

# WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 13th September 2021 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman.

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

## **ALSO IN ATTENDANCE**

District Councillor M W Haines.

## **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs C Evans, J A Parker and R A Payne, County Councillor S J Corney and District Councillor G J Bull.

## **80/21 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Potts and seconded by Councillor Mrs Harlock, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman

## **81/21 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

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

## **82/21 MATTERS ARISING**

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 9th August 2021:-

### **(a) 66 High Street**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(a), the Clerk reported that he had been contacted by the agent acting for the owner of 66 High Street who had queried the Parish Council's reasons for recommending refusal of the planning application for the development of the site. Explanations had been provided to the agent.

### **(b) Bellway Homes**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(b), the Clerk reported that he had still yet to receive an answer from Bellway Homes in respect of the queries outstanding in terms of a gate, path surfacing and play equipment at Jubilee Park. In view of the difficulty

in obtaining a satisfactory response, Members agreed to invite a representative of Bellway to attend the next meeting of the Council.

**(c) Sports Holiday Club Proposal**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(c), Members were informed that Councillor Parker, the Clerk and the donors of the Whittome Wind Trust grant had visited the sports holiday club held at Warboys Primary Academy in August and been impressed by the activities being provided by Finding Fitness staff and the enthusiasm of the children taking part. Finding Fitness had undertaken a survey of parents which had shown that the club had been extremely popular and had been greatly enjoyed by the children. The Clerk advised that he would circulate the summary of the survey results to all Members.

Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that her children also had enjoyed attending and that she had been impressed by the quality of the experience offered.

**(d) Bridleways**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(d), Members were informed that County Councillor Corney had been in contact with County Farms to try to expedite consideration of the proposed linking of bridleways 17 and 18. A response had been received from the County Council advising that the matter was now again being dealt with by one of the principal surveyors. As the matters raised in his response had previously been queried with his staff, it was agreed that a further site meeting involving Councillor Potts and the Clerk might help to expedite progress.

On a related matter, Councillor Potts expressed concern that some of the bridleways might be damaged again over the winter by the activities of a local farmer who was hauling water for his livestock from the local drains. Under the circumstances the Clerk was requested to ascertain whether permission was required from the local internal drainage board to extract water from watercourses for private use.

**(e) Damage to Shelter**

Arising from Minute No. 63/21(e), the Clerk reported that he had been notified again by BT that they could find no evidence of a BT vehicle visiting their exchange near the Jubilee Clock Tower when the roof of the shelter owned by the Council had been damaged by a vehicle reversing into the site. Under the circumstances, the Clerk indicated that he would obtain a quote from a local roofing contractor to assess the cost of the repair and if necessary, would submit a claim to the Council's insurers.

**(f) The Queen's Platinum Jubilee**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(g), the Clerk reported that he would arrange a meeting shortly of the working party appointed in respect of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022.

**(g) Parish Centre Replacement**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(h), the Clerk reported that the planning application for the replacement of the Parish Centre had been submitted by the Council's Architect. Further quotes were in the process of being obtained for the necessary consultants' reports required to accompany the application.

**(h) Purchase of Land Adjoining the A141**

Further to Minute No. 63/21(i), the Chairman reported on a site meeting she had attended earlier in the day with the Clerk, County Councillor Corney and the County Council's Highways Project Manager to discuss safety improvements to the crossing of the A141 via footpath 6 to access the land being purchased by the Parish Council. Concerns had been raised by the highway officer that safety measures might encourage more people to cross, although a need had been pointed out to her for action to improve the safety of those already making the crossing.

Under the circumstances, it had been agreed that County Councillor Corney would request highways maintenance to cut back the hedging adjoining the carriageway and install advance warning signs for motorists' attention that pedestrians were crossing at this point. The Parish Council would proceed with the submission of a bid under the Local Highways Improvement scheme which would prompt a feasibility investigation by highway officers which would be reported back to the Parish Council.

**(i) Speedwatch Signs**

Further to Minute No. 68/21, the Clerk reported that he had submitted an application to the County Council for the installation of Speedwatch signs at the various entrances to the village. An acknowledgement had been received from the County Council and a further response was awaited.

**(j) Grasscutting**

Arising from Minute No. 70/21, the Clerk reported on further issues with the invoicing by CGM for grasscutting undertaken for the Council and the lack of response from the company's management regarding the standard of cutting over the summer.

**(k) Feast Week Visit by Funfair**

Further to Minute No. 71/21, the Clerk reported that he had yet to receive a reply from Thurstons regarding the visit of the funfair to Warboys during Feast Week in 2022.

**(l) Hours of Employment of the Clerk**

Further to Minute No. 74/21, the Chairman advised that a report would be submitted to the next meeting of the Council with regard to the level of administration required for the Council.

## **83/21 PLANNING COMMITTEE**

### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 9th August 2021 be received.

