

# **PARISH OF WARBOYS**

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** for the **Parish of Warboys** held on 10th April 2014 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs M P Bucknell, Chairman of the Parish Council in the Chair.

Ten other Members and the Clerk of the Parish Council, District Councillor P L E Bucknell and eleven members of the public.

Mr P Appleton, Senior Implementation Manager of the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Parish Councillors Mrs J M Cole, Mrs M H Harlock and J A Parker.

## **MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Parish Councillor P Clarke and seconded by Parish Councillor P S Potts, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2013 were signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2013.

## **NHS REFERRALS – A PATIENT’S RIGHTS AND HOW TO GET THE RIGHT SUPPORT**

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr P Appleton, Senior Implementation Manager of the NHS Health and Social Care Information Centre. Mr Appleton proceeded to provide an interesting presentation on the current system of referrals for patients within the NHS and changes that were taking place to give patients greater flexibility and opportunity to book appointments.

Mr Appleton explained that at present, patients had a legal right to choose which hospital they were being referred to by their GP and that this should be explained to them during an appointment. The choice also applied to the date and time of the referral, all of which could be booked by a GP before the patient left the surgery. Mr Appleton pointed out that GPs had a duty of care to make sure that patients were aware of the options available to them and to ensure that they were booked into a hospital within a matter of days after a decision had been made that they needed to be referred. While that system was in place

now, Mr Appleton indicated that he was aware that the choices were not always explained to patients and that many people simply left the decision to their GP.

The meeting was informed that changes were taking place that would go live in November 2014 to provide a more seamless electronic system that would enable clinicians to track the progress of patients. The new arrangements would enable patients to book their own appointments by internet, phone or letter and also self-refer in certain circumstances. It would also enable a greater range of professionals such as opticians and dental surgeries to refer patients rather than them having to make appointments to visit their GPs before booking hospital appointments.

Mr Appleton answered a number of questions from those present at the meeting, after which he was thanked by the Chairman for his attendance and he left the meeting.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman presented her report summarising the main activities that had been undertaken by the Parish Council over the previous year, together with other matters of significance. A written report had been circulated at the meeting, with the Chairman highlighting various issues of particular significance.

The Chairman began by extending her thanks to Members of the Parish Council for the numerous hours of work they contributed voluntarily during the year.

The Chairman suggested that probably the most significant news over the past 12 months had been the closure of Warboys Landfill Site. Tipping had started in 1996 with a 5 year permission but extensions had meant that tipping had continued for 17 years in total. Restoration plans were at an advanced stage but the site would be monitored for many years. New buildings for recycling and offices were nearing completion with the site being used in future as a waste transfer station for recycling.

The meeting also was informed that the transfer of the open space at Farriers Way had been completed after nearly 14 years of effort on the part of the Parish Council. As mentioned at the previous Annual Parish Meeting, the Chairman reported that play equipment had been provided especially for younger children after discussion with the Under Fives Playgroup. Installation of the equipment had been completed in March at a cost of £30,000 with the Parish Council having been successful in obtaining a grant of £20,000 from AmeyCespa. An official opening had taken place on 2nd April with Mrs. Brenda Stokes performing the ribbon cutting and the Chairman extended her thanks to Mr & Mrs Stokes who had generously provided an additional 1 acre of land to the original designated open space.

With the emphasis on additional development nationally, the Chairman drew attention to the proposed allocations for Warboys in the Huntingdonshire District Council Local Plan review to 2036 which included sites at the rear of Farriers Way (90 dwellings), the rear of Longlands Close (45 dwellings), south of Station Road (100 dwellings), the rear of 64 High Street (13 dwellings) and Manor Farm, Church Road (10 dwellings). Any development now was subject to the new Community Infrastructure Levy which would result in a payment to the Parish Council and the Chairman advised that the Council

would try to work with developers if planning permission were to be granted to try to maximise benefits for the village.

The Chairman reported good news as more jobs were being created in the village with the former Pepper Kitchens site in Station Road now being occupied by Fentex who supplied spill control materials. GPS Pipe Systems were relocating to the Airfield Industrial Estate from RAF Wyton and planning permission had been granted for the recycling of tyres at the Airfield Industrial Estate.

Following concerns expressed by shop keepers about their future business prospects in Warboys, the Chairman reported that the Parish Council recently had hosted two well attended meetings of shop keepers and traders. A number of ideas had been generated to encourage Warboys residents to shop locally under the slogan of 'Warboys Local Businesses' and to stimulate others to come to Warboys to shop. Although Bonnetts the Bakers had closed after many years in Warboys, the Chairman welcomed the arrival of the Windmill Bakery and Tea Room and another new arrival in the Waterside Practice which provided osteopathy, chiropody and podiatry services. Meanwhile Ivan Barrett's garage had expanded its business to supply hardware items following the closure of Steward's Hardware.

