

## WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Parish Council on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 7:30pm held at The United Reformed Chapel, Wattisfield

#### **Present:**

Councillor Geoff Wade (GW) Chair  
Councillor Mick Elflain (ME) Vice Chair  
Councillor Rick Meyer (RM)  
Councillor Matt Vaughn-Williams (MVW)

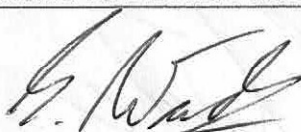
#### **In Attendance**

County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF)  
District Councillor Richard Winch (RW)  
Mick Elflain acted as Clerk and took the minutes.

Also, present; Martyn Dove (MD) representing Village Hall Committee and 10 members of the public.

Item	Description
1.	<p><b>PUBLIC FORUM</b></p> <p>In response to a question the chairman explained how the meeting would proceed, councillors would listen first to the representations from the public on any matter on the agenda or any other concerns but once the PC business was underway no members of the public could speak unless invited by the chairman. This was the accepted procedure of most parish and district council meetings and was undertaken to avoid a chaotic meeting.</p> <p>At this point it was noted some items due to be discussed were not on the agenda, the chairman explained this had been in error and the items would be added to the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <p>In response to a question the chairman explained the recreation ground grass should be cut this week.</p> <p>MD made a statement about the village hall committee's recent application for a Premises Licence and suggested a more informal approach from the parish council towards queries about the village hall would be appreciated. The chairman and all councillors agreed a PC representative on the VH Committee would facilitate this.</p> <p>MD said the VH AGM would be on 25<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>The members of the public and councillors expressed how much they enjoyed the direction the village hall was heading and how much things had recently improved.</p>
2.	<b>REPORT FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS</b>

Signature – Chair Cllr Geoff Wade



Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

	<p>JF presented her report which included: - RAAC, grants for service families at school, Shepherds Grove development, pylons and ESO. The SCC scrutiny webpage have details of school transport arrangements.</p> <p>RW presented his report which included: Shepherds Grove traffic management and a joint response involving Walsham le Willows parish, Pride of Place grants, new business grant, support for residents regarding cost-of-living, CIL money available for walking or cycling initiatives.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES</b> To receive apologies and approve the reasons for any absences.</p> <p>Apologies received from Councillor Cynthia Penn, Councillor David Dyer and Councillor Ann Telford and their reasons accepted.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<p><b>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b></p> <p>None declared</p>
<b>5.</b>	<p><b>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</b></p> <p>No requests received.</p>
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 were approved.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES</b></p> <p>Noted the items which should be included in the next agenda: i) Walking Leaflet, ii) Probation period for community garden and review, iii) Diss Motorcycle club donation, iv) Meadowside field, Walsham Rd., Planning enforcement progress.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<p><b>ADMINISTRATION</b></p> <p>a) ME was nominated as the Interim Proper Officer for the council, all agreed. b) Following ME's previously circulated report, all agreed Graham Freeman be re-elected as PC representative on the trustee board of Wattisfield Town Estate Charity. It was agreed, ME to continue to recruit another representative for forthcoming vacancy.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<p><b>WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND</b></p>

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Date: 15<sup>th</sup> October 2023

