

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM PLATFORM
MONDAY 15 MARCH 2021
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Geoff Wade (GW) (Chairman)
Councillor Michael Elflain (ME)
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CPn)
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)
Councillor Ian Dobson (ID)
Councillor Caragh Pell (CPI)
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)
County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF)

No public present.

21/032 PUBLIC FORUM

No public present.

21/033 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- a) JF's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. There were discussions around fly tipping, the installation of the posts for the SID and the school transport policy.
- b) RM's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. There was a discussion around the damage to the roads caused by larger vehicles using the verges and how possibly the developer at Walsham le Willows should be looking to fund the repairs.

21/034 APOLOGIES

All councillors were present.

21/035 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

SG declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 12 (b).

21/036 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

21/037 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2021 had been previously circulated.
It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.

21/038 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

21/039 COVID-19 SITUATION

There was an update on the support service. It was reported that there had been no calls since the last meeting. It was decided as there had been no requests for some months to cease the

support service. It was noted that the foodbank at Walsham le Willows was in demand and a donation was considered. CG was asked to research for the next meeting.

21/040 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

- a) GW advised that the schedule of works for the trees on the recreation ground, village green and in the churchyard had been completed. CG was asked to seek quotations from two contractors.
- b) CG advised that SCC had said they would be installing and adapting the posts for the SID and this should have happened. As it had not happened, CG was asked to chase SCC Highways.
- d) CG advised that three applications had been submitted for grant funding for the church clock project. CG also advised that there was difficulty in getting a further quotation for the works to the access route. Further possible contractors will be approached.
- e) ID reported that SCC Highways had now completed works to alleviate the flooding in Walsham Road in the area of Limes Equestrian.
- f) SG commented that no work had been done by SCC Highways in respect of the narrow footpath on the A143 in the area of Hinderclay Road. CG was asked to chase SCC Highways.
- g) It was reported that there was damage to the footpath sign by the church gate and that the drain by the church wall needed unblocking. CG was asked to report these concerns to SCC Highways.

21/041 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The issue of cheques for the following payments was considered:

£22.80 to SALC – payroll

£31.20 to Coastline Graphics Ltd – signage

£903.64 to C Garman – Clerk's salary 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021

£225.80 to HMRC – PAYE

£1362.97 to Suffolk County Council – street lighting 2020/2021

It was resolved that cheques for these payments can be issued.

21/042 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) It was noted that planning application DC/21/00122 relating to the Common Room at Victoria Gardens, Wattisfield will be considered at MSDC Development Control Committee. RM will speak of the concerns around the possible removal of the hedge.
- b) The situation with planning enforcement at Elm Tree Place, Walsham Road, Wattisfield and at land adjacent to Meadowside, Walsham Road, Wattisfield was noted.
- c) Planning application DC/21/00664 relating to Royal Oak House, The Street, Wattisfield, Suffolk, IP22 1NS was considered.
It was resolved to advise MSDC that there were no objections.
- d) Planning application DC/21/00857 relating to Skep House, Honey Pot Lane, Wattisfield, Diss Suffolk, IP22 1PA was considered.
It was resolved to advise MSDC that there were no objections.
- e) Planning application DC/21/00798 relating to Cashtal-Yn-Ard, Bobby Hill, Wattisfield, Diss Suffolk, IP22 1NL was considered. It was noted that the proposed development was outside the village development area and would be an intrusion in open countryside with a negative effect on the rural landscape.
It was resolved to advise MSDC that the parish council objects and the reasons.
- f) There was a discussion around the consultation on the proposed reduction of the speed limit to 30 mph on the A143 at Stanton.
It was resolved not to respond to the consultation.

21/043 VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

It was decided to further postpone the launch of the village newsletter until lockdown restrictions would allow delivery. If COVID rules allow, it was suggested that the first edition would be the May issue.

21/044 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) MSDC had advised that funding was available for charging points for electric vehicles. This email had been previously circulated. There was a discussion on how this sort of infrastructure might benefit the village.
- b) A letter from a resident concerning damage and rubbish had been previously circulated and was considered. It was decided to take no action.
- c) The dates for Diss MCC Motocross Wattisfield Hall events were noted.
- d) Other items of correspondence had been previously circulated and were noted.

21/045 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

It was noted that there are issues with dog fouling by the letter box by the village pond.

21/046 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 19 April 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
16 March 2021