

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 9th January 2023 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, 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 Councillors Ms M L Morrow and Mrs S C Wilcox and District Councillors Ms C A Lowe and Mrs A E Costello.

170/22 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

After wishing Members a Happy New Year, the Chairman reported the news that Councillor Mrs Wilcox had given birth to a daughter on New Year's Day. A card was circulated for Members to sign to extend their congratulations.

171/22 MINUTES

Upon being moved and seconded, the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th December 2022 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

172/22 RESIGNATION

The Chairman reported the resignation of Mr S J Green from the Council and the Clerk explained the procedure whereby the vacancy would need to be advertised. In the event of 10 residents asking for an election to be held, a further notice would invite nominations for election. If more than one person was nominated, a contested election would take place at a cost of in the region of £4,000. In the event of the necessary number of people not asking for an election, the Council would be able to co-opt to fill the vacancy.

The Chairman reported that Mr Green had offered to continue as Speedwatch Co-ordinator and had asked if he could retain the Council's Speedwatch equipment at his home while he remained in that position.

RESOLVED

- (a) that the necessary arrangements be made to advertise the vacancy;
- (b) that Mr Green be permitted to retain possession of the Speedwatch equipment while he remained as the Co-ordinator of the Warboys team of volunteers; and

- (c) that Councillor Ms Gifford be appointed to the Onyetts Field Working Party.

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

173/22 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

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

174/22 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 12th December 2022:-

(a) Bridleways

Further to Minute No. 148/22(a), the Clerk reported that he was still awaiting a reply from the County Council's Rural Asset Manager with regard to the proposed creation of a permissive bridleway to link bridleways 17 and 18.

(b) Repairs to Lighting Column

Further to Minute No. 148/22(b), the Chairman reported on problems with the four lighting columns at the Clock Tower not working after Christmas. Although these had now been repaired, a number of the uplighters under the tower now were not working.

(c) Parish Centre – Water Supply

Further to Minute No.148/22(c), the Clerk reported that the County Council had now reimbursed the Parish Council in full for the excess charges incurred as a result of the water leak located under the Library car park, together with the cost of engaging specialists to identify its precise location.

(d) Climate and Environment Strategy

Further to Minute No. 148/22(f), Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that children at the Primary Academy had been designing recycling posters and that the winning designs had been laminated and posted on the notice boards, together with a poster that she and Councillor Ms Gifford had designed containing information on recycling points for smaller hard-to-recycle items.

Dates had also been fixed for bi-monthly meetings of the individuals interested in supporting climate and environment initiatives in the village, the first of which would be held on 16th January.

(e) Local Highway Improvement Scheme

Further to Minute No, 149/22, Members were informed that an application had been submitted under the Local Highway Improvement programme for 2023/24 for the

creation of a footway and 40 mph speed limit on Puddock Hill. The Clerk also reported that there had been no further progress on the implementation of the scheme approved for the current year to improve safety on the A141 crossing to Onyetts Field.

(f) Onyetts Field

Further to Minute No. 152/22, Members were informed that the oak tree donated by Mr A Swannell had been planted at Onyetts Field and that both the oak and the hedgerow planted by the Handymen with help from volunteers had been registered with the Queen's Green Canopy. An additional oak tree had been offered for planting by a resident of the Parish and further oaks were to be donated by Councillor England.

With regard to the creation of a newt pond on part of Hallgate Allotments, the Clerk reported that he had e-mailed the tenant of the land but was awaiting a reply.

(g) Onyetts Field – Byelaws

Further to Minute No. 153/22, the Clerk advised that the Onyetts Field Working Party had met to adapt the model byelaws for open spaces for application to Onyetts Field and that a report containing the draft byelaws would be submitted to the next meeting for approval for public consultation purposes.

(h) The Weir

Further to Minute No. 154/22, Councillor Mrs Cole reported that she had been unable to obtain a response from the Environment Agency to a request to assist in the relocation of some of the fish in The Weir which was considered necessary in the event of a further dry summer similar to 2022. Under the circumstances, Councillor Mrs Cole reported that she had contacted a person who had removed fish from the pond in 2017 and who had offered to remove the larger fish again at a cost of £540.

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that subject to the receipt of a formal offer from the person concerned, the Clerk be authorised to accept the quotation after consultation with the Chairman and Councillor Mrs Cole.

