

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 8th July 2019 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Dr S C Withams, Chairman.

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra, D W England, Mrs C Evans, Ms L A Gifford, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, P S Potts, Mrs J E Tavener, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor T V Rogers.
District Councillor G J Bull

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors R A Payne and Mrs S J Wilcox.

51/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members expressed their congratulations to Councillor Mrs Wilcox who had given birth to a baby boy on 24th June and signed a card that was circulated at the meeting

52/19 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Parker and seconded by Councillor Englasnd, the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

53/19 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

54/19 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 10th June 2019:-

(a) Honorary Freeman and Women

Arising from Minute No. 24/19, the Clerk read a letter from Captain V H Lucas expressing his delight in having been made an Honorary Freeman of Warboys and explaining how much he and his wife enjoyed the community spirit in the village and the privilege of being custodians of the Manor House which was part of the long history of Warboys.

(b) Cycle Racks

Further to Minute No. 28/19(d) Members were informed that quotations with a closing date of 12th June had been invited for the works to the perimeter wall at Wards of Warboys to accommodate access to cycle racks to be installed adjacent to the shop. The Clerk also reported that he hoped to receive the Section 106 money from the Great Pastures development for the cycle racks in the near future from the County Council.

(Councillors Mrs Evans and Mrs Tavener arrived at the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

(c) Former Youthie Building

Further to Minute No. 28/19(f), the Clerk reported that he had accompanied a structural engineer from Tellett Engineering Consultants Ltd on a recent visit to inspect the condition of the former Youthie building. A formal report had yet to be received but the structural engineer had suggested that he had no concerns about the structural integrity of the building. Councillor Green offered to obtain a second opinion on the report from a structural engineer that he dealt with professionally once it had been received.

The Clerk reported that he would liaise with Councillor Payne to prepare a schedule of works to refurbish the building and would obtain an estimate of cost for consideration by the Council.

(d) The Weir

Further to Minute No. 28/19(g), the Clerk reported that the closing date for the receipt of tenders for the dredging of The Weir was 26th July. Of the five companies that had been invited to quote, the Middle Level Commissioners had declined the invitation, one firm quotation had been submitted and replies had yet to be received from the remaining three companies.

(e) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

Further to Minute No. 28/19(h), Members were informed that information had yet to be received from Froglife about the outcome of their application for funding for the dredging of the Heath Pond and refurbishment of the Sheepwash.

(f) Audit of Accounts

Further to Minute No. 33/19, the Clerk reported that the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn, had requested the submission of additional information as the level of

Parish Council income in 2018/19 had resulted in the Council now being subject to an intermediate level of audit.

(g) Replacement Pedestrian Crossings Lights

Further to Minute No. 34/19, the Clerk reported that he was still trying to obtain County Council permission for the replacement of the lighting at the pedestrian crossings in the High Street and for the proposed LED lights to be adopted for future maintenance purposes.

(h) Protocol for Death of a Senior Figure

Further to Minute No. 42/19, the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting confirmation from the County Council about the use of the Library and car park in connection with the preparation of a protocol for the village's response to the death of a senior national figure.

(i) HCVs on Station Road

Arising from Minute No. 46/19 and a question from the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Tavener advised that Speedwatch had obtained statistics regarding lorry movements in Station Road as a result of a monitoring exercise and that she would forward the information to the Clerk.

(j) Grass Cutting

Further to Minute No. 47/19, the Clerk reported that problems were still being encountered with regard to the infrequency of the grass cutting undertaken by the CGM Group at Adams Lyons playground and Jubilee Park. If the problems persisted, the Clerk indicated that he would investigate the availability of other contractors to undertake the work.

55/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th June 2019 be received.

56/19 LEISURE AREAS COMMITTEE

Councillor Willis suggested an amendment to the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee held on 24th June 2019 with regard to the use of Ramsey Bowls Club by members of the White Hart Bowls Club (Minute No. 07/19(k) refers).

RESOLVED

that, subject to the above amendment, the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee held on 24th June 2019 be received.

57/19 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk drew attention to the weekly Police updates that he forwarded to all Members which contained details of crimes reported in Warboys and the surrounding area.

58/19 PROPOSED COMBINED HEAT AND POWER AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS – WARBOYS LANDFILL SITE

Further to Minute No. 31/19, the Clerk reported that the County Council had still not issued the decision notice following the approval of planning permission for the proposed combined heat and power and waste water treatments plants at the Landfill Site.

