

Wacton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Wacton Village Hall.

At 6.00pm on 2nd October 2024.

**Present: - Chair: Gary Mulhall. Councilors: Pete Fraser, Felicity Perry. Kat Marshall.
Kim Prentice and Freddie Boone Joined the meeting after item
Parish Clerk: Alan Arber**

Four members of the public were also present. Plus Alison Thomas County Councillor

1. Public participation.

No Public Participation

2 To consider co-option of a new councillor

Freddie Boone and Kim Prentice gave a short resume of why they would like to join the council and what they can bring to the role.

It was agreed to co-opt both to the council.

Proposed Pete Fraser Seconded Kat Marshall

3. New councillor to sign acceptance of office form and register of interest's form.

Freddie Boone and Kim Prentice signed their acceptance of office forms, and the clerk arranged to get their register of interests forms sent to SNDC elections and both new councillors joined the meeting

4. To consider apologies for absence.

No Apologies received

5. To receive any disclosures of interest.

None

6. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 4th September 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed: Pete Fraser

Seconded: Kat Marshall

7. Matters arising from last minutes

No report

8. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

Alison apologised for not attending the last few meetings but there was an issue with the clerk sending them to her old email address.

The exit from Flowerpot lane was discussed and the local businesses attended a recent meeting with Highways and Long Stratton Town Council along with the contractors, and the discussion was that you will turn right out of flowerpot lane then left on Parkers lane to join the new bypass.

The enterprise partnership has met twice recently with Highways and Octavious and there is a board at Long Stratton Town Council have a board showing the progress and things are moving forward very at present utilizing the old soil to stabilize the new bypass road structure. The piling on the new bridge is moving forward, which is great news. Still there is lots of work to do on the big roundabout in the north of Long Stratton and this may cause lots of issues for the highway.

County Council budget decisions were enacted in July and August with Recycling

Centre will occur will close on a Wednesday and there will bring a booking system in New Budget will be worked on soon and it is thought more issue will be jet especially around social care with a £12 million overspending on this part of the budget.

There will be some tough decisions made soon on the budget especially around social care and smaller savings that come within the highways remit.

Once more is known we will put these on the website for all to see.

A lovely evening at Theatre Royal for the awards to staff and it was enjoyed by all.

Data around mobile phone signals are being worked on and the data will be used to speak with mobile phone companies and what their service is like and were it is not good.

Proposals for Solar Farms and these are not coming over to Wacton but could go from edge of Long Stratton over to Wacton, but we await the planning details on this.

9. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

Kim Carsok sent her apologies as she is on a course today and unable to attend but the chair instructed The Clerk to send a formal thank you for the recent £300 members ward grant for the final work on the planter by the book shop in memory of District Councillor Barry Duffin.

10. To receive the Village Hall report

No Report

11. To receive a report from the footpath warden

Kim Prentice had agreed to take on the role of Footpath Inspector and all agreed to approve the appointment

Proposed Pete Fraser Seconded Kat Marshall

12. To agree councillors to lay Poppy Wreaths at the Church service for Remembrance

Kat Marshall agreed she would do this.

13. To consider Planning applications.

Planning application 2024/2049 Replacement of 9 windows at The Old Neat House Wilderness Barns Church Road Wacton..

Parish Council supported this application

14. Governance

No new governance this month

15. Correspondence.

Planning application 2024/2049 received and circulated for councillors to look at

Defib Checked and cleaned by Councillor Pete Fraser monthly

SAM 2 machine battery.

Members ward Grant of £300 received

Second Precept Payment received

Bartrams Invoice received and paid at this meeting as a gesture of goodwill for extra work undertaken with informing the parish

Vat Refund Submitted

Website Updated

Email regarding the bridge and when it will be repaired with reply on date unknown

Complaint from a parishioner

Letter sent to Government on the sale of SNDC House in long Stratton supporting the town council bid

Keep it going grant submitted but turned down

Email from Parishioner on undertaking the footpath inspector role

NPTS Training information received

NALC training email received

SNT meeting attended with The Police online when issues of the cars doing donuts and other issues were discussed.

