

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 11th September 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, 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 Ms C A Lowe.

APOLOGIES

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

92/23 MINUTES

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

93/23 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None declared.

94/23 CLERKS REPORT

Attached as Addendum.

Councillor Ntuk arrived at the meeting during the discussion of the above item.

95/23 MATTERS ARISING

The Council considered the following matters arising from the meeting held on 13th August 2023:-

(a) Bridleways

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (a) Clerk J Drummond advised Members that a partial retraction had been placed in the Ramsey Informer, on the Council's social media and would be going into the upcoming Warboys Diary (Sep-Oct edition).

Councillor S Wilcox raised that some residents located near the agreed bridleway may have property blocking the access.

Councillor P Potts highlighted potential issues over access, suggesting a Riders' gate to prevent vehicles using the bridleways illegally.

(b) Repairs to Lighting Columns

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (b), Councillor R Dykstra stated that the lights on the clock tower were still not working, whilst the rest of work had been completed.

Therefore it was:-

RESOLVED

For Clerks to get in touch with Balfour Beatty to get progress update.

(c) Climate Change and Environment Group

Further to minute No. 30/23 (c), Councillor Mrs Sproats reported that since the Green Futures Facebook page had been repurposed for the Warboys Climate & Environment Group, there had been an increasing in following. In addition further survey responses had come in, but hadn't affected the balance of priorities. She had also discovered a potential funding avenue for the NPC; the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, had requested help from other Members on calculating savings to build the case; at this time no offers were made.

Councillor C Sproats extended an invitation to Members to attend the next meeting; 18th September 7.00p.m at the Parish Centre and to complete the questionnaire

It was therefore:-

RESOLVED

- for the Clerks to email out climate survey for members to complete and to add to Warboys Diary for another push.
- and C Sproats to investigate the potential Decarbonising Fund further.

(d) Local Highways Improvements Bid

Arising from Minute No. 30/23 (d)

Following from Minute No. 30/23 (e) the A141 in particular the crossing to Onyetts field from Wilthorne. Councillor D England raised that he will be collecting evidence from the recent accident along this stretch of road to strengthen our bid. District Councillor C E Lowe stressed the importance of highlighting the health and safety risks when putting forward an LHI bid.

The Chair reiterated previous concerns from residents on Ramsey Road stating that the LHI Bid needs to be resubmitted too.

After discussions it was:-

RESOLVED

- for Councillor D England to pass evidence to Clerks for next Bid
- for the Clerk to resubmit LHI Bids for the A141 and Ramsey Road

(e) Onyetts Field - Byelaws

Arising from minute No. 30/23 (e) The Assistant Clerk advised Members that was no update to the Byelaws, but a meeting was confirmed with R Reeves to learn more.

(f) Former Youthie Premises

Further to Minute No. 30/23 (g) no progress has been made. Clerk to contact the County Council's Strategic Assests regarding leasing of the former Youthie building as well as contact County Councillor Steve Corney to help hasten a resolution.

96/23 COMMITTEES

RESOLVED

Minutes were received for the Planning Committee held on 14th August 2023.

97/23 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

District Councillor Ms C Lowe informed the members of the following:

- Green Bin tax has been approved, HDC Members did raise concerns and are asking Parish Councils to contact the Chief Executive if they wish to add their voice to community worries regarding the policy.

Members raised queries over the expected process for all returning green bins and how that would be dealt with, along with concerns over fly tipping and whether those additional costs had been factored in related to both.

- No progress made surrounding food waste concerns. There are however, discussions within central government to make food waste collection free of charge.
- Peterborough will be trialling a new battery recycle system.
- That a petition has been created due to safety concerns raised by local Councils for the Government policy to not spray weeds.
- The upcoming Flood Conference is set for 21st September at Burgess Hall, no Members showed interest in attending, D Cllr C E Lowe will report back to the Council.
- The ongoing Love to ride cycle September challenge.

District Councillor Ms. C E Lowe left the meeting after her report.

98/23 POLICE REPORT

Further to Minute No. 57/23 the Clerk informs Members that the money had now been received for the bench and all Members were in agreement for the work to go ahead.