## **84/21 APPOINTMENTS PANEL**

### **RESOLVED**

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Appointments Panel held on 2nd September 2021 be received.

## **85/21 POLICE REPORT**

Information had not been supplied by the Police and there were no issues that Members wished to raise in terms of criminal behaviour in the Parish over the past month.

## **86/21 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

District Councillor Haines reported that he had met the owner of 66 High Street on site to discuss his planning application in respect of the property. He had also met representatives of EnVar concerning the company's planning application for development of their site at Woodhurst crossroads. Members were also informed that the County Council had decided to revert back to the proposed improvement of the Woodhurst crossroads by the installation of traffic lights.

## **87/21 PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORTS**

Further to Minute No 69/21, a report (copies of which had been circulated) was submitted by the Clerk containing further information on the maintenance/replacement of playground equipment following the annual safety inspections by PlaySafety.

Members were informed that, having been sent details of an alternative quotation from Wicksteed Leisure for the replacement of the damaged chimes at Adams Lyons playground, the Council's insurers had agreed to accept the quotation submitted by Caloo. The insurers would meet the cost of the replacement chimes, less the excess of £100 required by the policy.

The Clerk also reported that play bark had now been delivered to top up the safety surfacing at some items of play equipment. An inspection of the trees and hedges adjoining The Paddocks had been undertaken by Councillor Willis and the Clerk and further cutting back of the vegetation would be undertaken after the new Handyman had commenced employment with the Council.

With regard to the replacement of the 'Pick-up-Sticks' climbing unit at Jubilee Park, Members' attention was drawn to quotations received from Wicksteed Leisure for two alternative items of play equipment. Following an inspection of the boundary trees at the park by Councillor Willis and the Clerk, Members were informed that work was required to cut back vegetation overhanging neighbouring gardens and that a quotation would be received from a tree surgeon.

Following discussion, it was

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the report and the information contained therein be received;
- (b) that Caloo be requested to supply replacement chimes at Adams Lyons playground at a cost of £1,394 plus £1,375 installation and delivery exclusive of VAT, the cost to be met by the Council's insurers less the excess; and
- (c) that an order be placed with Wicksteed Leisure to remove the 'Pick-up-Sticks' unit and supply and install a 'Simba' multi-unit at a cost of £8,086.75 exclusive of VAT.

### **88/21 LAND ADJOINING THE A141**

Having received a report of a meeting of the working party in respect of the land east of the A141 (copies of which had been circulated), Members discussed potential future names for the land but deferred a decision pending consultation on the choice.

Members were also informed that the Wildlife Trust had agreed to assist by providing advice for the future management and maintenance of the land.

### **89/21 CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT**

The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) containing feedback on the numbers attending and the issues raised by youngsters during the visits by the Connections Bus Project in the summer term. Due to the unavailability of the youth bus during the pandemic, the sessions had been held at Adams Lyons playground but the Project hoped that it would be possible to return to visits by the bus before the darker evenings and colder weather began.

Having discussed the needs of youngsters of different age groups in the village, Members

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the information contained in the report be noted and the situation kept under review after the autumn term; and
- (b) that an invitation to attend the AGM of the Project on 26th October be declined.

## **90/21 TIMEBANK**

Further to Minute Nos. 72/21 and 79/21, a report was submitted by the Clerk (copies of which had been circulated) on the operation of the timebank scheme in Warboys. Members were reminded that the Council had funded and managed the scheme for 5 years with two Co-ordinators having been employed during that time. The post was currently vacant, following the resignation the previous Co-ordinator at the end of August.

Members noted that it had been difficult to obtain clear information about the number of members registered on the scheme and the exchanges that had taken place to enable an assessment to be made of its effectiveness in helping those in need in the village. Although circumstances had proved difficult during the pandemic, Members referred to the amount of help for the vulnerable that had been forthcoming on a voluntary basis by Warboys Unites and other organisations and individuals since the first lockdown had been announced in March 2020.

Having noted that expenditure on the scheme had amounted to just over £8,000 in 2020/21, Members questioned whether, in the absence of definitive information, the scheme was providing value for money and making a unique contribution to the village. Having considered a number of options, Members

### **RESOLVED**

that funding for the Timebank scheme in Warboys be withdrawn and the scheme closed.

## **91/21 OX-CAM ARC**

The Clerk advised Members that the Government had issued a consultation paper on 'Creating a vision for the Oxford-Cambridge Arc' which envisaged substantial growth in the five counties affected over the next 30 years. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Branch of CPRE had issued a briefing paper (copies of which had been circulated), highlighting the impact of the projected growth on the loss of countryside and agricultural land, the adverse impact on biodiversity and climate change, excessive housing targets and increased commuting and dependency on the car.

As further consultation was likely to take place in the future, Members decided not to comment on the current paper as an authority but to leave any response to individuals.

