

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 12th July 2021 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman.

Councillors R J Dykstra, D W England, Ms L A Gifford, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, R A Payne, P S Potts, Mrs C L Sproats, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

County Councillor S J Corney,
District Councillor M W Haines.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs J M Cole, Mrs C Evans and Mrs S J Wilcox and District Councillor G J Bull.

41/21 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Payne and seconded by Councillor England, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

42/21 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest had been received in respect of matters appearing on the agenda.

43/21 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 14th June 2021:-

(a) HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh

Further to Minute No. 20/21(a), the Chairman advised that the Book of Condolence would be available at the next meeting of the Council when pandemic restrictions had been lifted to enable Members to record messages of condolence arising from the recent passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh.

(b) 66 High Street

Further to Minute No. 20/21(b), the Clerk reported that he had been informed by the owner of 66 High Street that he had submitted a planning application in respect of the property in an attempt to progress plans for its refurbishment.

District Councillor Haines advised that measures had been taken by the authority to engage additional staffing to improve the timescale for the consideration of planning applications. He also offered to speak to the owner of 66 High Street if his contact details were supplied in order to try to progress matters.

(c) Bellway Homes

Further to Minute No. 20/21(c), the Clerk reported that he had yet to receive a reply from Bellway Homes since the previous meeting in respect of the queries outstanding in terms of a gate, path surfacing and play equipment at Jubilee Park. Attempts would continue to be made to try to obtain a satisfactory solution to the issues raised.

(d) Sports Holiday Club Proposal

Further to Minute No. 20/21(d), the Clerk reported that the sports holiday club to be held at Warboys Primary Academy in the week commencing 16th August was now fully subscribed with a maximum of 50 children. The company running the club had visited the school and all of the necessary arrangements had been completed satisfactorily.

(e) Bridleways

Further to Minute No. 20/21(e), Members were informed no further progress had been made since the previous meeting with the County Farms Estate regarding the proposed linking of bridleways 17 and 18.

(f) Damage to Chimes

Further to Minute No. 20/21(g), the Clerk reported that a claim for reimbursement had been submitted to the Council's insurers in respect of the damage to the musical chimes at Adams Lyons playground caused by vandalism.

(g) Traffic Working Party

Further to Minute No. 20/21(h), Councillor Green reported that progress was being made towards the creation of a new Speedwatch team in Warboys with 7 volunteers having received their on-line training and awaiting roadside training. It was hoped that the new team would be able to participate in a day of action about speeding being organised by the Police by having Speedwatch sessions that day in Warboys.

Members were also informed that it might be necessary to obtain a replacement battery for the Speedwatch camera as the equipment had now been unused for so long that the battery could not be recharged.

With regard to the Traffic Working Party, Councillor Green suggested that this could be disbanded as two of the original members of the public on the working

party had not responded to invitations to join Speedwatch and one of the other members was an existing Speedwatch volunteer. Instead, he felt that it was preferable to concentrate on the reinstatement of Speedwatch in Warboys and he indicated that he would approach District Councillor Haines for advice on the activities of Lorrywatch in Pidley.

(h) Highways Update

Further to Minute No. 20/21(j), the Clerk reported that a problem had been encountered with the installation of the gateway signs at the entrance to the village in Ramsey Road. The gateways initially installed by the County Council's contractors had been the wrong type and the owner of the adjoining fields subsequently had complained that the replacement larger signs impeded his visibility when emerging from nearby field entrances with farm vehicles. Following consultation, the Clerk advised that the gateways had been repositioned again by the County Council.

Members were advised that the landowner had also claimed that the trees in the highway verge between the village and the entrance to Pelican Farm had been planted by the Parish Council and now required cutting back or removal as they were preventing him from maintaining the roadside ditches. The Clerk reported that neither he nor Councillor England who was the longest serving member of the Council had any knowledge of the Council being responsible for the maintenance of the trees and the landowner had been advised accordingly.

With regard to the crossing of the A141 via public footpath 6, the Clerk reported that he had written again to the County Council but had yet to receive a reply.

(i) Parking Near Warboys Primary Academy

Further to Minute No. 27/21, the Clerk reported that the Police had confirmed that they remained responsible for the enforcement of parking restrictions in Cambridgeshire. The Academy had been asked whether they wanted the Parish Council to ask the County Council to review the criteria for the reinstatement of the school crossing patrol in Humberdale Way but had yet to reply. Members were also informed that the organiser of the original petition was continuing to pursue the matter through social media.

(j) Damage to Shelter

Arising from Minute No. 30/21, the Clerk reported that he had contacted BT with regard to the damage to the shelter near Jubilee Clock Tower by a BT vehicle and that enquiries were ongoing.

