

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 14th November 2022 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

PRESENT

Councillor Dr S C Withams, Chairman.

Councillors Mrs J M Cole, R J Dykstra, D W England, D R A Fabb, Ms L A Gifford, Ms M L Morrow, A Ntuk, J A Parker, P S Potts, Mrs C L Sproats, G C M Willis and Mrs A R Wyatt.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillor S J Green, County Councillor S C Corney and District Councillors Ms C A Lowe and Mrs A E Costello.

124/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman thanked everyone involved in helping to arrange the Remembrance Sunday service on 13th November which had again been well attended.

The Chairman also reminded Members that there would be an informal reception for Members to meet the Council's employees and volunteers socially prior to Christmas which would be held at 6.30 p.m. prior to the start of the Council meeting on 12th December which itself would now commence at 7.30 p.m.

125/22 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Mrs Wyatt and seconded by Councillor Dykstra, the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

126/22 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

127/22 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 10th October 2022:-

(a) Bridleways

Further to Minute No. 110/22(a), the Clerk reported that he had been able to contact a member of staff at the County Council to try to progress the proposed creation of a permissive bridleway to link bridleways 17 and 18.

(b) Repairs to Lighting Column

Further to Minute No. 110/22(b), the Clerk reported that he was awaiting a response from the Council's insurers with regard to 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.

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

(c) Parish Centre – Water Supply

Further to Minute No.110/22(e), 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.

(d) Pond Creation

Further to Minute No. 110/22(g), the Clerk reported that he had met Councillor England on site to agree an alternative location for the proposed creation of a pond for great crested newts at Onyetts Field and that he would now progress the matter with the Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust.

(e) Cambridgeshire Local Heritage List

Further to Minute No. 110/22(h), the Clerk reported that a meeting had been held 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. A number of properties and locations had been identified but information had subsequently been received that the District Council had withdrawn from the scheme and would no longer be assessing submissions that had been made for Huntingdonshire.

The Clerk reported that he would continue with the submissions, but not as a matter of priority, in the hope that the District Council would participate in the scheme again in the future.

(f) Water Levels and Ponds

Further to Minute No. 100/22(j), the Clerk reported that a meeting of the Onyetts Field working party would be taking place later in the week 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.

(g) Flaxen Walk – Litter Bins

Further to Minute No. 110/22(n), the Clerk reported that the litter bin to be installed at Flaxen Walk had been delivered and that he was in contact with Muir Housing Group for them to reimburse the Council with the cost of installation.

(h) Social Media/Communications

Further to Minute No. 116/22, the Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that she would be submitting a report to a future meeting on suggested guidelines for the use of Facebook.

(i) Oak Tree

Further to Minute No. 117/22, Councillor England reported that he had now received from a local businessman the commemorative oak to be planted in memory of the Queen at Onyetts Field. A location had been agreed and Members were informed that arrangements would be made for an official planting of the tree. A letter of thanks would be sent by the Clerk to the businessman in question.

128/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 10th October 2022 be received.

129/22 ALLOTMENTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Allotments Committee held on 7th November 2022 be received.

130/22 LEISURE AREAS COMMITTEE

In submitting the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee held on 7th November 2022, the Clerk reported that the chimes that had been installed recently to replace the previously vandalised equipment had now itself been the subject of an act of vandalism. A piece of the equipment had been broken off the frame which the Handymen would try to repair.

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Areas Committee held on 7th November 2022 be received.

131/22 POLICE REPORT

The Clerk reported that the Police would be holding an on-line engagement meeting on 6th December for the Huntingdon and Ramsey area at which a presentation would be given on recent policing activity and there would be an opportunity for residents to influence police actions in the coming months. Details of the meeting had been circulated to Members.

132/22 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

All of the County and District Councillors had submitted their apologies for the meeting and the Clerk reported that they had indicated that there was nothing specific to bring to the attention of the Council from their respective authorities.

133/22 CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT

Further to Minute No. 110/22(f), Councillor Mrs Sproats submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated to all Members) containing an update from the Climate and Environment Community Liaison Group arising from the meeting on 19th October 2022 which had been attended by 10 members of the public.

Members were informed that a number of short, medium and long-term actions had been identified which had been summarised in the report. It was intended to hold bi-monthly meetings with those members of the public interested in progressing climate and environmental issues in the village, with the liaison group meeting in the intervening months.

Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that she had attended a meeting of the Community Association to explain the actions being taken by the Council and that the Association had indicated that they were keen to support the initiatives being taken. The Primary Academy had also expressed an interest in becoming involved and Councillor Mrs Sproats advised that she had been invited to visit the school to talk to the children on the subject.

134/22 COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Councillor Mrs Wyatt provided information on the issues raised at a meeting of the Community Association held on 24th October 2022.

The Rotary Christmas float would be travelling around the village from 5th to 8th December. The litter pick organised by the Association in October had been successful and a further litter pick would be organised in April 2023. The May Day event would take place on 1st May and member organisations had been asked to consider events that they could hold as part of Feast Week in 2023.

135/22 LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

Further to Minute No. 115/22, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) with regard to Local Highway Improvement schemes

Members were informed that detailed plans had been received from one of the County Council's Highways Engineers in respect of the scheme approved for the current year to improve access to Onyetts Field across the A141. The plans met the original suggestions submitted by the Parish Council to improve safety at the crossing point with the exception of handrails on the track on the western approach to the road. The Highways Engineer had stated that there had been concerns that the foundations for the handrails might affect the roots of adjoining trees but Members accepted that the trees on the southern edge of the track were poor specimens of little merit.

The report also contained details of the criteria for the submission of highway schemes under the LHI programme for 2023/24 and summarised all of the highways issues that had been considered by the Council over the previous 18 months. The Clerk advised that there had been few complaints from members of the public about highways and traffic in the past year and that whatever measures were taken, it was unlikely to eradicate irresponsible and poor driving habits.

