

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 12th August 2019 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman.

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

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs C Evans and Mrs M H Harlock, County Councillor T V Rogers and District Councillor G J Bull.

77/19 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman extended her appreciation to those who had helped with the arrangements for the successful unveiling of the memorial at Warboys Airfield on 27th July which had been a very well-attended event. Members were informed by the Clerk that Warboys currently featured as Airfield of the Week on the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust's website with a recording in full of the speeches and unveiling. The Director General of the Trust had advised that the ceremony at Warboys had been one of the best memorial unveiling events that the Trust had witnessed since the first memorials were erected in 2009.

78/19 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Willis and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilcox, the Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

79/19 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Mrs Cole declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No 95/19 (Jubilee Park Roadway) as she was related to one of the persons who had submitted a quotation.

80/19 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 8th July 2019:-

(a) Honorary Freeman and Women

Further to Minute No. 54/19(a), the Clerk reported that the names of the people recently made an Honorary Freeman and Freewomen would be added to the display board in the Parish Centre later in the week.

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

(b) Former Youthie Building

Further to Minute No. 54/19(c), the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting receipt of the report from Tellett Engineering Consultants Ltd following their recent inspection the condition of the former Youthie building. Councillor Payne advised that he would visit the premises to prepare a schedule of works for consideration prior to the next meeting of the Council.

(c) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

Further to Minute No. 54/19(e), Members were informed that Froglife did not anticipate an answer regarding their application for funding for the dredging of the Heath Pond and refurbishment of the Sheepwash until November.

(d) Protocol for Death of a Senior Figure

Further to Minute No. 54/19(h), 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.

(e) HCVs on Station Road

Further to Minute No. 54/19(i) and in answer to a question by the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Tavener reported that she would supply the Clerk with the information obtained by Speedwatch about lorry movements in Station Road after the meeting.

(f) Grass Cutting

Further to Minute No. 54/19(j), the Clerk reported that the performance of CGM Group in terms of grass cutting at Adams Lyons Playground and Jubilee Park had improved since the previous meeting. Members were informed that an alternative quotation had been received from a local company in recent weeks but this had been substantially higher than the charge made by CGM Group.

(g) Lighting of Clock Tower Shelter

Arising from Minute No. 59/19, Councillor Green reported that little progress had been made with a local electrician with regard to the design and installation of lighting in the Clock Tower shelter. As a maintenance inspection was likely to be required by Balfour Beatty before this could be added to the lighting maintenance

schedule, it was felt that it would be preferable and potentially less expensive to ask the company to install the lighting.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that Balfour Beatty be asked to provide a quotation for the supply and installation of the lighting in the Clock Tower shelter.

(h) 66 High Street

Further to Minute No. 60/19, the Clerk reported that the proposed meeting on site between the District Council's Conservation Officer and the owner of 66 High Street had not taken place in the week commencing 8th July. Information had now been received that this would take place on 17th August but the owner had objected to the Clerk being in attendance. The Conservation Officer had undertaken to inform the Parish Council of the outcome of the meeting

The Conservation Officer had been reminded by the Clerk that almost a year had elapsed since the District Council had written to the owner to inform him that a section 215 notice would be served if certain works were not undertaken and that certain of those works had still to be carried out. Councillor Willis also reported that he contacted District Councillor Bull to express concern about the delay in action being taken on the part of the District Council.

81/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 8th July 2019 be received.

82/19 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.

Members' attention also was drawn to problems being experienced with vandalism during the current school holiday period. This had involved the uprooting of a picnic table and posts and attempts to remove the gate at Jubilee Park, the emptying of bins at Adams Lyons playground and two broken seats in the village.

83/19 VE DAY 75

Further to Minute No. 68/19, Members received the notes of the meeting of the VE Day 75 working party held on 22nd July 2019 (copies of which had been circulated).

84/19 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME BIDS

Further to Minute Nos. 64/19 and 65/19, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) on progress towards implementation of the Local Highway Improvement scheme approved for the current year and the bid for 2020/21.

A plan was attached to the report showing the amended scheme prepared by the County Council for traffic calming in Fenton Road which showed a priority narrowing point east of the entrance to the small cul-de-sac of properties at the end of the village. This would involve moving the 30 mph limit slightly further east towards Fenton, dragons' teeth and a 30 roundel painted on the carriageway and white village entrance gates with the 30 sign and 'Welcome to Warboys Please drive carefully' wording.

The scheme did not incorporate a sign warning of pedestrians crossing the carriageway as requested by Community Roadwatch (CRW). As the latter had deposited £1,500 towards the cost of the sign with the Parish Council, the Clerk pointed out that this might have to be repaid unless the County Council were prepared to agree to a sign meeting CRW's satisfaction. A reply from the County Council in this respect was awaited.

