

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM PLATFORM**  
**MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 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)  
Councillor Ian Dobson (ID)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

No public were present.

**20/133 PUBLIC FORUM**

No public present.

**20/134 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

- a) JF's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. There were concerns expressed about the effectiveness of SCC Highways and the lack of action when matters were reported.
- b) RM's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. RM expanded on the situation with the local plan and the direction of travel.

**20/135 APOLOGIES**

None.

**20/136 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**20/137 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

**20/138 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2020 had been previously circulated.

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

**20/139 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- a) It was noted that the hard drive for document storage and back up had been purchase.
- b) CG had confirmed he had undertaken the cemetery management training and would be giving feedback at a future meeting.

20/140 COVID-19 SITUATION

It was confirmed that if residents still needed help then the mobile phone was still available to make contact. However, it was noted that there had been no calls in recent months. There was a discussion about the need for foodbank support. It was acknowledged that this was being adequately provided by surrounding foodbanks should there be a need.

20/141 WATTISFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATION GROUND

GW reported on a meeting with Martyn Dove. There was a discussion on how the parish council could assist and the way forward. It was decided to allow time for the trustees to assess the way forward and to be ready to help as and when needed.

20/142 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

- a) It was reported that quotations had been received for the electrical work and repairs to the access route in preparation for the church clock work. These quotations together with the quotations for the work to the church clock were considered. The favoured way forward was the overhaul of the clock, the installation of the electrical winders and the repairs to the access. It was acknowledged that the time regulator would be useful and possibly could be explored in future when additional funding was available. CG was asked to explore this preferred option with the Diocesan adviser for clocks to check it was viable and sensible.
- b) It was reported that MSDC was being asked to put in place the funding etc. to dredge the village pond during summer 2021. However, a local location was still needed to dispose of the spoil. There was a discussion on further work to enhance the area which would probably have to be a parish council funded project. CG was asked to approach Suffolk Wildlife Trust to seek their guidance.
- c) The signage for the defibrillator was considered.  
**It was resolved to purchase two signs and allocate a budget of £52 + VAT**
- d) There was a discussion on the overhanging hedges in Walsham Road, Wattisfield in the area of Meadowside. The lack of action by SCC Highways was noted. It was decided that the matter should be reported again pointing out the hazard caused by the worsening situation.
- e) There was a discussion on the work needed to clear the area on the road side of the church wall.  
**It was resolved to undertake clearance work and allocate a budget of £50.**

20/143 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

- a) Following an email from Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk, the request for a donation was considered.  
**It was resolved to make a donation to Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk of £100.**
- b) The casual vacancy for a parish councillor was discussed. It was noted there had been no applications. The options for finding a new councillor were considered. It was decided to put a deadline of 10 January 2021 on the advertisements and then consider any applications at the January 2021 meeting.

20/144 PLANNING MATTERS

The situation with existing applications in progress was noted.

20/145 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted.

20/146 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

- a) There was concern that some residents in Honeypot Lane were not taking in their wheelie bins and were leaving them on the roadside. It was acknowledged this was not acceptable

and impacted on the street scene. CG was asked to deliver a letter the relevant houses asking them to remove the wheelie bins from the roadside.

- b) There was a discussion about the containers that had been placed in the field adjacent to Meadowside, Walsham Road, Wattisfield. It was decided to ask MSDC if planning permission was needed.
- c) There was a discussion about cars again parking in the passing place on Pottery Hill, Wattisfield. It was noted this was a private designated area to facilitate the passing of larger vehicles and the use for parking was causing issues with larger vehicles on the hill. CG was asked to prepare notices that could be placed on the offending vehicles asking them not to park in this location.

20/147 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 21 December 2020 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
17 November 2020