

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 16 MARCH 2020
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Geoff Wade (Chairman) (GW)
Councillor Ian Dobson (ID)
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)
Councillor Michael Elflain (ME)
Councillor Naomi Ambrose (NA)
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)

IN ATTENDANCE:

One member of public
Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

20/027 PUBLIC FORUM

There were concerns about speeding vehicles and the dangers in Honeypot Lane. The lane is 60 mph and it was suggested this should in view of the number of houses, be reduced to 30 mph.

20/028 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- a) There was a report from District Councillor Rick Meyer which had been previously circulated. RM expanded and clarified some aspects of his report. RM talked about the access routes planned for the housing development on Wattisfield Road, Walsham le Willows. The planned routes will involve lorries passing through Wattisfield. Various route options were considered and RM will give feedback to the planners.
- b) There was no report from County Councillor Jessica Fleming.

20/029 APOLOGIES

None.

20/030 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

20/031 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

20/032 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2020 had been previously circulated.
It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.

20/033 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) The issue of the use of emails by councillors and GDPR was considered. It was agreed each councillor would have a separate email address for parish council emails.
- b) It was noted that 12 people took part in the litter pick and that 16 bags of rubbish were collected. Councillors expressed thanks to all those who took part.

20/034 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

- a) It was reported that we are still waiting for SCC Highways to install and or adapt the posts in the agreed locations. SCC Highways are being chased for a date.
- b) It was reported that the church clock should be in working condition. However, the access to the winders is dangerous with damaged ladders etc. The installation of electric winders and been previously considered and the cost was between £2000 and £4000. There was discussion on how to take this forward. CG was asked to ascertain how much a professional report would cost with costings for electric winders.
- c) The request from Reverend Philip Merry for funding for the repairs to the noticeboard in the churchyard was considered. It was reported that a verbal estimate for the repairs was £160.

It was resolved to ask Reverend Philip Merry to arrange for the repairs on behalf of the Parish Council and to allocate a budget of no more than £200.

- d) There were concerns raised in the public forum in respect of speeding traffic in Honeypot Lane, Wattisfield and these were considered. It was decided to defer until options could be discussed with County Council Jessica Fleming.
- e) It was noted that there had been no action in respect of the hedges at Meadowside in Walsham Road and the conifer hedge on Pottery Hill despite landowners being asked and reporting to SCC. It was decided to ascertain from SCC what action they intend to take.

20/035 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- a) The following cheques were considered for payment:
 - £879.48 to C Garman – clerk salary 1 Oct 19 – 31 Mar 20
 - £219.80 to HMRC – PAYE
 - £1176.25 to Suffolk County Council – street lighting

It was resolved to issues cheques for these payments.

- c) The production of a free community newsletter was considered. The options of using the Hexagon where discussed and the limitations with space and the distribution frequency. There was further discussion on producing our own newsletter and how to distribute. It was agreed as a first step that CG would provide NA material for a draft April newsletter based on four pages of A5 which would then be considered at the next meeting.

20/036 PLANNING MATTERS

The situation with any pending and decided applications were noted.

20/037 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) RM invited comments on the use of fireworks following a request to table a motion at MSDC to support RSPCA lobbying to reduce the impact on animals caused by fireworks. Whilst it was noted that there were some concerns, RM decided that across his ward there was insufficient appetite to move this forward.
- b) A request from WCCARG for help with funding had been previously circulated. There was a discussion about the use of section 106 and CIL funds for the repairs by WCCARG to the playground surface and decoration of the hall. It was agreed in principle that the section 106 funds of £3,236 could be used towards the purchase of goods and services for these projects but it was noted that MSDC clarification was needed and an application had to be submitted.
- c) The response from Anglian Water which had been previously circulated, relating to potential risks caused by their pumping station was considered. It was noted that risks were minimal and if there were any visible concerns then they should be reported.
- d) The grass cutting programme for 2020 was noted.
- e) Other correspondence had been previously circulated was noted

20/038 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There was discussion on how best to react to the current issues caused by the coronavirus. In respect of meetings, it was acknowledged that need to follow guidance from SALC and that there may be a need to cancel meetings. There was further discussion on how best to facilitate assistance to those in need. It was decided to offer help to those isolating but keeping in mind protecting ourselves. An action plan will be developed.

20/039 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 20 April 2020 at 7.30 pm. It was agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be on Thursday 28 May 2020 subject the village hall being available.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
18 March 2020