

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 14th August 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 Land, Mrs M L Collins (formerly Ms M L Morrow), A Ntuk, J A Parker, 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 Mrs A E Costello

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of County Councillor S J Corney and District Councillor Ms C A Lowe.

75/23 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor P S Potts and seconded by Councillor R J Dykstra, the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th August 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

76/23 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor England declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Minute Nos.30/23 (a) Damage to Fencing – Pathfinder Way and Onyetts field as he farms the adjoining land.

77/23 WELCOME – CLERKS AND CLERKS REPORT

Attached as an addendum.

78/23 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 10th July 2023:-

(a) Bridleways

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (a) Councillor P S Potts raised concerns over misreporting in Warboys Diary (Aug-Sept 2023 Edition) that the Bridleways 17 and 18 along New Barn Drove for foot and horse riders had been implemented. Clerk and Chair to form Statement for upcoming Ramsey Informer, also to be shared on Warboys Parish Council social media to inform Public actioned by Councillors Ms Gifford and Mrs Sproats. Actions to be taken by Chair, Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

(b) Repairs to Lighting Columns

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (b), the Clerk reported that the timers have been installed to the lighting columns on the Jubilee Clock Tower, the bill received from Balfour Beatty.

RESOLVED

More investigation required for fixing High Street lights at Kims and additional timers at Mill Green. Clerks to update at next meeting.

(c) Climate Change and Environment Group

Further to minute No. 30/23 (c), Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that the Meeting of Climate and Environment Community Liaison Group was held on 17th July. Members were informed that it involved information sharing and volunteers were put forward for training on the new thermal imaging cameras. Along with proposal for repurposing a previously held Council Facebook page for Greener Futures to become the new Climate and Environment Community page. Members voted in agreement for the change to go ahead. Meeting date to be set for lead of the working group (Cllr C. Sproats) to meet with new Clerk J. Drummond to establish strategies.

(d) Local Highways Improvements Bid

Arising from Minute No. 30/23 (d) The Chair confirmed to the Members that the bid to the County Council for 40 mph buffer zone along Station road and Puddock road including gateways has been successful. Clerks to follow up to ensure implementation.

RESOLVED

Clerks to prepare for next round of LHI funding by revisiting previous traffic management survey for A141 (Minute No.30/23 (e)) and Ramsey Road following residents raising concerns in the past.

(e) Onyetts Field - Byelaws

Arising from minute No. 30/23 (e) The Chair invited members of the public to speak, echoing Members concerns over the safety of the crossing of A141 from Wilthorne to Onyetts Field. The Chair explained the history to Members and Public that Highways had not approved our speed reduction bid. However, erection of pedestrian crossing signs for drivers and cutting back road side hedges had been approved; however, yet to be implemented.

Councillor England informed hedgerow can be cut back from 1st September suggesting follow up with Highways/County Council to implement the improvements to improve visibility for drivers and pedestrians. The Clerks will collect further evidence regarding issues and contact highways.

Councillor J Land raised with the members that he amended byelaws for Onyetts Field and sent to previous Clerk, no further progress had been made since previous meeting. Current Clerks to liaise with Councillor Land to review Onyetts Field Byelaws.

Councillor Ntuk arrived at the meeting during the discussion of the above item (45 mins into meeting).

(f) Vibrant Communities Fund

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (f) Councillor A Wyatts confirmed £2,000 had been received from District Council for expenditure incurred on events during Feast week.

RESOLVED

No further action required.

(g) Former Youthie Premises

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (g) no progress has been made. Clerks to follow up with the County Council's Asset Review Manager for an update regarding leasing of the former Youthie building to Parish Council for storage purposes as an alternative to demolition of the building.

(h) Christmas Lighting

Arising from Minute No. 30/23 (h) the Clerk advised she will attend the next meeting along with Councillor L Gifford for the Christmas Lighting Group on 23rd August. They aim to discuss implementation of the decisions of the Council to assist the Group with arrangements for the lighting display later in the year. An update is also required as they are awaiting feedback on the issue of volunteers and whether the Council's insurance covers them.

(i) No Mow May

Arising from Minute No. 30/23 (j) Clerks advise that no progress has been made and they will follow up with the District Council raising Members' concerns over No Mow May to ensure highway safety is paramount in future years.

