

## **PARISH OF WARBOYS**

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** for the **Parish of Warboys** held on 19th April 2017 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

### **PRESENT**

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

Nine Members and the Clerk of the Parish Council

District Councillor P L E Bucknell

Dr J Wilcock, Moat House Surgery

Ms J Gowler, Nurse Practitioner, Moat House Surgery

Ms A Clasper, Timebank Co-ordinator, Warboys Parish Council

Approximately 49 members of the public.

### **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Parish Councillors Ms H A Backhouse and Mrs J E Tavener.

### **MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Parish Councillor Mrs Wyatt and seconded by Parish Councillor Mrs Harlock the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th April 2016 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 7th April 2016.

### **HEALTH PROVISION IN WARBOYS**

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

In thanking the Parish Council for the opportunity to address members of the public at the Annual Parish Meeting again after his previous attendance in 2015, Dr Wilcock updated the meeting on recent developments in the National Health Service and in Warboys.

Unlike previous attempts to recruit new doctors at the surgery which had always attracted a high response, Dr Wilcock reported that only two applications had been received recently to replace Dr James who had retired. A high quality candidate had been appointed but he had decided not to stay in Warboys. As a result Dr Wilcock and his colleagues were considering how best to provide sufficient cover both currently and in the near future when Dr McKay intended to retire. The doctors were spending more time

in attending surgeries and were seeking to arrange good quality locum cover. Patients were also being encouraged to see the person best able to deal with their needs which might not necessarily be one of the doctors.

Nurse Gowler explained her role as a nurse practitioner who had been employed at the surgery for the past 16 years. During that time the role of nurses had changed significantly from being just treatment nurses to developing their own specialisms as practitioners, dealing with a variety of issues such as diabetes and heart disease. Nurse practitioners now could deal with many of the issues that previously required an appointment with a G.P. but would be complementing rather than replacing the work of the doctors. In future, Nurse Gowler explained that patients were increasingly likely to be dealt with nurses, paramedics and pharmacists as the appropriate person for a patient's health issue, with 40% of the consultations at the surgery now being with a nurse rather than a doctor.

She advised that Warboys was regarded as an outstanding surgery with student nurses being trained there. However she also warned of the problems ahead with 85% of practitioner nurses in Cambridgeshire being expected to retire in the next 5 years.

Dr Wilcock reported that it had been necessary to stop registering residents of Ramsey and Somersham at the Moat House Surgery as demand grew and development took place locally. With one of the surgeries in Ramsey ceasing to register new patients, Dr Wilcock explained that it was likely that more Ramsey residents would have tried to register at Warboys which could not have been accommodated with the housing development taking place locally.

Dr Wilcock advised that the Cambridgeshire Commissioning Group was likely to be directly responsible for managing G.P.s in future and that he was attending meetings to discuss how this might be developed. The CCG was trying to encourage patients to take more responsibility for their own care to ease pressure on medical staff by, for example, visiting pharmacists for advice and or self-referring with CamQuit, Everyone Health and other health organisations for advice and treatment solutions. Dr Wilcock also suggested that members of the public from Warboys visit Doddington Hospital rather than Hinchingsbrooke Hospital for minor injuries and X-rays both for convenience and because there was a risk that the hospital might close because of insufficient patients.

In terms of the situation at Warboys, Dr Wilcock advised that the surgery would attempt to cope with the additional demand created by the developments taking place in Warboys and would be liaising with NHS England and Council colleagues about a possible expansion of the accommodation available. In the event of the Government proceeding with their vision of surgeries being open from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. for seven days per week, Dr Wilcock advised that this could result in the merger of neighbouring surgeries in working together but without losing their own identities.

In answer to questions from the Chairman and the floor on a variety of subjects, Dr Wilcock encouraged patients to support the surgery by cancelling appointments when not needed and ensuring, for example, that they contacted the hospital direct rather than asking the surgery to do this on their behalf. Dr Wilcock and Nurse Gowler acknowledged that that it would be helpful if information was more readily available and that there was better engagement with the community, with the Patient Participation Group at the surgery being not well represented currently.

Members of the public complemented Dr Wilcock and his staff for the excellence of the service that they provided locally and after they had had been thanked by the Chairman for their attendance, Dr Wilcock and Nurse Gowler left the meeting.

## **TIMEBANKING IN WARBOYS**

Ms A Clasper gave a presentation on the Timebank scheme in Warboys since her appointment as the Timebank Co-ordinator by the Parish Council in October 2016. She explained the principle involved in Timebanking by undertaking tasks voluntarily for another person with time credits for each hour which could then be exchanged for other tasks. Although many people helped others in an unofficial capacity already, Ms Clasper explained that Timebanking enabled vulnerable people and those in need to benefit at a time of decreasing expenditure on service provision by local authorities and the public sector.

The meeting was informed that no particular skills were required for persons joining the timebank and that all tasks were of equal value under the scheme. Persons joining the timebank would be covered by the scheme, including insurance and DBS checks where necessary.

Ms Clasper reported that a coffee morning was being held on the first Tuesday of each month at the Parish Centre and she was organising a monthly village walk around the village starting and finishing at the Windmill Bakery to encourage people to be more active. The scheme was advertised on the Parish Council and Friends of Warboys Library websites, the Council's Facebook page, Warboys Diary and on notice boards throughout the village. A dropbox was also available at Davies' Newsagents.

The Chairman stressed the importance of the timebank scheme and encouraged members of the public to join to help others in the community.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman expressed her appreciation for the high level of attendance at the Annual Parish Meeting and summarised 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 attached to the agenda.

