

PARISH OF WARBOYS

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** for the **Parish of Warboys** held on 16th April 2015 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

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

Nine other Members and the Clerk of the Parish Council
District Councillors P L E Bucknell and Mrs A D Curtis
Dr J Wilcock, Moat House Surgery
44 members of the public.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Parish Councillors Ms L A Gifford, J A Parker and J C Price and County Councillor M R Tew.

MINUTES

Upon being moved by Parish Councillor R A Payne and seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs S Stafford, the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 10th April 2014 were approved and 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 10th April 2014.

HEALTH PROVISION IN WARBOYS

The Chairman welcomed Dr J Wilcock of the Moat House Surgery who had agreed to speak on a variety of issues relating to health provision for residents of Warboys.

Dr Wilcock explained that he had been at the Moat House Surgery now for 18 years and was one of a team of six doctors at the surgery providing medical care for 6,500 registered patients. He informed the meeting that he enjoyed working at Warboys and meeting local residents.

Dr Wilcock outlined the health care available within the National Health Service and the specialists looking after various age groups. He also drew attention to the excellent advice and service offered by Wards of Warboys, the chemists in the village. He pointed out that some patients now required very complicated medical care with up to 12 medicines being prescribed. However he also stressed the importance for everyone to keep themselves healthy by diet, regular screening, not smoking etc. as this was preferable to ill health and having to undergo extensive medical treatment.

However with a growing number of patients, Dr Wilcock informed everyone that changes had been required to the appointments system to enable the surgery to perform more efficiently. He was aware that there had been concerns initially when the system had been introduced in February but explained that anyone ringing for an appointment would receive a return call that day to assess their condition and arrange an appointment where this was thought to be necessary. The ability to arrange bookings in advance should also help to ensure that patients were treated by the same doctor which should help those with a multiplicity of medical complaints. Dr Wilcock advised that the system was under review and further changes might be announced later in the year.

Outside surgery hours, anyone requiring medical advice could ring the 111 service where call operators would attempt to identify the most appropriate course of action in terms of calling an ambulance, calling a doctor to a person's home or recommending attendance at Accident and Emergency at a local hospital.

Dr Wilcock mentioned the unwelcome attention in the media that Hinchingsbrooke Hospital had received recently with the withdrawal of the private management company that had been running the hospital and the adverse report from the Care Quality Commission. The latter had been surprising and disappointing as Dr Wilcock explained that the feedback that he received from patients about care at the hospital was universally good. The hospital was receiving additional resources now that it was in a special needs situation with additional nurses being a priority.

Looking to the future, Dr Wilcock advised that general practices were being encouraged to undertake further reforms with a view to being open from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. for six days per week. Investigations were underway as to how this might be achieved but it was possible that this might result in networks being formed so that patients were able to see a doctor though not necessarily the one of their choice. Attempts were being made for services within the NHS to work more collaboratively but Dr Wilcock suggested that arrangements within the NHS were becoming more complicated and unlikely to get any simpler.

A range of questions were asked by those present who also commended Dr Wilcock and his colleagues on the excellence of the service provided at the Surgery. In answering the questions, Dr Wilcock drew attention to a national shortage of nursing staff and a reluctance of young doctors to enter general practice. He was aware of the plans for development in the village and anticipated that the surgery could cope with an additional number of patients, although this was dependent on an even population mix and would become increasingly difficult unless finances improved.

The Chairman expressed her gratitude to Dr Wilcock for his presentation and answering questions from those present. On behalf of the village, she congratulated him and his staff on the excellent service provided by the Moat House Surgery.

Dr Wilcock then left the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman expressed her appreciation for the high level of attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting and 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 referred to the amount of time and effort undertaken by members of the Parish Council, as well as the local District and County Councillors who served the community so well. She also thanked the staff of the Parish Council for their support and efforts in keeping the village and the Parish Centre well kept.

The Chairman advised that the past year had been particularly busy for the Parish Council with the refurbishment of the Jubilee Clock Tower, installation of the Jubilee Plaque, new play equipment in Jubilee Park and Orchard Close, new equipment for use by the Handymen, works to street lighting columns for additional Christmas lighting and the introduction of the Connections Bus Project for young people on Friday evenings.

