

WATTISFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THE UNITED REFORMED CHAPEL, WATTISFIELD
MONDAY 19th June 2023 AT 7.30 PM
(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Geoff Wade (GW) Chair
Councillor Mick Elflain (ME) Vice Chair
Councillor Cynthia Penn (CP)
Councillor David Dyer (DD)
Councillor Ann Telford (AT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring (NS) Parish Clerk
County Councillor Jessica Fleming (JF)
District Councillor Richard Winch (RW)

Four members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Nicholas Spring
Parish Clerk
wattisfieldpr@outlook.com

1. PUBLIC FORUM

2. REPORT FROM AND QUESTIONS TO DISTRICT AND COUNTY COUNCILLORS

JF presented her report which included: the Shepherds Park planning application; the need for a new reservoir in north Suffolk; the renaming of the Anglia Green Pylon Project as Norwich to Tilbury; street lighting services going out to tender; the funding go-ahead for West Suffolk Hospital; and the work of Trading Standards on e-scooters. The height of the grass on verges was raised. JF reported that the one cut of the year was due and would follow up as to when. The lack of Post Office facilities in the area was also raised. RW reported that the new District Council administration was currently reviewing priorities. A clean-up of the area and an insulation programme had been agreed. The Council were also looking at pilot schemes for sustainable bus services.

Issues relating to the VILLAGE HALL were discussed next, following an update from the Working Group to the effect that they had done as much as they could until a feasibility study was commissioned. It was agreed that the management of the Village Hall needed to be viable and sustainable before the Parish Council could commit funds for a feasibility study. RW agreed to see if guidance could be offered from the District Council on how to proceed.

3. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Richard Meyer (RM)

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

5. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

None

6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2023 were approved with one amendment.

7. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

None

8. END OF YEAR 2022/2023

The following were reviewed and approved:

- the Internal Audit Report
- the Council's Internal Controls
- the Annual Governance Statement
- the Accounting Statements
- the Explanation of Variances and the Statement on the Reserves
- the Certificate of Exemption

The Chair & Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Chair signed the Accounting Statements

The Responsible Finance Officer set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights as 20th June 2023

The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the RFO and the Chair

9. WATTISFIELD VILLAGE HALL

The item had been considered earlier in the meeting. Following further discussion, it was agreed that given the length of the grass on the Recreation Ground, it would be best if it was cut for hay. CP would make inquiries.

10. VILLAGE POND

None

11. FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) The issue of cheques for the following payments was confirmed:

WEL Medical Ltd	Battery for Defib	192
Staff	Salary April and May	425.74
M.Saunders	Audit fee	90
Suffolk County Council	Street light replacement – final claim	1332

b) The monthly Budget Report was reviewed

c) It was decided not to adopt a scheme of delegation

12. HIGHWAYS, TREES, CEMETERY AND CHURCHYARD

None

13. PLANNING MATTERS

It was noted that the deadlines for comments on recently notified applications had passed.

14. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

None

15. QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN

None

16. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

The date of the next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as Monday 17th July 2023 at 7.30 pm.