The Chairman reminded those present that Red Tile Wind Farm Trust Fund continued to offer grants for conservation and environmental projects in Warboys and neighbouring parishes. Planning permission had been granted for an additional turbine adjoining Red Tile and discussions were at an advanced stage with the owner for additional grant funding. A planning application also had been submitted for an anemometer to the east of the A141 opposite Red Tile and a planning application for a new wind farm was thought likely to be submitted later in the year with an offer of further grant money. Discussions were under way to try to ensure that grants from new turbines with planning permission in St Mary's Road, Ramsey were available for Warboys organisations.

In accordance with the community's wishes and as a result of a liaison group's prolonged discussions with the County Council, the Chairman reported that the Parish Council had applied to the County Council for the transfer of the Youthie building to its ownership for use as a community hub linked to the Library. The application would be considered at a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet later in April but initial indications were that this was not being recommended for approval by County officers. The alternative of a lease of both the Youthie and Library buildings to the Parish Council might be offered and while the terms would need to be the subject of negotiation, the Chairman pointed out that this would secure the retention of these important historical buildings in the village conservation area.

Attention was drawn to various improvements in the village over the past year. Work to tidy up the banksides and jetty of The Weir had been commissioned by the Parish Council and completed. Quotes were being obtained to dredge The Weir but difficulty had been encountered in identifying companies that would do the work. Refurbishment of the Jubilee Clock Tower was due to commence shortly which would include works to the clock faces to preserve their future. A bespoke plaque with historical photos and information about Warboys was being manufactured and was due for installation shortly in the High Street near the junction with Forge Way. The Chairman explained that the plaque would illustrate pride in the village, as well as providing interesting facts.

Discussion was at a preliminary stage with the Sports Ground Committee and clubs about the possibility of a joint development on the Parish Centre car park/sports ground to replace the Parish Centre itself and improve the facilities at the sports ground. A faster replacement aerial runway had been installed at Adams Lyons playground and extensive repairs to the much loved roundabout would enable it to continue to be enjoyed for many years to come. A new circular climbing log feature had proved a popular addition. The Chairman advised that funding had been obtained towards a substantial part of the cost of works at The Weir, Clock Tower, aerial runway and Jubilee Park play equipment.

The Chairman reported that the Parish Council continued to press for improvements to local roads. The A141 was currently being resurfaced through the Parish and a further stretch of Puddock Road had been resurfaced in the previous month. Patching work of the potholes in the High Street had recently been completed and resurfacing of the B1040 at Wistow Toll was scheduled to take place following a number of accidents. It was hoped that bids for more work next year including the rebuilding of Millers Way and improvements to the Church Road footway between St Mary Magdalene Church and the cemetery would be successful.

The Parish Council had successfully bid for funding from the County Council to install 30 mph roundels and dragons teeth at the entrances to Warboys to cut traffic speeds which would be installed later in the year. In the interests of highway safety, the Parish Council had funded parking restrictions outside the chemists, dental surgery in Mill Green and at the Station Road/High Street junction. The Chairman informed the meeting that complaints were constantly being received about traffic speeds in the village but despite several requests for assistance, no one from Warboys was prepared to volunteer to become a member of Speedwatch who worked with the Police to monitor traffic speeds. Balfour Beatty were currently consulting on the replacement of the street lighting columns in Warboys under the County Council's PFI contract which was likely to result in fewer but brighter and taller columns than at present.

The Chairman reported that unfortunately anti-social behaviour continued to be a problem generated by teenagers in the village with several spates of spray painting causing damage amounting to thousands of pounds on public and private property. Several youths had been caught by the Police for one of the incidents and sentenced to heavy fines, compensation, community service orders and curfews. The Chairman reminded everyone that the Police asked for all suspicious incidents to be reported promptly on their 101 phone number. A small minority of youngsters had shown determined efforts last summer to wreck the youth shelter at Adams Lyons Park to such an extent that it had to be repaired twice. The Chairman advised that the Parish Council was at an early stage of investigating the possible provision of a skateboard facility to provide a focus for young people. However a location had yet to be identified and youngsters would be consulted on what they wanted.

The Chairman advised that recycling in the clothing banks in Warboys continued to be a huge success and negotiations were taking place with Reclaimed Appliances to try to locate a small electrical appliance recycling facility in the village.

