

# WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

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

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman

Councillors 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, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole, Mrs J E Tavener and Mrs S J Wilcox, County Councillor T V Rogers and District Councillor G J Bull.

## **32/20 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman informed Members of the death during the past month of two notable residents of Warboys who would be greatly missed in the community. Reg Whittaker aged 99 years, had been a local headmaster, a wartime Special Operations Executive operative and an Olympic Torch bearer in 2012. Mrs Brenda Stokes, aged 93 years, had been the wife of a local landowner, involved in local organisations and well known to many people in Warboys.

## **33/20 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Green and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wyatt, the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2020 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **34/20 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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

## **35/20 MATTERS ARISING**

The Council considered the following matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2020:-

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

Further to Minute No. 04/20(b), the Clerk reported that no further information had been received regarding a resolution of the situation at No. 66 High Street.

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

Further to Minute No. 04/20(c), the Clerk reported that he hoped to submit a claim for reinstatement work later that week to the insurers of the driver who had damaged the Sheepwash in a vehicle collision.

**(c) Bellway Sign at The Weir**

Further to Minute No. 04/20(e), Members were informed by the Clerk that he had noticed that a sign had been attached to the railings surrounding The Weir by a company advertising their business. This had been removed by the company after having been informed that permission had not been granted by the Council.

**(d) Meeting Arrangements**

Further to Minute No. 09/20, the Clerk informed Members that the Government had amended the regulations permitting the holding of meeting by remote means. Details of the changes would be brought to the Council's attention in the event of the Council deciding to hold a future meeting by this means.

**(e) Re-opening of Council Facilities**

Further to Minute No. 14/20, the Clerk reported that the playgrounds were being extremely well used following their re-opening on 4th July. Members were informed that it appeared that some families were not following the guidance for their use but the Clerk advised that it would be impossible to prevent access to the playgrounds once the Government had announced that they could re-open.

With regard to the Parish Centre, the Clerk reported that Day Centre sessions had begun in July following the temporary relocation of the organisation from the Resource Centre and that other regular hirers were now enquiring about returning.

**(f) Playground Safety Reports**

Arising from Minute No. 16/20, the Clerk reported that the repairs to the safety surfacing at Adams Lyons playground had been completed earlier in the month and that the repairs to the footpath in Jubilee Park would be completed once the weather had cooled sufficiently to enable the bitumen to set.

**(g) Jubilee Park – Link to Bellway Development**

Further to Minute No. 18/20, the Clerk reported that Bellway had constructed the footpath at The Furrows development leading to Jubilee Park where they had originally intended and not as agreed on site with their Senior Technical Manager. The latter had been on holiday when the matter had been drawn to his attention but the Clerk indicated that he would contact the company again to try to rectify the matter.

**(h) VJ Day**

Further to Minute No. 20/20, the Clerk advised that representatives of the Council and the Royal British Legion had attended a ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VJ Day at the Manor House. The occasion had been recorded with a view to this being uploaded to the website and Facebook prior

to the actual date of the anniversary on 15th August. A short wreath laying ceremony would be held at the war memorial on the day itself at 11.00 a.m.

Some difficulty had been experienced in contacting a representative of the scouts to arrange for poppies to be attached to the war memorial railings but the Clerk reported that he had spoken to the leaders of the scouts and brownies recently who were trying to organise some youngsters to be involved.

**(i) Parish Centre – Security Arrangements**

Further to Minute No. 21/20, Members were informed that the hard drive on the CCTV unit at the Parish Centre had been replaced and the system was now operational again.

**(j) Textile Banks**

Further to Minute No. 22/20, the Clerk reported that usage of the textile banks in the Library car park appeared to be increasing again as the banks had been filled to capacity recently with surplus bags left around the bins pending collection.

**(k) Local Highway Improvement Scheme**

Arising from Minute No. 23/20, the Clerk reported that he had submitted an application to the County Council for funding from the Local Highway Improvement scheme for 2021/22 for further speed restriction measures in Ramsey Road.

Members also were informed that notification had been received from the County Council that they had advertised the order to introduce a 40 mph buffer zone on the B1040 from Ramsey entering the village in accordance with the bid approved for 2020/21. As the order would implement part of the scheme approved for traffic calming in Ramsey Road, it was

**RESOLVED**

that the making of an order for a 40 mph limit entering the village on the B1040 from Ramsey be supported.

**(l) Connections Bus Project**

Further to Minute No. 24/20, Members were informed that the outreach work in the village by Connection Bus Project youth workers had started and that a report would be submitted to the Council on completion of the six weeks' project.

**(m) Replacement Parish Centre**

Further to Minute No. 31/20, the Clerk reported that the working party had met the principal of Tibbett Architectural Services by Zoom to progress the scheme for the replacement of the Parish Centre. A pre-application enquiry was being prepared for submission to the District Council, a draft of which would be considered by the working party prior to its submission. A further meeting of the working party was scheduled to be held in September.

## **36/20 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **RESOLVED**

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

## **37/20 POLICE REPORT**

Attention was drawn to the information on crimes recorded in the Parish which were contained in the weekly updates provided by the Police and forwarded by the Clerk to Members. Particular mention was made to reports of youngsters riding motor cycles around the village while not wearing helmets.

