

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**URC CHAPEL, CHAPEL ROAD, WATTISFIELD**  
**MONDAY 18 JULY 2022**  
**7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Geoff Wade (Chairman) (GW)  
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)  
Councillor Michael Elflain (ME)  
Councillor Ann Telford (AT)  
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)  
Councillor David Dyer (DD)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

One member of public present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

**22/092 PUBLIC FORUM**

There was discussion about the increase in litter along the A143 and possibly customers from the new catering van dumping after purchase. Whilst there was no concern about the catering van trading thought was given to managing the situation and for now appropriate to perhaps monitor.

There was discussion about the poor state of some the public rights of way and the need to cut back vegetation. It was considered the rights of way network around Wattisfield was a strength and needed promoting with perhaps a map on display and or a leaflet. This will be investigated.

**22/093 REPORTS FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

- a) A report from County Councillor Jessica Fleming had been previously circulated and this was noted.
- b) A report from District Councillor Richard Meyer had been previously circulated and this was noted.

**22/094 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Richard Meyer (RM) had offered his apologies and these were accepted. County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF) also offered her apologies.

**22/095 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**22/096 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**22/097 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2022 had been previously circulated.

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

22/098 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None.

22/099 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments were considered for approval:  
£150.00 – Wattisfield URC – room hire  
£250.00 – Wattisfield Community Centre and Recreation Ground – jubilee celebrations  
£266.50 – C Garman – expenses April to June 2022.  
**It was resolved to approve these payments.**
- b) The income and expenditure statement with bank reconciliation and bank statement had been previously circulated. The income and expenditure were reviewed against budget together with the bank reconciliation and bank statements.  
**It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statement.**
- c) A donation to Walsham le Willows Community Council Foodbank was again considered. There were concerns that the data available was inadequate to demonstrate a need from Wattisfield residents and that a donation would be proportionate.  
**It was resolved to decline from making a donation at the present time and CG to advise accordingly.**

22/100 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVEY POLICY

It was agreed to defer this item until the September meeting.

22/101 HIGHWAYS, TREES, CEMETERY and CHURCHYARD

- a) A report from SCC with costings for the upgrade of the street lighting together with a summary sheet had been previously circulated. There was discussion on how to take this forward and how the project would be financed. A loan of £10,000 was considered appropriate over 10 years with the repayments being funded from estimated energy savings of £2,000 taking into account expected increase in energy costs. The remainder would come from the allocated reserve of £3,000 provided for within the finances and the CIL or general reserve if needed.  
**It was resolved in principle to move forward with the upgrade of all lighting units at an estimated cost of £14,617 based on the quotation from SCC and allowing 10% for price increases and 10% for contingencies.**  
**It was resolved to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £10,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for the purpose of the upgrade of the street lighting equipment. The annual loan repayments will come to around £1,100. It is not intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.**
- b) It was reported that there is still no progress with the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project. It appears that the project is in a log jam with SCC legal team.

22/102 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) Planning consultation DC/22/03002 relating to The Cottage, The Street, Wattisfield, IP22 1NS was considered.  
**It was resolved to advise MSDC that there was no objection.**
- b) Planning consultation DC/22/03315 relating to Wagtails, Walsham Road, Wattisfield, IP22 1NZ was considered.  
**It was resolved to advise MSDC that there was no objection.**
- c) Planning consultation DC/22/0987/EIASCO (West Suffolk Council) relating to land at Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, East Summer Road, Hepworth was considered.

**It was resolved to reiterate to WSC the comments and changes suggested by Councillor Fleming in her response.**

- d) It was noted that SCC had failed to give an update on the situation with the fence at Elm Tree Place, Walsham Road, Wattisfield and JF will be asked to intervene again.
- e) It was noted that MSDC had given notice for the containers to be removed on the land adjacent to Meadowside, Walsham Road, Wattisfield.
- f) It was noted that MSDC considered that the caravan on the A143 opposite Pottery Hill was only being used for occasional recreational use. However, it was thought that this was not the case from recent activity seen and MSDC will be advised accordingly.

22/103 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted.

22/104 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) There was discussion about the condition of the footpath along the A143 and the dangers this posed. It was noted that SCC were declining to take any action. JF will be asked to intervene.
- b) It was noted that garden waste was being dumped along the boundary of the recreation ground and the Grundle which was thought to come from the community garden. Also, it was noted that the turfs from the community garden were still stacked on site. CG was asked to write to the chairman of WCCRG to remind him of the need to have all waste removed from site and to have a brown bin installed for this purpose.

22/105 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting will be Monday 19 September 2022 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
19 July 2022