Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 25 March 2021 at 8pm, Via Zoom

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

In attendance: County Councillor Julie Wisson, District Councillor Richard West., Sam Collins, and Andrew and Laura Sinclair

Minutes: Rod Kerr (Clerk)

Apologies for absence: Richard Price

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. Councillor Lawton declared one regarding the planning application concerning his house.

To approve minutes of parish council meeting of 28 January 2021: The minutes were signed as a true & correct record by Chairman Eleanor Jack.

Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda: Highways. The damaged bollard and chevrons outside the pub, and the chevrons by the Manor Farm Road junction have now been repaired. Councillor Archer was thanked for his efforts in this matter.

Open Forum: No matters were raised.

Reports from County Councillor and District Councillor :Councillor Wisson mentioned, the members brief regarding the A428 - the DCO (planning permission) has been submitted to the government. It then goes to an acceptance period, which ends on the 29th March. Then there are two more phases, including a consultation which starts on the 30th of March and ends on the 31st of July. The cancellation of the Oxford to Cambridge expressway does not affect the A428 upgrade, or the East West Railway. It seems that the building of the railway will not be able to be coordinated with the A428 upgrade. The A428 is due to start in 2022 and be finished by2025/26, while the East West railway is not likely to begin before 2030. Large borrow pits will be located along the route and a compound at Wintringham used while the road is being built. Councillor Wisson was thanked by the Councillors for this and for her service to the community over the years – she is not standing at the next election.

District Councillor Richard West gave a report. Following the recent corporate governance meeting, the annual complaints report shows that, that the number of complaints has dropped. There were 280 complaints recorded and most of them were dealt with at stage one.

6/5/21

Consultations and procedures

East West Railway Consultation – update: Councillor Jack sent a letter in support of the station at Camborne being built to the north. EWR railway said they have not decided where the final location of this station will be - it will be put out to a future consultation, which will begin very soon.

A428 Update: As Councillor Wisson mentioned, the application for DCO status has been accepted, and the three month consultation process is about to begin.

LLA & NATS Consultation: The Parish Council sent our suggestions regarding the rerouting of the proposed flight path and stacking area to our local MP and copied it in to a number of local councils. Ashwell parish council responded and they have been in touch with their residents. Waresley PC has also put a message around the village to make local residents aware of the current situation. Councillor Archer gave a brief update -our letter is being included in the review process and the report will be submitted to the Civil Aviation Authority in June - they have three months after that to make their decision.

Planning : PARISH COUNCIL CONSULTATION – APPLICATION REF. 21/00332/HHFUL & 21/00333/LBC Addition of small first floor extension over existing boot room to create a new en-suite, and replacement of existing bedroom window with double doors and Juliet balcony. Waresley Cottage Eltisley Road Waresley SG19 3BS: Councillor Jonathan Lawton, did not participate in this section of the meeting. Councillor Gordon said he looked at the plans and could not see any reason to object from his point of view. It looks sympathetic to the character of the building. Both Councillors Jerman and Archer had to no objections, Councillor Jack said she was not entirely happy about the balcony and thought it may be a little elaborate for the period of that era. This was her own opinion. There were, no further comments, and the councillors voted 4 votes to 0 to approve the application. The reasons given were: the extension will improve the appearance of the house , it is sympathetic and considerate of the appearance of the building. The balcony is not visible from any part of the road.

Previous Plans. The Manège in Manor Farm has been approved by the District Council, as has the business park planned for Highfield Farm in Tetworth.

To Retrospectively confirm Planning Approval given by Parish Council for the following:

21/00154/HHFUL Repton House – Two Storey Extension: The councillors had already approved, the building of a balcony at Repton House.

21/00250/TREE Repton House – Felling of Sycamore Tree – this had also been previously approved.

Richard 6/5/21

21/02625/TREE | 8 x Pine trees - Fell - Trees are dangerous and may hit neighbouring property | Waresley Grange Manor Farm Road Waresley Sandy SG19 3BX: This had been previously approved - the trees are a hazard to the neighbouring bungalow.

The District Council have been made aware of the felling of 16 trees at Kilmorey House and are taking enforcement action. It was agreed to remind villagers of the regulations regarding Tree Protection Orders and the permission required to carry out felling or surgery on trees in the Parish.