Town and Parish Forum attended online with SNDC

Poppy Wreaths in Parish Office

Rangers requests all sent in to be done when they arrive

Letter from Parishioner thanking me for getting FP18 reopened, and the issues dealt with.

Letter from Unity Trust saying the monthly charge of £18 is being changed to a monthly charge of £6 which will be taken monthly, and bank statement will be sent at the end of the month now not first week of the month.

16. Authorisation of Payments.

1. Receipts

Receipts in September

Parish Precept

£9283.50

Members Ward Grant

£300.00

17. Authorization of payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for September £636.36
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension Scheme for Clerks Pension September £211.92
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI September £105.80

- To approve Payment to Bartrams for completion of Orchard Work £600.00
- To approve payment to Excite Sols for Grass Cutting £457.80
- To approve payment to RBL for Poppy wreaths £40.00
- To approve payment to SNDC for annual dog bin charges £324.00
- To approve payment to Unity trust for quarterly bank charges £18.00
- Payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge September £3.00
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile September £12.47
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib September £32.53

Proposed: Gary Mulhall

Seconded: Pete Fraser

The council are in an Okay position as just received their second precept request and have a VAT reclaim to come in asap. The balance on the account on 1st October was £18,851.26 and after today's payments it stands at £16,427.38. The clerk commented that we would need to ensure our spending moving forward would need to be in line with our budgeted figures and not undertaken till agreed by the full council unless in an emergency.

The clerk also reported that he had done a VAT reclaim for £320.18 and this should come in by end of October

18. Report on ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project and damaged Bridge**

The Bridge is totally rotted and needs a full upgrade, and this will be done in the next financial year with the entrance being made as safe as we can.

The clerk had received 2 complaints that the bridge was not open yet and had contacted 2 companies for their help to get the work done but received no reply from either. With the Parish Finances needing a boost he would be looking at a grant to get the work undertaken but this would not happen till this was obtained unfortunately.

- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

The Clerk and Chair are attending the NPTS Autumn Seminar, and the clerk will be at the SLCC National Conference next week.

Training needs booking for new councillors online asap.

Clerk booked onto online mapping software Thursday

- **To discuss the Book Exchange project**

This is really being used by all parishioners and is a great resource for all to enjoy. We have now received the Members Ward Grant of £300 from Kim Carsok to build the planter in memory of Barry Duffin.

- **Gov.uk Email Addresses for councillors**

The clerk will look at getting Gov.uk email boxes sorted for the new councillors

- **Biodiversity**

The clerk is still working on this and as it is a topic at the national conference he will discuss this with colleagues there to see what they are doing.

- **Damaged Play equipment and replacement**

This will be looked at after year end is completed. The damaged play equipment has been removed and the car park sign has again been vandalized and removed. We will look at CAF funding for this.

- **Purchase of New Wooden Bench**

A donation of £200 will be used to get this done asap

- **Purchase of Apple/Pear Trees**

It was agreed to defer this till the autumn. The clerk had spoken to The Foundary Garden Centre, and we can get new trees for around £30 each

- **New Noticeboard**

The new noticeboard has been received and will be put up asap but in a better location by the path to the village hall entrance, with the old one being moved to blacks meadow

- **Land Sale**

Almost done and one more piece of Land Registry paperwork to be completed.

19. Matters raised by councillors and public

Nothing reported

20. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The Sam 2 data will be downloaded for the November meeting and the Sam 2 machine turned around, so we get an accurate picture of both ways on Hall Lane coming into the village and leaving the village. The local speed watch group have cancelled due to the weather.

21. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

We still have 2 vacancies, but it is great to see 2 new councillors coming forward

22. Public Participation

None

21. Items for the next Agenda

Jalu Barn trees

The meeting ended at 6.50pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be 6th November 2024