79/23 COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

Minutes received of the Planning Committee held on 10th July 2023 were confirmed as correct.

80/23 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Ms. A Costello informed the members of the following:

- HDC Dog control license runs out in October, with consultations going ahead.
- The New Council Tax Support scheme is going from 80% to 100% in consultation.
- General Public's dissatisfaction with proposed green tax implementation as there was no consultation.
- Potential striking of refuge workers 21st-25th Aug, however HDC have made arrangements to minimise disruption to the Public.

Several Council Members raised concerns over the green tax proposal due to potential issues with lack of provision for food waste disposal. District Councillor A. Costello noted Members concerns.

District Councillor Ms. A Costello left the meeting after her report.

81/23 POLICE REPORT

Further to Minute No. 57/23 the Clerk informs Members that no progress has been made in fixing the damaged bench in Ramsey Road near the junction with Jubilee Avenue as the result of a traffic collision on 8th July. Clerks to follow up on progress with Council's Insurers.

The Clerk reported that there had been an increase in moped thefts in the local area and provided the Police advice to minimise opportunities to thieves.

Councillor D R Fabb, raised concerns about vandalism at the pond close to Pinglewood with saplings pulled up, fish killed and general damage. He did advise Members that the Police had been out to follow up.

Councillor Mrs Collins informed the Council that following a recent informal conversation with an Officer, that local Police were aware that more presence in the Village and surrounding areas was required.

82/23 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMPLAINT

Further to Minute No. 35/23 the Chair informed Council Members that there was no update. Clerks to have discussions with the previous Clerk, to be planned for progress report on the District Council's failure to answer questions raised by the Parish Council in respect of the land in their ownership which they proposed to sell for the development of affordable homes at Station Road.

83/23 FEAST WEEK BAND CONCERT

Further to Minute No 38/23 the Members were informed by Councillor Potts the concert took place and Councillor Potts thanked by members.

84/23 ONYETTS FIELD

Further to Minute No. 30/23(i) and 08/23(i) of the Leisure Areas Committee, the Clerk reported that payment from Red Tile Wind Farm Trust Fund Ltd had been received, still awaiting the invoice from Mid Level Commissioners for materials to strengthen the bank sides of the pond at Onyetts Field.

Arising from Minute No. 61/23 (b) Councillor Fabb informed the Members he will replace the vandalised bridge at Onyett's field offering a donation.

RESOLVED

- (a) that Councillors England and Fabb had undertaken work to strengthen the bank sides.
- (b) that Councillor Fabb will complete works on bridge and Councillor Fabb thanked for undertaking work without charge.

85/23 DAMAGE TO FENCING – PATHFINDER WAY OPEN SPACES

(Councillor England declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in the following matter as he was a trustee of the Sports Field. He left the room for the duration of the discussion and voting thereon)

Further to Minute No. 62/23

The Chair informed Members that following discussions with the Clerk and further investigations; the damaged fence panel being on the boundary of Sports field / Council / residents owned land it would be beneficial to the relationship with the Sports Field Trust for the Council to replace the panel this time.

RESOLVED

- (a) Good will gesture from the Council to replace panel and the Handymen have been instructed to undertake the work.

86/23 COMPLAINTS REGARDING TREES

The Clerk draws attention to the issue of the large tree at Adam Lyons that children had been using as a climbing frame. Local resident had made complaints that it was an invasion of personal space and property, along with concerns over a second tree at the front of the property disrupting a telephone line, further that the conifers had become totally unmanaged and need reducing. The request was made for the lower branches to be removed, tree reduction to avoid telephone lines, and the conifers cut back.

Another tree along the boundary with the mobile home site has been stopping the reception to a TV aerial and the request was made to trim these branches too, which the Handymen were instructed to do.

The Clerk advises of a further complaint received from a resident of Sterling close where 3 Council owned trees were potentially causing an issue to the owner's property. Subsequently she had started the process of getting quotes from local Tree Surgeons to complete the removal of the ash, oak and cherry tree.