59/19 LIGHTING OF CLOCK TOWER SHELTER

Further to Minute No. 35/19, Councillor Green reported on his investigations into the installation of a light in the shelter near the Jubilee Clock Tower to illuminate the Battle's O'er mural. Some difficulty had been encountered in obtaining a response from Balfour Beatty to the work proposed by a local electrician. The Clerk advised that he had mentioned this at a recent meeting with a representative of Balfour Beatty to discuss street lighting and had been advised that it should be possible to add the light to the street lighting maintenance schedule with the company.

However as it was possible that Balfour Beatty would charge an inspection fee if the light was installed by another company and the Council could be commissioning Balfour Beatty to undertake other street lighting changes, Councillor Green and the Clerk indicated that they would investigate whether the light could be fitted by the company.

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

60/19 66 HIGH STREET

Further to Minute No. 28/19(b), District Councillor Bull provided an update on the situation with regard to No 66 High Street. Members were informed that a prospective purchaser of the building had come forward and had contacted Conservation Officers to establish what was required to refurbish the building. In the interim it was understood that the current owner was complying with the schedule of works requested by the District Council.

Councillor Bull reported that he had asked the Conservation Officer dealing with the case to contact the Clerk with a view to him attending a meeting on site with the current owner later in the week.

(County Councillor Rogers arrived at the meeting during the course of discussion on the above item.)

61/19 STREET LIGHTING

Further to Minute Nos. 36/19 and 37/19, a report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated), summarising the powers available to the Parish Council in respect of street lighting and listing the lights owned and maintained by the Council in the Parish.

Since the preparation of the report, the Clerk reported that the County Council's Street Lighting Section had issued advice on the process for parish councils to become responsible for the energy supply to street lighting following the withdrawal of the service by the County Council in October. This would involve obtaining quotations from energy companies and then notifying UK Power Networks of the chosen supplier to enable the new arrangements to be put in place.

With regard to the maintenance of street lighting, Balfour Beatty had offered to renew the three year contract with the Parish Council to provide the service. However they had drawn attention to the fact that it was becoming difficult to maintain Sox lamps as they were no longer manufactured. The company had offered the choice of replacing the lamps at an ever increasing cost when they failed in addition to the maintenance fee, decommissioning the lights or replacing them with LED lamps.

The Clerk reported that he had met a representative of Balfour Beatty recently who had confirmed that the only Sox lamps were the four in the cul-de-sac in New Road. As the lights had not been adopted by the County Council, the Parish Council had assumed responsibility for them at some time in the past. Members were of the opinion that the lights should continue to be maintained by the Parish Council and the Clerk advised that Balfour Beatty would be supplying an estimate of the cost of replacing the lamps with LED units and also for replacing the lighting columns.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Clerk be requested to obtain quotations from energy companies for the supply of electricity to the street lighting owned and maintained by the Parish Council;
- (b) that the Parish Council continue to maintain the four street lights in the New Road cul-de-sac;
- (c) that a new maintenance contract be entered into with Balfour Beatty for the maintenance of the street lighting; and
- (d) that the Clerk be requested to report back on the quotations received from Balfour Beatty for the replacement of the lamps and lighting columns in New Road.

62/19 CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Members considered an invitation from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to comment on a draft Local Transport Plan for the County. (A copy of the proposals for Huntingdonshire contained in the draft had been circulated).

The Clerk reported that the Combined Authority had made a commitment to double the size of the County's economy in the next 25 years and that the Plan contained ambitious schemes to improve road and rail communications in Cambridgeshire. In addition to proposals to improve the A1, A428, A141 Huntingdon northern by-pass and create an east-west rail link and various travel hubs, the document contained a range of policies to promote public transport, cycling and walking. However there were no specific proposals for the improvement of more local transport routes and District Councillor Bull stressed the importance of registering the need for an effective rural bus service given the impracticality of cycling and walking as suitable forms of travel on busy rural roads.

Councillor Bull also referred to the announcement by Marshalls of Cambridge that they were actively seeking the relocation of their business from Cambridge Airfield to one of the airfields at Duxford, Cranfield or Wyton. This had met with the support of the District Council who had informed Marshalls that they would welcome their relocation to Wyton.

RESOLVED

that the Combined Authority be requested to:

- (a) plan for the need for an efficient rural bus service to reduce a reliance on the use of the car and as a result of the impracticality of cycling and walking as feasible means of transport in rural areas; and
- (b) acknowledge the impact of the planned growth of the Cambridgeshire economy on local roads and the need for suitable measures to reduce the impact of the increased traffic on local communities.