(i) Parish Centre – Ventilation Monitors

Further to Minute No. 157/22, the Clerk reported that the Day Centre were waiting for further information from the County Council with regard to the supply and installation of ventilation monitors at the Parish Centre.

(j) Adams Lyons Playground

Further to Minute No. 160/22, the Clerk reported that he was awaiting an amended quotation from one of the two play equipment providers with regard to the installation of safety surfacing at Adams Lyons playground. Further liaison was taking place with the contractor who had installed the sleeper wall adjoining the mound which now appeared to be moving slightly.

(k) Parish Centre Charges

Further to Minute No. 165/22, the Clerk informed Members that of the outcome of a discussion with a member of staff over the implications of the timing of the increase in charges for the hire of the Parish Centre.

175/22 PLANNING COMMITTEE

RESOLVED

that the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 12th December 2022 be received.

176/22 POLICE REPORT

Members were reminded that an invitation from the Police and Crime Commissioner to comment on the proposed precept increase for Cambridgeshire Constabulary for 2023/24 had been circulated.

The Clerk also reported on an approach from a Police Officer who had enquired whether the Council would be prepared to install a planter in front of the ATM at the SPAR store to deter ramraids by criminals intent on stealing the machine. The Police had received an offer of compost and plants from a local garden centre but the Council would be expected to maintain the planter in future. Bearing in mind the size of the equipment used to steal the ATM in 2021, Members considered it unlikely that a planter, however large, would act as a deterrent. It was therefore

RESOLVED

that no further action be taken.

177/22 REPORTS BY COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

County Councillor Corney reported on a number of issues of interest with regard to other tiers of local government within the County, including a consultation by the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority on the potential levying of a precept for the first time, the Cambridge congestion charge, local bus services, problems caused by an Environment Agency decision that soft furnishings had to be incinerated as opposed to being disposed of by landfill, the lack of funding to repair potholes and the expected percentage precept increases being proposed by the County and District Councils.

178/22 CONNECTIONS BUS PROJECT

Further to Minute No. 155/22, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) on the place of residence of youngsters attending sessions provided by the Connections Bus Project in Warboys on Friday evenings. This had followed concerns raised by a Member at the previous meeting that many youngsters who did not live in the Parish of Warboys were attending the sessions.

The report contained statistics for the autumn term which showed that 62 of the 99 individuals who had attended during the term were residents of Warboys, with the largest number from elsewhere being 20 from Ramsey and 6 from Bury. However, few of those who lived outside Warboys were regular attenders with only 3 having attended more than 4 times and 23 attending no more than twice. It was thought likely that many of those attending from outside the Parish were visiting friends in the village and that if they were excluded, the youngsters from Warboys also would be unlikely to attend.

Members were of the opinion that there was no need to exclude non-Warboys residents from attending, nor ask the town or parish councils concerned to contribute towards the cost in view of the limited numbers involved

RESOLVED

that the report be received and no further action taken.

179/22 PARISH CENTRE – ENERGY COSTS

Further to Minute No. 165/22, the Clerk submitted a report (copies of which had been circulated) with regard to the supply of electricity and gas at the Parish Centre, the current three year contracts for which would expire in February and March respectively. Quotations for new contracts had been obtained from a number of energy companies and from ESPO, details of which were contained in the report. Members had already been informed of the substantial increase in prices at the previous meeting.

The Clerk explained that as the companies had all quoted different day/night, weekday/weekend and evenings and weekends/weekday rates for electricity on a one year contract, it was difficult to make accurate comparisons between the prices quoted. With regard to the ESPO rates, these would only apply for a limited number of months, after which they would be re-negotiated and potentially increase. Moreover, the high standing daily charge for gas would mean that a large monthly bill would be incurred in the summer months when gas consumption would be minimal.

Having considered the quotations received, it was

RESOLVED

that a one year fixed price contract be entered into with E.ON for the supply of electricity and gas to the Parish Centre.

180/22 REPLACEMENT PARISH CENTRE

Further to Minute No. 158/22, a report (copies of which had been circulated) was submitted by the Clerk summarising the discussions at a meeting of the Working Party with the Architect to discuss the replacement Parish Centre. The Clerk also reported on quotations received for the supply of mechanical and engineering consultancy services.

