

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL
MONDAY 16 AUGUST 2021
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

Five members of public were present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

21/107 PUBLIC FORUM

Martyn Dove spoke about the plans for the community garden on the recreation ground and apologised for the lack of consultation. Martyn Dove also spoke about the development plans for the village hall and the need for an asbestos survey and asked if the parish council would cover the cost of the survey.

There was then discussion between the public and councillors on the suitability of having a community garden in the proposed location. There were concerns about the location, the noise in addition to the noise now generated by the fitness instructor and the disposal of garden waste. The members of public emphasised the lack of consultation and Martyn Dove again apologised.

21/108 REPORT FROM DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLOR

- a) There was no report from County Council Jessica Fleming.
- b) RM's report had been previously circulated and was noted.

21/109 APOLOGIES

Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG) and the reason was accepted.

21/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

CPn declared an interest in agenda item 9 (a) – church clock project.

21/111 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

21/112 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 July 2021 had been previously circulated.
It was resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.

21/113 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) There was an update on the Quiet Lanes Suffolk project. CG advised that a speed order was an option but this was not being pursued by SCC at present.
- b) Thanks were expressed to Merlin Penn for the repairs to the noticeboard at Honeypot Lane.

21/114 WATTISFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATION GROUND

- a) The application and plans for the community garden which had been previously circulated were considered and the comments from the public forum were noted.
It was resolved to approve the request to construct the community garden subject to no sheds or buildings, no bonfires, no compost heaps with waste removed from the site and a review in two years.
- b) It was decided to defer further discussion on a working group to explore the repair or rebuild options for the village hall until after the WCCRG annual general meeting planned for 6 September 2021.
- c) The nomination of a parish council representative for WCCRG was deferred until the next meeting.

21/115 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

- a) CG gave an update on the church clock project. It was confirmed the contractors are now set to proceed.
- b) RM advised that the dredging of the pond was unlikely to happen this year. Whilst MSDC have agreed the funding, the pond still has water making the work difficult. Also, the contractor will be unable to now schedule the work for this year. The project is now put on hold until 2022. It was noted that there were rats around the pond probably caused by feed being left for the ducks.
- c) CG advised that he had received one set of quotes for either refurbishing or demolishing the bus shelter and a second set had been requested from another contractor. It was thought this work was possibly too expensive and other options such as a community project were considered. It was noted that if the bus shelter is demolished permission would be first needed from MSDC.
- d) The situation with various hedges needing attention was considered and there were updates with the areas where action is still needed.
- e) GW mentioned that he could not continue with the maintenance at the parish council cemetery. Therefore, it was agreed a job description will be prepared and quotations sought for the work.

21/116 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The income and expenditure statement for the year to 30 June 2021, the bank reconciliation and bank statements had been previously circulated and were reviewed.

It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statement.

21/117 PLANNING MATTERS

There were updates in respect of the three planning enforcement issues.

21/118 CORRESPONDENCE

Items of correspondence had been previously circulated and no further discussion was needed.

21/119 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

ME advised that the defibrillator pads need replacing and were no longer available free of charge from the NHS.

It was resolved that a set of new pads for the defibrillator should be purchased.

21/120 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 20 September 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
25 August 2021