	<p>a) To appoint a PC rep on the VH Committee. Councillors agreed a representative to act as a liaison officer between the VH and the PC was essential.</p> <p><b>MVW said he would consider fulfilling this role and report back at the next meeting.</b></p> <p>b) VH Redevelopment Group. RM reported individual members of this group were compiling suggestions for the low, medium, and high spend levels of refurbishment, at the suggestion of the architects Purcell. Plans of the VH have now come to light and are being employed. The architects hope to produce the three scenarios by Christmas time. RM mentioned, these are not solutions but are three different targets.</p> <p>c) The VH Premises Licence application was examined.</p> <p><b>All agreed our response would be to support the application wholeheartedly.</b></p>
<p>10.</p>	<p><b>VILLAGE POND</b></p> <p>All those present had seen the response from Lorna Christo from MSDC and the notes from the meeting in March 2023. After some discussion it was agreed the North side of the pond needs the vertical posts removed and the top row of bricks securing/relaying. On the West side (roadway) there needs to be a clear grass area to allow pedestrians to step off the roadway and undergrowth in this area needs managing. RM mentioned the Biodiversity Group who will want some input regarding the South side of the pond.</p> <p><b>We should go ahead with the meeting with Nick Christo as invited, Clerk to action please.</b></p>
<p>11.</p>	<p><b>FINANCE</b></p> <p>11a - To confirm the issue of cheques for the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vch 60 - EasyPC - £54.00 – Accounts licence Fee July 2023 -March 2024</li> <li>• Vch 61 - Zurich Municipal (if agreed at 8d above) – £601.42</li> <li>• Vch 62 - Clerk's expenses - £49.74</li> <li>• Vch 63 - Staffing - £241.85</li> <li>• Vch 64 - HMRC - £60.40</li> <li>• Vch 65 – M Elflain – Expenses - £31.28</li> </ul> <p><b>The payments listed above were approved by Council. Note: Chairman signed the Purcell architect agreement.</b></p> <p>11b – Bank reconciliation @ 05.05.2023 – <b>Noted.</b></p>

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	<p><b>11c - Budget monitoring report, 5/9/23 - Noted</b></p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p> <p><b>12a.</b> To consider any response to any planning applications notified by the District Council.</p> <p>i. DC 23 1154 The draft objection was approved with the following amendments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delete line 6b) relating to the closure of Chapel Rd.</li> <li>• Insert paragraph 3. from WleW objection letter (doc ref; WPC2023WleW planning objs)</li> </ul> <p>(i) DC-23-03731 – Excavation and creation of new wildlife pond – Wagtails, Walsham Road. Extension granted to 25<sup>th</sup> September for comments.</p> <p><b>No objection, the PC support this application.</b></p> <p><b>12b – Planning Decisions</b></p> <p><b>None received</b></p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>REWILDING GROUP UPDATE</b></p> <p>RM said the group were working with the VH Committee and were drafting a constitution. They had visited the Walsham wild wood to see the work there. They would like to put up several bat and bird boxes within the confines of the recreation ground. PC have no objections to this. We discussed using the bus shelter as an information point, perhaps using some donated funds to refurbish and establish this. Clerk to apply for funding through, 'Pride in your Place' grant fund (£250 possible).</p> <p>There will be a photo competition organised which Daniel Barber has agreed to judge.</p>
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED</b></p> <p>To consider any correspondence previously circulated.</p> <p><b>14a – Consultation for Fixing Fares of Hackney Carriages – For consideration – No further comments.</b></p> <p><b>14b – Examiners Report on the Walsham le Willows Neighbourhood Plan – For information - No further comments.</b></p> <p><b>14c – 20 is plenty campaign - agreed we were willing to support the concept but would need to control where the speed limit was imposed rather than have a</b></p>



	<b>blanket speed limit throughout the Parish. ME will ask for comments in the next edition of the Warbler</b>
<b>15.</b>	<p><b>QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN</b></p> <p>To consider any questions to the chairman and whether any items should be added to future agendas.</p> <p>Items for next agenda: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking Leaflet</li> <li>• Probation period for the gardens at the recreation grounds.</li> <li>• Diss Motorcycle Club.</li> <li>• Meadow Side Field Walsham Road, Planning enforcement correspondence.</li> </ul> <p>A question was raised about who should attend public meetings and the chairman clarified that any parishioner could attend any public meetings in Wattisfield.</p> <p>ME said one of the Warbler distributors could no longer carryout that task nor the regular checks of the defibrillator; MVW agreed to take over that delivery-round of the Warbler and MD agreed to undertake the defibrillator checks, thanks to both.</p>
<b>16.</b>	<p><b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b></p> <p>The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30 pm.</p>
<b>17.</b>	<b>Meeting closed @ 21:20</b>