## **92/21 FLOODING**

Members considered an invitation from Cambridgeshire Acre to attend an on-line presentation on 'Future Fens: Understanding and appreciating flood management in the Great Ouse Fens today'. The presentation had been arranged by Cambridgeshire ACRE and would be held on three separate occasions. Members interested in attending were advised that they could either book on line or contact the Clerk who would make the necessary arrangements.

## **93/21 NEW PARISH CENTRE AND STORAGE SHEDS**

Councillor England suggested that it would be advisable to plan for the storage element of the scheme to replace the Parish Centre to be expanded to include garaging for the Council's van. Although the plans had previously been approved by the Council and the planning application submitted, the Chairman advised that the suggestion would be considered by the working party established to progress the development.

## **94/21 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

The Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the arrangements for the Remembrance Sunday service in Warboyn on 14th November 2021. Members were reminded that such events were now regarded by the Royal British Legion as civic occasions and the Police no longer offered support for local parades and road closures. Attendance at the annual service had grown significantly in the years preceding the pandemic, with the Parish Council having to take a leading role in the organisation of the event

The pandemic restrictions had limited the service in 2020 to a low-key occasion with a maximum of 30 being permitted to meet outdoors. As restrictions on outdoor gatherings now had been withdrawn, Members were asked whether they wished to return to the arrangements made in 2019.

Members were of the opinion that the community would expect a return to the pre-pandemic arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and therefore

### **RESOLVED**

that a civic service be held on Remembrance Sunday at the war memorial followed by a parade to the church and the Clerk requested to make the necessary arrangements.

## **95/21 WINTER GRITTING**

Members considered a report (copies of which had been circulated), following receipt of information from the County Council about arrangements for the winter gritting of footways by volunteers in communities.

The Clerk reminded Members that in previous years the Parish Council's Handymen had been registered with the County Council to grit footways on the main streets in the village. The scheme was open for others to volunteer to clear additional footways. The individuals would be insured by the County Council if they registered with them and the footways to be gritted defined in advance.

Members were also reminded that they had resolved previously to fund the treatment of the carriageway in Station Road and Puddock Hill by the County Council's gritting vehicles as primary rather than secondary routes.

### **RESOLVED**

- (a) that the Council's Handymen be registered to undertake the gritting of footways as necessary over the winter period;
- (b) that no change be made to the schedule of footways to be gritted by the Handymen from previous years; and
- (c) that the Parish Council continue to fund the additional gritting of Station Road and Puddock Hill as primary routes by the County Council.

**96/21 CAMBRIDGESHIRE ACRE AGM**

**RESOLVED**

that the Clerk be authorised to represent the Council at the AGM of Cambridgeshire ACRE to be held remotely on 29th September.

**97/21 CPRE CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH AGM**

Members declined an invitation to attend the AGM of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Branch of CPRE to be held remotely on 23th September.

**98/21 OPEN FORUM**

The Clerk reported that no matters had been raised at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council.

**99/21 ACCOUNTS**

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Harlock and seconded by Councillor Dykstra, it was

**RESOLVED**

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
M J Buddle	Salary – August 2021	1,089.32
W E Batterbee	Salary – August 2021	1,089.52
R Edwards	Salary – August 2021	222.40
R Reeves	Salary - August 2021	1,045.58
Mrs N Everett	Salary – August 2021	496.10
HMRC	Tax & NIC – August 2021	1,565.34



R Reeves	Reimbursement – Zoom subscription	14.39
R Reeves	Reimbursement – key cutting	5.00
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – corner brace	3.00
M J Buddle	Reimbursement – weedkiller	20.98
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Replacement fridge	149.00
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Personalised glass	30.47
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Part of retirement gift	20.00
Vodafone	Mobile phone contract (Timebank) (paid by direct debit)	10.28
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	78.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	19.35
Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support – August (paid by direct debit)	140.63
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	60.06
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	5.02
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply – August	5.53
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply – August	4.93
CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd	Grass cutting in March	408.00
CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd	Grass cutting in July	204.00
CGM Group (East Anglia) Ltd	Credit note for grass cutting in July	-102.00
ESPO	Miscellaneous supplies	123.12
ESPO	Stationery	5.58
ESPO	Miscellaneous supplies	133.68
Connections Bus Project	8 sessions, Summer 2021	1,440.00

Finding Fitness Ltd	Children's holiday club	1,800.00
Greenwillows Associates Ltd	Parish Centre – ecological survey	798.00
Greenwillows Associates Ltd	Parish Centre - Nocturnal bat survey	684.00
Cromwell Fire Ltd	Parish Centre – Annual fire appliance tests	88.42
Xerox UK Ltd	Photocopying charges	26.89
Business Services at CAS Ltd	Insurance renewal	3,225.34
Tibbett Architectural Services	Architect's fees for Parish Centre replacement	2,400.00
Planning Portal	Planning application fee – Parish Centre replacement	2,338.00

#### **100/21 BUDGETARY CONTROL**

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

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

Chairman.