Clerk J Drummond informed members on the following;

- There has been an increase in power tool theft, along with the suggested advice.
- Coffee with a Cop initiative set for 20th September 1.30 – 3.00p.m at White Hart pub with Officer Andy Caruana. Assistant Clerk has added poster on noticeboards and social media.
- A gentle reminder from Police that when reporting minor crimes to use 111 and not 999. Clerks to add flyer to social media.

99/23 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

The Assistant Clerk informed Members that the Road Closure had been approved by Highways for the Remembrance Sunday event on 12th November. Then provided a brief summary of actions taken so far.

Councillors J Parker, D Fabb, L Gifford volunteered to help marshal the event the same as with previous years. As well as Councillor J Parker offering to help with handing out Service Sheets on the day.

Councillor J Land offered to find a new contact at RAF Wyton for a representative to attend.

It was therefore:-

RESOLVED

- (a) for the Asst. Clerk to liaise with Volunteers.
- (b) and Councillor J Land to investigate the Council's new point of contact at RAF Wyton.

100/23 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION COMPLAINT

Further to Minute No. 35/23 the Chair informed Council Members that there was no update.

RESOLVED

Clerks to discuss with R. Reeves and escalate to Commissioner again as no resolution.

101/23 ONYETTS FIELD

Further to Minute No. 61/23 (b) Councillor Fabb informed the Members he is set to begin work replacing the vandalised bridge at Onyett's field in October.

RESOLVED

No further updates at this time.

102/23 DAMAGE TO FENCING – PATHFINDER WAY OPEN SPACES

Further to Minute No. 62/23 as the panel has been fixed, the issue is now:-

RESOLVED

103/23 COMPLAINTS REGARDING TREES

Further to minutes 86/23

- (a) The Clerk advised the Members of quotes received for the following work to be completed at Adam Lyons park;
- (1) Cutting back of tree that has grown over telephone line, trimming the row of conifers and cutting back the tree that has been used as a climbing frame so that Parish handymen can maintain.

Quotes received from 3 contractors; £550, £1800, £600

It was agreed by all Members to approve the lowest bid from the 1st Contractor £550 for trees related to complaints at Adam Lyons.

- (2) Extensive trimming of all trees and hedgerow at the park so that Parish Handymen can maintain.

Quotes received from 3 contractors; £2,200, £4,000, £1,100

It was agreed by all Members to approve the lowest bid from the 3rd Contractor £1100 to cut back all trees and hedgerow at Adam Lyons.

The Clerk also informs Councillors that the issue of the squeaking play equipment had been identified and resolved by the Handymen.

- (b) The Clerk advises she has been out and seen the property at Stirling Close and there are significant cracks in the walls of the garage. However, that now there are insurance discrepancies as the Council has changed providers in the time since the claim has come in. In addition Councillors queried whether the Parish actually owned the trees as some believe that no trees were planted by the Council in Stirling Close.
- (c) Councillor D England stated as a member of the Sports & Social Committee that he would deal with the complaints regarding trees from the Sports Field that had been directed to the Parish Council.

Following discussion, it was:

RESOLVED

- (a) for the Clerk to contact successful contractors to start work on the agreed tree maintenance.
- (b) that the Clerk will investigate history of the Stirling Close tree claim with R Reeves, in order to clarify which insurer is responsible for covering and if the trees are Council owned.
- (c) and for Cllr D England to resolve Sports Field tree complaints.

104/23 WARBOYS LIGHTING GROUP

Arising from Minutes No. 30/23 (h) Councillor L Gifford updated the Members after attending the recent Lighting Group Meeting on 23rd August. One of the main discussion points that arose was establishing what the Council's role is moving forward as the event is increasing in size year on year. This has impacted the running costs for

the event such as now needing to hire contractors to install lighting. The requirements for the risk assessment have also increased with the need for further fire marshalls and a member of the Parish Council to be present.

Part of this the Lighting Group had raised the suggestion in their meeting to Lara that they hoped for the Parish Council to consider providing an annual donation £500 the same as previously.

Councillor G Willis suggested the Council ask to see risk assessments and accounts before we agree to provide them with continued financial support. With Councillor D Fabb recommending we get the risk assessments approved by our insurers before confirming.