The Chairman drew attention to the ongoing preparation of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 which included several sites for development in Warboys including land at the rear of Farriers Way, rear of Longlands Close, west of Station Road, rear of 64 High Street, Manor Farm, Church Road and Bencroft Lane. A number of the sites had already been granted planning permission and applications had been submitted for other sites that the Parish Council had recommended for refusal on highway grounds. The Chairman also mentioned that planning permission had been granted for 19 new affordable homes adjacent to Wiggs Farm in Ramsey Road which had been supported by the Parish Council to bring much needed housing for Warboys people who wanted to live in the village. Attention also was drawn to the potential impact of plans for the inclusion of 4,500 homes at Wyton Airfield in the Local Plan which was being opposed by Warboys and a number of neighbouring parish councils.

The Chairman reported that Reclaimed Appliances (UK) Ltd at the Airfield Industrial Estate had gone into receivership with the loss of a substantial number of jobs. Because of the amount of waste that had been left in the open air, the Environment Agency had served an enforcement notice on the administrators as current holders of the environmental permit for the site. The notice required all the waste to be removed from the external yard areas or placed under weatherproof covering or within weatherproof containers by the end of April 2015.

With regard to business vitality in Warboys, the Chairman reported that further meetings with local shop keepers had not been well attended and the businesses had decided to continue to keep in touch electronically. A Christmas 'Hunt the Santa' competition involving local shops had benefited from £100 in prize money from the Parish Council but had attracted few entries. The Chairman indicated that she was delighted that Windmill Bakery was thriving and congratulated the proprietors on their initiative and success. She also commended the Post Office by expanding into hardware with a wide range of supplies which had retained this facility within the village. No news was available on the development of the former Steward's Hardware for the Spar's relocation and the building was becoming an eyesore and being vandalised. The Chairman also referred to Ivan Barrett's successful enterprise which now offered a wider range of services and while expressing disappointment at the loss of the Beauty and Bee-Yond salon which had relocated to Ramsey, she reported that the new tenants would also be offering beauty treatments and she wished them well with this new venture.

In terms of wind generation locally, the Chairmen reminded everyone that Red Tile Wind Farm Trust 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 which would generate another community fund for sports and healthy living projects in Warboys and Ramsey to be administered by Red Tile Trust. Investigations were continuing into another potential wind farm to the east of the A141 opposite Red Tile but the Chairman reported that despite efforts by the Parish Council, grant money from the new turbines in St Mary's Road, Ramsey would be limited to schemes in Ramsey, Bury and Upwood and would exclude Warboys.

Notwithstanding protracted discussions with the County Council for the transfer of the 'Youthie' building to Parish Council ownership for use as a community hub linked to the Library, the Chairman reported that the terms offered by County Council were too onerous. If agreed, this would have involved six figure expenditure by the Parish Council with no security of tenure and the Parish Council reluctantly had decided not to proceed.

In terms of village improvements, the Chairman reported that quotes to dredge The Weir had been excessive and an alternative approach was being tried to treat the water with chemicals and barley straw to control the sludge on the bottom of the pond. The refurbishment of the Jubilee Clock Tower had been completed, including works to the clock faces to preserve its future as a listed building and prominent feature in Warboys. A commemorative plaque with historical photos and information about Warboys had been installed in the High Street and new play equipment at Orchard Close playground with a grant from the Woodford Waste Community and Environmental Fund had been officially opened by their Managing Director earlier in the month. Discussions were taking place with Sports Field trustees 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 sports facilities.

It was reported that a successful bid for funding by the Parish Council had resulted in 30 mph roundels and dragons teeth being installed at the entrances to the village to help reduce traffic speeds. However complaints about traffic speeds in the village continued to be received. Balfour Beatty had commenced work on the replacement of street lighting columns in Warboys under a County Council PFI scheme which had been very unpopular with residents because of a reduction in the number of replacement lighting columns.

Although anti-social behaviour continued to be a problem, the Chairman reported that the situation had improved greatly as a result of the presence of Connections Bus Project on the Library car park for two hours on Friday evenings during term time. This had proved very popular with youngsters and had resulted in good reports of improved behaviour from youth leaders and the Police. The Chairman pointed out that the cost of the bus was £10,000 per annum but grants had been obtained from the Police, County Council and District Council towards the costs.

