

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM PLATFORM
MONDAY 19 OCTOBER 2020
7.30 PM

PRESENT:

Councillor Geoff Wade (GW) (Chairman)
Councillor Michael Elflain (ME)
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

No public were present.

20/118 PUBLIC FORUM

No public present.

20/119 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- a) JF's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. There was a discussion around the poor service being received from SCC Highways in respect of the posts for the SID, the lack of action with the fence at Elm Tree Place, Walsham Road, Wattisfield and the lack of action to get overgrown hedges cut. JF asked for details to be emailed to her. There was also a discussion around the Quiet Lanes Suffolk initiative.
- b) RM's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. RM spoke about the response to the planning consultation and the issues being encountered with delivery lorries to The Acorns in Walsham le Willows and expected challenges with following notice of proposed road closures.

20/120 APOLOGIES

Councillor Ian Dobson (ID) and the reason was accepted.

20/121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RM declared an interest in agenda item 11 (b).

20/122 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

20/123 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2020 had been previously circulated.
It was then resolved that these were an accurate record of the meeting.

20/124 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

It was mentioned that the noticeboard at Honeypot Lane had been repaired.

20/125 COVID-19 SITUATION

There was a discussion on the current levels of activity.

20/126 WATTISFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATION GROUND

It was noted that there had been two trustee resignations and that there were now possibly insufficient trustees to be quorate. There were concerns how this may now impact on the proposed working group and the funding application for the playground surface. GW will try and speak with Martyn Dove to ascertain the way forward and how possibly the Parish Council may help. In the meantime, it was agreed that the funding application will be put on hold.

20/127 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

- a) There was an update in respect of the SID. SCC Highways have now advised that the posts probably will not be installed until February 2021. Councillors had already expressed disappointment about the continued delays to JF.
- b) The Quiet Lanes Suffolk initiative had been discussed earlier when JF was present. It was decided to move forward with this and in addition to Honeypot Lane, to request that Bobby Hill and Chapel Road are also added for consideration.
- c) It was reported that quotations are being arranged for the electrical work and repairs to the access route in preparation for the church clock work. These should be available for the November meeting.
- d) It was reported that the dredging of the village pond will not happen this year. However, RM is pursuing this with MSDC to make sure it happens in 2021 and budget is allocated. In the meantime, ME is going to make enquiries as to where the soil can be dumped.
- e) The signage for the defibrillator was deferred to the November meeting.
- f) There was a discussion about the cemetery hedges and the plans to keep them tidy.
- g) There was a discussion about the fallen tree on the village green. It was decided that it did not need replacing.

20/128 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- a) The renewal documents for the Parish Council's insurance were reviewed.
It was resolved to renew this policy at an annual premium of £221.76
- b) The following cheques were considered for payment:
£221.76 to Business Services at CAS Ltd – insurance
£40.00 to R Meyer – COVID-19 mobile phone top-up
£121.72 to C Garman – Parish Clerk's expenses 1 July – 30 September 2020
£60.00 to CAS – website hosting
£22.80 to SALC – payroll management
It was resolved that cheques could be issued for these payments.
- c) The income and expenditure for the year to 30 September 2020 was reviewed together with the bank reconciliation and bank statements.
It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with the bank statements.
- d) The purchase of a standalone hard drive for the storage of Parish Council files was considered at an approximate cost of £42.
It was resolved that this item of computer hardware could be purchased.
- e) A training course on cemetery management at a cost of £40.00 + VAT for the Parish Clerk was considered.
It was resolved that the Parish Clerk could attend this course.

20/129 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) The situation with existing applications in progress was noted.

- b) The planning application DC/20/03956 relating to Uplands House, Walsham Road, Wattisfield, Diss Suffolk IP22 1NZ was considered.

It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council had no objections.

- c) The planning application DC/20/04276 relating to Street Farm, The Street, Wattisfield, Diss Suffolk IP22 1NS was considered.

It was resolved to advise MSDC that the Parish Council had no objections.

20/130 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted. CG highlighted a request from Citizens Advice Bureau for a donation. This will be considered at the November meeting.

20/131 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) ME spoke about an unusual anonymous letter put through his door. It was decided no action was appropriate.
- b) It was noted that the new trees on the green in the close part of Chapel Road had been planted.
- c) The arrangements for the Remembrance Day service were discussed.
- d) CG advised on arrangements to fill the casual vacancy on the Parish Council.

20/132 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 16 November 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
22 October 2020