The Chairman expressed her appreciation to Members of the Parish Council who volunteered their time and experience in serving the village and she paid tribute to the close knit team of Parish Council employees for their dedication and hard work, including the Clerk, Handymen, Timebank Co-ordinator, Cleaners and Clockwinder. She also thanked County Councillor M Tew for his work over the past four years, following his decision not to stand again for re-election in May 2018 and District Councillors P Bucknell and Mrs J Tavener for their work on behalf of Warboys and its residents.

The Chairman explained that efforts had been made over the past year to make the Council, its Members and employees more accessible to the public. In addition to the website, the Council also had a presence on Facebook, surgeries were being held by

Members at the Library on alternate Saturday mornings, identity badges had been obtained and the Handymen were wearing protective clothing with the Council's logo.

In terms of events over the past year, the Chairman reported that the beacon lighting and commemorative event for Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration in April had been a tremendous success. The centenary of the start of Battle of Somme had been commemorated at the war memorial on 1st July by the Warboys Branch of Royal British Legion and the Council. Attendances at the Remembrance Sunday service continued to grow with ever increasing numbers of children parading with their organisations and representation by an officer from RAF Wyton for the first time in recent memory. The road was now closed by the Council for the duration of the event and in future crosses would also be placed on war graves in the village cemetery on Remembrance Sunday.

A very successful and well attended Christmas Lighting Switch On event had been held in November and thanks were extended to the Community Association for their promotion of events during Feast Week. Warboys continued to welcome the Pathfinders Reunion each year with a service at the church, tea at the Parish Centre with an exhibition of memorabilia and fly past by historic aircraft. The Chairman added that during the latter's anniversary weekend at RAF Wyton she had been presented with a limited edition print of Lancaster aircraft over Warboys, signed by surviving Pathfinder crew which she had arranged to be framed and was now on permanent display in the Parish Centre.

The Great British Spring Clean from 3rd to 5th March organised by Councillor Mrs Harlock had attracted a considerable number of volunteers to turn out in sometimes appalling weather to collect litter in the village as a result of which over 30 bags of various debris had been filled.

The Chairman drew attention to the various housing developments taking place in the village and for which planning permission had been sought which it was hoped would bring additional business for local shops and services. She referred in particular to the popularity of the Windmill Bakery and Tea Room and the long awaited transfer of the Spar store to the former Steward's Hardware shop which was nearing completion and would include the village post office service. She also congratulated the Warboys Sports and Social Club on the improvements that they had made to their premises over the past year.

The Chairman referred to the importance of voluntary organisations within the village and the need for close working between all organisations and the Council. Particular mention was made of the very active Community Association with a new editorial team at the Warboys Diary and the 55 Plus group who had raised the funding to enable a defibrillator to be installed outside Wards of Warboys for use in an emergency. Conversely, the Chairman expressed her sadness at the recent winding up of the Warboys Branch of the Royal British Legion and the laying up of their standard.

Finally the Chairman expressed her desire for Warboys to continue to thrive as a pleasant place to live and for the village to progress under the theme of 'Unity through Community'.

A number of questions were raised by members of the public to which the Chairman and Clerk responded. In terms of the possible redevelopment of the Parish Centre, the Chairman reported that the sports clubs in the village had decided against a joint

development with changing facilities and a pavilion because of the potential rent that they might be charged. Information was awaited from the Underfives Playgroup as to whether they were interested in a joint venture.

Residents complained about the excessive speed of motorists in the village, with Station Road and Fenton Road being referred to. In response, attention was drawn to the unwillingness of residents to volunteer to assist the local Speedwatch group in the past and it was reported that Community Roadwatch was currently monitoring traffic speeds in Fenton Road. The Parish Council was aware of the situation and was liaising with the Highways Authority and Police to try to address the problem.

## **DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

A written report was submitted by District Councillor Bucknell, a copy of which was attached to the agenda.

District Councillor Bucknell reiterated the pressure for development to take place in Warboys as a 'key centre' in the District Council's Local Plan. He also mentioned a number of recent developments, including the re-organisation of refuse collection rounds and the fact that the District Council had assumed responsibility from the County Council for the removal of fly posting and fly tipping.

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

The Clerk presented the provisional financial statement for the Parish Council for 2016/17, 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	£229,505
General Fund	£ 20,658

with the earmarked reserves comprising –

Allotments	£102,019
Open spaces/ play	£ 17,222
Landfill site fees	£ 14,194
Replacement Parish Centre	£ 70,000
S 106/CIL	£ 25,070
Vehicle Replacement	£ 1,000

A projected surplus was forecast for 2016/17 of £11,722 but this had only been possible as a result of Community Infrastructure Levy income during the year of £24,454. The only major scheme in terms of expenditure had been the replacement of worn-out swings and safety surfaces at Adams Lyons and Orchard Close playgrounds which had cost almost £18,000 but the Clerk pointed out that the Connections Bus Project for young people had cost £8,807 and the Timebank scheme had commenced midway through the year at a cost of £3,686.

As a result of the development taking place in the village, the Clerk explained that the tax base had risen which would mean that additional precept income would be received. It had therefore been possible to limit the increase in the Council's Council Tax precept to 2% in 2017/18. This compared with an average increase for town and parish councils in Huntingdonshire of 3.4% with the Band D equivalent parish precept for Warboys being £74.71 compared with £95.33 Districtwide.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Ms V Musson encouraged residents to attend the Warboys It's A Knockout event at the Sports Field on 1st May and she reported on the greatly increased range of activities taking place during Feast Week with a number of village organisations arranging various events.

A number of residents in Croftholme Close expressed concern about a recent planning application for temporary permission to retain the portacabin used for changing accommodation at the Sports Field which was situated adjacent to the properties that they had purchased recently.

### **NEXT ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Chairman thanked those present for attending and informed everyone that the next Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 11th April 2018.

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

**Chairman.**