All Members were in agreement that the Council will need to take on a more active role with the Lighting Group.

It was therefore:-

RESOLVED

- (a) for the Clerks to establish if a £500 donation had been included in the budget for this year.
- (b) for Councillor L Gifford and Clerk J Drummond to be representatives for the council, with Councillors J Land and D Fabb to Volunteer at the event.
- (c) for the Clerks to investigate insurance and request risk assessments/accounts from the Lighting Group before a decision can be made.

105/23 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

Further to Minutes 66/23 Councillor A Wyatt updated the Council with the event's progress; she has spoken to the WI who are happy to plan the Commemorative Concert, but needed reassurance from the Council that if ticket sales for the event didn't cover the cost of the Big Band (£400) that the shortfall would be met by the Council.

Members were in agreement that any shortfall would be covered by the Parish Council, however the WI must make efforts to prevent this happening.

During discussions, it was:-

RESOLVED

- that Councillor A Wyatt continues to work alongside WI in planning and timings for the Concert.

106/23 WEEDS

Following on from District Councillor C E Lowe earlier in the meeting minutes no. 97/23 the Clerk again raised the petition created by Steve Count a councillor from March requesting that the central government policy to not spray weeds be reversed.

All members were in agreement that it was an ill-conceived idea due to the dangers the policy proposed to residents' safety and were happy to sign.

It was:-

RESOLVED

for the clerk to email out the petition to Members for them to sign.

107/23 ACCOUNTS

Upon being checked by Councillor D England and verified by Vice Chair it was;

RESOLVED

that Members approved the following payments:-

Payee	Details	Amount	R	A
Parish Council Staff	Salaries - August	5,967.43		
HMRC	Tax & NI – August 2023	1,687.42		
Xerox	Photocopier service agreement	21.38		
CPRE	The Countryside Charity	36.00		
ESPO	Cleaning materials & resources	208.97		
ESPO	Refuse sacks	123.48		
Ivan Barrett	Handymen materials	41.89		
MA Mead	Garden Maintenance	340.00		
ESPO	Desk diaries	5.82		
Allstar	Credit card charge	1.80		
Allstar	Fuel	106.23		
Allstar	Fuel lawn mower	34.38		
WCA	Warboys Community Association Vibrant Communities	1,314.76		
Ramsey Builders	Fence panel	40.08		
Direct Debits				
<i>EON</i>	<i>Gas 2nd – 31st July (DD 16/08/23)</i>	<i>39.01</i>		
<i>Chess IT</i>	<i>MS 365 Business Standard (DD – 19/07/23)</i>	<i>10.30</i>		
<i>Chess IT</i>	<i>Monthly service charge (DD – 30/08/23)</i>	<i>140.15</i>		

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108/23 BUDGETARY CONTROL

Due to an ongoing issue with the Clerks access to the Parish Council bank accounts the budgetary control statement for August 2023 couldn't be shared. The Clerk clarified that the information would be provided urgently.

The Asst Clerk apologised as she had not brought the Parish Centre bookings to the meeting and would email out the bookings to members.

109/33 OPEN FORUM

A member of the public had expressed concern for the retention of the former Youthie premises and the Chair clarified that the intention is for the handymen to use once the New Parish Centre work is complete.

Residents Frank and Tracey Beeke provided a statement and detailed report on the issues of speeding along the Ramsey Road. The Chair thanked them for their hard work and reassured them that the Council will be looking to place another bid with LHI and this will be useful evidence of the concern.

It was raised by the residents about Ramsey and Bury's recent approved implementation for 20mph speed limits the Chair advised however that scheme is targeted at Market towns which Warboys isn't.

The Chair read emails from public that can't attend;

- Parish Centre water heaters being broken - an engineer is booked to come out.
- an Elderly resident concerned about antisocial children playing on the green at Goldpits-need to raise with police.

After discussions it was:-

RESOLVED

- (a) for Clerk to begin investigating a new LHI bid for Ramsey road.
- (b) for Asst Clerk to scan and email around the Ramsey Road report to all Members.
- (c) for Clerks to raise issue of anti-social behaviour at Goldpits at the Coffee with a Cop event.

110/23 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 was declared closed.

Chairman.

Date: