

**WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL**  
**MONDAY 18 OCTOBER 2021**  
**7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor Geoff Wade (Chairman) (GW)  
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)  
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CPn)  
Councillor Ian Dobson (ID)  
Councillor Sarah Goodchild (SG)

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Christopher Garman (Parish Clerk) (CG)

Four members of public were present.

GW welcomed all to the meeting.

**21/122 PUBLIC FORUM**

- a) Concern was expressed about the lack of reaction from Wattisfield Community Centre and Recreation Ground to a positive response to the flyer seeking people for the development working group.
- b) Concern was again expressed about the lack of work in clearing ditches and the effects this has on flooding. In particular there was concern about the ditches alongside Hinderclay Road and Cemetery Way. It was confirmed that contractors are being sought for maintenance of the parish council cemetery and surrounding area and this will include maintenance of the ditch alongside Cemetery Way. There was discussion about the lack of action by the landowner in respect of the Hinderclay Road ditches. It has been suggested this needs reporting to SCC for appropriate action. CG offered to work with residents in moving this forward.
- c) Concern was expressed about the community garden and the fact that waste is not being taken away which was part of the parish council's conditions. It was alleged that green waste remains on site and is being dumped on the margins. It appears there are no bins available for the green waste.

**21/123 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.

**21/124 APOLOGIES**

Councillor Caragh Pell (CPI) and Councillor Michael Elflain (ME) and the reasons were accepted. County Councillor Jessica Fleming had also offered her apologies.

**21/125 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**21/126 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

None.

21/127 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2021 had been previously circulated.

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

21/128 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

RM reported that there appears to be significant progress with the dredging of the pond and it appears that this might happen this year.

21/129 WATTISFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE AND RECREATION GROUND

CPn reported that she had been in contact with Martyn Dove – chairman of WCCRG – to move forward the establishment of the working group. There was discussion on how this should proceed and the current pressures on the trustees. CPn and RM will take this forward with the potential offer of help from the public forum with the view to getting a first meeting and a chairperson.

21/130 HIGHWAYS, TREES, CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

- a) CG reported that there is good progress with the church clock project. The electrical work has now been completed. The clock restorers have been asked to complete the work by the end of October with the view to having the clock in full working order for Remembrance Sunday.
- b) GW reported that the work needed to the bus shelter would be a community project and he would be working on this over the coming weeks.
- c) A draft cemetery maintenance plan had been previously circulated. This was reviewed.  
**It was resolved to seek two quotations for the work for consideration.**
- d) CG reported a need to do headstone testing in the churchyard. CG will arrange for this to be done using the appropriate method and to advise Reverend Merry accordingly. It was highlighted a need to remove brambles and other growth around the churchyard.  
**It was resolved to ask for a quotation for this additional work.**
- e) The situation with overgrown hedges was discussed. CG will again report the need for the trimming of the hedges in Walsham Road adjacent to Meadowside.

21/131 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) The following payments were considered for approval.  
£60.00 to Community Action Suffolk – website hosting  
£57.00 to M Elflain – replacement defibrillator pads  
£563.30 to Zurich Municipal – insurance premium  
£166.19 to C Garman – expenses July to September 2021  
£22.80 to SALC – payroll costs.  
**It was resolved to approve these payments.**
- b) A copy of the cemetery regulations had been previously circulated. These were reviewed.  
**It was resolved to increase all the fees by 10% and to charge no fee for anyone 16 years or under.**
- c) A copy of the income and expenditure against budget and the bank reconciliation with bank statement had been previously considered. These were reviewed.  
**It was resolved to confirm that the bank reconciliation agreed with bank statement.**

21/132 PLANNING MATTERS

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

21/133 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBLIEE 2022

The opportunity to celebrate the platinum jubilee was considered. It was thought that WCCRG were best placed to organise a community event. It was suggested that the parish council

might make funding available for such an event with possibly a band or other entertainment. CG was asked to contact WCCRG to seek their thoughts with the view to considering allocating budget for 2022/2023 when the budget is considered in December.

21/134 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and no further action was needed.

21/135 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

It was highlighted that it was being discussed around the village that the recreation ground was going to be used for allotments. This is not something the parish council had been made aware of and it was noted that permission would first be needed.

21/136 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 15 November 2021 at 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

Christopher Garman  
Parish Clerk  
20 October 2021