council's grounds maintenance department. As the latter quotation had been approximately 25% higher than that of Fergusons, it was

### **RESOLVED**

that the quotation from Fergusons Ltd to cut Adams Lyons and Jubilee Park at a charge of £72 and £48 per cut respectively be accepted.

### **214/17 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) Clerks and Councils Direct**

March 2018 edition Wildlife Trust.

**(b) Bulletin**

November 2017 edition issued by the War Memorials Trust.

## 215/17 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council, District Councillor Bucknell had reported that the District Council had served a notice on the owner of 66 High Street about its deteriorating condition as a listed building.

## 216/17 ACCOUNTS

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Dr Witham, it was

### RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – February 2018	887.24
W E Batterbee	Salary – February 2018	852.69
R Edwards	Salary – February 2018	235.20
R Reeves	Salary – February 2018	978.29
N Everett	Salary – February 2018	421.78
HMRC	Tax & NIC – February 2018	1,390.36
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Microphone & cable	30.98
R Reeves	Mileage claim	38.55
Mrs N Everett	Mileage claim	6.30
Mrs N Everett	Supplies for coffee mornings	35.08
M J Buddle	Keys	12.00
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank)	9.80
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	110.00
E.ON	Gas supply – Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	67.59
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	106.34
Wicksteed Leisure	Play equipment and installation	18,643.50

Ltd.		
GreenCity Solutions	Computer anti-virus protection – April (paid by direct debit)	12.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer backup online - April (paid by direct debit)	36.00
GreenCity Solutions	Computer support contract – April (paid by direct debit)	60.00
GreenCity Solutions	Broadband – April (paid by direct debit)	23.99
Xerox (UK) Ltd.	Photocopying charges	62.59
C J Ingle Ltd.	Posts	41.04
E.ON	Electricity supply – Christmas lighting	90.49
Ivan Barrett	Van service, repairs and MOT	711.68
Ivan Barrett	Miscellaneous supplies	221.62

## **217/17 BUDGETARY CONTROL**

The Council received the budgetary control statement for February 2018, 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.