

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a virtual meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held remotely on 7th December 2020.

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, Mrs S C Wilcox and G C M Willis.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J E Tavener and Mrs A R Wyatt.

108/20 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor England declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute No 110/20 entitled 'Purchase of Land' as he farmed land nearby. He also declared a non-statutory disclosable interest in Minute No. 111/20 as he was a trustee and chairman of the Warboys Sports Field Committee. Councillor England had received prior dispensations to speak but not vote on both matters.

109/20 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following items, on the grounds that they contained information relating to the potential sale price of land.

110/20 PURCHASE OF LAND

Further to Minute No. 107/20, the Clerk submitted a further report (copies of which had been circulated) with regard to the potential purchase of land extending to 6.14 acres of grassland to the east of the A141 and had been used by the public, without restriction by the landowner, for many years as an informal open space.

After a vote had been taken, it was

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Council agree in principle to purchase the land at the price assessed by the Council's agent;
- (b) that applications for funding towards the cost be made to Red Tile Wind Farm Trust and the District Council;

- (c) that the Clerk be requested to undertake tests of due diligence with regard to the proposed purchase of the land, particularly with regard to the access arrangements; and
- (d) that a final decision on the purchase of the land be made following the receipt of a report on the outcome of the above applications and enquiries

111/20 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

A report was submitted by the Clerk (a copy of which had been circulated to all Members), following the receipt of an invitation from the District Council to apply for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) towards local projects.

Members were reminded that CIL was charged upon all new housing development in Huntingdonshire and collected by the District Council. Up to 5% was retained to cover administrative costs, 15% defined as the Neighbourhood Allocation was transferred to town and parish councils without an adopted Neighbourhood Plan and 80% known as the Strategic Allocation was retained by the District Council to allocate to projects in accordance with their Infrastructure Development Plan. The Clerk reported that the District Council had invited applications for funding from the Strategic Allocation once before in 2018 but would now be inviting applications twice yearly with the closing date for the first allocation being 14th December.

A grant of £200,000 had been offered by the District Council towards the replacement of the Parish Centre following the first round of bids and this had been the largest grant made to town and parish councils in Huntingdonshire. The District Council had requested further information on the funding of the proposal and the timescale before a firm commitment would be made and the Clerk indicated he would submit this before the closing date.

A number of other applications for sports and play provision had been submitted by the Parish Council for funding in the previous round but the Clerk drew attention to the supporting information now required by the District Council which suggested that applications were only likely to be considered favourably if match funding was available and a scheme was in a position to proceed.

The availability of CIL funding had been drawn to the attention of the Sports Field Committee who had asked if the Council would apply on their behalf for the purchase of verti-draining equipment.

The Clerk reminded Members that the Parish Council had received £385,212 to date in CIL receipts from development in Warboys with a further £60,000 anticipated in 2021/22. This had been earmarked towards the replacement of the Parish Centre. The Strategic Allocation retained by the District Council from development in Warboys therefore amounted to £2.35 million currently but this could be pooled for infrastructure projects anywhere in Huntingdonshire.

RESOLVED

that applications for funding from the District Council's CIL Strategic Allocation be made for the purchase of land referred to in Minute No. 110/20 and the purchase of verti-draining equipment on behalf of the Sports Field Committee.

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

Chairman.