Councillor Fabb advised that he had obtained an indicative scheme cost from a local Quantity Surveyor which suggested that the overall cost would be significantly higher than anticipated and it was suggested that quotations be invited for the purpose of formally engaging a Quantity Surveyor to provide an estimate of the scheme cost.

Under the circumstances, the Clerk was requested to liaise with Councillor Fabb to consider the information that he had obtained.

181/22 CORONATION

Further to Minute No. 162/22, Members were invited to consider the possibility of local events to celebrate the coronation of King Charles III on 6th May 2023. A number of suggestions were made by Members, including a commemorative bench around the recently planted oak at Onyetts Field and a concert. As commemorate gifts had been traditionally been given to school children on the occasion of previous coronations, Councillor Parker undertook to establish the number on roll at the Primary Academy and to enquire whether the school intended to celebrate the event in any way.

Members agreed to defer further consideration until the next meeting.

182/22 OPEN FORUM

The Clerk reported that the only matter raised at the Open Forum following the previous meeting of the Council had related to the future of the former Youthie building and that he was trying to arrange a meeting with the County Council to discuss the situation.

183/22 ACCOUNTS

In submitting the accounts for payment, the Clerk advised that the annual fuel card fee submitted by Allstar referred to cards that were out of date and that the Council would be reimbursed with the amount. In addition, discussions were ongoing with Chess ICT Ltd over discrepancies in their month invoice.

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

RESOLVED

that the following accounts be approved:-

		£
W E Batterbee	Salary – December 2022	1,253.84

D A Warwick	Salary – December 2022	1,317.48
R Edwards	Salary – December 2022	325.60
R Reeves	Salary - December 2022	2,326.12
HMRC	Tax & NIC – December 2022	2,682.97
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Zoom subscription	14.39
R Reeves	Reimbursement – Mileage claim	55.35
E.ON	Electricity supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	78.00
E.ON	Gas supply - Parish Centre (paid by direct debit)	233.56
Chess ICT Ltd.	IT support (paid by direct debit)	106.08
Allstar	Fuel (paid by direct debit)	103.08
Allstar	Monthly fuel card fee (paid by direct debit)	1.80
Allstar	Annual fuel card fee (paid by direct debit)	16.80
Total Gas & Power	UMS 1 street lighting electricity supply (December)	7.65
Total Gas & Power	UMS 3 street lighting electricity supply (December)	6.59
Warboys Community Association	Grant for Warboys Diary	300.00
Gawn Associates	Parish Centre replacement – structural engineering consultancy	6,000.00
Tibbett Architectural Services	Parish Centre replacement – architects fees	3,675.00
G H Bullard & Associates	Professional fees for Parish Centre drainage design	2,488.80
Connections Bus Project	4 visits November – December 2022	1,164.00
Amosite Ltd	Annual asbestos survey of Parish Centre	114.00
Ivan Barrett	Miscellaneous supplies	140.42

184/22 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for December 2022, together with the list of Parish Centre bookings for that month and the budgetary control statement for the third quarter of the year, copies of which had been circulated.

185/22 ADDITIONAL ITEMS

The Chairman indicated that she was prepared to admit the following items for consideration at the meeting as the relevant information had not materialised until after the despatch of the agenda.

186/22 JUBILEE CLOCK

The Clerk reported that the clock at the Jubilee Clock Tower had stopped working over the previous weekend and that Smith of Derby with whom the Council had a maintenance contract had been contacted to obtain a quotation for its repair. The Clockwinder had established that the problem appeared to be a broken pendulum spring and Councillor Fabb suggested that a local company might be able to manufacture a replacement at a lower cost.

Under the circumstances, it was

RESOLVED

that enquiries be made to establish whether a replacement spring could be obtained locally and, if not, that Smith of Derby be engaged to carry out the necessary repair.

187/22 HOLIDAY SPORTS CLUB

Further to Minute No. 110/22(d), the Chairman reported that Finding Fitness who had provided a sports holiday club for the Council at the Primary Academy for the past two years had advised that they no longer would be running clubs during school holidays.

Members were reminded that Councillor Parker had advised previously that out-of-school activities at the academy would be provided in future by Smartkidz and that it was anticipated that a decision would be made at the beginning of the year as to the extent of any activities that would be operated by them at Warboys. Under the circumstances, Councillor Parker undertook to ascertain whether a decision had yet been reached which would then enable the Council to consider whether to fund holiday activities in the village in the summer.

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

Chairman.

