

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 10th February 2020 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor 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, R A Payne, P S Potts, Mrs J E Tavener, Mrs S J Wilcox, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor T V Rogers

APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received on behalf of District Councillor G J Bull.

199/19 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Potts and seconded by Councillor Mrs Tavener, the Minutes of the meetings held on 13th and 27th January 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

200/19 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor England declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No 212/19 (Nitrous Oxide Canisters) as he was the Chairman of the Warboys Sports Field Committee. However he had previously been granted a dispensation to speak but not vote on matters affecting the sports field.

201/19 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meetings held on 13th and 27th January 2020:-

(a) 66 High Street

Further to Minute No. 183/19(c), the Clerk reported that he had been advised by the District Council Conservation and Environment Team Leader that the Council had begun preparatory work to serve a listed building enforcement notice on the owner of 66 High Street to restore the changes undertaken internally without planning permission.

(b) Damage to Sheepwash

Further to Minute No. 186/19, the Clerk reported that he had met two builders on site to obtain quotations for the repair of the Sheepwash following damage

in a recent traffic collision. Quotations were awaited for submission to the insurers for reimbursement for the cost of the work.

(c) Adams Lyons Playground – Play Equipment/Sleeper Replacement

Further to Minute No. 197/19, the Clerk reported that a grant had been awarded by Red Tile Wind Farm Trust of £3,092.50 towards the cost of removing the sleepers forming retaining walls at Adams Lyons playground and replacing them with sleepers made from recycled material.

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

(d) Local Highway Improvement Bid – 2020/21

Further to Minute No. 198/19, the Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting of the County Council’s Panel on 3rd February to present the application for traffic calming measures in Ramsey Road under the Local Highway Improvement programme for 2020/21.

Members were reminded that the project appraisal undertaken by the County Council’s Highways Officer proposed the installation of an MVAS camera and 40 mph buffer zone as opposed to a priority narrowing or ‘Give Way’ feature which had been submitted with the support of local residents. At the meeting, Highways Officers had indicated that a physical feature in the carriageway at the entrance to the 30 mph zone in Ramsey Road would be too close to the last house in the village and they had suggested that the Parish Council consult residents on a more comprehensive approach to speeding in Ramsey Road.

The Clerk reported that he had responded by explaining that an exercise of this nature was worthless without guidance from Highway Officers as to what was achievable and that to do so without that advice could result in considerable abortive and time-consuming work. Members were informed by the Clerk that he had written subsequently to the County Council to enquire whether Highway Officers would undertake the necessary preparatory work to identify suitable traffic calming measures in Ramsey Road which could then be the subject of consultation with residents and LHI bids in future years.

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

202/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 13th January 2020 be received.

203/19 RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Rights of Way Committee held on 27th January 2020 be received.

204/19 POLICE REPORT

Attention was drawn to the information on crimes recorded in the Parish which were contained in the weekly update provided by the Police and forwarded by the Clerk to Members.

205/19 VE DAY 75

Members received the notes of the meeting of the VE Day 75 working group held on 13th January 2020 (copies of which had been circulated).

Members' attention was drawn to the discussion by the working group of the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday services in Warboys, following complaints that the service in 2019 had started at 10.30 a.m. and a two minutes silence had not taken place at the War Memorial at 11.00 a.m. Members concurred with the view of the working group that the service should continue to be held at the traditional time of 10.30 a.m. as the official time for the two minutes silence was 11.00 a.m. on Armistice Day rather than Remembrance Sunday.

The Clerk drew attention to the various activities being planned to take place over the weekend commencing 8th May with any proceeds raised being donated to the national charity SSAFA. While all of the events should generate a surplus, the working group had asked if the Council would act as guarantor in the event of any loss and also meet any minor incidental expenditure.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Remembrance Sunday service in Warboys continue to be held at 10.30 a.m. at the War Memorial; and
- (b) that a sum of £500 be made available towards the events organised by the working group and minor expenditure over the VE Day 75 weekend.

206/19 GREENER FUTURES

Further to Minute Nos. 187/19, Members considered the notes of a liaison meeting with representatives of Greener Futures held on 3rd February 2020 (copies of which had been circulated). It had been proposed at the meeting that a basis be established for the preparation of an action plan comprising measures that the Council could take with regard to its own activities and the raising of awareness of actions that could be undertaken by others in the community.