## **38/20 ABSENCE FROM MEETINGS**

The Clerk explained that the Local Government Act 1972 made provision for any member of a local authority to cease being a member if he or she failed to attend a meeting for a period of six consecutive months, unless the absence was approved by the Council before the expiry of the period.

Arising from the absence of meetings of the Council between March and July and her personal circumstances, Councillor Mrs Tavener had been unable to attend a meeting since 16th March.

It was therefore

### **RESOLVED**

that, due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the unusual circumstances currently pertaining, the absence of Councillor Mrs Tavener be approved and her absence from meetings be extended until 12 months from the date of her last attendance.

## **39/20 WARBOYS LANDFILL SITE**

Further to Minute No. 226/19, the Clerk reported that he had been advised by Woodford Waste Management that, because of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, it had not been possible to undertake any work to restore the landfill site at Puddock Hill since March. It was therefore not possible to complete the restoration before the end of December 2020 and enquiries had been made with the County Council's Planning Department as to whether an extension of time would be permitted until the end of June 2021.

Members were reminded that the planning application for an extension to the end of 2020 had yet to be determined and it was not known whether that application could be amended or whether a new application would have to be made.

The Clerk also drew attention to the outcome of the application by Amey Cespa for planning permission for an incinerator plant at Waterbeach. The application had been refused by the County Council at the same time as they had approved permission for the combined heat and power plant at Warboys Landfill Site. Amey Cespa had

appealed against the County Council's decision but the appeal had been dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate.

#### **40/20 PARISH CENTRE BOILER**

The Clerk explained that the Council had insured the boiler at the Parish Centre separately for many years in the event of unforeseen damage to the building from explosion. However following confirmation this cover already existed in the new Parish Protect policy through Business Services at CAS Ltd. the separate policy had not been renewed at a saving of £189 in the current year.

#### **41/20 OPEN FORUM**

The Clerk reported that at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council, it had been suggested that a letter of thanks be sent to those individuals who had undertaken the cutting of the verge in the High Street since the Covid-19 lockdown had started in March. The Clerk confirmed that this had been dealt with.

#### **42/20 ACCOUNTS**

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

#### **RESOLVED**

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – July 2020	1,113.52
W E Batterbee	Salary – July 2020	1,112.03
R Edwards	Salary – July 2020	134.40
R Reeves	Salary - July 2020	1,017.73
Mrs N Everett	Salary – July 2020	556.94
HMRC	Tax & NIC – July 2020	1,456.78
R Reeves	Reimbursement – ink cartridges	51.28
R Reeves	Reimbursement – disposable gloves	13.00
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank) (paid by direct debit)	10.66
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	110.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	17.10

Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support – July (paid by direct debit)	157.67
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	54.02
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply August	4.05
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply August	3.40
ESPO	Disinfectant	33.24
ESPO	Waste bins	19.92
ESPO	Soap dispensers	38.52
ESPO	Diaries	3.36
Magpas	Grant	100.00
Cambridgeshire Police Shrievalty Trust	Grant for Bobby Scheme	100.00
Arthur Ibbett Ltd	Replacement hedgecutter attachment and trimmer wire	284.40
Ramsey Glass & Glazing Ltd	Window repair – Parish Centre	120.84
ESPO	Cleaning materials	47.99
Activ Security (UK) Ltd.	Replacement CCTV signs	31.96
Cllr. Dr S C Withams	Chairman’s Allowance	100.00
Ivan Barrett Ltd.	Miscellaneous supplies	282.84
Activ Security (UK) Ltd.	Replacement CCTV hard drive	452.47

#### **43/20 BUDGETARY CONTROL**

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

#### **44/20 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following items, having regard to the fact that they contained information relating to quotations received.

#### **45/20 ADAMS LYONS PLAYGROUND – TREES**

Further to Minute No. 17/20, a report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated) following separate meetings that he had held with three different tree surgeons to discuss the cutting back of the trees and hedge at Adams Lyons playground on the boundary with 18 Church Road and The Paddocks.

Two companies had submitted quotations but a reply had not been received from the third. The companies would undertake the necessary notification to the District Council of the work proposed as the playground was located in the conservation area.

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the quotation by Global Tree Solutions Ltd, being the lowest received, be accepted; and
- (b) that the cost of the work be met from the Community Infrastructure Levy receipts received by the Council.

#### **46/20 DREDGING OF THE WEIR**

Further to Minute No. 19/20, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the current position with regard to the proposed dredging of The Weir.

No progress had been made since February when it had been reported that a solution to the draining of the pond prior to the dredging work had yet to be found and notification had been received that AES Europe whose quotation had been accepted had ceased to trade. The Clerk reported that information had now been received from Aquaserve Maintenance Ltd., a sister company of AES, explaining the reasons for the latter being closed as a company and offering to quote for the work as a fresh project.

The Chairman reported that she had been informed by Councillor Mrs Cole that, in her opinion, it would not be necessary to dredge the pond if the remaining large fish could be relocated elsewhere. However a number of Members drew attention to the amount of weed now in the pond. Conflicting views were expressed by Members as to whether it was necessary to dredge the pond if the larger fish were removed or whether the pond would silt up over time if work was not undertaken.

Having regard to the problems encountered in draining the pond, several Members suggested that further enquiries be made into the possibility of suction dredging to remove the silt. Following further discussion, it was

#### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that arrangements be made to relocate the remaining large fish in The Weir; and
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to investigate the possibility of dredging the pond by the suction method.

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

Chairman.