One quote also included the following potential works; reduction of conifers at Adam Lyons park, branch removal from the large tree and reduction of tree at the front affecting telephone lines, extensive trimming of all hedgerows and trees on the boundary of the park so the handymen can maintain in the future.

Clerk updated on large Willow tree down at Goldpits, and reports that the issue is now resolved.

Councillor England raised an issue with the boundary in the far corner of Adam Lyons park as the tree and fence have come down allowing free access to his land and the mobile home site. The 2nd issue Councillor England raised with Members was complaints from residents about a constant disruptive squeaking from some of the play equipment at Adam Lyons Park.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED

- (a) that the handymen would be instructed to trim branches that were affecting the residents TV Aerial. Then once bird nesting season ceases to complete a more thorough cut back.
- (b) for the Clerks to investigate insurance requirements further regarding responsibilities for the 3 trees at Sterling Close. As well as to gain additional quotes for removal of the trees.
- (c) for the Clerks to instruct the Handymen to investigate the reported squeaking play equipment at Adam Lyons park.

87/23 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Further to Minutes 66/23 Councillor A Wyatt updated the Council with progress for planning the village's 80th Anniversary D- Day events.

The Church has agreed to host the event and Beacon Lighting, with WI members organising refreshments. The date set for Commemorative Concert is 1st June 2024, booking for Huntingdonshire Big Band is confirmed. Some Members raised concerns over how the Commemorative Concert would be funded and discussed the potential of ticketing entry to cover costs.

Councillor A Wyatt queried whether the Council were happy to continue joint planning of the event with the local WI group, which was decided by members to be of benefit.

During discussions, it was:-

RESOLVED

- (a) that arrangements be made for the beacon to be lit on the 80th anniversary of D-Day.
- (b) that Councillor A Wyatt continues to work alongside WI in planning and timings for the Concert to be updated.

88/23 ACCOUNTS

Upon being checked by Chair and verified by Vice Chair it was;

RESOLVED

that Members approved the following payments:-

| Payee | Details | Amount |
|--------------------------|---|----------|
| W.E Batterbee | Salary - July 2023 | 1,228.62 |
| D. A. Warwick | Salary – July 2023 | 1,335.00 |
| R. Reeves | Salary – July 2023 | 1,126.12 |
| HMRC | Tax & NI – July 2023 | 1,593.31 |
| R. Edwards | Retainer and cleaning services | 343.20 |
| Allstar | Fuel | 76.52 |
| Murray Signs | Fishing signs for Weir | 60.00 |
| M.A.M Garden Maintenance | Grass cutting | 170.00 |
| R. Reeves | Zoom subscription | 15.59 |
| Brightside | Feast week band | 240.00 |
| Chess IT | Electronic HP Care Pack Next Day business support | 58.74 |
| ESPO | Refuse sacks | 163.08 |
| ESPO | First Aid Boxes | 103.20 |
| ESPO | Wall Calendars | .72 |
| Connections Bus Project | Connections bus project June-July 2023 | 1,575.00 |
| E. Coverdale | Key box and conference microphone | 42.33 |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| Total Energies | UMS 1 | 7.79 |
| Total Energies | UMS 2 | 6.25 |
| Direct Debits | | |
| <i>E-ON</i> | <i>Electricity (DD 01/08/23)</i> | <i>192.54</i> |
| <i>Chess IT</i> | <i>Laptop & Mouse</i> | <i>653.35</i> |
| <i>Chess IT</i> | <i>IT Services (DD 28/07/23)</i> | <i>104.86</i> |
| <i>EE</i> | <i>Phones x2 Clerk & Assistant Clerk (DD – 28/07/23)</i> | <i>34.73</i> |

Clerk further raised the potential prospect of VAT in the future along with exploring the purchase of an accountancy package.

89/23 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Council received the budgetary control statement for July 2023, and Clerk updated Members on Parish Centre bookings in the new Clerk's Report Minute No. 77/23.

90/33 OPEN FORUM

Members of the public in attendance were invited to speak earlier (Minute No 78/23 (e) after discussions those members left the meeting.

RESOLVED

No further issues raised.

91/23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

The chair thanked the public for their attendance and requested they leave the meeting.

RESOLVED

that the public be excluded from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

The meeting closed.