As County transport plans were attempting to focus on active travel initiatives such as walking and cycling, Members suggested that a suitable scheme for submission would be the installation of a footway on Puddock Hill which had been requested previously by horse riders.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the scheme plans received in respect of the A141 crossing to Onyetts Field be accepted but the Highways Engineer requested to incorporate a handrail on the southern side of the track between Wilthorne and the A141 itself; and
- (b) that the Clerk be requested to submit a bid under the LHI programme for the creation of a footway on the northern side of Puddock Hill.

136/22 LANDFILL SITE

Further to Minute No. 119/22, the notes of the meeting of the Landfill Liaison Group held on 4th October were received (copies of which had been circulated). An updated version of the notes had been circulated to Members after the despatch of the agenda.

Members also were informed that the public exhibition into the plans for a refuse derived fuel plant at the landfill site would be held at the Parish Centre on 16th November.

137/22 PROPOSED NEW RESERVOIR

Further to Minute No. 110/22(p), Members were informed that Anglian Water had now published the locations of the two new reservoirs that they were proposing to build in Lincolnshire and the Fens. The proposed site of the latter bordered the Chatteris northern bypass and was therefore close to the boundary with the Parish of Warboys.

Anglian Water had invited comments on the proposals and Councillor England pointed out that this would involve the loss of grade 1 agricultural land and require the importation of substantial quantities of clay to line the new reservoir.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that the above comments be drawn to the attention of Anglian Water and an explanation sought as the reasons for Chatteris being the preferred location for the new reservoir.

138/22 MAKING CONNECTIONS 2022 CONSULTATION

Further to Minute No 110/22(i), the Clerk reported that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority had agreed to subsidise the bus routes recently withdrawn by Stagecoach until the end of March 2023 and that the services through Warboys were now being operated by Dews Coaches.

Members' attention also was drawn to a consultation exercise which had opened in respect of Making Connections 2022 which had been issued by Greater Cambridge Partnership. In addition to a proposed congestion charge of £5 for vehicles entering the city on weekdays, the document proposed a radical change to the bus network with more frequent buses and a flat fee for travel of £1 in the city and £2 for the surrounding area which appeared to include journeys as far as Ramsey.

Members remarked on the fact that the low passenger numbers on buses travelling through Warboys was partly due to the lack of frequency of the service to and from neighbouring towns which dissuaded travel and that if a modal shift from cars to buses were to be made, this would be dependant on frequent, reliable and affordable bus services.

RESOLVED

that the Great Cambridge Partnership be informed that the Council supports the proposal for changes to the bus network as outlined in the document.

139/22 REPLACEMENT PARISH CENTRE

Further to Minute No. 110/22(l), the Clerk reported that the working party would be meeting the Architect later in the month to discuss the issues raised in a number of recent e-mails with regard to the replacement of the Parish Centre.

Members were also informed of an approach from an officer from the County Council's Strategic Assets team with regard to the former Youthie building. The officer had advised that the building was now causing damage to the rear of the library and that, as they had no use for it and the cost of repair would be prohibitive, the County Council proposed to demolish the Youthie building. Members were reminded that the Parish Council had had prolonged negotiations with the County Council about the possibility of acquiring the building for use as a community hub but the lease terms offered by the County Council had

always been unacceptable. A previous planning application to demolish the building had been refused by the District Council having regard to its potential community use and its local heritage interest.

The Clerk reported that he would try to meet the County Council's officer to discover more about the proposal and would report back.

140/22 HANGING BASKETS

The Clerk reminded Members that, some years previously, the Council had agreed to install hanging baskets on a number of commercial premises in the village as a way of trying to attract more business for those shops. The baskets had been planted at the Council's expense in subsequent years and were maintained and watered by the handymen.

Two of the baskets were located at the former hardware store which had closed earlier in the year and was now the subject of an outstanding planning application to convert the shop into part of the adjoining private dwelling. The Clerk reported that a member of the public had enquired whether the baskets should now be removed but Members accepted that there were few viable alternatives and that the baskets were situated in a prominent position in the village. The current owners of the premises had no objection to them continuing to be located in their current position.

RESOLVED

that the hanging baskets continue to be located at the former hardware premises.

141/22 INVITATION TO ATTEND EVENTS

Members declined invitations to be represented at the following meetings/events –

- (a) Citizens Advice Rural Cambs AGM at Chatteris on 30th November;
- (b) Rural Crime Round Table hosted by the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner at Pidley on 30th November; and.
- (c) Mayor of March's Carol Service 18th December..

142/22 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 – October 2022	1,098.12

D A Warwick	Salary – October 2022	1,182.27
R Edwards	Salary – October 2022	334.40
R Reeves	Salary - October 2022	1,063.66
HMRC	Tax & NIC – October 2022	1,427.57
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Zoom subscription	14.39
R Reeves	Mileage claim	43.20
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	78.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	160.02
Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support (paid by direct debit)	83.00
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	108.88
Allstar	Fuel card fee (paid by direct debit)	1.80
Source for Business	Water rates – Hallgate allotments	25.58
Source for Business	Water rates – Parish Centre, etc.	629.06
(No payment required as account is in credit due to excess sewerage charge. Account is now £490.90 in credit.)		
Connections Bus Project	7 sessions - September/October	2,037.00
Cranbrook Plants	Winter bedding plants	216.00
Glasdon (UK) Ltd	Litter bin	388.10
R Durrant	Expenses – Remembrance Sunday bugler	20.00
K Watson	Refund of allotment deposit	25.00
Impie Ltd	Personal protective clothing	118.80

143/22 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for October 2022, 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.