

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 10th October 2022 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, P S Potts, Mrs C L Sproats and Mrs A R Wyatt.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Councillor Mrs A E Costello.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors D R A Fabb, S J Green, Ms M L Morrow, A Ntuk, J A Parker, Mrs S J Wilcox and G C M Willis, County Councillor S C Corney and District Councillor Ms C A Lowe.

107/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following a suggestion by the Chairman that Members meet the Council's employees and volunteers socially prior to Christmas, it was agreed that this should take place at 6.30 p.m. on the evening of the Council meeting on 12th December with the Council meeting itself commencing at 7.30 p.m.

108/22 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Ms Gifford, the Minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

109/22 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members in respect of items appearing on the agenda.

110/22 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 26th September 2022:-

(a) Bridleways

Further to Minute No. 81/22(c), the Clerk reported that he had been unable to ascertain whether the Principal Rural Surveyor at the County Council who had been dealing with the proposed creation of a permissive bridleway to link bridleways 17 and 18 had been replaced after his departure from the Council's employment.

(b) Repairs to Lighting Column

Further to Minute No. 81/22(d), the Clerk reported that he was pursuing with the Council's insurers the recovery of the excess paid by the Council to repair the lighting column at the Jubilee Clock Tower which had been damaged in a vehicle collision.

(c) Felling of Tree in Conservation Area

Further to Minute No. 81/22(e), the Clerk reported that no further information had been received from the District Council regarding the action to be taken following the unauthorised felling of a tree in the garden of 32 High Street.

(d) Holiday Sports Club

Further to Minute No. 81/22(f), Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that some of the parents of children at the Primary Academy had attended a meeting recently with Sportskidz who would be providing the out of school care for children with effect from January. The question of holiday clubs had been raised at the meeting when it had been reported that the company offered a different type of provision for children than that funded by the Parish Council with longer hours and higher costs.

Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that the school were aware of the popularity of the Council's scheme with parents which had offered an inexpensive option for parents and involved sports activities. Under the circumstances, it had suggested that if Sportskidz intended to provide a holiday club it might be helpful if this was run at another school locally where they provided out of school care.

(e) Parish Centre – Water Supply

Further to Minute No. 81/22(g), the Clerk reported that reimbursement was awaited from the County Council for the excess water charges incurred as a result of the leak located under the Library car park, together with the cost of engaging specialists to identify the precise location.

(f) Climate and Environment Strategy

Further to Minute No. 81/22(h), Councillor Mrs Sproats advised that she had prepared an outline of the format for the first meeting of those people who had expressed an interest in becoming involved in the implementation of the Council's Climate and Environment Strategy and Action Plan which would be held on 19th October.

She reported that she had also met a representative from the climate group in Pidley which was being helped by the County Council in pursuing climate change initiatives. The Pidley group were considering an event on energy conservation possibly with other villages locally and Members expressed their support for the proposal.

(g) Pond Creation

Further to Minute No. 81/22(i), the Clerk reported that, due to the short elapse of time since the previous meeting, no further progress had been made with regard to the creation of a pond for great crested newts at Onyetts Field with the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust.

(h) Cambridgeshire Local Heritage List

Further to Minute No. 81/22(j), the Clerk reported that he would be arranging a meeting with representatives of the local History Society and Archaeological Group to discuss the identification of potential features in Warboys for inclusion in the Cambridgeshire Local Heritage List.

(i) Bus Services

Further to Minute No. 84/22, the Clerk reported that following the announcement by Stagecoach that local bus services through the village would be withdrawn with effect from 31st October, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority were attempting to find another bus company that would continue to run the services for a limited period with funding available through a Bus Recovery Grant. District Councillor Mrs Costello advised that she had been informed that an announcement would be made by the Combined Authority before the end of the week on the present situation.

(j) Water Levels and Ponds

Further to Minute No. 87/22, the Clerk reported that he would be arranging a meeting of the Onyetts Field working party shortly to discuss the report submitted to the previous meeting of the Council to examine the problems experienced due to the lack of rainfall over the summer period at the ponds for which the Council was responsible.

(k) Pest Control

Further to Minute No. 88/22, the Chairman confirmed that the Council would be investigating potential solutions to the issue of pest control at Onyetts Field.

(l) Replacement Parish Centre

Further to Minute No. 89/22, the Clerk reported that the working party had met since the previous meeting to review progress towards the replacement of the Parish Centre. Structural engineers had been appointed and further quotes were being obtained to engage mechanical and engineering consultants. Working drawings were being prepared for building control and tender purposes.

