

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7:30pm at the United Chapel, Chapel Road, Wattisfield.

Present:

Councillor Geoff Wade (GW) Chair
Councillor Mick Elflain (ME) Vice Chair
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)
Councillor Matthew Vaugh-Williams (MV-W)
Councillor Cynthia Payne (CP)

Also present: 2 members of the public and District Cllr Richard Winch.

Item	Description
1.	<p>PUBLIC FORUM</p> <p>Recent rain has led to flooding at Bobby Hill with two homes being flooded internally. Issue appears to be coming from under the bridge and then floods over from the ditch to the road. Asked for assurances that the drains and ditches are cleared by the County Council and the landowners.</p> <p>Cllr Winch informed the meeting that the County Council do have a plan to investigate the areas of flooding from the October 22 flooding. They have prioritised the work depending on the number of homes flooded internally and are currently 37th on the list.</p> <p>Action – Clerk to write to SCC Flood team to highlight new issues 3 more homes flooded and flooding on the A143.</p> <p>Action – Clerk to write to Mr Barker again when could remedial work start.</p> <p>Bobby Hill is a conservation area. Problem with bins being kept outside the front of properties. Residents have approached the homeowner (Old Post Office) but haven't received a positive response.</p> <p>Action - Clerk to write to MSDC Public Realm to highlight the issues.</p>
2.	<p>REPORT FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</p> <p>County Councillor Jessica Fleming was not in attendance. Her February report has been circulated to Councillors.</p>

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Signature – Chair Cllr Geoff Wade

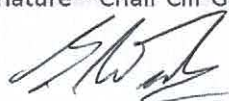


Date: 18th March 2024

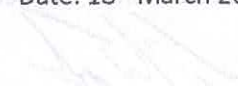
	<p>District Councillor Richard Winch.</p> <p>Highlights from the February report which has been circulated to Councillors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MSDC Draft Budget – includes a 2% increase. • Skills and Innovation Centre – Approved to be located on Gateway 14 subject to funding from Freeport East. • Recycling – There are a number of changes being planned for recycling, which will be implemented over the next couple of years. More details to follow in future reports. • A Community Rail Partnership is going to be set up to trying to increase passenger numbers. • Flooding – all those who registered and were entitled have received the initial recovery grant. Contact is being made to residents affected to receive the flood resilience grant of £5000. <p>ME – Asked about the outstanding planning enforcement for land opposite Kudu Lodge. (see Jessica’s email) Cllr Winch had spoken to the planning enforcement team who have informed him that the matter is in hand.</p>
3.	<p>APOLOGIES</p> <p>To receive apologies and approve the reasons for any absences.</p> <p>Councillor David Dyer (DD) Councillor Ann Telford (AT)</p> <p>Absence approved by Council.</p>
4.	<p>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p> <p>None declared.</p>
5.	<p>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</p> <p>None received.</p>
6.	<p>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on the 15th January 2024 were approved and signed by chair subject to the amendments as indicated on the document circulated.</p>
7.	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</p> <p>Nothing raised.</p>



8.	<p>WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND</p> <p>a) Update from the Wattisfield Village Hall Redevelopment Group.</p> <p>CA – The 3rd meeting has been held with the group and the architects. An open day (TBC) will be held for the village to inform them of the feasibility study to look at which is the preferred option. Once a final decision is made by the Council following recommendations the WVHRG will dissolve, and a new group will form to take up the next stage of the project.</p> <p>The use of the VH has increased, the bar is open, hirings has improved. CA asked for an article to go in the next Warbler. ME – agreed to send a draft to CA to approval.</p> <p>RM reported that the Nature Group have met and want to have an AGM to ratify the group.</p> <p>The group will be doing the uplift to the bus shelter using the grant awarded in the Pride in your Community funding.</p>
9.	<p>FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION</p> <p>a) Councillors to approve payments as circulated.</p> <p>The payments as listed in Appendix A were approved by Council.</p> <p>b) Bank reconciliation @ 30.01.2024 as listed in Appendix B was noted by Council.</p> <p>The Clerk highlighted that it was good practice for the general reserve to be ½ of the annual precept (£6190) currently the balance of general reserve is £4850.</p> <p>c) Budget Report to 7th February for information</p> <p>Council noted the budget report as presented and approved the virements between budget headings as suggested to cover overspends.</p> <p>d) Agree a date for the parish litter pick for Spring 2024</p> <p>Council agreed a date of 7th April for the Spring litter pick, 10:00 am at the Village Hall.</p>



