

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM PLATFORM**  
**MONDAY 26 APRIL 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)

No public present.

**21/047 PUBLIC FORUM**

No public present.

**21/048 REPORTS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

County Councillor Jessica Fleming was not present. There were no reports. There was a discussion around the provision of sports facilities within the MSDC area.

**21/049 APOLOGIES**

None - all councillors were present.

**21/050 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

SG declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 10(b).

**21/051 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**21/052 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2021 had been previously circulated.

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

**21/053 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were updates in respect of seeking quotations for the tree work, the repairs to the footpath sign by the church gate, the Quiet Lanes project and the damage to the verges caused by lorries.

**21/054 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD**

- a) There was an update on the workings of the SID. ME reported there had been some vandalism to the SID but it has now been returned to working order. Data produced by the SID whilst in Walsham Road was discussed. The battery seems to last at least two weeks but the SID is now on the A143 so may not last as long. It was agreed the next stage is to form a team of volunteers who can be trained to move the SID around and charge the batteries, and then develop a rota.

- b) There was an update of the church clock project. CG advised that All Churches Trust had provide a grant of £1,800 and SHCT a grant of £1,500. The response to a third application is still awaited.
- c) CG reported that he was having meeting with Suffolk Wildlife Trust to look at a plan to enhance the village pond and surrounding areas for wildlife and public enjoyment.
- d) The situation with some hedges around the village was noted acknowledging little can be done until September.
- e) It was noted that the village litter pick will be on Sunday 23 May 2021. It has been advertised on noticeboards and the Wattisfield Warbler. MSDC will provide black bags and collect the rubbish. A risk assessment will be needed keeping in view covid requirements. The village hall has been booked with a view to providing, if allowed, refreshments.
- f) There was a discussion around the war memorial and its maintenance.
- g) There was mention of the potholes in Walsham Road, Wattisfield which appear to have been marked for repair.

#### 21/055 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- a) The issue of cheques for the following payments was considered:  
 £158.39 to C Garman – Clerk’s expenses 1 January 2021 to 31 March 2021  
 £50.07 to M Elflain – padlocks for SID  
 £264.77 to SALC – subscription for 2021/2022.  
 £30.00 to SALC - training  
**It was resolved that cheques for these payments can be issued.**
- b) A donation to the foodbank run by Walsham Community Council was considered. It was noted that the Town Estate charity was there to support those in need in Wattisfield.  
**It was resolved not to make a donation.**

#### 21/056 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) The situation with planning enforcement at Elm Tree Place, Walsham Road, Wattisfield and at land adjacent to Meadowside, Walsham Road, Wattisfield was noted.
- b) Planning application DC/21/01864 relating to land at White Swan Farm, Bobby Hill, Wattisfield, IP22 1NL was considered. It was noted that the proposed development on this land was outside the village development area, it would urbanise that side of the A143 and be a loss of agricultural land.  
**It was resolved to advise MSDC that the parish council objects to the proposed development for the reasons above.**

#### 21/057 VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

It was noted that the first edition for May and been delivered and there had been positive comments. The way forward with the Wattisfield Warbler was discussed.

#### 21/058 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) The offer by MSDC of trees, hedges and wild flowers for planting was discussed. It was thought that the green area in the close part of Chapel Road might be a suitable area.
- b) Other items of correspondence had been previously circulated and were noted.

#### 21/059 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There was concern raised about loose dogs that have been attacking other dogs. It was noted that this had been reported to the police.

#### 21/060 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- a) It was noted that because of changes in Covid legislation that virtual meetings will cease on 6 May 2021 and will need to be face to face from 17 May 2021. During the interim period, the parish council will not be able to legally meet.

- b) It was noted that the next meeting will be on Monday 17 May 2021 at 7.30 pm and will be face to face in the village hall.
- c) A date for the Annual Parish Meeting was discussed. CG was asked to look at a date in June and take forward accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
27 April 2021