

# **WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 9th March 2020 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman

Councillors R J Dykstra, D W England, 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 and G C M Willis.

## **IN ATTENDANCE**

Ms J Mills, ENGIE UK.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole and Mrs A R Wyatt, County Councillor T V Rogers and District Councillor G J Bull.

## **219/19 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Potts and seconded by Councillor Payne, the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **220/19 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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

## **221/20 POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT AT WYTON AIRFIELD**

The Chairman welcomed Ms J Mills, Stakeholder Manager of ENGIE UK, to the meeting who had asked to attend to answer questions about the company's submission of a further planning application for development at Wyton Airfield.

Members were informed that the company was working with Crest Nicholson to deliver the first phase of the proposed development of Wyton Airfield. An earlier planning application for the first phase had been withdrawn and Ms Mills explained that a new application would be submitted shortly with provision for a primary school and a variation between the split of family homes and units for the elderly. Further consultation would be taking place following submission of the planning application.

A number of questions were raised by Members and the Clerk about the lack of capacity of the A141 to accommodate the traffic from the proposed additional dwellings and any firm proposals for its improvement. Members did not accept a suggestion by Ms Mills that the creation of employment opportunities as part of the development and the inclusion of housing for the elderly would lead to a lesser impact on traffic volumes on the A141 at peak times.

It was also pointed out that the site had been omitted from the approved Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 because the impact of the development on local highways could not be resolved. As a result the volume of development anticipated at Wyton had been allocated elsewhere in the District which meant that the ENGIE proposal was in excess of the Local Plan commitments. Concern also was expressed by the Council about the proposed development of the site in phases which could inhibit the ability of the local planning authority to secure the appropriate infrastructure needed to be provided.

In answer to questions about the possible relocation of Marshall Aerospace and Defence Group to Wyton Airfield from Cambridge Airport, Ms Mills advised that this would be incompatible with the re-development of the airfield for housing.

Ms Mills was thanked by the Chairman for her attendance and she then left the meeting.

(Councillor Parker arrived at the meeting towards the end of the above item.)

## **222/19 MATTERS ARISING**

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 10th February 2020:-

### **(a) 66 High Street**

Further to Minute No. 201/19(a), the Clerk reported that no further information had been received from the District Council regarding the action proposed in respect of 66 High Street. It was reported that the heras fencing at the front of the site was not secure and that the boarding above the cellar windows was missing which made the site unsafe. The Clerk advised that he would alert the District Council to the situation.

### **(b) Damage to Sheepwash**

Further to Minute No. 201/19(b), the Clerk reported that he had received one quotation for the repair of the Sheepwash following damage in a recent traffic collision. A further quotation was awaited before a claim could be made to the insurers for reimbursement for the cost of the work.

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

Further to Minute No. 201/19(c), the Clerk reported that he had been informed by Wicksteed Leisure that they were now in a position to proceed with the installation of the new play equipment at Adams Lyons playground. Members were informed that a suitable date would be arranged once the sensory garden had been removed and the ground was considered sufficiently firm to accommodate the vehicles required to deliver and install the unit.

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

### **(d) Greener Futures**

Further to Minute No. 206/19, the Clerk reported that the next liaison meeting with representatives of Greener Futures was due to be held on 12th March.

**(e) Replacement Parish Centre**

Further to Minute No. 214/19, Members were informed that architects had been invited to submit fee proposals for the construction of a replacement Parish Centre and that the Chairman and Clerk had met the Secretary of the Community Association to discuss the consultation exercise with the community about the proposal.

A further meeting of the working party was due to be held on 17th March.

**223/19 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th February 2020 be received.

**224/19 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. Mention was made of recent vandalism at two building sites in Warboys and Bury.

**225/19 VE DAY 75**

Members received the notes of the meeting of the VE Day 75 working group held on 24th February 2020 and a schedule of the events taking place in the village over the weekend from 8th to 10th May (copies of which had been circulated).

The Clerk reported that, since the meeting, a piper had agreed to play at the evening concert on 8th May and the Blakemore Foundation had agreed to provide a voucher for food and drink from the SPAR store to the value of £80 towards the afternoon tea on 10th May. Councillor Mrs Tavener reported that both Warboys Hardware and Amar Foodstore had agreed to sell tickets for the events and that she had been advised by the Primary Academy that they would be holding a street party for the children on the school field on 7th May.