	<p>Action – Clerk to make arrangements with MSDC for collection of waste picked up from the Village Hall on the 8th April.</p> <p>e) Agree schedule of meeting dates for 2024/25 Council year.</p> <p>The meeting schedule was agreed by Council.</p>
10.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p> <p>a). To consider any response to any planning applications notified by the District Council.</p> <p>(i) DC/23/05665 – Pastures New, Walsham Road, Wattisfield, IP22 1PB – Erection of Single Storey rear extension.</p> <p>The Clerk explained that an extension of the response date to the 20th February had been agreed by MSDC.</p> <p>No objections to this application</p> <p>(ii) DC/24/00227 – Royal Oak House, The Street, Wattisfield, IP22 1NS – Works to tree in conservation area. No response given, deadline outside of meeting schedule.</p> <p>b) – Planning Decisions for Council to note.</p> <p>(i) DC/23/05549 – Land East of Walsham Road, Wattisfield – Erection of 1 dwelling – Permission in principle has been refused. - Noted</p> <p>(ii) DC/24/00227 – Royal Oak House, The Street, Wattisfield – Works to trees in conservation area – MSDC does not wish to object to this application. – Noted.</p>
11.	<p>Report on Council’s Tree’s – completed Dec 24 – For consideration and decision if any immediate works are required.</p> <p>The contents of the report were noted and discussed. GW to contact the parish grounds contractor to carry out the medium priority works.</p> <p>Action – Clerk to write to three contractors for quotations to works.</p> <p>It was noted that one T38 required immediate action for a picus test result. – This test has been taken out and the tree is sound.</p>

	It was also noted that the recommended inspection was for 18 months' time i.e. June 2025
12.	<p>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</p> <p>To consider any correspondence previously circulated.</p> <p>a) Speeding cars through Wattisfield – request from Cllr Fleming to support a speed survey at approx. £700.00</p> <p>PC doesn't have sufficient general reserves to fund the speed survey but would support the survey if Cllr Fleming is able to fund from her locality budget.</p>
12.	<p>QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS.</p> <p>Footpath leaflet to be presented to Council within two months.</p> <p>Clerk to submit a paper to Council to establish if it can carry out remedial works to ditches to drainage.</p>
13.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.30 pm.</p>
14.	To close the meeting.21:10



Appendix A

Wattisfield Parish Council

Payments for approved on the 19th February 2024

Vch	Cheq No	Description	Supplier / customer	Account name	Amount
95	001050	Tree Survey - 2024	Oakfield Arboricultural Services	Recreation ground and trees	480.00
96	001051	Supply Laptop	Red Dune Ltd	Equipment Purchase (Office)	400.80
97	001051	Domain name	Red Dune Ltd	Equipment Purchase (Office)	24.00
98	001051	Annual Microsoft 365 subscriptio	Red Dune Ltd	Equipment Purchase (Office)	194.40
99	001052	Laptop Set up	Red Dune Ltd	Equipment Purchase (Office)	120.00
100	001053	Wages - P11	Staff	Staff costs	260.05
101	001055	Clerk expenses Nov-Jan	Staff	Expenses	130.48
102	001054	PAYE - P11	HMRC	Staff costs	65.00
					1,674.73

Signature – Chair Cllr Geoff Wade



Date: 18th March 2024

Appendix B

Council name	Wattisfield Parish Council		
Bank account	Main Current Account		
Balance per bank statement at 30/01/2024			37,490.11
Uncleared Payments			
Date	Customer/Supplier	Chq No	Amount
15/01/2024	Citizens Advice Bureau - Mid Suffolk	001049	-100.00
TOTAL			-100.00
TOTAL NET BANK BALANCES AT 30/01/2024			37,390.11
Opening balance			30,943.35
Total receipts			32,559.42
Total payments			-26,112.66
Total transfers			
Closing balance per cash book (must equal net bank balances above)			37,390.11
Earmarked Reserves			
Election Fees			2000
Trees			3300
Community Transport			2000
Village Hall			3000
CIL			21990
Pride in Your Place Grant			250
Total earmarked reserves			32,540
General Reserves			4,850

The Clerk highlighted that it was good practice for the general reserve to be ½ of the annual precept (£6190) currently the balance of general reserve is £4850.

Signature – Chair Cllr Geoff Wade



Date: 18th March 2024