

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING USING ZOOM PLATFORM
MONDAY 21 DECEMBER 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)

No public were present.

20/148 PUBLIC FORUM

No public present.

20/149 REPORT FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- a) County Councillor Jessica Fleming was not present and no report was available.
- b) RM's report had been previously circulated and the contents were noted. RM mentioned that the MSDC part of the council tax was likely to increase by 1.6%.

20/150 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillor Ian Dobson and the reason was accepted.

20/151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

RM declared an interest in agenda item 10(a) and in particular the payment for his expenses.

20/152 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None.

20/153 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2020 had been previously circulated.

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

20/154 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

- a) It was noted that the bins in Honeypot Lane were still on the roadside despite letters to the residents of the properties. CG was asked to escalate the concern to MSDC.
- b) It was noted that the containers on the land adjacent to Meadowside in Walsham Road were still there. CG was asked to report this concern to the planning enforcement team at MSDC.

20/155 COVID-19 SITUATION

- a) It was noted that there had been no inward telephone calls for some while. It was decided to continue until March 2021 and decide at that time whether to discontinue the service.
- b) There was an update on the new foodbank service being run by Walsham Community Council which was there to support Wattisfield residents.

20/156 CHURCH CLOCK

A report on the restoration of the church clock project has been previously circulated. The options going forward were considered. It was suggested that the Parish Council funding should be £2,000 with hopefully grants from charitable trusts would generate £4,500. It was agreed to continue to move forward and apply for a faculty for the work.

It was resolved to formally apply to the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich for a faculty for the restoration of the clock, the installation of electric winders and repairs to the access route with an application fee of £200.

20/157 HIGHWAYS, TREES AND CHURCHYARD

a) The report on the trees on the recreation ground, the village green and in the churchyard had been previously circulated. The contents were noted. GW will, based on the contents of the report, prepare a schedule of works for CG to then seek quotations.

b) The signage for the defibrillator was considered. ID had previously circulated drafts of the two signs.

It was resolved to proceed with the purchase of the two signs using the previously agreed budget of £52 + VAT

c) It was reported that the issue with overhanging hedges in Walsham Road, Wattisfield in the area of Meadowside had again been reported to SCC Highways. SCC have now advised that the highways enforcement team have served a hedge notice on the owner.

d) The situation with the conifer hedge in Pottery Hill, Wattisfield was discussed. CG was asked to report this concern to SCC Highways for appropriate action.

e) There was a discussion on the recent flooding issues in the Grundle and in Walsham Road, Wattisfield.

f) There was a discussion about the width of the pavement and the hedge on the A143 at Hinderclay Road, Wattisfield. CG was asked to report this to SCC Highways.

g) It was noted that the roads used by the lorries serving the new development at Walsham le Willows were damaging the edges and surfaces.

20/158 ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

a) The issue of cheques for the following payments were considered:

£100.00 to Citizens Advice Mid Suffolk – donation

£20.00 to R Meyer – COVID-19 mobile phone credit

£600.00 to W Prentice – churchyard maintenance

£420.00 to Oakfield Arboricultural Services – tree survey.

It was resolved that cheques for these payments can be issued.

b) The draft budget for 2021/2022 which had been previously circulated was considered. The amounts for business-as-usual items were reviewed and thought appropriate. The amounts for the possible projects were also reviewed and adjustments suggested in line with priorities so as to avoid an increase in the precept. CG was asked to prepare a revised draft budget to be considered at the next meeting.

20/159 PLANNING MATTERS

The situation with existing and recent applications were noted.

20/160 CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence had been previously circulated and was noted.

20/161 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

a) It was noted that there appears to be a caravan in regular use on land adjacent to the A143.

b) It was noted that following the recent heavy rainfall, there had been issues with the sewage system in Hinderclay Road, Wattisfield.

c) It was noted that there had been no applications for the vacancy for a parish councillor.

20/162 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

Christopher Garman
Parish Clerk
29 December 2020