63/19 SPEEDWATCH

Councillor Mrs Tavener indicated that she had asked for this item to be included on the agenda as a result of approaches that she had received from a number of people recently about the volume and speed of traffic using the High Street. She advised that a traffic logger had been in position in the High Street for the past 7 days which had monitored the number of HCVs using the road and she indicated that she had statistics showing the growth in traffic over the last 2, 3 and 5 years. At the request of the Chairman, she indicated that she pass a copy of the information to the Clerk.

A number of residents who occupied properties in the High Street addressed the Council at the invitation of the Chairman. They claimed that heavy vehicles were making their houses vibrate as they passed and that they were woken early in the morning from 6.00 a.m. onwards as vehicles travelled through the village. Comments were made about the excessive speed of vehicles and the growing volume of traffic.

In response, the Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council was not the highway authority and it was suggested that a by-pass would probably result in the construction of several hundred houses between the new road and the village. Moreover, the process adopted by the County Council for the introduction of a weight limit meant that it had a limited chance of success and any form of traffic calming in the High Street was likely to lead to complaints of vibration to properties if speed humps were installed and additional noise and fumes as vehicles slowed and accelerated. Members also pointed out that many of the haulage vehicles entering the village currently were travelling to the development sites at Station Road and Farriers Way and this would cease when the estates had been completed.

64/19 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2019/20

Further to Minute No. 39/18, the Clerk reported on the outcome of a meeting on site on 3rd July with County Council highway engineers to discuss the bid approved for the current year for priority narrowing in Fenton Road. Councillors Mrs Harlock and Mrs Tavener, the Clerk, Mr Paull a Speedwatch volunteer who lived in Fenton Road and Mr D McCandless of Community Roadwatch had been in attendance.

The consensus reached on site was that the original proposal for a Give Way arrangement was located too close to the track leading to a cu-de-sac of several houses at the end of Fenton Road. An alternative had been suggested involving priority narrowing slightly further distant from the last property in Fenton Road which would involve the relocation of the 30 mph limit eastwards and the cutting back of a verge side hedgerow in Fenton to improve advance visibility. The highway engineers had undertaken to prepare a new design and cost the proposal. They also undertook to investigate further the possibility of installing advance warning signs of pedestrians crossing at the priority narrowing feature and to cost the option of installing village gateways.

The highway engineers had asked the Parish Council to consult with local residents to obtain their views which the Clerk indicated he had intended to undertake once the scheme design and costings had been provided to ensure that there was no misunderstanding about what was proposed. However Members were informed that Councillor Mrs Tavener had written to residents asking for their views and supplying a design that she indicated had been provided by the County Council.

RESOLVED

that the proposed installation of a priority narrowing feature and relocation of the 30 mph limit in Fenton Road be supported.

65/19 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME 2020/21

A report (copies of which had been circulated) was submitted by the Clerk with regard to the invitation of applications by the County Council for highway schemes under the Local Highway Improvement scheme for 2020/21.

Members were informed that bids by parish councils were limited to one per annum with a maximum contribution by the County Council of £15,000 and applicants required to fund a minimum of 10% of the cost. A list of the applications for Warboys that had been submitted under the LHI programme in recent years was contained in the report, together with the concerns that had been raised by both Members and residents over the past year in relation to highways in the village. The latter included a suggestion by Councillor Payne for further footway resurfacing in the High Street, the installation of village gateway signs and requests by residents for a reduction in the speed of traffic at various locations in Ramsey Road, High Street, Station Road and Puddock Road.

As the speed of traffic entering the village in Ramsey Road had been the source of complaints for many years, Members were of the opinion that an application should be submitted for a priority narrowing scheme with village gateway signs where the 30 mph zone started. It was therefore

RESOLVED

- (a) that a bid be submitted under the LHI scheme for 2020/21 for a priority narrowing feature with village gateway signs at the entrance to the 30 mph zone in Ramsey Road; and
- (b) that a contribution of £5,000 be made towards the cost, the funding to be met from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy reserve.

(District Councillor Bull left the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

66/19 WEIR PAVING

Further to Minute No. 28/19(a), Members considered whether any safety risk had arisen from the recent paving of the grassed area at The Weir. The matter had arisen as the result of concerns expressed to Councillor England by a member of the public that the gradient of the hard surfacing could be the cause of pushchairs or wheelchairs travelling into the adjoining pond.

The Clerk reported that Councillor Payne had taken measurements of the gradient which he had found to be 1 in 70 which was considered to be negligible. Under the circumstances it was agreed that no further action needed to be taken.

67/19 FOOTPATH NO 4 – DAVID WILSON HOMES DEVELOPMENT

Further to Minute No. 28/19(e), the Clerk drew attention to an invitation from the County Council to comment on an application by David Wilson Homes to divert footpath 4 for the duration of the construction of their phase II development off Station Road.

