

Wacton Parish Council

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

At 6.00pm on 4th September 2024.

Present: - Chair: Gary Mulhall. Councilors: Pete Fraser. Kat Ireson

Parish Clerk: Alan Arber

District Councillor Kim Carsok

Five members of the public were also present.

1. Public participation.

A question was asked on the exit from Flowerpot Lane when the new bypass is in place. The parishioner was asked to contact Long Stratton Town Council as they will inform them more.

A question was asked on Flowerpot Lane in Long Stratton regarding the gullies and verges and that she was very nearly an accident with a Tractor, and it was noted that verges are run off gulleys. It was felt that this must be reported to Long Stratton Town Council and is not an issues for Wacton PC

2. To consider apologies for absence.

No Apologies received

3. To receive any disclosures of interest.

Gary Mulhall for payment in item 13 for August.

All agreed.

4. To approve the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3rd July 2024

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

Proposed: Pete Fraser

Seconded: Kat Marshall

5. Matters arising from last minutes

No report

6. To receive a report from the County Councillor.

No report Received from Alison Thomas

7. To receive a report from the District Councillor.

District Councillor Kim Carsok gave the following report and due to summer recess there was not much to report but the budget meetings will start along with the public pay sector review and stay tuned. CAF fund fully spent of £150,000 with local parishes benefiting from the fund. Long Stratton bypass is underway, and it was hoped that Kim can look at the funding under her member ward grant on the keep it going grant fund.

8. To receive a report from the Village Hall Management moving forward.

No report received

9. To consider Planning applications.

No planning applications received

10. Governance

The clerk commented that he had put all the policies onto the parish website including the new NPTS Standing Orders and Financial Regulations as agreed in July by all councillors. The chair and councillors thanked the clerk for his work on this.

New Gov.uk email system up and running and councillors need to enroll by end of September at the latest as old system will not be used after then.

11. Correspondence.

External audit Received back, and no issues reported

SAM 2 Machine downloaded and report later

Kim Prentice emails on becoming footpath warden received

£20 Litter pick award granted to Wacton PC and received.

Town and Parish Forum details received

Autumn Seminar Booked for Councillors

Digital Mapping seminar booked for the clerk

Rangers coming to Wacton, and notification of issues needs doing asap

NPTS and Nalc Training courses info received

Grass cutting invoice received from Excite Solutions

New Gov.uk email system up and running

Book Exchange completed

Keep it going grant applied for but turned down.

Land sale almost complete

Email regarding fishing on the pond but parishioner informed its not Parish Council its Mark Hardwick they need to complain too.

Footpath complaint letter received and reported to Highways

Clusters information received but does not affect Wacton

Bonfire Safety Advisory Training memo received

Email regarding issue with defib but now fixed

Vat refund submitted and received payment

Pylons Project update received

Parish partnership Information received.

£200 donation received from Bone Consulting

Email received regarding the damaged wooden bench in the play area

12. To note Receipts

1. Receipts

No Receipts in July		
Receipts in August	Donation from Bone Consulting	£200.00
	Vat Refund	£546.14
	Litter Pick award	£20.00
	Total	£766.15

13. Finance and authorization of payments

August Payments

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for July £636.16
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension for Clerks Pension July £211.92
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI July £102.84
- Payment to Mulbee Solutions for Book Exchange work July £300.00
- Payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge July £3.00
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile July £12.47
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib July £32.53

September

- To approve payment of Clerks Salary and expenses for August £636.36
- To approve payment to Norfolk Pension for Clerks Pension Aug £211.92
- To approve payment to HMRC for Tax and NI August £105.35
- Payment to SLCC for Clerks National Conference £280.98
- Payment to NPTs for autumn seminar £112.00
- Payment To PKF Littlejohn for External Audit £252.00
- Payment to Excite Solutions for grass cutting £879.60
- Payment to Wacton PCC for Churchyard maintenance grant £700.00
- Payment to NPTS for Digital Mapping Seminar £14.00
- Payment to Lloyds for monthly credit card charge August £3.00
- To approve payment to O2 for clerk's mobile August £12.47
- To approve payment to BT for Broadband for defib August £32.53
- Any other payments that come after agenda posted.
None but we await Credit card bill
- To receive the External Auditors Report and note any actions
The clerk reported that he had received the External auditors report back and the only issue was a typo on one line of figures. The clerk will ensure it does not happen again.