(m) Remembrance Sunday

Further to Minute No. 91/22, the Clerk reported that good progress was being made to ensure that the Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial on 13th November proceeded satisfactorily.

(n) Flaxen Walk – Litter Bins

Further to Minute No. 92/22, the Clerk reported that he had yet to reply to Muir Housing Group with regard to the installation of a litter bin at Flaxen Walk.

(o) Litter Picking

Further to Minute No. 93/22, Councillor Mrs Wyatt confirmed that the proposed autumn litter pick in the village by volunteers on 15th and 16th October would be organised by the Community Association.

(p) New Reservoirs

Further to Minute No. 98/22, attention was drawn to a recent announcement by Anglian Water that the proposed new reservoir in the Fens would be located to the north of Chatteris between Wimblington and Doddington.

(q) Volunteers

Further to Minute No. 106/22, the Clerk reported that he had yet to progress the decisions taken at the previous meeting of the Council with regard to the classification of volunteers for insurance purposes.

111/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 26th September 2022 be received.

112/22 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk reported that he had received an enquiry from Cambridgeshire Police regarding the theft of catalytic converters in the village during August but that there were no other incidents to report in respect of crime and anti-social behaviour in the Parish since the previous meeting.

113/22 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Mrs Costello reported that she and District Councillor Ms Lowe would be meeting the Case Officer and Conservation Officer later in the week to discuss the planning application to refurbish 66 High Street. She also reported that the County Council

had reached agreement on changes to the procedure for Local Highway Improvement schemes and that the authority were keen to support an extension of 20 mph zones in urban areas.

114/22 HUNTINGDONSHIRE TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Members were informed that the draft Huntingdonshire Transport Strategy had been published for consultation purposes and was available to view on the County Council's website. The strategy promoted the use of public transport and active travel by foot and cycle and contained proposals for a number of major initiatives including a northern bypass of Huntingdon and St Ives and road improvements in the market towns in the District. The only reference to Warboys was the installation of Real Time Information displays at bus stops in Mill Green, although a map of proposed improvements in the District included in the Strategy appeared to show a cycle/footpath improvement scheme in Warboys.

The Clerk pointed out that much of the funding for the proposals would be generated by the housing development taking place in Huntingdonshire and that experience recently had shown that progress in developing better footpath links locally had been slow.

The Chairman reminded Members that a link to the survey had been circulated to Members and could be completed individually.

115/22 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Clerk submitted a schedule of the changes to the Local Highway Improvement scheme (copies of which had been circulated) which had been agreed by the County Council following an internal review.

Members were informed that future applications would be assessed as either non-complex such as parking restrictions, street lighting, speed limits, traffic calming involving lines and signs and mobile vehicle activated signs or complex such as physical traffic calming measures and improvement work comprising raised features, central islands, priority chicanes, pedestrian crossings and foot/cycle paths. The maximum contribution that the County Council would make towards non-complex and complex schemes would be £10,000 and £25,000 respectively. Parish councils would continue to be limited to one application per annum, with a community group permitted to make one additional application per parish. Applicants would also be required to demonstrate that they had undertaken consultation with local stakeholders and had their support when submitting an application.

The Clerk reported that the application process for bids for 2023/24 would open at the end of the month with a closing date of 6th January. As a result, an item would be included on the agenda for the next meeting to discuss the possible submission of an application for highway improvements in Warboys.

116/22 SOCIAL MEDIA/COMMUNICATIONS

Councillor Mrs Sproats was of the opinion that the Council should do more to publicise its actions on social media as many people in the village relied upon this as their source of information. Although the Council currently published articles and notices by more traditional means in the press, Warboys Diary, website and notice boards, Councillor Mrs Sproats felt that opportunities to promote and advertise the Council in a favourable way on social media were being neglected.

It was therefore agreed that Councillors Mrs Sproats and Ms Gifford who were the persons authorised to post on the Council's Facebook account be requested to report back on suggested guidelines for the future use of Facebook.

117/22 OAK TREE

Councillor England reminded Members that he had been able to make arrangements with a resident of the village to supply an oak tree free of charge to be planted at Onyetts Field to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June. As the season for planting was approaching, Councillor England enquired when the Council wished to arrange for the tree to be delivered and planted.

