

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL**  
**MONDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 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)  
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

Two members of public were present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

**21/107 PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) Concern was expressed about the flooding in Hinderclay Road, Wattisfield and the effect this was having on some properties. There was discussion about the cause of the flooding which may be the ditches in the area needing clearing and digging out. It was commented that some of the ditches had not been cleared by landowners for a number of years. It was thought that this maybe a matter for SCC to consider and should be reported to them.
- b) Concern was expressed about the state of the footpath along the A143. It was commented that this had already been reported to SCC who appear to have decided to do nothing.
- c) Concern was expressed about potential flooding being caused by the need for the ditch to be cleared alongside Cemetery Way. It was acknowledged that this was a responsibility of the parish council and was on their radar.

**21/108 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.

**21/109 APOLOGIES**

County Councillor Jessica Fleming had offered her apologies.

**21/110 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

CPn declared an interest in agenda item 10 (a) – payment to Merlin Penn.

**21/111 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**21/112 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 August 2021 had been previously circulated.

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

21/113 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

ME reported that the new defibrillator pads had been purchased and installed.

21/114 WATTISFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATION GROUND

a) There was discussion about the parish council's part in the working group looking at the rebuild or repair options for the village hall.

**It was resolved that CF and RM would be part of this working group.**

b) The nomination of a parish council representative for WCCRG was again unresolved.

c) The application from WCCRG for a grant of £500 for an asbestos survey was considered. It was noted there was no financial statements from WCCRG. There was discussion about the appropriateness of a survey at the current time and whether it should be part of structural survey when the working group consider the rebuild or repair options.

**It was resolved to decline the request as it was not considered appropriate at the moment.**

21/115 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

a) It was reported that the church clock project was now underway. The repairs to the access route had been completed and the electrician and clock restorers have now been asked to start as soon as they can.

b) RM advised that the dredging of the pond is now likely to happen in 2022. It was confirmed that MSDC are making progress with surveying the site and looking at appropriate contractors in readiness.

c) It was considered that the bus shelter project should be deferred for now. There was agreement that it was difficult to justify the cost of refurbishing or demolishing at the moment. It was noted there had been mixed feedback from residents. It was thought that the refurbishment might be a community project. It was noted that the tiles to the roof had been replaced.

d) The situation with various hedges needing attention was reviewed. It was noted that the newsletter had an article that might stimulate residents into trimming when needed their hedges. It was suggested that there might be community working parties to look at improving areas in the village that were currently being neglected by MSDC and SCC.

e) GW talked about the way forward with the cemetery maintenance. CG will prepare a job description for consideration at the next meeting before going to get quotes from contractors.

21/116 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The following payments were considered.

£99.98 to C Garman / 121 Computers – repairs to laptop

£903.64 to C Garman – Clerk's salary 1 April to 30 September 2021.

£225.80 to HMRC – Payroll PAYE/NI

£300.00 to Merlin Penn – church clock project

£1,866.67 to Harward Horological Ltd – church clock project

**It was resolved that cheques should be issued for these payments.**

b) The situation with the insurance cover was considered noting that RSA had declined to renew the policy. Quotations from three insurers and a summary of cover had been previously circulated and these were considered making sure risks were appropriately covered. It was noted that there was a significant increase in premiums.

**It was resolved to take out a policy with Zurich Municipal at a cost of £563.30.**

21/117 PLANNING MATTERS

a) There were no updates in respect of the three planning enforcement issues.

- b) Planning application DC/21/04546 relating to Walnut Tree Cottage, The Street, Wattisfield, Suffolk IP22 1NS was considered.

**It was resolved to advise MSDC that there were no objections.**

21/118 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) There had been an email from a resident which had been previously circulated suggesting that the bus shelter be used as a library and it was thought this might have value if someone wanted to oversee the project.
- b) Other correspondence had been previously circulated and no further action was needed.

21/119 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

There was discussion about being involved with other parish councils looking at and monitoring development along the A143. CG will look at being part of this group.

21/120 EMPLOYMENT MATTER

An employment matter was considered – see separate confidential minute.

21/121 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18 October 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
23 September 2021