(k) Purchase of Fuel

Further to Minute No. 37/21, the Clerk reported that it had been necessary to obtain a new fuel card from Allstar for use at other filling stations following the closure of the Clock Garage for fuel supplies.

(Councillor Parker arrived in the meeting at this point in the proceedings.)

44/21 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 14th June 2021 be received.

45/21 LEISURE AREAS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee held on 28th June 2021 be received.

46/21 POLICE REPORT

Attention was drawn to the information on crimes recorded in the Parish contained in the weekly updates provided by the Police and forwarded by the Clerk to Members.

47/21 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Corney and District Councillor Haines reported on recent matters of interest at their respective authorities. Particular attention was drawn to the possible review of the proposed highway improvements at Woodhurst crossroads, a recent investigation of responsibilities for problems of flooding in Huntingdonshire, the encouragement for more young people to be vaccinated against coronavirus and the need for more people to volunteer as foster parents.

48/21 TRAFFIC ROUTES AROUND ST IVES

Further to Minute No. 24/21, the Clerk drew attention to an invitation from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to comment on proposals for highway improvements to address traffic congestion in St Ives. The consultation had only been open for three weeks via a specially designed website and it was suggested that this was insufficient for a proposal of such significance.

The consultation had invited views on 6 options to ease congestion for through traffic in St Ives. Three of the schemes involved a new by-pass from Wyton roundabout joining the B1040 at various points to the north and east of St Ives; one scheme involved improvements to the A1123; and the final two schemes involved improvements to public transport, cycling and walking.

Members were reminded that the Combined Authority had consulted earlier in the year on highway improvements to ease congestion around Huntingdon. One option had been to construct a new bypass from Spittals interchange to Wyton roundabout which, together with the option for a new St Ives bypass, would enable Wyton Airfield to be developed for

housing. This would also create a potential for additional development south of the new roads linking the towns of Huntingdon and St Ives.

It was suggested that any new bypasses would only result in short-term improvements to congestion in St Ives which would soon be overwhelmed by the ensuing development that took place. It was therefore

RESOLVED

- (a) that the Combined Authority be advised that the Parish Council favour improvements to public transport, cycling and walking to improve congestion around St Ives; and
- (b) that concerns be raised with the Combined Authority over the inadequacy of the consultation exercise for an issue of such magnitude.

49/21 SPEEDWATCH SIGNS

Councillor Green asked Members to consider the purchase of a minimum of 6 Community Speedwatch signs for installation at suitable locations at the entrances into Warboys to advise motorists that Speedwatch was operating in the village. The signs were understood to cost £88 each but the County Council had advised that their installation would have to be processed by way of a Privately Funded Highway Improvement application which would incur a non-refundable fee of £500 plus payment for officers' time and the installation of the signs.

Members were informed that the Police Speedwatch Co-ordinator was investigating whether there was an alternative way of progressing this without incurring significant additional cost and that she was awaiting a reply from the County Council.

Under the circumstances, consideration of the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

50/21 FLOODING

The Clerk reported that Wistow Parish Council had enquired whether the Council wished to participate in a joint approach to the responsible authorities about the flooding that had occurred in the area in December 2020 which had particularly affected those settlements along the route of Bury Brook. As the Parish of Warboys had not been affected by the flooding incident, Members decided that it would be inappropriate for the Council to become involved. County Councillor Corney referred to the study into responsibility for flooding that he had mentioned earlier in the meeting and offered to supply a copy of the report once it had been finalised.

51/21 PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

Members' attention was drawn to the Government's announcement that Covid-19 restrictions would be lifted with effect from 19th July 2021. A further announcement had been made by the Prime Minister earlier in the day confirming that while restrictions would

be lifted on that date, personal caution was being urged in the light of an increasing number of daily recorded infections and responsibility placed on employers and businesses to decide whether to retain any forms of restriction to prevent infection rates increasing. The Government had announced that new guidance would be issued but this was not yet available.

A summary of the present position had been circulated to Members by the Clerk in advance of the meeting. As Thurstons Funfair had provided a risk assessment for the use of fairground equipment during the pandemic, the Clerk reported that he had advised the operators that the visit by the fair during Feast Week could proceed. The band concert at the Royal Oak would be in the open air and all restrictions for attendance at such events had now been lifted.

Once playgrounds could be re-opened in the summer of 2020, notices requesting users to follow certain procedures when visiting the playgrounds had been posted at the entrances but it was suggested that these had been largely ignored. The Handymen had been disinfecting all of the equipment weekly which it was suggested could also cease once restrictions were lifted.

In terms of the Parish Centre, Members were invited to consider whether any form of restriction should remain in place to limit the risk of infection to users and the cleaning regime that should be adopted. Further guidance from the Government in this respect was expected shortly.