On a separate issue, Councillor Green reported that the newt barrier required to be provided by the developers was in poor condition. The Clerk indicated that he would report the matter to the District Council but he suggested that this was unlikely to be regarded as a high priority.

RESOLVED

that no objection be raised by the Parish Council to the proposed order.

68/19 VE DAY 75

Further to Minute No. 41/19, Members received the notes of the meeting of the VE Day 75 working party held on 24th June 2019 (copies of which had been circulated). Councillor Mrs Wyatt advised that the Community Association had decided to replace the suggestion for a Country Fayre on the afternoon of 8th May 2020 with a VE Day Community Fete with a distinct VE Day theme.

69/19 WARBOYS AIRFIELD – COMMEMORATIVE MEMORIAL

Further to Minute No. 50/19, the Clerk reported on the arrangements for the unveiling of the commemorative memorial at Warboys Airfield which was being provided by the Airfield of Britain Conservation Trust.

Members were advised that the unveiling would take place on 27th July at 11.00 a.m. The location for the memorial would be the entrance to Tithe Farm in Church Road and the Clerk advised that he had met the owner of the farm to agree the exact location. With the agreement of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Mr C Mahaddie, the son of Group Captain T G Mahaddie, station commander of RAF Warboys from 1944 to 1945 had been invited to unveil the memorial and he had confirmed that he would be delighted to do so.

The Clerk advised that he was awaiting a reply from RAF Wyton as to whether they wished to be involved in the unveiling ceremony and that once all of the arrangements had been finalised, the event would be publicised to enable people to attend.

RESOLVED

that the actions of the Clerk be endorsed.

70/19 GREENER FUTURES

Members' attention was drawn to correspondence received from Greener Futures (a copy of which had been circulated). Members were reminded that the organisation had comprised local people interested in the environment and energy conservation and that regular liaison meetings had been held with the Parish Council to promote environmental improvements. However the organisation had not been active for the past few years.

Mrs E Ball who had been the co-ordinator of the group spoke at the invitation of the Chairman and explained that Greener Futures had re-formed to address the issue of climate change as awareness of the problem had grown again among members of the public. She advised that Greener Futures were now holding monthly meetings and she asked if the liaison meetings with the Parish Council could be reinstated.

RESOLVED

that regular liaison meetings be held with representatives of Greener Futures, the Council to be represented by Councillors Mrs Evans, Mrs Harlock, Mrs Tavener and Mrs Wyatt, together with the Clerk.

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

71/19 BURY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members considered an invitation from Bury Parish Council to comment on the launch of the Bury Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk commented that this was a comprehensive and informative document which had clearly involved considerable effort in its production. However it did not contain any issues of relevance to Warboys and no comment was raised by Members.

72/19 MAINTENANCE OF JUBILEE CLOCK

The Clerk reported that Smith of Derby had maintained the Jubilee Clock for many years which included an annual visit and service. The current three year maintenance contract had come to an end and the Clerk advised Members that he had entered into a new three year agreement which would enable a small saving to be made in the cost of the service.

73/19 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 edition issued by the Open Spaces Society
- (b) Clerks and Councils Direct
July 2019 edition.

74/19 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council, a member of the public had drawn attention to the fact that a number of elm trees had been felled on the northern boundary of the Sports Field.

75/19 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – June 2019	996.28
W E Batterbee	Salary – June 2019	979.04
R Edwards	Salary – June 2019	270.40
R Reeves	Salary – June 2019	1,017.33
N Everett	Salary – June 2019	470.54
HMRC	Tax & NIC – June 2019	1,436.91
R Reeves	Mileage claim	32.85
R Reeves	Reimbursement – replacement urn tap	9.40
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank) (paid by direct debit)	10.40
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	129.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	52.95
Chess ICT Ltd	IT support - May (paid by direct debit)	131.99
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	65.02
Lawyers in Local Government	Annual subscription	40.00
Smith of Derby	Service of Jubilee Clock for period ending 31/03/2022	620.40
Barriers Direct	Barriers for Jubilee Park entrance	109.51
Cranbrook Plants	Summer bedding plants & hanging baskets	354.53
Warboys Community Association	Grant for Feast Week competitions	50.00
C Waine	Feast Week band concert	210.00
Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust	Grant	100.00

Cambridgeshire County Council	Contribution to LHI scheme 2019/20	2,000.00
ESPO	Stationery	27.11
Mrs N Everett	Reimbursement – supplies for craft workshop	109.09
Morelock	Traffic signs	97.30

76/19 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for June 2019, 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.