

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL**  
**MONDAY 19 JULY 2021**  
**7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Geoff Wade (Chairman) (GW)  
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)  
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CPn)  
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

Nine members of were public present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

**21/093 PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) There was a question concerning the Quiet Lanes project and the effect on Honeygot Lane. It was asked if this would lead to a 30 mph speed order. However, CG and JF suggested that this would not normally be the case and the request was advisory. CG said he would seek clarification from the QLS team.
- b) There was a question about the installation fencing alongside a footpath and the resident was asked to refer this to SCC Public Rights of Way team.
- c) There were a number of concerns about the start of work for a community garden and the lack of consultation. Also, there were concerns about the use of the outside space as a gym. It was agreed these issues would be communicated to Martyn Dove as chairperson of the Wattisfield Community Centre and Recreation Ground charity.

**21/094 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- a) JF's report had been previously circulated and was noted.
- b) RM's report had been previously circulated and was noted. There was a discussion around the draft local plan and the advantages and disadvantages of having a neighbourhood plan.

**21/095 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Ian Dobson (ID), Councillor Caragh Pell (CPI) and Councillor Michael Elflain (ME) had communicated their apologies and the reasons were accepted.

**21/096 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**21/097 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**21/098 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2021 had been previously circulated.  
**It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.**

21/099 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

21/100 WATTISFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATION GROUND

It was reported that the Annual General Meeting for WCCRG would be 6 September 2021. It was noted that the formation of a working group to investigate the repair and rebuild options was still work in progress. GW responded to the concerns being expressed in both emails and during the public forum in respect of the community garden that had started. Whilst it was agreed that the community garden project was in principle worthy of support it was agreed that it needed the formal permission of the Parish Council under the terms of the lease. It was recognised that the project had become contentious possibly because of the lack of consultation with the wider community. CG was asked to write to Martyn Dove as chairperson of WCCRG and ask for a request for permission and to support this request with relevant plans etc.

21/101 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

- a) CG gave an update on the church clock project. Merlin Penn is going to provide a quotation for the work which will be supported with appropriate insurance and he had diarised for the work to be done in the next month. The electrical contractor has booked in the work and it was noted that this might cost a little more as the quote was done many months ago and there has since been a significant increase in the cost of materials. The clock repairers have also booked in the work and confirmed the quote remains the same.
- b) The report from SCC in respect of the condition of the street lighting and the costs of the various options was considered. It was noted there had been three emails suggesting that street lighting should be removed and one suggesting it should remain. It was decided to retain the street lighting in the current locations and look at a phased approach to renewal when the budget allows.
- c) RM reported that he was still chasing MSDC to ensure that the dredging of the pond happens conscious that the window of opportunity for this summer was disappearing. RM said he will continue to put pressure on MSDC officials to get this project underway.
- d) The situation with various hedges needing attention was considered. There were concerns that the 30 mph signs coming from the west were covered by overgrown hedges and dirty. Also, it was considered the hedge at the junction of the A143 and The Street on the south east corner needed cutting back to improve visibility. It was noted that visibility was also a problem on the south west corner and this had already been reported to SCC. CG was asked to report these concerns.
- e) The repairs needed to the bus shelter were considered. There was a discussion on the need for the shelter as it was no longer used due to its location. CG was asked to get two quotations for the repair of the shelter and for the removal leaving the base which could then be considered at a future meeting.

21/102 FIANANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The following cheque were considered for payment:  
£190.71 to C Garman – expenses April to June 2021

**It was resolved to confirm the issue of this cheque.**

21/103 PLANNING MATTERS

There were no matters discussed concerning planning applications and enforcements.

21/104 CORRESPONDENCE

The items of correspondence concerning street lighting and the community garden had been previously noted. Other items of correspondence had been previously circulated and no further discussion was needed.

21/105 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN  
None.

21/106 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 16 August 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
24 July 2021