Members were informed that Speedwatch had consulted residents on the outcome of the meeting on site in July involving the County and Parish Council and CRW. Two replies had been received from a resident of Fenton and a person living close to the A141 roundabout both of whom objected to the priority narrowing proposal in favour of alternative traffic calming measures. If the Parish Council accepted the scheme now submitted, the Clerk indicated that he would write to residents again for their views.

With regard to the bid for priority narrowing in Ramsey Road in 2020/21, the Clerk reported that he had delivered letters to residents in Jubilee Avenue, Wiggs Close and Ramsey Road west of the junction with Oaklands inviting their comments on the submission. Members were informed that replies had been received from 20 households all of which supported the bid which represented a response rate of more than 25% of the properties involved.

RESOLVED

that the scheme prepared by the County Council for priority narrowing in Fenton Road be accepted and the Clerk requested to consult with relevant residents to obtain their views.

85/19 PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS LIGHTING

Further to Minute No. 84/19(g), the Clerk reported that the County Council's Road Safety Team had now approved the proposed installation of replacement LED lighting at the pedestrian crossings in the High Street to be funded by the Parish Council. The Street Lighting Section had advised that they would undertake basic maintenance to the lamps but would not replace them if they were damaged in a traffic collision or similar.

Members were reminded that they had agreed to proceed with the purchase of Zebrite LED lights at a cost of £7,000 plus VAT and their installation by Balfour Beatty at £797.24 plus VAT at their meeting held on 10th June (Minute No. 34/19 refers).

However this had not been progressed while negotiations on future maintenance were ongoing with the County Council.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the purchase and installation of the lights in accordance with Minute No. 34/19, and
- (b) that the Clerk be authorised to arrange for insurance of the lamps for impact damage.

86/19 STREET LIGHTING

Further to Minute Nos. 61/19, a progress report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated) on the supply of energy to and maintenance of the street lights owned and funded by the Parish Council. A UMS certificate had been issued by UK Power Networks for the unmetered supply and a quote had been obtained from E.ON which would result in an increase in electricity costs of approximately 25%. As a result the Clerk reported that he had asked ESPO for a quote and would continue to search for an acceptable alternative to replace the arrangement whereby energy was obtained through the County Council's supply contract which would end in October.

With regard to the maintenance of the lighting, a new three year maintenance contract had been signed with Balfour Beatty. An estimate of the cost of replacing the Sox lamps at the 4 columns in New Road with LED lamps had been provided by Balfour Beatty amounting to an approximate figure of £1,500 plus VAT for lamps only and £4,500 plus VAT for the replacement of both columns and lamps. Members were reminded that replacement Sox lamps would become progressively more expensive as they became scarcer and the cost of the lamps would be in addition to the annual maintenance charge. However lower energy usage would result in a saving of about £20 per lamp per annum. As the columns appeared to be in reasonable condition, the Clerk suggested that it was unlikely that they needed to be replaced.

Members were informed that the cost of the replacement lamps could not be met from the Council's CIL receipts as this did not relate to the new development in the village. However savings were anticipated elsewhere in the budget provision for the current year.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

- (a) that a further report be submitted to the next meeting on the supply of energy to the street lights owned and maintained by the Parish Council;
- (b) that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the replacement of the Sox lamps in New Road by LED lights at an estimated cost of £1,500 plus VAT; and
- (c) that an application for grant towards the cost as a result of a reduction in energy usage be submitted to Red Tile Wind Farm Trust Fund Ltd.

87/19 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY FUNDING

A report was submitted by the Clerk following an offer of CIL funding from the District Council (copies of which had been circulated).

Members were reminded that at the meeting held on 9th April 2018, the Council had authorised the submission of bids for funding from the District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts towards the replacement of the Parish Centre, additional play equipment, a multi-use games area and improved drainage at the Sports Field. The Clerk reported that notification had now been received from the District Council of an offer of funding towards the replacement of the Parish Centre in the sum of £200,000. The remaining applications had been unsuccessful.

The Clerk referred to the considerable previous discussion over the replacement of the Parish Centre involving other village organisations with plans having been prepared by Councillor Payne. However this had not been progressed as none of the other organisations consulted were interested in a joint venture and there were concerns that a new facility would not be used as other venues in the village currently charged low rates for hire or did not charge.

A number of Members supported the provision of a larger, more modern building for hire in the village with staging, lighting etc. and felt that this would be well used.

The Clerk reported that it was his belief that the Parish Council would have to register for VAT if the VAT on the cost of construction was to be recovered and he drew attention to a forthcoming course in September that would provide further information on VAT Regulations.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the offer of CIL funding towards the replacement of the Parish Centre by the District Council be accepted;
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to arrange a meeting of the Parish Centre working party; and
- (c) that the Clerk be authorised to attend a forthcoming VAT seminar at Cambourne on 12th September at a cost of £80.