Finally, the Chairman drew attention to the many events that had taken place over the previous year. The Christmas Lights switch-on had grown in popularity again thanks to the small but effective Christmas Lighting Group and had involved the closure of Mill Green while the event had taken place. Another successful pantomime performance had been provided by WADS and the annual fireworks display organised by Pat and Pam. The Feast Week band concert had changed format with a performance by the Killer

Shrimps at the White Hart proving so successful that it would be repeated in 2015. Official openings had taken place at Jubilee Park and Orchard Close of new play equipment and at the Jubilee Plaque in High Street. A very moving service had taken place on the centenary of the outbreak of WWI to re-dedicate the war memorial and install a commemorative seat with two names missing from the original memorial. Attendance at the Remembrance Sunday service had continued to grow and application had therefore been made for a road closure in 2015 for the short period while the service was taking place. An extremely successful charity cricket match had been organised by the Cricket Club involving the England Ladies Team which had been very prestigious for the village.

There were no questions to the Chairman arising from her report.

COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Written reports were submitted by County Councillor M R Tew and District Councillors P L E Bucknell and Mrs A D Curtis, copies of which were circulated at the meeting. A recurring theme of the reports was the difficult financial position that both of the authorities were experiencing as a result of cutbacks in Government grant. Reference was also made to the potential impact of forecast development on local services and complaints from the public concerning street lighting, traffic speeds and parking.

There were no questions with regard to the reports submitted.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The Clerk presented the provisional financial statement for the Parish Council for 2014/15, 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	£214,380
General Fund	£ 20,840

with the earmarked reserves comprising –

Allotments	£103,723
Open spaces/ play	£ 23,923
Landfill site fees	£ 14,194
Replacement Parish Centre	£ 50,000
S 106/CIL	£ 166
Play equipment	£ 22,374

A projected deficit was forecast for 2014/15 of £20,690 due to the implementation of a number of schemes that had been deferred from the previous year. The Clerk pointed out that almost £45,000 had been secured in grants towards Parish Council expenditure during the year but that the Government grant of approximately £6,000 intended for the

Parish Council as a result of Council Tax changes had been withheld by the District Council for their own use.

The Clerk drew attention to the Parish Council's decision to hire the Connections Bus project for young people from September onwards at a cost of £10,000 p.a. and to include funding in the budget for 2015/16 to implement a Timebank scheme in Warboys. A further contribution to reserves of £10,000 would be made in 2015/16 towards the cost of a replacement Parish Centre as a result of which the Parish Council precept for the year had risen by 4.8%.

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

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A number of questions were raised by members of the public present at the meeting.

District Councillor Mrs Curtis suggested that a Neighbourhood Plan be carried out in Warboys. However the Clerk advised that this would involve considerable effort by members of the community in drawing up the document and, in the absence of any interest in filling the current vacancy on the Parish Council, was thought to be unlikely.

A question was raised about the use of the earmarked reserves to improve the roadway at the allotments to access individual plots by car as the fencing off of the roadway during the winter discriminated against disabled people. The Clerk pointed out that the reserves had originated from the sale of allotment land for the by-pass and housing plots and that the money was retained to fund the creation of additional plots if required in the future. Another tenant complained about the burning of rubbish at the allotments including bottles and cans by the Handymen but the Clerk explained that while hedge cuttings were burnt at the allotments, no other rubbish had been disposed of at the site since the previous summer.

In reply to a question as to whether it had been possible to list the Library and former 'Youthie' as buildings of special historic or architectural interest, the Clerk reported that he had received confirmation from Natural England that while they considered the buildings to be of local significance, they were not satisfied that they were of sufficient importance nationally to be listed.

A number of people complained about the condition of the shelter near the Jubilee Clock Tower and the smell from the disinfectant used by the Parish Council to clean it. The Chairman replied that the Parish Council had asked the Clerk to submit a report to a future meeting on the future of the shelter and possible alternatives.

Arising from a complaint that the footway outside Nos. 23/25 High Street became flooded in wet weather, the Clerk reported that he would refer the matter to the County Council's Highways Supervisor.

A resident of Forge Way complained about the anti-social behaviour caused by teenagers on motor scooters late at night, in response to which the Clerk pointed out that all such

incidents should be reported to the Police to enable them to bid for additional policing resources in an effort to resolve the problem.

NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and reminded everyone that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 21st April 2016.

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

Chairman.