

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 27th January 2020 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra, D W England, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker R A Payne, P S Potts, Mrs J E Tavener, Mrs S J Wilcox, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs C Evans, Ms L A Gifford and S J Green.

196/19 THE WEIR

Further to Minute 195/19, the Clerk had circulated copies of e-mail exchanges which he had had with AES Europe Ltd over the preceding three weeks with regard to the proposed dredging of The Weir.

The decisions taken by the Council at the previous meeting had been conveyed to the company which had responded by suggesting that it was extremely unlikely that it would be necessary to excavate additional silt to that specified in the quotation supplied.

With regard to the drainage of the water from the pond, the company had reiterated the difficulty in obtaining a response from water utility companies for the water to be pumped into the surface water sewer. As an alternative AES had suggested installing a small capacity pump to minimise pressure on the outfall pipe, although it was acknowledged that this could take some time to empty the pond to a stage where dredging could begin.

As the season for fishing was closed between 15th March and 15th June, it was accepted that the work could not be undertaken after the March date as the remaining fish could not be relocated during that period. A number of Members suggested that it was unlikely that the pond could be drained prior to that date both because the pond at Wilthorn which was thought to be the destination of the outfall was full and water might flow into the Weir as fast as it could be pumped out.

Members retained doubts about the condition of the outfall pipe and both its route and final destination. It was therefore felt that it would be advisable to obtain a camera survey of the outfall to establish whether it could be used to drain the pond. Unless AES could obtain permission to pump water into the surface water sewer or it could be established that water could be pumped through the outfall without problem, Members accepted that the scheme would need to be deferred until the autumn.

Councillor Mrs Cole advised that she had arranged with a local landowner for the remaining fish to be relocated to a suitable site nearby as the water level in the Weir was lowered.

After lengthy debate, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that arrangements be made to obtain a camera survey of the outfall from The Weir with the Clerk, after consultation with the Chairman, authorised to accept a quotation from a suitable company;
- (b) that the results of the survey be reported back to a future meeting;
- (c) that the Clerk be requested to continue to liaise with AES in the hope that permission can be obtained from Anglian Water for the use of the surface water sewer for the water to be drained from the pond; and
- (d) that in the event that permission is not forthcoming from Anglian Water and it becomes unlikely that dredging can be concluded before mid-March, AES be asked to reschedule the work until the autumn.

197/19 REPLACEMENT SLEEPERS – ADAMS LYONS PLAYGROUND

Further to Minute No. 183/19(e), the Clerk reported that he had received a quotation of £3,950 plus VAT from Dyers of Warboys for the replacement of the timber sleepers on the retaining walls and removal of the sensory garden at Adams Lyons playground. A search on line for recycled plastic sleepers by the Clerk had suggested that these would cost in the region of £3,851 for grey coloured and £4,185 for brown coloured material. Members were informed that a bid had been submitted to Red Tile Wind Farm Trust for a grant towards the use of recycled material.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the quotation from Dyers of Warboys be accepted and the Clerk authorised to proceed with the purchase of grey coloured recycled plastic sleepers; and
- (b) that the cost of the work be met from the Community Infrastructure Levy reserve and grant from Red Tile Wind Farm Trust.

198/19 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT BID – 2020/21

(The Chairman indicated that she had agreed to the admission of the following item to the agenda as the date of the relevant County Council Panel meeting was imminent.)

The Clerk referred to Minute No. 65/19 when the Council had agreed to the submission of a bid to the County Council under the Local Highway Improvement programme for 2020/21 for priority narrowing in Ramsey Road at the entrance to the village to try to reduce the speed of motorists. The Council had agreed to a contribution of £5,000 towards an estimated cost of £15,000.

Members were informed that the Clerk had been contacted by a Highways Officer in recent weeks who had carried out a site inspection for the purposes of preparing a project feasibility. The officer had been concerned that a priority narrowing scheme would create a risk of accidents as a result of the excessive speeds of motorists that she had observed. A project appraisal summary had been sent to the Clerk in the previous

few days in advance of the bid being considered by a meeting of the County Council's Highways Panel meeting on 3rd February.

Members were informed that the project summary proposed a 40 mph buffer zone, 30 mph roundels in the carriageway and the installation of an MVAS camera which would show the speed of vehicles entering the village and capture actual speeds and registration numbers,. The Clerk suggested that, in his opinion, that an MVAS camera would have little effect and that only physical works in the highway which were now commonplace in many villages would have the desired effect of reducing speeds. Members were reminded that a speed activated camera was already in place in Ramsey Road that flashed when a speed of 30 mph was exceeded by inbound motorists and that an MVAS camera would not deter the speed of motorists leaving the village. Members also were informed that a memorandum of understanding would need to be entered into with the County Council which required the camera batteries to be changed every week and the camera to not be in position in any one location for more than 4 weeks.

Members felt that the only practical solution to reduce the speed of motorists in Ramsey Road was a physical deterrent in the carriageway in the form of a give way feature or similar. Councillor Mrs Tavener also suggested the installation of a pedestrian refuge in the carriageway to reduce the danger for members of the public and school children crossing the road for buses. However the consensus view was that the carriageway was too narrow for such a feature.

RESOLVED

that, when presenting the application to the County Council's Panel, the Clerk and Chairman be authorised to maintain the Parish Council's position that a physical feature was needed as opposed to an MVAS camera to reduce the speed of motorists in Ramsey Road.

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

Chairman.