The Chairman welcomed the fact that some village organisations were thriving and she referred in particular to the popularity of the 55 Plus group and the History Society which had now formed an archaeology sub group who had performed its own local dig in the previous year. However in common with many other areas in the country, clubs and

organisations were finding it difficult to attract volunteers and despite pleas in the Warboys Diary, only one person had come forward to form a new committee to run the Horticultural and Craft Show which had meant that the show wouldn't happen for a second year. By contrast, the Chairman welcomed the news that someone had volunteered to take over the Warboys Diary after the previous editor had stood down. She expressed her sincere thanks to Mrs Betty Ball for her many years spent in editing such a helpful and informative publication.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Women's Institute Hall had closed in August after the branch had given up the battle of trying to repair an old timber building. Organisations displaced by its closure had found new homes but the Chairman pointed out that the village now lacked a large venue for dances, pantomimes, etc. Another successful May Day 'It's A Knockout' had been organised by the Community Association in the previous May with commendable fund raising and the Christmas Lights switch-on continued to go from strength to strength thanks to a small but very effective Christmas Lighting Group. Congratulations were extended to village residents, Rob and Ed Elmore, who had won the open under 25s pairs competition at the English Bowls Federation final in the previous year.

Following the decision of Victor Lucas not to stand for re-election in May for Cambridgeshire County Council, the Chairman reminded the meeting that the new county councillor was Michael Tew who, although not a Warboys resident, had been a regular attendee at Parish Council meetings and had actively pursued matters with County officers on behalf of Warboys. The Chairman extended thanks to Peter Bucknell and John Pethard as the local District Councillors. With the former's term of office coming to an end in May, the Chairman encouraged everyone to vote on 22nd May at the election for one District Councillor and the European representatives for the region.

The Chairman also mentioned that the Parish Council had had a vacancy for over a year. Mrs Sally Pryke had resigned as a councillor in the autumn after many years of loyal service on the Council and as a former Chairman and Mr John Parker had recently been co-opted to fill the ensuing vacancy. The Chairman invited anyone interested in being co-opted to the remaining vacancy to contact either herself or the Clerk. The Chairman also drew attention to a new Parish Council website at [www.warboyspc.info](http://www.warboyspc.info) and she reminded those present that monthly meetings of the Council were held on the second Monday of every month which the public were welcome to attend and use the opportunity to raise any issues of concern in the public forum at the end of every meeting.

The Chairman expressed her appreciation to Messrs Andy Corney and Will Buddle, the Parish Council's Handymen who carried out a multitude of tasks and whose efforts were greatly appreciated throughout the community. Thanks were extended to Mrs Rosemary Edwards without whom the Parish Centre would not function and whose dedication in keeping the building clean and tidy for all the bookings was to be admired. The Chairman also thanked the Clerk, Mr Roy Reeves, for his work throughout the year and particularly for having successfully obtained a grant at short notice from a scheme administered by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation whereby AmeyCespa had funded £20,000 of the cost of the Jubilee Park play equipment.

The Chairman ended by referring to the amount achieved by the Parish Council in the previous year and she looked forward to new challenges including the investigation of a

timebanking scheme in the village which could provide huge and varied potential to benefit local residents.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Clerk presented the provisional financial statement for the Parish Council for 2013/14, a copy of which had been circulated with the agenda.

As at the preparation of the report, the Clerk reported that the balances were estimated to be as follows:-

Earmarked reserves	£186,230
General Fund	£ 50,182

The meeting was informed that the earmarked reserves comprised the following –

Allotments	£102,191
Open spaces/ play	£ 25,540
Vehicle replacement	£ 2,305
Landfill site fees	£ 14,194
Clock Tower refurbishment	£ 27,000 net of grant
Jubilee Park play equipment	£ 10,000 net of grant
Weir dredging	£ 5,000 net of grant

A projected surplus had been achieved in 2013/14 of £21,309 due to the deferment of a number of projects to 2014/15. The Clerk also drew attention to the receipt of the grant of £20,000 towards the Jubilee Park play equipment since the preparation of the report which would be included in the final year accounts. The only significant variation in expenditure compared with the previous year had been an increase of approximately £11,000 on parks and open spaces as a result of the installation of new play equipment, seating, bins and gates at Adams Lyons playground and Jubilee Park.

No questions were raised by those present at the meeting with regard to the financial statement presented.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The occupants of two dwellings in Ramsey Road expressed concern about the condition of the shelter located near their homes at the junction with High Street. They drew attention to the fact that it was being used as a urinal during the day and children were congregating in it in an evening and leaving copious amounts of litter. They asked if the shelter could be removed entirely or modified by removal of the seating and altering the sides so that what was happening in the shelter was more visible in the hope that this would encourage better behaviour. Photographs of the condition of the shelter were handed to the Chairman.

The Chairman responded by explaining that the shelter was cleaned regularly by the Parish Council's Handymen but she gave an assurance that the residents' concerns would be brought to the attention of the Council at a future meeting.

## **NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and reminded everyone that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 16th April 2015.

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

**Chairman.**