**226/19 WARBOYS LANDFILL SITE**

Further to Minute No. 207/19, the Clerk reported that he and Councillor England had attended a meeting of the Landfill Liaison Group on 12th February. Planning permission had been sought for an extension of time for the completion of the restoration of the landfill site by December 2020 but there had been little further to report with regard to the landfill itself.

The liaison group had been informed that the land for which permission had been granted for combined heat and power and waste water treatment plants at the landfill site was being advertised for sale with the benefit of the planning permission. However it was thought unlikely that the site would be developed for this purpose in the near

future as an environmental permit had yet to be obtained and a similar site constructed at Daventry had not commenced operating since completion in December 2018.

### **227/19 DREDGING OF THE WEIR**

Further to Minute No. 210/19, the Clerk reported that, since the previous meeting, he had obtained a copy of a map of the surface water sewers in the High Street/Mill Green area which suggested that the outfall from The Weir drained through the sewer in High Street as far as Station Road but then passed under private land before emerging to the east of the A141. While the sewer in the High Street could be jetted and surveyed, it would not be possible to do so where the sewer ran under private land unless there were inspection chambers that could be accessed as the CCTV camera would not extend for the length of sewer involved.

Having regard to the difficulties involved and the fact that Anglian Water had refused permission for the outfall to be used to pump water from The Weir, the Clerk reported that he would not be progressing with the camera and jetting work until the situation had been resolved. Under the circumstances, the County Council would be proceeding separately with a CCTV survey of the pipe leading from the Madecroft watercourse to determine the route of the outfall.

Members also were informed that AES Europe had restructured the company at the end of January. Further details of the restructuring were anticipated but a representative of the company had indicated that they were still interested in carrying out the dredging of The Weir. Having regard to the difficulty in obtaining quotations for the work and the fact that the quotation submitted by the company had been substantially lower than the only other quote received, the Clerk indicated that he would report back when he had further information. In the interim the deposit requested by AES of 50% of the quotation value in advance of the work had not been paid.

### **228/19 JUBILEE PARK – LINK TO BELLWAY DEVELOPMENT**

Further to Minute No. 211/19, the Clerk reported that he had finally obtained a response from Bellway Homes to the issues raised by Councillor Willis and himself at a meeting with a representative of the company at the beginning of February.

Members were informed that the company had offered to provide a hoggin path from their site boundary through Jubilee Park to link with the existing footpath in the park thus providing residents from the estate with easier access on foot to the park and the village. A plan would be supplied to the Council so that agreement could be reached on the route of the path.

With regard to the condition of the watercourse south of the footpath between Madecroft and The Smithy which had been cleared of vegetation by contractors working for the company and left in an unfenced condition with open access for children, Bellway had asked for details of the land ownership. Since the company presumably had obtained prior permission to undertake the work, Members felt that this was a matter that could be pursued by the company themselves.

With regard to the condition of the High Street verge following reinstatement of work to install a water supply to the development, Bellway had advised that the work had been undertaken by the local water authority under the supervision of the highway

authority. They had therefore suggested that the matter be reported to the highway authority if the Parish Council wished to take this further.

### **229/19 BELLWAY SIGN – THE WEIR**

Further to Minute No. 183/19, the Clerk reminded members that Bellway Homes had sought permission from the Council to install a sign advertising their development south of Farriers Way on the fence at The Weir in Mill Green. As nothing had been heard from the company for several months despite reminders from the Clerk, it had been assumed that the company had not intended to proceed.

However the sign had been installed without permission in February and enquiries had established that due to a change in personnel at the company, e-mails from the Council had gone astray. Bellway had confirmed that they had obtained advertising regulations approval from the District Council and undertook to pay the sum agreed of £1,000 for the display of the sign. An invoice had been sent to the company and payment was awaited.

### **230/19 CONDITION OF VERGE – OLD MILL AVENUE**

Further to Minute No. 213/19, the Clerk reported on the reply received from the County Council's Local Highways Officer to the Parish Council's request for the installation of bollards to protect the verge outside No 1 Old Mill Avenue. Members were informed that funding was not available for works of this nature.

Members referred to the narrow width of the carriageway in Old Mill Avenue and the deep ruts formed in the highway verge on both sides of the carriageway. It was suggested that one of the principal causes of the problem was the fact that the school bus stopped to pick up children at this point which meant that other vehicles had to mount the verge to pass. Under the circumstances, Members asked if an alternative stopping point could be agreed for the bus and the Clerk indicated that he would raise the matter with the school transport service.

