

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of **Warboys Parish Council** held on 13th November 2023 at the Parish Centre, Warboys.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr Ms C A Lowe and 2 Members of the public.

PRESENT WERE

Cllr R Dykstra	Cllr P Potts
Cllr D England	Cllr C Sproats
Cllr D Fabb	Cllr S Withams (Chair)
Cllr L Gifford	Cllr S Wilcox
Cllr J Land	Cllr G Willis
Cllr J Parker (Vice Chair)	

Mrs J Drummond:- Parish Clerk
Mrs E Coverdale:- Asst. Clerk

Meeting commenced at 7.00 p.m

134/23 WELCOME

Led by Chair Withams the meeting started with a minute silence for the passing of John Rignall, previous chair of the Council May 1985 – May 1989.

Meeting reconvened at 7.02p.m

135/23 APOLOGIES

Apologies were unanimously accepted from;

Cllr J Cole - Personal

Cllr A Wyatt - Personal

Cllr M Collins – arrived during discussions on agenda item 136/23 (7.06p.m)

Cllr A Ntuk – arrived during discussions on agenda item 140/23 (7.26p.m)

136/23 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Cllr Wilcox declared a pecuniary interest in item 146/23 due to proximity to her property.

Cllr England declared a pecuniary interest in item 151/23 due to the issue relating to land adjacent to an area he farms.

Cllr M Collins arrived whilst Members discussed the above item (7.06p.m)

137/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 9th OCTOBER 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Potts and **RESOLVED** by all Members present, the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2023 be signed as a correct record by the Chairman.

138/23 CLERKS REPORT (MATTERS ARISING)

Attached as Addendum.

139/23 OPEN FORUM

It was proposed by the Chair and unanimously **RESOLVED** agreed to close the meeting for a period of time to hold a public forum.

As no members of the public wished to speak it was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 7.23p.m and reconvened at 7.25p.m

140/23 REPORT BY DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

District Cllr Lowe informed the Members of the following:

- Announcement that Ben Obese-Jecty is the new Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Huntingdon due to Jonathan Djanogly stepping back and recent boundary changes.
- New grant for community biodiversity projects- *Warboys is already part of the pilot scheme.*
- 18th December Christmas Carol Concert to be held at St.Mary's Church, Huntingdon.
- The closing date for the next round of LHI bids is 12th January 2024.
- Hinchingsbrooke park would be hosting a number of Christmas events throughout December.

Cllr Ntuk arrived during the above item (7.26p.m)

141/23 COMMITTEES

- (a) Allotments – Committee Chair Parker provided Members with an update following the recent Allotment Association liaison meeting. However, due to extenuating circumstances the Bi-annual meeting due on 6th November had not gone ahead so no further updates.
- (b) Leisure Areas – As with Allotments, no update provided as the planned meeting on 6th November did not go ahead.

It was therefore **RESOLVED** for the Assistant Clerk to rearrange the Allotment and Leisure Areas Committee meetings at the earliest convenience.

- (c) Climate and Environment (encompassing biodiversity) - Working group lead, Cllr Sproats provided Members with an update on the thermal imaging cameras scheme and progress with the Biodiversity for All project.

142/23 HDC BIODIVERSITY REPORT FOR ONYETT'S FIELD

Cllr Sproats provided Members with a summary of the Bronze, Silver & Gold options following the receipt of the Biodiversity report for Onyett's Field. Following a review of the options with the Biodiversity working group and with HDC, Cllr Sproats recommended that picking the Council's top priorities from the list would be the best course of action. She highlighted that all options require an active Onyett's Field working group.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Onyett's Field working group to reconvene and agree which options to proceed with.

143/23 REPLACEMENT PARISH CENTRE

Moved to after exclusion of public due to confidential matters.

144/23 PARISH CENTRE

The Clerk provided Members with an update on the current issues and resolutions at the Parish Centre.

145/23 UPCOMING EVENTS

- Remembrance Sunday - Further to Minutes 99/23 the Chair provided Members with a brief summary of the events from 12th November, which included the Bugler not being in attendance.
- 80th Anniversary of D-Day - Further to Minutes 60/23 the Chair provided a brief update on Cllr Wyatt's behalf due to her absence. Informing Members of the refreshments and entertainment updates.
- Christmas Lighting Group - Further to Minutes 104/23 the Clerk and Cllr Gifford advised that the road closure extension had been agreed, and that the questions regarding insurance still need investigating.

Following discussions it was proposed by Cllr Land and seconded by Cllr Parker and was unanimously **RESOLVED** for the Council to contribute £600.00 to the running of the Christmas Lights event.

District Cllr Lowe left the meeting during this discussion 8.12p.m.

146/23 BRIDLEWAYS

Following minutes no. 30/23 (a) the Clerk advised that there were no updates to report and the walk around is to be rescheduled.

