Parish Council of Waresley-cum-Tetworth

Minutes of Meeting Thursday 31 March 2022, 8pm

at Waresley Village Hall

Present: Councillors Richard Jerman (Chair), Eleanor Jack (vice-chair), John Archer, Jonathan Lawton, & Malcolm Gordon.

Minutes taken by Rod Kerr (Clerk)

In attendance: County Councillor Stephen Ferguson, District Councillor Richard West. Craig Larter & Tom Symonds of County Broadband.

Apologies for absence: None.

Declaration of disclosable pecuniary interests. None

To approve minutes of parish council meeting of 3 February 2022: The minutes had been circulated to the councillors and were approved & signed as a true & correct record by Chairman Richard Jerman.

Matters arising from those minutes not on the agenda: Councillor Jerman has been in touch with the Wildlife trust and the landowner regarding the car park at Gamlingay Wood – the Trust has decided not to reinstate the parking for the foreseeable future – the main reason given that contractors need access at short notice and vehicles parked on the approach track could hinder this. The councillors were disappointed with this approach although it was noted that the wood can still be accessed by foot along the track and also from Gamlingay.

Hunts DC has adopted the Landscape and Townscape SPD – it looks as though some of the points we raised were adopted.

Reports from County & District Councillors:

County Councillor Stephen Ferguson reported that 70 people attended a meeting in The Chequers, Little Gransden to support the "Save the Crown & Cushion" campaign. The pub has been closed since lockdown and the owners have been using it as a house – no application for change of use has been made and it is listed as a community asset. The campaign is encouraging them to reopen it.

It seems there is no enthusiasm in central government for the Oxford – Cambridge Arc now. This could have an effect of the East West Railway project.

A new right of way officer is still to be appointed – this is delaying any progress on improving the footpath by Waresley Wood. Councillor Ferguson also agreed to follow up with Steve Alexander of the highways department about the appointment of the new ROW officer.

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District Councillor Richard West noted his concerns that the Community Asset register does not seem to be effective, as is currently the case with the Crown & Cushion.

Beth West has been appointed the new chief executive of East West Railway.

The District Council is currently in purdah due to the forthcoming elections.

Update from County Broadband: There was a presentation by County Broadband updating the current progress. The main build of the infrastructure in Waresley is underway and should be completed by July 2022.The main comms cabinet is being sited in Great Gransden - work has been delayed on this for technical reasons but it is hoped this will shortly be resolved and competed in the same timescale. When this has been done, a cable from the cabinet to Waresley will be laid. Finally, when this is completed, all signed up households will be contacted individually to discuss how their property will be connected (overhead cable, underground duct etc) & where it will enter their property & where the junction box & router will be located in the house. The work will then be carried out and the system will go live. No definite date for this stage can be given at present but their hope is to have the village connected before the end of this year. The Council will keep in contact to monitor the progress.

Planning

a) 22/00582/LBC – Alter Two Fireplaces incorporation wood burning stoves at Home Farm, Manor Farm Road. The Councillors had no objections to these proposals and passed them by five votes to nil.

b) Confirmation of approval of plans 22/00198/HHFUL - Infill of existing storm porch to create new enlarged internal entrance space – Welford House: The Councillors confirmed their earlier unanimous approval of these plans,

Correspondence from Mr B Jones: A further letter regarding the hedge and access regarding the land to the rear of the Village Hall has been received. Councillor Jerman said this was a matter between Mr Jones & the Village Hall Committee – a response will be sent to Mr Jones stating this and that no further correspondence will be entered into.

Consultations and procedures

a. **East West Rail – Update:** There has been little progress apart for the appointment of Beth West as chief executive. There was a recent zoom meeting of which the PC was not advised – a request for the Chairman, Vice Chairman & Clerk to be included on the mailing list will be made. A decision on the preferred route is expected in July this year.

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Traffic in the Village. - Updates

a. **Speed Camera Sign:** Highways will be asked if they would permit this. It was agreed to set a budget up to £90 to purchase it. Councillor Archer will progress this with Highways. Councillor Gordon was thanked for his research in this matter.
b. **Purchase of Mirror & Post from Junction of B1040 & Manor Farm Road:** Councillors Jerman & Archer stood on the corner and agreed the position of the pole – the overhanging branches can be trimmed back, the tree warden has approved this. Three types of mirror were suggested – after discussion, the councillors agreed to go with the mid-range acrylic mirror option (£468) and voted 5-0 to approve a budget of up to £650 to include the pole and installation. Councillor Archer was thanked for his efforts with this. It was hoped this work would be done by the end of April.
c. **Potholes & Condition of Roads in the village:** The verge along Vicarage Road is being damaged and there are a number of potholes that need repair. A lot of the damage to the verges is caused by heavy vehicles having to avoid parked cars. All blocked culverts should have been cleared by the end of February – any that are still blocked should be reported to Councillor Ferguson who will investigate. The drains near Vicarage Farm have been cleared but get blocked and flood again very quickly. There are a number of springs along Manor Farm Road which come up through the tarmac. It was agreed to invite Majec, the Highways Officer to visit the village and make a note of all the issues and discuss solutions.
d. **Update on proposed cycleway:** Councillor Jack attended a meeting with regards to the proposed cycleway from Potton to Gamlingay and possibly Waresley. There are grants available, but a proper business plan & feasibility study needs to be drawn up. She will contact Sustrans to see what possibilities exist.

Streetlight Issues in the Village – consider installing LED lights: The idea of replacing the existing streetlight bulbs with LEDs was discussed. There would be a large initial outlay (£230 per light plus VAT) and it was wondered if it would save on costs in the future as the supply is not metered. There were concerns that LEDs were not suitable for a village setting and if they would fit onto our existing poles. K & M Lighting will be contacted for more clarification on these points and if the & the clerk will ask Abbotsley Parish Council how much their LED lights cost and what the benefits have been. The clerk to get clarification if £230 + vat is the entire cost or not per unit.and get images of what any new lighting would look like

Litter pick: This will take place on 9/10 April – Councillor Jack has the equipment and will request more from the District Council. Volunteers will be requested and the parish will be divided up accordingly. Bill Garner will pick up the bags from the roadside and leave them by the village hall for later collection by the District Council.

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Jubilee lamp repairs – update: The stonemason from Memorial Makeovers is awaiting the appropriate stone to be delivered and will be able to start work as soon as this arrives. The 50% deposit requested was agreed.

Finance:

Payments – the following were approved:

a. **CPALC Annual membership fee £200.73 –** the Councillors unanimously agreed to renew the membership for another year.
b. **St Neots Museum Donation (S137) £20.00**
c. **Roundabout Magazine Donation (S137) £50.00**
d. **Zurich Insurance - annual renewal £313.43**
e. **Memorial Makeovers - 50% Deposit for Jubilee Lamp repairs £925.00**
f. **Audit Update –** it is hoped the outstanding audits can be finally signed off within the next few weeks.

Update on forthcoming election: Elections to the Parish Council are due to be held on 5 May – Councillors Jerman, Jack, Archer & Gordon are all standing again, Councillor Lawton is stepping down – he was thanked form his seven years of service. If no other candidates come forward before the election, a new member will be co-opted on at a later date.

AOB & Confirm date of Next Meeting: A budget of up to £75 was agreed to cover the cost of obtaining red, white and blue flowers for the planters to commemorate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in June.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 28 April at 8pm -this is not a Parish Council Meeting but one where all residents are entitled to attend and raise points for discussion.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be the AGM to be held on Thursday 19 May 2022 at 8pm in the Village Hall.

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