Parish of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Thursday 27 May 2021 8.00pm
At Waresley Village Hall

1. **Present**

   Richard. Jerman (Chair), Eleanor Jack, John. Archer, Jonathan. Lawton, , Malcolm. Gordon.

   County Councillor Stephen Ferguson, District Councillor Richard West Stephanie Gordon.

   Minutes taken by R. Kerr (clerk)

2. **Apologies for absence** :

   None

3. **Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 2019**

   The minutes of the 2019 annual meeting were read by the clerk and signed by the Chairman Richard Jerman.

4. **Matters arising**

   None

5. **Chair's report**

   Richard Jerman presented his chair's report covering the past year - see appendix A

6. **County Councillor's Report**

   County Councillor Stephen Ferguson introduced himself following his recent success in the election. He lives in St Neots and is currently Mayor. He is independent of all political parties and wants to deal with local issues, not national political matters. He noted that the County Council was now run by a coalition of Labour & Independent councillors and that the Labour candidate had been elected Mayor of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. He was congratulated on his victory and was welcomed by the Councillors.

28/4/22

7. District Councillors' Report

Councillor Richard West presented his report (see appendix B) and congratulated Councillor Jerman on his election to Chairman & thanked Councillor Jack for all her assistance and support during her long term of office.

8. Traffic Calming in the Village

Following the introduction of the 40mph buffer zone, there was a discussion about the next move to improve the traffic speeds in the village. A 20's Plenty campaign has been started to get 20mph speed limits in towns & villages throughout the country. It was thought it could be difficult to implement on the B1040 but could be introduced on Manor Farm Road & Gransden Lane. It is, however, desirable to reduce the speed and if some motorists slow down, it will slow others who may not normally pay attention to lower speed limits. The Smiley Face speed signs or ones which show the speed of the vehicle were thought to be a good idea and could work in the village. Councillor Ferguson said St Neots had recently purchased movable interactive signs – he will find out the price and report back.

Stephanie Gordon thought there should be a mirror at the Manor Farm Road junction to help see oncoming vehicles when crossing the road. The location should either be at the Holt or South Lodge – the owners will be asked by Councillor Jack if they are willing to have one on their land.

It was agreed that Councillor Archer will put all the points raised to Highways for their thoughts.

9. Open Session

There were no points raised in the open session

10. The Meeting closed at 8.45 PM and was immediately followed by a meeting of Waresley-cum-Tetworth Parish Council.

28/4/22

Chairman's report 2020, 2021

As we were prevented by the COVID epidemic from holding an open meeting last year, this report covers the last 2 years.

COVID-19

We were very lucky in having the Bluebell-19 volunteers, who immediately stepped up to the plate when we went into lockdown in March last year and our special thanks go to Shelley Frost and Sue Burgess, their local representatives. Following the lockdown announcement, the parish council held an emergency on-line meeting with Shelley and then set about extending our email list to cover as many residents of the parish as possible.
Volunteers dropped leaflets off to all residents in the parish to give out contact details and information. We also helped with distribution of perishable food and bulbs from the Garden centre.

Highways: 40 mph buffer zone: Granted in spring 2019 but not implemented until end of June 2020. Congratulations to John Archer for his persistence on this issue.

Wildlife Trust: We were in repeated contact with the Wildlife Trust concerning on-off closure of Waresley Wood and Gamlingay Wood. The Trust's reaction to the lockdown was to close Waresley Wood and when they reopened it, the carpark remained closed as did the access from Browne's Piece to the public footpath. Waresley Wood was closed again from October 2020 until April this year because of muddy conditions, though after pressure from WPC and WAGWAG (the newly formed access group) a very limited "Winter Walk" was opened. This walk was virtually inaccessible from Waresley because of the poor state of the public footpath over Wildlife Trust land. Discussions between WPC, Cambs CC and the Wildlife Trust over this footpath have been deferred during the recent lockdown but are on-going.