The Clerk reported that Shailesh Vara MP had declined an invitation to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on 22nd April but that Ms S French, the County Council's Programme Director for Mobilising Action on Climate Change and Local Energy Investment had offered to attend and speak. However it had transpired that the officer would also be speaking at a meeting of Greener Futures in Warboys on the following evening. As it was considered unreasonable to invite her to speak in Warboys on successive evenings and it was unlikely that members of the public would attend both meetings, Mrs E Ball of Greener Futures invited Members of the Council to attend the latter's meeting on 23rd April.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the notes of the liaison meeting be received;
- (b) that, instead of inviting Ms French to speak at the Annual Parish Meeting, a report be given on the plans for the replacement of the Parish Centre and the views of the public obtained; and
- (c) that Members be invited to attend the Greener Futures meeting to be held on 23rd April.

207/19 WARBOYS LANDFILL SITE

Further to Minute No. 52/19 of the Planning Committee, the Clerk circulated the scheme approved by the County Council for a site liaison committee for the proposed combined heat and power and waste water treatment plants at the Landfill Site. Members were informed that the scheme incorporated almost all of the recommendations made by the Planning Committee.

Members were also advised that the site of the proposed treatment plants had been advertised for sale recently, although few details were available on the agents' website. As a meeting of the landfill site liaison committee was scheduled to be held on 12th February, it was anticipated that the site owner would be making an announcement about the current situation at that meeting.

208/19 CLIMATE EMERGENCY – WATER CRISIS

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to attend a seminar organised by the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England on 'Climate Change – Water Crisis' to be held on 29th April at Fletton.

209/19 ALLOTMENTS – FINANCIAL RESERVE

Further to Minute No. 188/19, the Clerk reported that, following further investigation, he had concluded that the approval of the Secretary of State was not required for the use of reserves derived from the sale of allotments land for other capital purposes. Advice had been obtained from a specialist adviser at the Society of Local Council Clerks that had concurred with the Clerk's interpretation of the legislation.

As the Council had been satisfied at its previous meeting that the money generated from the sale of allotment land was not required to discharge any debt from the original purchase of the land and that replacement land was not required to meet demand for allotments, it was

RESOLVED

that the money generated from the sale of part of Hallgate Allotments in the 1980s be allocated for other capital expenditure and not used for allotment purposes.

210/19 DREDGING OF THE WEIR

Further to Minute No. 196/19, the Clerk reported that he and Councillor Mrs Cole had met a representative from a specialist drainage company on site on 3rd February with a view to obtaining a camera survey of the condition of the sewer outfall from The Weir. An examination of several of the inspection chambers in the highway verge between the pond and the junction of Mill Green and Station Road showed that the pipes were silted up and required jetting before a camera survey could be undertaken. Councillor Mrs Cole circulated photos of the condition of the inspection chambers.

The Clerk reported that he had also spoken to another drainage company and quotations were awaited for the jetting and camera work from both companies.

Members were informed that the County Council were also dealing with one of the drainage companies about the possibility of a camera survey to determine the route and conditions of a watercourse that flowed at the rear of properties in Madecroft and drained the Bellway development south of Farriers Way. Under the circumstances, the Clerk reported that he was in contact with the County Council's SUDS and Flood Risk Officer to also obtain her advice.

In reply to a question from the Chairman, Councillor Mrs Cole reported that she had obtained permission from a local landowner for the remaining fish to be removed from The Weir to be relocated in a large gravel pit locally.

211/19 JUBILEE PARK – LINK TO BELLWAY DEVELOPMENT

Further to Minute No. 190/19, the Clerk reported that he and Councillor Willis were now due to meet a representative of Bellway Homes later in the week to discuss the proposed link from their new development south of Farriers Way to Jubilee Park.

Councillor Willis advised that he had contacted Bellway previously about the removal of fencing adjoining a watercourse in Madecroft following the clearance of vegetation and about the poor condition of the reinstatement of the verge in High Street following the installation of services for the new development. Bellway had responded by claiming that these matters were beyond their control as they had been undertaken by sub contractors but Councillor Willis advised that they would be raised again at the meeting.

