Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Draft Minutes of Meeting Wednesday 11 March 2020

Held at Waresley Village Hall 8pm

Present: Councillors Eleanor Jack, Jonathan Lawton John Archer, Richard Jerman & Malcolm Gordon.

In attendance: County Councillor Julie Wisson, District Councillor Richard West & Richard Nash.

Minutes: Rod Kerr (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: None received.

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. None declared.

Minutes of parish council meeting of 28 January 2020. These were read by the Clerk & signed as a true & correct record by Chairman Eleanor Jack.

Matters arising not on the agenda.

The Jubilee Lamp is now functioning and the battery on the timer switch is working fine. It is thought that the issues have occurred when members of the public have been playing around with it. Councillor Archer will reset it and put a notice on it asking people to leave it alone. We will continue to monitor the situation.

The interactive road sign has now been fixed.

Councillor Jack sent a message to the parish councilllors regarding the "Scams in your Parish" scheme and Ian Jack is willing to be the village champion.

Councillor Jack sent a response into the Greater Cambridge Local Plan.

Open Forum

Richard Nash asked if a litter pick was to be organized in the village this year as we did not have one last year. The Councillors agreed that there would be one in the spring, and it would be included on the agenda of each January meeting in future. The cleaning of the road signs could be incorporated into this event. We will try to tie it in with the cutting of the verges.

Mr. Nash also noted that the road near the Hedge by Vicarage Farm floods during heavy rain.

14/5/2020

Reports from County & District Councillor:

County Councillor Julie Wisson said she would find out when the verges are to be cut and will look into the drainage issue – she will copy Councillor Gordon in.

The A 428 expressway has been shelved but it has been confirmed that the upgrade of the road between Caxton Gibbet & the Black Cat roundabout will go ahead.

The proposed footbridge over the river in St Neots has also been shelved – the costs were estimated at £3m 10 years ago and have now risen to £8m – there was little support for this project.

District Councillor Richard West reported that the 20/21 budget was approved and the District Councillors were assured it would not give members any concerns over the Council's financial position.

He attended the EWR event on 29 February – there were discussions regarding the closer alignment of the railway and the new A428.

Consultations and procedures

East West Railway Consultation: The preferred route has now been announced and it might go near to the parish – some surveying work has already begun. The recent presentation was very professional – there will be two lines and it is anticipated that four trains per hour will run. There was discussion as to whether the Parish Council should re-engage with the CBRR group. It was agreed that we would contact them via Sebastian Kindersley and push for the route to be aligned as closely as possible to the route of the A428 to minimize disruption and environmental harm. Councilor Jack also suggested we contacted EWR to ensure they take the historic woodland and local SSSI's into consideration.

It was agreed that Councillor Jack would draft a letter to Sebastian Kindersley regarding the above.

Mineral & Waste Control – County Council Consultation: This is mainly about the way the County Council manage the waste management & recycling sites and what enforcement actions they take over fly tipping. Cambridgeshire's recycling is free compared to adjoining counties – limits on the size of vehicles & permits have been introduced as others from outside the county were using the facilities. District Councillor West said the licensing committee met today to discuss the matter and some changes to the system will be publicised soon.

It was agreed that there was not much the Parish Council could contribute to the consultation at this point.

14/5/2020

Consultation on Health & Wellbeing: The councillors are able to complete this survey individually & were encouraged to do so.

Planning: PARISH Council Consultation – application ref. Woodfield Farm, Gamlingay Road, 20/00351/FUL – Change of use from an agricultural building to a dwelling.

The councilors reviewed these plans and agreed that there were no grounds to refuse these plans. The plans were Approved.

Defibrillator and BT phone kiosk

Councillor Gordon reported that there have been no objections to the planning application and we should get permission in the next week. We will not be able to change the "Telephone" sign. Councillor Gordon recommended we purchased a bigger box to house the defibrillator and it was agreed to buy one for £149.00 plus VAT supplied by AED Cabinets. Training will be organized by Cllr Gordon when the unit is installed. There is a 3 minute video on YouTube that shows how to use it. We are obliged to tell the BHF when training has been delivered. Cllrs Gordon and Jerman to check the defibrillator on a regular basis.

Electrician Tom Race will ensure the supply to the box is safe and what bulb is required.

The clerk will advise the insurers that we now have a phone box and defibrillator and that this needs to be covered.

Councillor Gordon was again thanked for his efforts in this matter.

Jubilee Lamp Inscriptions

The clerk has obtained a quote from Ivett & Reed which is in excess of £2700.00. A further quote is being sought. The clerk will see if it is possible to obtain a grant from the CALOR village funding imitative.

Website

The Clerk now has the password to administer the Parish Council area of the site but not to make entries on it – he will meet up with Councillor Jack so she can instruct him further.

CAPALC Membership

The councilors discussed the merits of retaining membership of the organisation and decided on balance that because of the cost and the times we make use of it, we should not renew our membership for 20/21.

14/8/2020

Highways

Traffic Calming & Line Repainting: This has now been scheduled for the w/c 16/03/20.

Councillor Gordon noted that Highways had been to fill some of the potholes in Vicarage Road today – he will contact Ian Winfield to enquire if the remaining potholes can be filled in and the drainage issue at Vicarage Farm (raised earlier by Richard Nash) looked into as well. It was also noted that some had been repaired in Manor Farm Road but others remained – these will be mentioned as well.

Manor Farm Road is due to be closed to traffic shortly for a short period while connection work is carried out at Fairfield House.

Finances

Internal Auditor: Quotes from Michelle Riches (Auditor for |Everton) and LGS Services (who cover a number of local councils) have been received and after consideration, the Councillors agreed to appoint LGS Services.

Payments – The Councillors approved the following payments

i. Section 137 – Donation to St Neots Museum £20.00
ii. Section 137 – Donation to Roundabout Magazine £50.00
iii. Hire of Village Hall to 11 March 2020 - £126.00
iv. Clerking services £180.00;
v. PAYE to HMRC- £45.00

AOB

Covid – 19

This is a very fast moving situation. Councillor Lawton suggested we make a list of older & vulnerable people who may require advice or assistance. It was suggested the village be divided up between the Councillors who could take responsibility for people in their area. It was also suggested that the Council send out an email to all those on the village list to make people aware of what help we can provide. The clerk will compare the village email list with the electoral register to see who may need to be contacted by non electronic means. Councillor Jack will draft an email and circulate it to the other Councillors.

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 14 May 2020 at 7.30pm in Waresley Village Hall. This will be the Annual Parish Meeting and the Parish Council Annual General Meeting (later changed to a virtual parish council meeting at 8.10pm).

14/5/2020