Members also considered the format of Council meetings which had returned to the Parish Council in a socially distanced way after the ability to hold meetings electronically had been withdrawn by the Government in May.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the situation with the regard to the Feast Week visit by the funfair and band concert be noted;
- (b) that the advisory notices at the entrances to the playgrounds be removed on 19th July and the Handymen advised that they no longer are required to disinfect the equipment after that date;
- (c) that consideration of the arrangements for the hire of the Parish Centre be deferred, pending the receipt of Government guidance and the Clerk be authorised, after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to make any changes deemed to be necessary;
- (d) that meetings of the Council continue to be held in the hall of the Parish Centre but with the room configured in a less socially distanced manner and the wearing of face coverings left to the discretion of individuals;
- (e) that the subscription to Zoom for on-line meetings of working parties, liaison meetings etc. be retained;
- (f) that on line banking be continued with payments made by BACs where possible; and

- (g) that the circulation of periodicals in hard copy to Members be resumed.

52/21 THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

Attention was drawn to the fact that the Queen's Platinum Jubilee would take place on 2nd June 2022 which would involve a national lighting of beacons. Members were reminded that the plaque depicting scenes from the history of Warboys had been installed in the High Street to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and that if any similar feature was to be installed to commemorate the platinum jubilee, early consideration would be required.

Members confirmed that the beacon should be lit as part of the national chain and it was

RESOLVED

that a working party comprising Councillors Ms Gifford, Mrs Sproats and Mrs Wyatt be established to consider the arrangements to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in Warboys.

53/21 PARLIAMENTARY BOUNDARIES REVIEW

The Clerk reported that a review of parliamentary boundaries currently was being undertaken by the Boundary Commission for England. Due to the population growth locally since the previous review, an additional constituency was proposed for creation in Cambridgeshire taking the total to eight. The initial proposals provided for the boundaries to be redrawn to accommodate the additional constituency and ensure that the electorate range was within 5% of a figure of 73,393. This would include a transfer of the District Ward of Warboys from the North West Cambs constituency to the Huntingdon constituency. In view of the size of the Warboys electorate of 5,737, the Clerk suggested that it would be difficult to submit any alternative as part of the review to retain Warboys in the North West Cambs constituency.

RESOLVED

that the report be received and no representations made to the Boundary commission with regard to their initial proposals.

54/21 PARISH CENTRE REPLACEMENT

Further to Minute No. 32/21, the Clerk reported that the working party had met the Architect to consider the comments received from the public exhibition of the plans for the replacement Parish Centre and the responses from hirers and other village organisations. Summaries of the comments had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting, together with a revised plan of the building. The only question raised by a Member to the revised plans referred to the subdivision of store 1 into internal and external stores with separate external doors which the Chairman reported would be taken into consideration by the working party.

Members also were informed that quotations from consultants continued to be received for the supporting reports required to accompany the planning application. However a quotation from Greenwillows Associates Ltd of Warboys for a bat survey had been accepted due to the urgency in undertaking such surveys at the optimum time of year.

55/21 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that the only matters raised at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council had been parking near Warboys Primary Academy and County Broadband, both of which had been dealt with earlier in that meeting.

56/21 ACCOUNTS

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Ms Gifford, it was

RESOLVED

(a) that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – June 2021	1,089.32
W E Batterbee	Salary – June 2021	1,088.52
R Edwards	Salary – June 2021	246.40
R Reeves	Salary - June 2021	1,045.18
Mrs N Everett	Salary – June 2021	496.10
HMRC	Tax & NIC – June 2021	1,571.37
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Zoom subscription	14.39
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Key cutting	5.00
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Photo frame	16.00
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank) (paid by direct debit)	10.28
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	65.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	57.54
Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support – June (paid by direct debit)	140.08

Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	76.61
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply – June	5.37
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply – June	4.79
Magpas	Grant	100.00
Cranbrook Plants	Bedding plants	300.00
Sutcliffe Play Ltd.	Play equipment part	42.16
Ramsey Builders Merchants	Timber and varnish	54.89
Allstar	Fuel (new card) (paid by direct debit)	55.12
S J Green	Reimbursement – Speedwatch stationery	17.08

(b) that payment of the following account prior to the meeting be endorsed:-

Leeds Day	Search fees for land purchase	397.14
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57/21 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for June 2021 together with the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

58/21 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting for consideration of the following item on the grounds that it contained information relating to the terms for the purchase of land.

59/21 PURCHASE OF LAND ADJOINING A141

Further to Minute No. 20/21(p), a report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated) regarding progress towards the purchase of land adjoining the A141.

RESOLVED

that the report be received.

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

Chairman.