212/19 NITROUS OXIDE CANISTERS

As Chairman of the Sports Field Committee, Councillor England reported that he had been informed by the groundsman and football club that nitrous oxide canisters had been thrown over the fence into the sports field from the Parish Centre car park. He had therefore asked for an item to be included on the agenda but had subsequently discovered that users were also parking in the sports field car park and dropping the canisters there.

The Clerk reported that canisters were also found in the Parish Centre car park from time to time but as their use was not illegal, the Police had indicated that there was no action that they could take in respect of the matter.

213/19 CONDITION OF VERGE – OLD MILL AVENUE

Councillor Payne reported that he had been approached by a member of the public who had complained about the condition of the highway verge outside 1 Old Mill Avenue. The verge contained deep ruts caused by vehicles mounting the kerb in the recent wet weather. As a result, the complainant had stated that mud was being carried into the property on visitors' feet. Councillor Payne asked if bollards could be installed to prevent this occurring.

Members referred to the narrow width of the carriageway in Old Mill Avenue and its use by both service and school buses which it was thought could be the cause of the problem. The Clerk pointed out that many verges in the village currently were in a poor condition because of vehicle ruts and that the installation of bollards on the northern verge at the entrance to Old Mill Avenue was likely to result in a deterioration of the condition of the southern verge as more vehicles mounted that kerb. As there were no dwellings on the southern side of the carriageway at that point, Members nevertheless considered that the County Council should be asked to install bollards for the benefit of the residents.

RESOLVED

that the County Council be requested to install bollards in the highway verge to protect it from damage by vehicular traffic.

214/19 REPLACEMENT PARISH CENTRE

Further to Minute No. 183/19(d), a report (copies of which had been circulated) was submitted by the Clerk, following meetings of the Parish Centre working party and a visit to the new Coneygear Centre in Huntingdon which was expected to open shortly.

The report contained a brief that had been prepared by Councillor Payne and the names of four local architectural practices who had expressed an interest in tendering for the design work. The Members who had visited the Coneygear Centre indicated that they had been impressed with that building and details also were provided of the architects used by the Town Council.

The report outlined the reserves held by the Council that could be used to fund the scheme and Clerk stressed the need to produce a business case and obtain community support if applications for grant were to be successful. In that respect the Secretary of the Community Association had offered to assist in the public consultation exercise.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the design guidelines contained in the report be approved and fee proposals invited from the architects listed in the report and from Walter Graham Architects;
- (b) that a business case be prepared for the scheme and the assistance of the Community Association sought for the purpose of consulting with the community on the new building.

215/19 IT ISSUE

The Clerk reported that an issue had arisen whereby the Chairman's parish council e-mail account was no longer able to receive incoming messages. The company that supported the Council's IT had advised that it would be necessary to transfer to Office 365 to resolve the problem which would cost £300 in consultancy time and £3.80 per month in future for each of the two computers used by the Clerk and Timebank Co-ordinator.

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be authorised to proceed with the transfer of the system to Office 365 at the prices quoted.

216/19 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that no matters had been raised at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council.

217/19 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – January 2020	1,220.49
W E Batterbee	Salary – January 2020	1,224.10
R Edwards	Salary – January 2020	341.60
R Reeves	Salary - January 2020	1,017.33
Mrs N Everett	Salary – January 2020	470.54
HMRC	Tax & NIC – January 2020	1,689.94
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Black covers	17.98
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Black binders	25.98
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Black photo frames	54.00
R Reeves	Mileage claim	42.75
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – key cutting	5.00
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – Hinge	1.75

Mrs N Everett	Reimbursement – Timebank subscription to Community Association	15.00
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)	148.86
Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support – January (paid by direct debit)	84.79
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	67.66
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply October - December	11.20
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply October - December	9.68
K Sequenza	Return of allotment deposit	25.00
ESPO	Miscellaneous supplies	34.33
Post Office Ltd	Vehicle excise duty for van	260.00
Balfour Beatty Living Places Ltd.	Street lighting maintenance - second quarter 2019/20	144.90

218/19 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement and the list of Parish Centre bookings for January 2020, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

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

Chairman.