88/19 POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES REVIEW

The Clerk submitted an invitation from the District Council to comment on their review of polling districts and places which they were required to undertake every four years.

RESOLVED

that the District Council be informed that the Parish Council supports a continuation of the present arrangements for two polling districts comprising the village and the rural part of the Parish and two polling stations at the Parish Centre for election purposes.

89/19 WHITE HART BOWLS CLUB

The Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the White Hart Bowls Club seeking assistance with the maintenance of their bowling green at the White Hart public house. The Club had been requested to supply supporting information to enable the Parish Council to consider their request but this had not been received prior to the meeting.

A number of Members expressed support for the retention of the bowling green as a community asset in the village and two people who played at the green addressed the Council at the invitation of the Chairman, presenting their views on past problems and future needs.

In the absence of any detailed information about the present status of the bowls club and bowling green and extent of the assistance being sought, it was

RESOLVED

that consideration be deferred pending the receipt of the necessary information to enable the Council to discuss the matter further.

90/19 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A request for financial assistance from Magpas was submitted towards the work of the organisation. Having been advised that a grant of £100 had been awarded to the organisation in September 2018, Members

RESOLVED

that a grant of £100 be made to Magpas in recognition of their valuable service to the community.

91/19 MEETING DATES

Members approved a change of date for the following meetings:-

- (a) Finance and General Purposes Committee from 18th to 25th November 2019; and
- (b) Annual Parish Meeting from 23rd April to 22nd April 2020.

92/19 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that there were no matters raised at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council to bring to the attention of Members.

Councillor Potts reported that the hedge bordering Ivan Barrett's garage in Station Road was encroaching onto the footway and was impeding visibility for motorists at the nearby junction. The Clerk indicated that he would contact the proprietor of the garage and if the hedge was not cut back, he would refer the matter to the County Council as the highway authority.

93/19 ACCOUNTS

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Potts, it was

RESOLVED

(a) that the following accounts be approved:-

| | | £ |
|--------------------|--|----------|
| M J Buddle | Salary – July 2019 | 1,160.43 |
| W E Batterbee | Salary – July 2019 | 1,139.96 |
| R Edwards | Salary – July 2019 | 214.40 |
| R Reeves | Salary July 2019 | 1,017.73 |
| Mrs N Everett | Salary – July 2019 | 470.34 |
| HMRC | Tax & NIC – July 2019 | 1,559.98 |
| R Reeves | Reimbursement – printer cartridges | 26.54 |
| R Reeves | Reimbursement – Memorial unveiling lunch | 26.97 |
| Mrs N Everett | Mileage claim | 30.20 |
| Vodafone | Mobile phone contract (Timebank) (paid by direct debit) | 10.40 |
| E.ON | Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit) | 101.00 |
| E.ON | Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit) | 8.42 |
| Chess ICT Ltd. | IT support – July (paid by direct debit) | 131.99 |
| Allstar | Fuel (paid by direct debit) | 85.66 |
| Cromwell Fire Ltd. | Service of Parish Centre fire extinguishers etc. | 136.32 |
| CGM Group | Grass cutting | 102.00 |
| CGM Group | Grass cutting | 918.00 |
| ESPO | Table | 133.20 |
| ESPO | Miscellaneous supplies | 104.56 |

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|----------|
| ESPO | Diaries | 4.68 |
| ESPO | Cleaning materials | 166.03 |
| Ivan Barrett | Repairs to van | 452.75 |
| Broxap | Cycle racks | 607.20 |
| R Reeves | Petty cash | 30.00 |
| Housden's Catering | Refreshments for airfield memorial unveiling | 470.00 |
| Time Banks UK | Annual membership subscription | 120.00 |
| Connections Bus Project | 11 visits in summer term | 3,047.00 |
| Earth Anchors Ltd | Fixing kit for picnic table | 47.94 |

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

| | | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------|
| Stuart & Co. | Insurance for Parish Centre boiler | 151.81 |
|--------------|------------------------------------|--------|

94/19 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for July 2019, together with the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month and the bank reconciliation statement for the first quarter of the year, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

95/19 PROPOSED COMBINED HEAT AND POWER AND WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANTS – WARBOYS LANDFILL SITE

Further to Minute No. 58/19, Members were informed that 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 had now been issued. As a result Councillor Mrs Wilcox had instructed counsel to obtain advice on a potential application for judicial review of the County Council's decision. Copies of the advice received subsequent to the despatch of the agenda had been circulated by the Clerk with a request that this be not disclosed to anyone who was not a Member of the Council.