147/23 LOCAL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT BID (LHI)

Further to minutes 95/23 (d) the Clerk informed Members that the application for Ramsey Road was in progress and would be submitted before the deadline 12th January 2024.

148/23 FORMER YOUTHIE PREMISES

Further to minutes no. 30/23 (g) the Clerk provided Members with an update from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC); due to safety concerns surrounding the damaged asbestos and structural supports in the building CCC will need to remove the asbestos before access can be granted. CCC have agreed to arrange for this to be resolved and will contact the clerk to arrange a site meeting.

149/23 PRECEPT CONSULTATION SURVEY RESULTS

The Assistant Clerk provided a brief update following the completion of the survey. The results being 78% in favour of a new parish centre and 66% in favour of a precept increase.

150/23 VAT REGISTRATION

The Clerk informed Members of the three potential VAT registration options;

Option 1	Opp to tax the land/building; all VAT charged build expenses will be reclaimed. However, where 'business' activity is carried out, customers will incur the current VAT charge, eg. - community room hire, meeting room hire, celebration/event hire etc. Where our 'non-business' activity is carried out (statutory duty), there is no VAT charge; green space, play parks, sports fields, allotments etc. Warboys Parish Council will need to register with VAT-HMRC, we are fortunate and have evidence of land ownership.
Option 2	Engage with a community group that has charitable status and through legal agreement that group under their status carry out the build and the running of the new Parish Centre, with no VAT requirements.
Option 3	The proposed new building is assessed by usage, defining which areas will be utilised as business use and non-business use. Depending on this assessment, it will set the amount to be re-claimed.

Following extensive discussions it was proposed by Cllr Parker, seconded by Cllr Willis and **RESOLVED** that Option 1 for Taxing the Land/Building was **APPROVED**. All Members were in favour bar Cllr Ambrose who voted against.

The Clerk informed Members of quotes she had received for specialist help regarding VAT Registration.

It was proposed by Cllr Willis and seconded by Cllr Land and unanimously **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to get the specialist help to apply for VAT registration at a cost of £1,000.

151/23 ONYETT'S FIELD PEST CONTROL

Following Minutes no. 127/23 the Clerk advised Members that a meeting had been arranged with Cllr England and the pest control company to visit the site.

152/23 ADDITIONAL PAID EDITORIAL IN WARBOYS DIARY

Whilst it was decided to postpone the editorial at this time, all Members were in agreement in principle for the editorial to go ahead.

153/23 EQUIPMENT FOR HANDYMEN

Requested Equipment:-

- Wheelbarrow
- T-Shirts
- Clearing Saw
- Hedge cutter

Members were keen for the Handymen to get rechargeable replacements as whilst slightly higher in cost initially, they would save money in the long term whilst also reducing environmental impact.

It was therefore unanimously **RESOLVED** in principle for the Groundsmen to have the new equipment requested and for the Clerks to get further quotes.

154/23 PROPOSED CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY BILL

Cllr Sproats advised Members of the Climate and Ecology bill and it was proposed by Cllr Willis and seconded by Cllr Potts and **RESOLVED** that the Council will support the changes. Clerks to action on Members' behalf.

155/23 ACCOUNTS

The Monthly accounts were checked by Vice Chair J Parker and verified by Chair S Withams it was:- **RESOLVED** to approve the payments for October. (appendix 1)

156/23 BUDGETARY CONTROL

The Clerk advised Members that due to time constraints this had yet to be completed, and she would update Members imminently.

157/23 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

The chair thanked the public for their attendance and requested they leave the meeting. It was therefore unanimously:- **RESOLVED** that the public be excluded from the meeting under the section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.

Public left the meeting at 8.50p.m.

The meeting was declared closed at 9.34pm

The next meeting of Warboys Parish Council will be held on 11th December 2023.

Chairman.

Date.

APPENDIX 1

October	PAYEE	DETAILS	AMOUNT
	SALARIES	Handymen, Cleaner and Clerks	5,720.87
10/01	Middle Level Commissioners	Pond Onyetts Field	2,329.34
10/02	Ibbetts	Equipment for Handymen	101.86
10/03	ESPO	Litter picking resources for Handymen	273.60
10/04	ESPO	Carbon Monoxide detectors	84.12
10/05	ESPO	Cleaning resources	198.00
10/06	Connexions Bus Project	Children & Young People activities	945.00
10/07	M A Mead Garden Service	Grass Cutting	340.00
10/8	Total Energies	UMS Waiting	0.00
10/9	Total Energies	UMS Waiting	0.00
dd/1	E-On Gas - DD	Gas	30.74
dd/2	Chess IT	Wireless mouse	16.48
dd/3	<i>Allstar</i>	Fuel	85.13
dd/4	<i>Allstar</i>	Standard credit card charge	1.80
dd/5	E-on Electricity	Electricity	192.54
dd/6	<i>Chess IT</i>	In the process of challenging	139.00
dd/7	EE phones		34.73
	October totals		10,493.21

