

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THE CHAPEL, CHAPEL ROAD, WATTISFIELD
MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2023
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Geoff Wade (GW)
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)
Councillor David Dyer (DD)
Councillor Richard Meyer (RM)
Councillor Michael Elflain (Chairman) (ME)
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

No members of public present.

GW stood back as chairman and ME took on this role.

23/014 PUBLIC FORUM
None

23/015 REPORTS FROM AND QUESTIONS TO COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

- a) A report from County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF) had been previously circulated and was noted.
- b) A report from RM had been previously circulated and this was noted. RM spoke about the plans for no MSDC council tax increase and the rationale. RM highlighted that grants were available for community groups struggling financially and that he was encouraging the village hall team to apply. There was a discussion about the forthcoming elections and the process as well as the need for voters to have identification.

23/016 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ann Telford (AT) had offered her apologies and these were accepted. Also, County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF) had sent her apologies.

23/017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None.

23/018 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS
None.

23/019 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meetings held on 16 January 2023 had been previously circulated.

It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.

23/020 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES
None.

23/021 WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL

There was an update on the progress with the working group in interviewing architects and seeking help from a consultant who could possibly assist with the financing aspects of the project.

23/022 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments were approved:
£100.00 to SCC – Quiet Lanes Posts
£1174.34 to C Garman – Parish Clerk’s salary 1 October 2022 to 28 February 2023
£293.60 to HMRC – PAYE/NI
- b) The income and expenditure against budget and bank reconciliation for the year to 31 December 2023 had been previously circulated and was reviewed.
It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statement.
- c) The progress with recruiting a new Parish Clerk was reviewed.

23/023 HIGHWAYS, TREES, CEMETERY and CHURCHYARD

- a) The progress with producing leaflets and maps showing village walks was reviewed. The walking of the village paths is still work in progress. CP spoke about a design for the leaflet. A grant of £500 towards the costs of design and printing has been received from RM’s locality budget.
- b) The use of a SCC SID with ANPR on the A143 recently was noted and SCC will be asked for data.
- c) It was noted that the many potholes on the A143 had been recorded and marked and it appears will be repaired shortly.
- d) It was agreed there would be the annual village litter pick on Sunday 26 March 2023 from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon.

23/024 PLANNING MATTERS

Planning application West Suffolk Council DC/22/2190/HYB relating to land at Shepherds Grove, Hepworth / Stanton was considered. There was discussion on both the negatives and positives of the application. It was suggested that the significant increase in the number of vehicles would worsen the existing hot spots on the A143 and the lanes and villages would be used as rat runs. It was also suggested that the development of the plots on the new roundabout would spoil a rural area and the street view.

It was resolved to advise West Suffolk Council of an objection based on these concerns.

23/025 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) A letter from a resident about the village pond was noted. RM said he was meeting with an officer from MSDC shortly to encourage repairs and renewals around the pond and an ongoing maintenance plan.
- b) Other correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted. No further action was considered necessary.

23/026 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) It was suggested that the hedges in the cemetery needed attention. GW advised this was work in progress.
- b) It was noted that a caravan was being used on a plot on the A143 and it was suggested this needs reporting to the MSDC planning enforcement team.

23/027 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 20 February 2023 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
22 February 2023

DRAFT