Jubilee Lamp – Update: A quote is being arranged by Ivan Quince from Abbotsley- he was asked to send it by the meeting but it has not been received yet. It was agreed that the district council would have to be advised of our plans to renovate the stonework of the lamp as it is a listed monument. It was disappointing that the lettering carried out eight years ago for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee had deteriorated so quickly. It was hoped that when this is repaired or replaced, it will be guaranteed a longer lifespan. It was agreed to wait for Mr Quince's, quote and unless this was better than the quote already received for £1850 pounds from Memorial Makeovers we would go with their quote.

Planters at entrances to Village: Councillor Gordon and Councillor Archer, have been looking into this. Councillor Archer has written to the highways - Ian Winfield, who had been sick has now returned. There was some confusion as to who he spoken to before. Ian seems happy with the proposed location of the planters as long as they are no closer to the highway than the existing sign are. Confirmation of this is awaited however. The Garden Centre has generously offered to supply the planters, soil and the plants inside them on condition that the Parish Council maintains them. They do not want their name on the planters. Councillor Jerman queried if a firm decision had been made about having planters and their location, he was under the impression that this would be discussed and decided at this meeting. He was reassured that no firm decisions had been made yet. After further discussion it was agreed that we should place two planters at each of the entrances to the village on the B1040. It was thought it would be too awkward to place them on Manor Farm Road or Gransden Lane. We will await final Highways approval and Councillor Gordon will keep in touch with the Garden Centre and thank them, on behalf of the Parish Council, for their offer, advising that we will take it up.

Wildlife Trust – New Community Engagement Officer: Becca Neil has been appointed to this post & it is hoped a face to face meeting can be arranged once lockdown is over. The priority is improving the footpath to the western edge of Waresley Wood which is still very boggy. The wood itself is still currently closed (apart from the winter walk) and it not known when it will reopen. Gamlingay Wood is open but the car park is still closed – work is afoot to create some parking spaces.

Rebecca Cross 6/5/21

Village Facebook Group: Councillor Jerman set up a Facebook page called "We love Waresley" where information and stories can be shared. This has been very popular and now has more than 60 members. He was thanked for doing this.

County Broadband - Update on latest progress: Sufficient numbers of residents have now signed up for the Broadband scheme and it can now go ahead. It is hoped it will be up and running within the next 18 months.

Celebrations for 50th Anniversary of the Parish Council/ Coming out of Lockdown: A commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Parish Council on 24 May will be put on the Facebook page as we will still be in partial lockdown. Any physical celebrations should be after 21 June when restrictions are scheduled to be relaxed. Councillor Jerman agreed to book a photographer for a village picture to be taken in front of the pub on Saturday 3 July. This date will be advertised and residents asked to keep it free.

PCC Welcome pack – discuss possible donation: The PCC are planning a welcome pack for new arrivals in the Benefice including local information and history. They are looking for donations to help with the production of this. It was agreed to make a donation of £50.

CPALC Membership: There had been a feeling last year that membership of the organisation was not necessary. Since the Covid pandemic, they have been very supportive and helpful with advice and it was agreed to renew the membership again for the coming year.

Finances

Update on Audit 19/20 – because of difficulties caused by lockdown and self-isolation, it has not been possible to get the documentation signed off so far. The clerk has asked if the audit can be carried out electronically.

Payments – The following payments were agreed – Proposed by Councillor Jerman, Seconded by Councillor Archer:

i. CPALC Annual membership fee £198.12
ii. St Neots Museum Donation (S137) £20.00
iii. Roundabout Magazine Donation (S137) £50.00
iv. Clerking services Jan, Feb, Mar 2021 £180.00
v. PAYE to HMRC- £45.00
vi. Benefice Welcome Pack - donation £50.00
vii. Retrospective approval for payment of Electricity Bill £201.56 dated 30/01/21

6/5/21

Any Other Business: The Village Hall committee passed on their thanks for the £1000 donation.

The Manor Farm Road potholes were filled in yesterday.

The earliest the Village Hall can be used is 17 May.

A booklet produced by the Greensand Country Partnership is being produced and the clerk may need help with distributing it in the parish.

The Cricket Club has now purchased a Defibrillator which will be kept in the pavilion. The Clerk & Councillor Gordon will liaise about arranging training for both village defibrillators.

The problem of dog fouling in the village has been noted - a reminder will be put in the Roundabout Magazine.

Date of Next Meeting: Permission to hold meetings via Zoom expires after 6 May. It was agreed that the next meeting will be the AGM – to be held via Zoom on Thursday 6 May. Councillor Jack said she wished to stand down as Chairman at the AGM.

The meeting was declared closed at 21.32.

6/5/21