In the ensuing discussion, Members were reminded that Onyetts Field had been chosen as the location for the tree as trees planted in public places in more central locations in the village rarely survived and that the Wildlife Trust had suggested that the presence of an existing oak at Onyetts Field suggested that the ground there was suitable for this species.

Councillor England reported that he might be able to obtain further oaks of a smaller size which could be planted at Onyetts Field which could form part of the Queen's Green Canopy and in memory of the Queen following her subsequent death in September.

RESOLVED

that the Clerk be requested to liaise with Councillor England to make the necessary arrangements for the trees to be planted.

118/22 WARM SPACES INITIATIVE

The Clerk drew attention to an initiative by the District Council to promote Warm Spaces for residents within local communities in response to the energy crisis. (A copy of information explaining the initiative had been circulated to Members.) The District Council hoped to create a programme of community activities and opportunities over the forthcoming winter period to provide venues for people to gather in a warm and welcoming environment and enable them to access support.

Members noted that several occasions already existed on a regular basis where the community could meet in Warboys including coffee mornings, lunches and clubs at the Parish Centre, Library and churches. The Clerk reported that he would notify the District Council of the opportunities locally.

119/22 LANDFILL SITE

Councillor England and the Clerk reported on matters raised at a meeting of the Landfill Liaison Group that they had attended on 4th October.

It was anticipated that restoration of the landfill site would finally be completed by the end of December which would enable the planning permission for the extension of time for completion to be issued. With regard to the outstanding application for a variation of the planning permission for the Materials Recycling Facility at the landfill site to enable the crushing of hardcore outdoors, the County Council had decided to commission an independent noise assessment before determining the application.

Members were also informed that a presentation had been made at the meeting by a company and their agents who intended to apply for planning permission for a Refuse Derived Fuel plant on land adjoining the landfill site where the previous approval for combined heat and power and waste water treatment plants had now lapsed. The proposal would entail the burning of 87,000 tons of waste per annum that would otherwise have been sent to landfill or exported. The material would be transported to the site involving about 30 vehicle movements per day and the electricity generated would be 7.6 megawatts which would be sufficient to power 4,000 homes.

The Clerk reported that the meeting had been informed that a planning application was imminent but in response to concerns raised by attendees from the village, the developers were considering whether to hold an exhibition to inform the public about the proposal before the application was submitted.

As the application for the CHP and waste water treatment plants had generated considerable opposition, it was anticipated that the proposed RDF plant might be similarly unpopular locally. Representatives of the Warboys Landfill Action Group were in attendance at the Council meeting and they drew attention to the currently depleted size of the group compared with the time when they had played an active role in opposing the disposal of hazardous waste at the landfill site. In considering the planning application for the RDF plant, Members agreed to continue to work with the Action Group in the same way as the responses to the applications for the landfill site itself and the CHP and waste water treatment plants.

120/22 OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE

Further to Minute No. 85/22, the Clerk submitted a revised version of Operation London Bridge which had been amended in the light of the events following the death of Her Majesty The Queen in September. The protocol would be used to assist in the local arrangements to respond locally to the death of an important national figure.

RESOLVED

that the revised version of the document be approved.

121/22 OPEN FORUM

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

122/22 ACCOUNTS

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

RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
W E Batterbee	Salary – September 2022	1,189.94
D A Warwick	Salary – September 2022	1,257.09
R Edwards	Salary – September 2022	351.20
R Reeves	Salary - September 2022	1,063.66
HMRC	Tax & NIC – September 2022	1,526.21
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Zoom subscription	14.39
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Ink cartridge	35.99
R Martin	Half year Clockwinder’s fee	130.00
Mrs I Hansell	Half year Internal Auditor’s fee	50.00
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	78.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	39.49
Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support (paid by direct debit)	120.36
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	94.09
Allstar	Fuel card fee (paid by direct debit)	1.80
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply (September)	5.67
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply (September)	5.00

ESPO	Miscellaneous supplies	208.58
Cromwell Fire Ltd.	Service of fire extinguishers, etc.	160.89
Community Action Suffolk	Insurance policy premium	4,454.41
Royal British Legion	Poppy wreath	40.00
Magpas	Grant	100.00
Ramsey Builders Merchants	Miscellaneous supplies	45.00
Ivan Barrett	Miscellaneous supplies	38.54
S Yardy	Return of allotment deposit	25.00

123/22 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for September 2022, together with the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month and the budgetary control report for the second quarter of the year, copies of which had been circulated to all Members.

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

Chairman.