Gamlingay Wood was closed "for 2 weeks" in Nov 2019 for forestry work and did not re-open until April 2020. Even then the carpark remained closed and is still, despite repeated pressure from WPC. EJ attended a virtual Gamlingay PC meeting to discuss this.

The Trust have now appointed Becca Neal as Community Engagement officer and EJ has joined her on a walk round Waresley Wood with Ingrid Sims of WAGWAG to discuss problems.

Defibrillator

A defibrillator was acquired with a grant from the British Heart Foundation and by summer 2020 was installed in the old telephone box. Training of volunteers in its use has been delayed by COVID-19 regulations but the instructions on the box itself are clear. Many thanks to Malcolm Gordon who has been driving this project throughout.

Litter Pick

We held a successful litter pick at the end of August, having purchased our own litter pick equipment.

EastWestRail

In early 2020 the preferred route was announced as Route E – not the parish council's choice and as the route was published as a broad swathe. it was still not possible to tell how far the parish was

threatened. Surveys in the area started and EJ wrote to EWRail on behalf of affected landowners to highlight reasons why the parish should be avoided. As well as attending webinars we pushed for a station North of Cambourne. Finally a new consultation was announced giving a choice of 5 routes with some hope that WPC's earlier preferred CBRR route might be back in the running. WPC has responded to the consultation with Route 1 as the preferred route and favouring a Northerly entrance to Cambridge and we are sending out information to help residents to respond similarly.

NATS stack changes

In early 2021 WPC responded to the NATS consultation, which proposed a new Luton air stack over Grafham Water with flights coming over Waresley when leaving the stack. We opposed the consultation in principle since it offered very little choice and Cllr Archer produced a deeply thought-out response proposing alternatives which did not appear to have been considered. We circulated this information as widely as possible, encouraging residents and surrounding parishes to respond. We note that our MP referred to Waresley's response in his own reply to the consultation.

County Broadband

WPC supported County Broadband who were offering full fibre broadband to the parish. As the requisite number of pre-orders have been received from Waresley and surrounding parishes County Broadband appear to be going ahead with this.

Planning for the Future

In October 2020, WPC responded to the Government's consultation opposing the Government's proposed radical reform of the planning regulations.

Planters at entrance to the Village

Many thanks to the Garden Centre for supplying planters at the entrance to the village on the B1040. Malcolm Gordon was instrumental in arranging this and a maintenance rota is in preparation. Sadly two of the planters have already been stolen.

General

The PC has also carried out many day to day jobs throughout the year. These include: reviewing and deciding on planning applications, ensuring contractors/volunteers carry out village maintenance like street lamps, the reporting of fly tipping, reporting of potholes, recording and reporting of accidents, working with highways to replace damaged street furniture and fading street markings, checking the defibrillator on a weekly basis, checking and maintaining the light and timer in the jubilee lamp.

Summary

A difficult 2 years with COVID lockdown affecting everyone plus the threat of rail routes, and flight paths hanging over the village. WPC has done its best to withstand these problems.

Appendix B Report from District Councillor Richard West

At the Annual meeting of Huntingdonshire District Council held on the Wednesday 19 May Councillor MaGuire was elected Chairman and Councillor Gulson elected Vice Chairman. At the meeting was appointed Chairman of the Employment Committee and member of the Senior Officers Committee. Also Chairman of the Hinchingbrooke Countryside Park Sub group working with Cambridgeshire County Council.

Remain member of the Corporate Governance Committee and the Licensing Protection /Licensing Committee.

During the Municipal Year am allowed to make to the planning officer any observations on a planning application also to speak at the development management committee.

Overview Scrutiny Performance & Growth also the Customer & Partnership committees am allowed to attend the meeting to speak or forward questions to the chairman on items on the agenda or be part of a working group set up by scrutiny committee.

Therefore will be able to voice My opinions in support of the ward residents across all district council services

East West Rail
Thank you for your comments will be part of My submission this weekend 29 30 May
Planning
The Service Planning Manager left along with experience planning officers this as led to longer determination time before decision are made number of applications in the ward are marked in progress

Richard West