The clerk was thanked by the council for his work on this and on another excellent External Audit

Proposed: Gary Mulhall

Seconded: Pete Fraser

The council are in a healthy position with the bank balance showing at 1st August being £13,126.40 and the balance showing on 1st September of £12,593.42 after today's payments the balance will be £9356.42 but we still await the credit card bill so this may change before minutes finalised.

The clerk also noted that we have a VAT reclaim of £308.90 to be reclaimed from HMRC and he will do this at the end of September.

The clerk also noted that at the end of September we will receive our second precept payment of £9283.50 which will be well received meaning that we will need to continue to monitor our spending till this is received.

14. Report on ongoing matters.

- **Woodland Project and damaged Bridge**

The chair has contacted a company on this, but we still await their price for the works to be agreed before we continue with the work.

Once the bridge is sorted the maintenance can be continued.

- **Councillor and Clerk Training**

The Clerk has booked himself, Kat marshal and Gary Mulhall on NPTS Autumn Seminar and The clerk is booked on digital mapping training and will be attending his national conference in early October.

- **Benches**

The bench in the play has been vandalized and this will need replacing asap with the donation from Bone Consulting could be used to replace the bench.

- **To discuss the Book Exchange project**

This has now been finished and looks fantastic and the chair was thanked for his work on this and the area. The clerk applied for a keep it going grant of £300 to build a planter to be done in the memory of District Councillor Barry Duffin but this was turned down, which was disappointing. Come off next meeting

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

Everything is up and running with The clerk and Chair using the system already and all other councillors have been sent their log in details and we need this up and running by the end of September fully..

- **Biodiversity**

The clerk is working on this, along with a climate emergency policy as well. As yet we have not moved this forward but should do it soon.

- **Damaged Play equipment and replacement**

It was felt that unless the clerk can obtain funding to replace the damaged items this was not a priority at present. The clerk will speak to Play companies regarding grants at his national conference and a decision on whether we will replace the equipment in November will be made.

- **Purchase of Apple/Pear Trees for Blacks Meadow.**

There is still an area that would benefit from a couple of Pear trees for planting It was agreed to defer this till the October.

- **Land Sale**

This is moving forward and should be completed asap. The parishioner will undertake all costs on this including the parish councils and has made a £200 donation to the council

which they will use to purchase a wooden bench to replace the damaged one in the play area.

- **Purchase of remembrance wreaths**

The clerk has obtained these and they are in his office, and he will get them sorted out later in the month. Costs as yet unknown

15. Matters arising

Highway Rangers defects noted and given to the clerk for action

Land sale questions raised on what this was, and the occupier has purchased the track by his house, and he was the one that made the donation.

A question was asked on noticeboards and the new one will be placed in a more accessible area to allow parishioners easier access. The old noticeboard will be put in blacks meadow without being locked for parishioners to put their own notices in.

A question on the vandalized bench is not usable and needs replacing.

16. To receive details of Parish Speed Watch.

The Sam 2 data has been downloaded today as the SAM machine was sited on Hall Lane leaving the village leaving the village going to Great Moulton. The figures are getting better but the number of vehicles using the village as a rat run when the A140 is busy is increasing meaning a total of 44,224 vehicles used the village between 18/4/2024 to 4/9/2024 meaning a total of approx. 9000 vehicles a month or 2211 per week which is a huge amount. 35,890 vehicles were over the speed limit by 2.9 mph, and we had one speeder at 55mph on the 16/6 at 23.45 pm. On a daily average we have around 28% of the vehicles passing through the village speed, which is down from last month but still not good.

These figures will be sent to the police.

The speed watch has not been out due to weather and the group have struggled to have speed watch days soon and these are hopefully these will start end of September

18. To discuss the need for New Parish Councillors.

We are hoping to co-opt a new parish councilor at the October meeting and the clerk will prepare the forms for this.

19. Items for the next Agenda

Co-option of New Councillors

Laying of Poppy wreaths

New Wooden bench

Trees purchase and planting

Noticeboards

The bridge in the Copse

The meeting ended at 6.35pm.

Next Parish Council Meeting will be 2nd October at 6pm