### **231/19 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME**

Further to Minute No. 201/19(d), the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the implementation of the approved LHI scheme for Fenton Road in the current year and the situation in respect of Ramsey Road for which a bid had been submitted for 2020/21.

With regard to Fenton Road, the County Council had advised that the cost of the scheme had increased by £6,400 and they therefore had requested an additional contribution of £2,106 from the Parish Council. The Clerk reported that £2,000 had already been paid by the Parish Council towards the scheme but that the Council had agreed to contribute £3,500 towards an estimated cost of £10,624 when the original project appraisal had been produced by highway officers. Members were informed that, subject to agreement on the additional contribution, the work would be undertaken as part of the resurfacing of Fenton Road which was due to commence at the end of March.

The Clerk reported that he had attended a meeting of the County Council's local highways panel at the beginning of February to present the case for a 'Give Way' feature in Ramsey Road under the LHI programme for 2020/21. Members had

previously concluded that the County Council's preference for the installation of an MVAS camera and 40 mph buffer zone would have minimal effect in reducing traffic speeds at the entrance to the village.

The Clerk reported that the panel had subsequently recommended the approval of an MVAS camera and 40 mph buffer zone and that this would be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the County Council's Highways Committee. In the interim, Community Roadwatch UK had submitted a Freedom of Information request for information relating to the Parish Council's bid as they were of the opinion that the correct procedure had not been pursued by highway officers in processing the application.

As the outcome of the bid for funding in 2020/21 was unacceptable to the Parish Council, the Clerk reported that he would be meeting the County Council's Highways Project Officer on site in April to consider alternative safety proposals in Ramsey Road.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that a further contribution of £2,106 be paid towards the LHI scheme in Fenton Road, the cost to be met from the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy fund; and
- (b) that the situation with regard to Ramsey Road be noted and the Clerk requested to report back when further information became available.

### **232/19 COMMUNITY ORCHARD**

The Clerk drew attention to a complaint received from the Community Orchard group concerning damage to the base of the fruit trees planted at Jubilee Park. As the contractors engaged by the Council to cut and trim in the park had not been on site for several months, the Clerk indicated that it was difficult to assess when the damage had occurred and whether this was the result of strimmers.

Various possible solutions were suggested by Members to avoid a repetition, with Councillor England advising that the grass around the base of the trees be cleared to avoid the necessity of strimming near the trunks and Councillor Green recommending the use of tree guards. As anti-social behaviour had been a problem in the park, the Clerk suggested that any tree guards might be vandalised but Councillor Green offered to supply details of a type of guards used successfully elsewhere.

### **233/19 CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

Having considered an invitation from CAPALC for the Council to become a member of the Association at a cost of £748.72 in 2020/21, Members decided not to join the organisation.

### **234/19 REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Members considered a request for financial assistance from East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH), as a result of which it was

## **RESOLVED**

that a grant of £100 be made to the organisation.

## **235/19 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk reported that the following item of correspondence had been received since the previous meeting and he indicated that he would arrange for it to be circulated to Members for information:-

February 2020 edition of The Bulletin published by the War Memorials Trust.

## **236/19 OPEN FORUM**

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

## **237/19 ACCOUNTS**

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilcox, it was

## **RESOLVED**

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – February 2020	876.65
W E Batterbee	Salary – February 2020	887.12
R Edwards	Salary – February 2020	305.60
R Reeves	Salary - February 2020	1,017.33
Mrs N Everett	Salary – February 2020	470.34
HMRC	Tax & NIC – February 2020	1,393.27
R Reeves	Overclaim for black sheets returned	-22.00
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – Brushes	15.00
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank) (paid by direct debit)	10.40
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	110.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	86.49

Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support – February (paid by direct debit)	131.99
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	110.04
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply January	4.17
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply January	3.57
Ivan Barrett	Service and MOT for van	819.10
Xerox (UK) Ltd	Photocopying	38.64
R Reeves	Petty cash	30.00
Ramsey Builders Merchants Ltd	Paving slabs	14.40
ESPO	Bleach	16.75
E.ON	Electricity supply – Christmas lighting	69.42
Huntingdonshire Music School	Deposit for VE Day 75 concert	80.00
Warboys Community Association	Grant for Warboys Diary	200.00

### **238/19 BUDGETARY CONTROL**

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

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

Chairman.