However with the consent of the Chairman, copies had been supplied to Mrs E Ball on behalf of the Landfill Action Group and Professor B Lake who had worked jointly with the Parish Council in opposing the application. This had been on the strict understanding that copies of the advice would not be disclosed prior to the meeting.

Mrs Ball advised that those members of the Action Group who were available had met earlier in the evening and had been advised of counsel's conclusions. She informed Members that the Action Group would support the Parish Council should a decision be

made to apply for judicial review but that they were unlikely to proceed themselves if the Council decided not to do so.

After hearing the views of Mrs Ball and Professor Lake, Members

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 as the present item contained advice of a confidential nature and the remaining items on the agenda related to quotations received for the supply of services to the Council.

After the departure of Mrs Ball and Professor Lake, Members discussed the advice received from counsel. Members noted that counsel did not consider that there were strong grounds that would persuade a judge to grant judicial review. Moreover in the event of an application for judicial review being successful, this would only result in the quashing of the decision to grant planning permission and its reconsideration by the County Council with the potential that the application would again be approved.

As an application would need to be submitted to the Environment Agency for an environmental permit to operate the plant, Members were of the opinion that it would preferable for the funding earmarked for the landfill site to be used in opposing the application for the permit.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

- (a) that an application be not submitted for judicial review of the County Council's decision to grant planning permission for the proposed combined heat and power and waste water treatment plants at the landfill site;
- (b) that Councillor Mrs Wilcox be thanked for her assistance in instructing counsel;
- (c) that the counsel's advice be made available to the Landfill Action Group; and
- (d) that the remaining funding earmarked for the landfill site be made available to oppose an application for an environment permit for the plants and the Clerk requested to report back on the possible engagement of consultants to challenge the application.

96/19 JUBILEE PARK ROADWAY

(Having declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in the following matter, Councillor Mrs Cole left the meeting for the duration of the discussion and voting thereon.)

Further to Minute No. 06/19(b) of the meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee held on 24th June, a report was submitted by the Clerk with regard to the repair of the roadway leading to Jubilee Park. (Copies of the report had been circulated.) The condition of the roadway had been classed as moderate risk in a safety inspection report by PlaySafety as a result of cracking in the tarmac.

The Clerk reported that a small balance of £1,858 remained in the funding received from section 106 agreements for development in the village and that the balance of the cost could be funded from CIL receipts.

Quotations had been obtained from two companies, as a result of which, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Council's Financial Regulation 8(c) be suspended for the purpose of the repair of the roadway and the quotation from Mr S Cole in the sum of £3,800 plus VAT accepted for the resurfacing of the whole roadway; and
- (b) that the cost be met from the remaining balance in the Section 106 Agreement fund and from the Council's CIL receipts.

97/19 CYCLE RACKS

Further to Minute No. 54/19(b), a report by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated) was submitted on the acceptance of a quotation for alterations to the boundary wall at Wards of Warboys to permit access to cycle racks to be installed adjacent to the property. Members were informed that four companies had been invited to quote for the work but only one response had been received.

The County Council had agreed to release the funding of £1,321 from the section 106 agreements for the David Wilson Homes phases I and II developments off Station Road which would be paid to the Parish Council. In addition the Clerk reported that the balance of the cost could be met from the Parish Council's CIL receipts.

Under the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the quotation submitted by V J Dyer and Sons in the sum of £2,375 plus VAT be accepted for the alterations to the boundary wall at Wards of Warboys; and
- (b) that the cost of the work be met from the section 106 agreement funding to be transferred by the County Council and the balance from the Parish Council's CIL receipts.

98/19 THE WEIR – DREDGING

Further to Minute No. 54/19(d), the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) on quotations received for the dredging of The Weir.

Members were informed that quotations had been invited from five companies. One had indicated that they were unable to quote and two had not replied. Details of the two quotations received and the proposed method of operation were summarised in the report.

With regard to the remaining fish in the pond, the Clerk reported that the Environment Agency had indicated that they could attempt to remove them if the water level was reduced prior to dredging. Members also were advised that further costs in terms of a fish health check might be required and a road closure order for the duration of the dredging work.

The Clerk reminded Members that a sum of £30,000 had been included in the budget towards the cost and that the budget had assumed grant income towards the cost of £15,000. Confirmation had now been received from Red Tile Wind Farm Trust that they would offer a grant of 50% of the cost of the work up to a maximum of £15,000.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the quotation from AES Europe in the sum of £22,389.92 plus VAT be accepted for the dredging of The Weir; and
- (b) that further discussion be held with the company with regard to the removal of the remaining fish and the necessity for a road closure order to enable the work to proceed.

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

Chairman.